



Columbus Soccer
Organization

PROPERTY PLAN 2022

CSO Indoor Soccer Complex

CSO President
Dr. Thomas Velek

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Columbus Soccer Org.

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Who We Are

Columbus Soccer Organization (CSO) is a Mississippi non-profit corporation and federally recognized 501 (c) (3) non-profit. CSO runs the soccer programs for Columbus and the surrounding area and supports the sport in many ways. We have four distinct programs: recreational soccer, competitive soccer, TOP Soccer for players with special needs, and adult league soccer. Recreational soccer is offered in the fall. This is our largest program serving nearly 600 youth ages 3 years old and up. Columbus United Soccer Club is our competitive soccer club. It offers higher level competitive soccer for ages 8 years and up. It also includes the U8 Development Program for players ages 6 and 7. Another 190 players are registered with United. Our adult league has proven to be one of our most successful programs since it was reintroduced in 2019. In 2022 the co-ed league had 120 players registered from 19 years of age to players 50+ years old. We are especially proud of our TOP Soccer Program for players with special needs. This adaptive soccer program meets the needs of players with both cognitive and physical special needs and allows them to enjoy the sport we all love.

These programs are just the beginning of the mission and role of CSO in the community. CSO offers multiple summer camps each year. CSO is a dedicated public service organization that consistently gives back to the community. The "CSO Soccer Closet" allows individuals to donate (tax deductible) gently used sports equipment and clothes. The "Closet" then allows others to pick needed items for free. CSO offers multiple scholarships for every program to make the sport within reach of everyone. The "CSO Collegiate Scholarship" supports former players as they move forward in their education and lives. Each year CSO raises money for north Mississippi Breast Cancer charities, honors law enforcement at the "Law Enforcement Appreciation Night", and recognizes the many people who make CSO special through awards. At CSO "We Are Soccer" but we are much more.

CSO seeks to work collaboratively with other community organizations. In 2021 Bank First became the official sponsor of Columbus United. CSO works with many local organizations including the YMCA, the Rowdy Foundation, Mississippi University for Women and LCRD. We actively seek partnerships to better serve the community. We are dedicated to serving and giving back to the community.

Who We Serve



Despite our name we serve players from the entire area. We have players from New Hope, Caledonia, Hamilton, Starkville, Forest, Saltillo, and other communities. Our youth players represent every school in the area as well as home schoolers. We work closely with the Columbus Air Force Base and have many players from it in both our youth and adult programs. Our programs are open to all players and their families. In addition, we work hard to have programs for all players regardless of ability, age, income, or special need.

In total we serve approximately 1,000 registered players, their families, and our coaches. CSO is a true community organization with a major community impact.

Our Vision

Our vision for the indoor soccer facility is to renovate an existing structure to create a state of the art indoor soccer facility. The completed facility would provide indoor training space to our members during the rainy season and floods that make outdoor training impossible for long stretches. It would also allow us offer indoor soccer leagues for all ages. Maybe most importantly it would allow us to offer an indoor option for our players with special needs; several of whom are in wheelchairs or use walkers. The facility could also be offered with an appropriate fee to other organizations and activities. Sports themed birthday parties could be offered there.

In short, the finished facility will have a tremendous impact on the community.



CSO envisions a polished, professional state of the art facility modeled on other similar venues across the country.



The Need and Charge

CSO alone serves nearly 1000 athletes, their families, and our coaches. There is a tremendous need for a facility such as this not only for our members, but also for the community as a whole. Imagine never having another canceled practice or even match due to rain. Imagine having a reliable indoor facility for players using wheelchairs and walkers. Imagine an indoor athletic space serving the entire community.

Quite simply, there is not another indoor soccer facility in the area. The closest indoor soccer venue is in Cordova, Tennessee nearly 200 miles away. Indeed, there is not a facility similar to the one proposed in the entire state of Mississippi. This facility would fill a tremendous void and be a “game-changer” for CSO and the community.

200 MILES

The closest indoor venue to our area.

5 MILLION

Number of participants in indoor soccer in the United States last year.

For nearly two years CSO has studied the need and feasibility of an indoor soccer complex. This has included multiple site visits and an extensive survey to our membership. The nature of the proposed complex and its need are described elsewhere in this report. What is clear from the completed study is there is a need and desire for a fully functional indoor soccer complex for the community. It will provide a space for training and play during inclement weather. It will provide space for an indoor league. It will provide space for community events and meetings. In short, this will be a game changer for CSO and the community.

The years of study also made clear that the first step is what we have before us today--a capital funds campaign to raise money to devote to the complex. The site visit and survey also made clear that the best option is to buy and renovate a pre-existing building.

This committee is tasked with raising a minimum of \$250,000 to purchase and (at least) begin needed renovations. The timeline is 10 months. The committee will utilize a variety of fundraising tools including but not limited to: naming rights, direct donation, sponsorship, grants.

