

MIDWEST SUPER LEAGUE

Club Membership Application Guide

How to Join the MSL

For clubs interested in joining the Midwest Super League

Section 1: Is the MSL Right for Your Club?

1.1 Who We're Looking For

The MSL is built for small-to-midsized clubs that want meaningful, well-organized competition without the cost and politics of national platforms. You might be a good fit if:

- Your club is located in MN, ND, SD, NE, MO, IA, or WI
- You have teams at the U13+ level (boys and/or girls)
- You want competitive league play, not just tournaments
- You value manageable travel for families
- You want a voice in how your league is run
- You believe good competition shouldn't require a premium price tag

1.2 What We're NOT

To set proper expectations:

- We are not a replacement for your state association
- We are not a pay-to-play tiered system
- We are not a pathway to professional soccer
- We are not a showcase league designed for college recruiting

We are a regional competition league designed to give your teams the best possible competitive experience close to home.

1.3 Club Size

There is no minimum or maximum club size requirement. Whether you have 2 teams or 20, if you can commit to fulfilling your fixtures and participating in league governance, you're welcome.

Section 2: The Application Process

2.1 Step 1: Register Interest

Visit midwestsuperleague.com/contact and fill out the Register Interest form. Tell us about your club, where you're located, and how many teams you'd like to enter. Someone from the MSL will reach out within 7 days.

2.2 Step 2: Introductory Conversation

A member of the MSL Board will schedule a call or video meeting to discuss:

- Your club's background and goals
- How the MSL works (pods, scheduling, governance)
- Which age groups/genders you'd like to enter
- Any questions you have about the league

2.3 Step 3: Formal Application

If both parties agree it's a good fit, you'll be sent a formal application. This includes:

- Club information (name, location, contact person)
- State association registration details
- Number of teams and age groups to be entered
- Confirmation of insurance coverage
- Acknowledgment of MSL Competition Rules

2.4 Step 4: Board Review

The MSL Board reviews applications on a rolling basis. Factors considered:

- Geographic fit within an existing or new pod
- Competitive level alignment with current members
- Club organizational stability
- Ability to fulfill fixtures and provide home venues

Most applications are processed within 2-3 weeks.

2.5 Step 5: Welcome & Onboarding

Once approved, your club will receive:

- Welcome packet with all MSL policies and documents
- Access to the league scheduling platform
- Pod assignment and introduction to pod clubs
- Invitation to the next league meeting
- Your vote in league governance from day one

Section 3: What You'll Need

3.1 Requirements for Membership

- State association registration (current and in good standing)
- General liability insurance covering your club's activities
- At least one team at the U13+ level ready to compete
- A home venue that meets MSL field standards
- A designated club contact for league communications
- Ability to pay team registration fees (\$500/team/season)

3.2 Field Standards

Your home venue must provide:

- Properly sized and lined field for the age group
- Goals with nets, properly anchored
- Corner flags
- Spectator area separate from the team side
- Parking and restroom access

3.3 Timeline

We accept applications year-round. For best integration:

- Apply by June 30 to be included in fall season scheduling
- Apply by December 31 to be included in spring season scheduling

Applications received outside these windows may result in a half-season start, with full integration the following year.

Section 4: What You Get as a Member

4.1 Competition

- 12-18 guaranteed league matches per team per season
- Home-and-away fixtures within your geographic pod
- 2-3 cross-pod weekends for broader exposure
- Professional scheduling managed by the league office
- Standings, results tracking, and league platform

4.2 Governance

- One club, one vote on all league decisions
- Equal representation regardless of club size
- Ability to propose rule changes and policy updates
- Transparency on league finances and operations

4.3 Community

- Network of like-minded clubs across seven states
- Shared best practices and resources
- Collective voice in the regional soccer landscape
- Relationships that benefit your club beyond the field

4.4 Support

- League office for scheduling, disputes, and administration
- Document library (rules, policies, guides)
- Communication support and marketing materials
- Onboarding assistance for new members

Section 5: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can we be in the MSL and another league at the same time?

Yes. Clubs may participate in other leagues, tournaments, and competitions alongside the MSL. We simply ask that MSL fixtures take priority in scheduling.

Q: What if we only have 1-2 teams?

That's completely fine. Many of our clubs started with just a team or two and grew from there. There's no minimum team count.

Q: What if our location doesn't fit neatly into a pod?

The Board evaluates geographic fit on a case-by-case basis. We may assign you to the nearest pod or create new pod structures as the league grows.

Q: How quickly can we start playing?

If your application is approved before the scheduling deadline, your teams can begin playing in the next season. The fastest turnaround is typically 4-6 weeks from application to first match.