

The State Association then sends its Select Team to one of the four USASA Regional Select Teams Tournaments, which are usually held during late May through the middle of June. There are four USASA Regions within the United States: Region I (East Team), Region II (Midwest Team), Region III (South Team) and Region IV (West Team). During the Regional Select Teams Tournament players are evaluated by their respective USASA Regional Coaches and National Coaches and selected to their Regional Select Teams. The Regional Select Teams are then invited to participate in the U.S. Soccer Festival. From the competitions at the Regional Tournaments and the U.S. Soccer Festival, USASA National Coaches select a National Select Team player pool and the USASA National Select Team may schedule several games during the next year. In addition to forming Regional Select Teams, the winning National State Association Select Teams of each Regional Tournament are invited to compete in the USASA's National Select Teams Championship, the George F. Donnelly Cup.



**UNITED STATES ADULT SOCCER  
ASSOCIATION**

**9152 Kent Ave  
Suite C-50  
Lawrence, IN. 46216**

**Phone: 317-541-8564**

**Fax: 317-541-8568**

**Email: [swalker@usasa.com](mailto:swalker@usasa.com)**

**Photos Courtesy of E. Starkoff**

## NSTP Contacts

Bill Bosgraaf - Chairman  
8711 South Rustler Road  
Sandy, UT, 84093  
801-943-1060  
[utahsoccer@aol.com](mailto:utahsoccer@aol.com)

Region I  
Brian Alexander  
278 Beechwood Crescent  
Webster, NY, 14580  
585-787-6881  
[bga7438@aol.com](mailto:bga7438@aol.com)

Region II  
Allen Egilmez  
2252 N Curry Drive  
Indianapolis, IN, 46229  
317-894-2215  
[aegilmez@aol.com](mailto:aegilmez@aol.com)

Region III  
Carlos Rodriguez  
2727 Dennler  
San Antonio, TX, 78238  
210-681-5408  
[rodriguez12@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rodriguez12@worldnet.att.net)

Region IV  
Geir Olsen  
7159 S Angelsea Drive  
West Jordan, UT, 84084  
801-562-0826  
[geirolsen13@hotmail.com](mailto:geirolsen13@hotmail.com)

**For more information on the  
USASA National Select team  
Program visit**

**[WWW.USASA.COM/SELECTTEAM.ASP](http://WWW.USASA.COM/SELECTTEAM.ASP)**

**UNITED STATES ADULT  
SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

# National Select Team Program

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## USASA National Select Program

The United States Adult Soccer Association's (USASA) Select Teams Program provides our players the opportunity to compete at the highest available level within the USASA, in addition to identifying and showcasing players for the next level of competition. The program not only provides competitions for individuals but also determines a Regional and National State Select Teams Champion. The program serves as training



ground for the U-16 through U-23 U.S. National Teams. Additionally, the program has proven to be an important vehicle for the education and advancement of referees through valuable

competitive game assignments. It also provides an opportunity for coaches to demonstrate their knowledge and ability in highly competitive game situations.

The goal of the USASA National Select Teams Program is to identify a pool of players from which a US National Amateur Team will be selected for international games. Additionally, players are selected for consideration to the Men's and Women's US National Teams (World Cup) as well as the Olympic Program.

## USASA Soccer Festival

The U.S. Soccer Festival is usually scheduled for the first week in August and features 6 to 8 teams in each competition (Men & Women). In addition to the four USASA Regional Select Teams, the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) sends several of their US National Youth Teams depending on that year's particular need of preparation for an international competition. Other teams which may participate from year to year have ranged from the U.S. Armed Forces Teams in the Men's competition, the US Women's National Team (World Cup) in the Women's competition and foreign national teams, which have included teams from Mexico and Canada. In addition to the USASA



National and Regional Coaches, the USSF National Staff Coaches will be in attendance, along with coaches and scouts from teams within the various professional leagues.

## George F. Donnelly Cup

As part of each Regional Select Teams Tournament, Men's and Women's State Select Teams compete for a Regional Select Teams Championship. The four regional winners are then invited to participate in the "George F. Donnelly Cup" Tournament. This event establishes the National Championship for State Select Teams and in the past has been held during the Thanksgiving Day weekend, but starting in 2003 has been moved to January during the Martin L. King holiday weekend.

## Players

From the inception of the USASA Select Teams Program a vast number of players have been selected through the USASA Select Teams Program to participate for both the Men's and Women's U.S. Olympic, National or World Cup Teams. Some of these players that have recently been members of the Men's World Cup Team are: Brian McBride, Jeff Agoos, Jeff Cunningham, Richard Mulrooney, and Clint Mathis. Many players have graduated to the MLS and most MLS teams have several players on their rosters having benefited from the USASA's Select Teams Program. From our Women's World

Cup/Olympic Team, LaKeysia Beene, Joy Fawcett, Julie Foudy, Brandi Chastain, Tiffany Millbrett and Jamie Pagliarulo are among those players who have been participants of the USASA's Select Teams Program in addition to our current Women's National Team Head Coach, April Heinrichs. Having started the women's professional league in 2001 (WUSA), it is without question that the USASA's Select Teams Program was a large contributor to filling every team's roster in the WUSA. As was the case when the USSF decided to start a Women's National Team in the 1980's and once again with the start of the WUSA, the USASA and its Select Teams Program has been a driving force in their success

## NST Competitions

This past year the USASA made great strides in establishing an annual event for both the Men's and Women's National Select Teams. In the spring of 2002 the Men's National Select Team attended the weeklong MLS preseason camp in Bradenton, FL where the team played four games versus MLS opponents, namely NY/NJ Metrostars (2:1 - W), Columbus Crew (1:3-L), Kansas City Wizards (4:3-W) and Colorado Rapids (0:3-L). The Women's National Select Team attended the WUSA preseason camp at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, CA and played several games which included the WUSA San Diego Spirit (0:6-L), and the US U-21 National Team (0:0-T). Both of these events serve to complete the Select Teams Program annual cycle which start with the selection of players to their respective State Select Team for their Regional Select Teams Tournament. These two events give the MLS and WUSA an opportunity to scout players in a direct setting wherein the USASA players showcase.

## Structure

The structure of the USASA National Select Teams Program begins at the State Association level, where men's and women's teams are formed from all amateur and eligible players who wish to try-out for their respective National State Association Select Team. Once formed, it sends its Select Team to their respective USASA Regional Select Teams Tournaments, which are usually held during late May to mid-June. There