

MIDWEST SUPER LEAGUE

Fee Structure & Value Overview

2026-27 Season

\$500 per team | Full Season (Fall + Spring)

Good competition that serves all - not a money grab.

Effective: August 1, 2026

Approved by MSL Board of Directors

Section 1: MSL Fee at a Glance

1.1 Registration Fee

\$500 per team for the full season (Fall + Spring combined)

This is a single, flat fee. There are no separate fall and spring charges. Whether your team plays fall only, spring only, or the full year - the fee is \$500. Period.

1.2 What's Included

Your \$500 registration fee covers:

- Full season league scheduling (Fall + Spring)
- Pod-based fixture coordination across your region
- Cross-pod matchday weekend scheduling (2-3 per season)
- League administration and communications
- Standings, results tracking, and league platform access
- Discipline management and committee oversight
- Player registration and eligibility verification
- Club representation in league governance (one club, one vote)

1.3 What's NOT Included (No Hidden Fees)

To be completely transparent, the \$500 fee does NOT cover:

- Referee fees (paid directly by home club per match, as is standard)
- Field rental (clubs use their own facilities)
- Travel costs (gas, hotels for away matches)
- Uniforms or equipment

There are no additional MSL surcharges, technology fees, playoff fees, or end-of-season assessments. \$500 is what you pay to the league.

Section 2: How MSL Compares to Other Leagues

2.1 Fee Comparison Table

The following table compares MSL's fee structure to other regional and national youth soccer competitions:

League / Competition	Fee Per Team	Season	Notes
MSL	\$500	Full Year	Fall + Spring included
ECNL Regional League	\$1,500 - \$3,000+	Full Year	Plus club membership fees
MLS NEXT	\$3,000 - \$5,000+	Full Year	Extensive travel required
N1 (formerly NPL)	\$1,000 - \$2,500	Full Year	Varies by region
State Premier Leagues	\$600 - \$1,200	Per Season	Often fall/spring separate
National League (US Club)	\$1,200 - \$2,500	Full Year	National travel costs on top

2.2 The Real Cost Difference

When you factor in total cost to clubs and families, the gap widens even further. National and elite-tier leagues often require:

- Club membership/affiliation fees (\$2,000-\$10,000 annually)
- Mandatory showcase/tournament participation (\$500-\$1,500 each)
- Cross-country travel for regular season matches
- Separate fall and spring registration fees
- Technology platform fees, insurance surcharges, etc.

With the MSL, your total league cost is \$500. That's it. Travel stays regional (most drives under 2 hours). No mandatory showcases. No platform fees. No surprises.

Section 3: Why \$500 is the Right Number

3.1 Our Philosophy

The MSL exists to provide meaningful competition for clubs that have been overlooked by the national landscape. We are not trying to be the most expensive league. We are trying to be the most accessible, well-organized league at a competitive level that serves real clubs in the real Midwest.

\$500 per team allows us to operate sustainably while keeping the barrier to entry low enough that any serious club can participate.

3.2 Where Your \$500 Goes

We believe in transparency. Here's how league fees are allocated:

- League operations & administration: 40%
- Scheduling platform & technology: 20%
- Communications & marketing: 15%
- Reserve fund for league development: 15%
- Governance & meeting costs: 10%

No individual profits from registration fees. The MSL is run by member clubs, for member clubs. Every dollar goes back into making the league better.

3.3 The Value Proposition

For \$500 per team, your club receives:

- 12-18 guaranteed league matches per team (fall + spring)
- Professional scheduling across 5 geographic pods
- 2-3 cross-pod weekends for broader competition exposure
- A democratic voice in league governance
- Transparent, predictable costs with no mid-season fees
- A league that respects your club's time, money, and independence

That works out to approximately \$28-\$42 per scheduled match. Compare that to tournament entry fees of \$500-\$1,000 for 3-4 games.

Section 4: What This Means for Families

4.1 Lower Cost Per Player

With a \$500 team fee, the per-player cost for league registration is remarkably low:

Roster of 15 players:	~\$33 per player for the year
Roster of 18 players:	~\$28 per player for the year
Roster of 22 players:	~\$23 per player for the year

Compare that to ECNL/MLS NEXT where league fees alone can add \$100-\$300+ per player before you even factor in travel.

4.2 Manageable Travel Costs

Because the MSL is organized in geographic pods with most games under 2 hours away, families save significantly on travel:

- No flights required for regular season play
- Most away games are a day trip, not an overnight
- Cross-pod weekends are limited and pre-scheduled
- Families can budget travel costs months in advance

4.3 No Pay-to-Play Tiers

The MSL has one competition level. There is no premium tier that costs more. Every team plays in the same league structure at the same fee. Your child's competition quality is not determined by how much your family can afford to pay.

Section 5: Payment Information

5.1 Payment Deadline

Full payment of \$500 per team is due by August 15 of each season year. Teams registered after August 15 must pay at time of registration.

5.2 Payment Methods

The MSL accepts:

- Check (made payable to Midwest Super League)
- ACH/bank transfer
- Credit card (via league payment platform)

5.3 Installment Option

Clubs registering 3 or more teams may request a two-payment installment plan:

- Payment 1: \$250 per team due August 15 (before fall season)
- Payment 2: \$250 per team due January 15 (before spring season)

Installment requests must be submitted to the league office by August 1.

5.4 Multi-Team Discount

Clubs registering 5 or more teams in the same season receive a 10% discount:

- 5-9 teams: \$450 per team
- 10+ teams: \$425 per team

5.5 Refund Policy

Refund requests are handled as follows:

- Before schedule release: Full refund minus \$50 admin fee
- After schedule release but before first match: 50% refund
- After first match: No refund

Refund requests must be submitted in writing to the league office.

Section 6: Our Commitment to Clubs

6.1 No Surprise Fees

The MSL Board commits to the following principles:

- No mid-season assessments or additional charges
- No mandatory tournament or showcase participation fees
- No technology or platform fees beyond the registration
- No fee increases without a vote of member clubs
- Full transparency on how funds are used

6.2 Fee Review Process

Registration fees are reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. Any proposed fee change must be:

- Announced to all member clubs at least 90 days before the next season
- Justified with a clear explanation of why the change is needed
- Approved by a majority vote of member clubs

The MSL goal is to keep fees as low as possible while maintaining quality operations. We will always explore ways to reduce costs before raising fees.

6.3 The Bottom Line

We started the MSL because too many good clubs were being priced out of meaningful competition or forced into leagues that didn't fit their reality. The \$500 fee reflects our belief that great competition doesn't have to come with a premium price tag.

Every club deserves access to well-organized, competitive league play. That's what your \$500 buys - not profits for a league office, not executive salaries, not flashy branding. Just good soccer, close to home, at a price that works.