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## JIYSC & LUSA NEWSLETTER

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February 2026

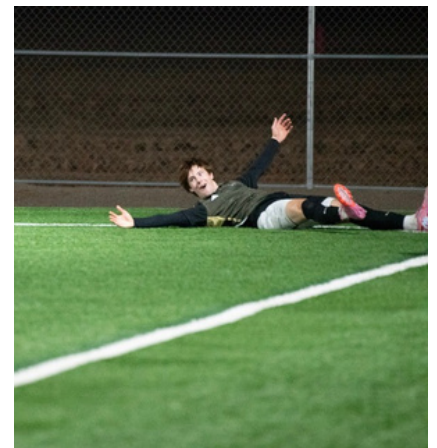
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## Welcome back!

As we step into 2026, we're thrilled to be resuming our club activities and reconnecting with all of you. This season promises fresh opportunities, new events, and continued growth for our club and its members. Thank you for being part of our community. Your enthusiasm, participation, and support are what make our club such a vibrant and welcoming place.



# LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

**Looking back**, we are incredibly proud of the milestones our players and teams achieved this year. From strong performances at the highest levels we offer to the incredible development taking place within our Junior Academy, our club has been well represented on some of the biggest stages in youth soccer. Our teams competed with confidence, resilience, and character, consistently demonstrating the standards that define our program. We celebrated exciting college commitments, outstanding individual accomplishments, and meaningful growth across programs at every level. Players earned recognition for their performances, embraced leadership roles within their teams, and continued to raise the bar for what excellence looks like in our club.

We are also proud to see increasing recognition from professional pathways, with more of our players being invited to Charlotte FC ID events. These opportunities highlight the strength of our program and the trust professional organizations are placing in our players. Following the path of Chandler Maxwell, who signed with Charlotte FC this summer directly from our club, our athletes are seeing firsthand that the pathway from our fields to the professional environments is real and attainable.

Finally, while we celebrate the achievements at the top levels, we know it all starts at the very beginning. Our Juniors and Micro programs continue to thrive, laying the foundation for everything that follows. We are deeply thankful for the incredible volunteers who play an invaluable role in these early years of our children's soccer journeys. Their time and commitment help foster a love for the game, build confidence, and create the positive first experiences that shape our future players.

# LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

**Looking Forward**, 2026 is already shaping up to be an exciting year and we look forward to welcoming both returning and new players. We have exciting developments to share within this newsletter and also information to announce in due course as we progress through the Spring.

**JYSC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** As we continue an exciting year of soccer, we want to proudly remind everyone that James Island Youth Soccer Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2026. For five decades, JYSC has been dedicated to developing young athletes, fostering sportsmanship, and bringing families together through the love of the game. This milestone is not only a celebration of our past players, coaches, and volunteers, but also a testament to the strong community that continues to shape the club today. We look forward to honoring this legacy throughout the year and invite all members—past and present—to join us in celebrating 50 years of youth soccer on James Island by sharing your memories with us at [publicrelations@jiysc.org](mailto:publicrelations@jiysc.org).

**Facilities Improvements:** Our facilities continue to see meaningful improvements across both the Main Complex and at Bayview. Here are just a few of the enhancements we have recently made:

- At the Main Complex, a new storage shed has replaced the aging 20-year-old container, providing a cleaner and more secure home for tournament equipment and supplies.
- The grounds at the Main Complex benefited from extensive tree trimming to enhance sunlight and airflow, supporting healthier turf conditions on the pitch.
- We've hired a new cleaning company and expanded bathroom services to three times per week—including Sunday mornings—at both Main and Bayview.
- The former concession stand at the Main Complex is being transformed into an indoor classroom space that will support coaching education, team meetings, and small group film review.

Trusted by the most forward-thinking leaders in youth sports, PlayMetrics provides a more cohesive member experience, eliminating the need for the host of different tools organizations are forced to juggle today. Together, we are embarking upon a new era in which we will use this technology to take us to the next level.

## OVERVIEW & CLUB BENEFITS

PlayMetrics Transition – Beginning with tryouts for the 2026–2027 season, our club will transition from Sprocket to PlayMetrics as our new online operating platform. Sprocket has been a valuable resource for our club over the last 3 years. As we continue to expand and evolve, however, we believe moving to PlayMetrics represents the next level in supporting our long-term vision and operational needs.

PlayMetrics is a comprehensive sports management system that streamlines all club operations into a single, centralized platform. The platform will support everything from tryouts and registrations to volunteer tracking, player evaluations, scheduling for games and practices, and payment processing. We believe this upgrade will enhance our efficiency as a club and deliver an improved, more seamless experience for all members.



All of the features incorporated into one cohesive platform makes it easier to monitor progress on important activities, react quicker to unexpected changes in plans, and increase accountability across the entire organization. The PlayMetrics Operating System helps us achieve our mission to provide a full range of opportunities for all ability levels in an even more efficient, effective, and collaborative environment.

## **BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES**

PlayMetrics offers many advantages, but most importantly, the Operating System delivers **a single experience for member families**, eliminating the need for you to download, learn, and maintain multiple apps to manage your relationship with us.

Here are some examples of what you can do in PlayMetrics as a family member:

- Manage your player's profile, including basic information and profile photo
- Add and edit additional contacts for your player, including email addresses and phone numbers
- Register your player for club events and programs
- Manage payments to the club
- View club and team calendars (practices, games, special events) and sync to your personal calendar
- Send and receive emails, texts, push notifications, and chats with other club members
- Fill out and access club forms, such as waivers and player evaluations
- See game scores and team records
- Set player attendance for events (including late, injured, and partial)
- View club and team resources, such as videos, documents, and website links
- Access PlayMetrics on desktop, tablet, or through mobile apps

For club leadership and staff, PlayMetrics offers us the ability to work together more seamlessly, share information faster, instill and oversee training guidelines better, and to automate formerly time-consuming tasks. This allows us even more time and energy to focus on developing our players and coaches.

## **ONBOARDING & SUPPORT**

PlayMetrics is dedicated to ensuring everyone is successful with its Operating System. In addition to a hands-on onboarding process for key staff, PlayMetrics provides **constantly-updated FAQs** in its Help Center and employs a support team ready to assist. Should you ever have any questions, simply email [\*\*support@playmetrics.com\*\*](mailto:support@playmetrics.com)

# NOTICE ON BIRTH YEAR CHANGES

As you may have seen in recent national discussions, the youth soccer landscape is transitioning to a seasonal-year age group structure. In alignment with this nationwide shift, James Island Youth Soccer Club (JIYSC) and Lowcountry United Soccer Academy (LUSA) will adopt seasonal-year age groups (August 1 – July 31) beginning with the 2026/27 season.

This change reflects a coordinated effort among all major governing bodies within youth soccer to create greater consistency and alignment across leagues and development pathways.

## **What Does This Mean for the Current Season?**

- The current season will remain unchanged.
- All teams will continue under the existing age group structure through the conclusion of Spring season events.

## **2026/2027 Season**

- The upcoming tryouts will evaluate players using the new August 1 – July 31 age matrix in preparation for the 2026/27 season.

## **Alignment Across Major Leagues**

The seasonal-year age group structure will be implemented across all major competitive platforms in which JIYSC and LUSA participate, including:

- MLS NEXT
- Girls Academy (GA)
- Development Player League (DPL)
- National Academy League (NAL)
- South Carolina Youth Soccer Association (SCYSA)
- Coastal Premier League (CPL)

This alignment ensures consistency in roster eligibility, league participation, and long-term player development pathways.

# NOTICE ON BIRTH YEAR CHANGES

JYSC and LUSA remain committed to:

- A thorough review of all players and current rosters and how the age change will affect current rosters
- Fair and thorough player evaluations
- Supporting players and families throughout this transition

Additional details regarding evaluations, team formation, and key dates will be shared directly with families in the coming weeks. **Please refer to the chart below to see where your player fits effective with the 2026/27 season and beyond.**

AGE GROUP FORMATION MATRIX	
AGE GROUP FORMATION	2026-27 SEASON
AUG 1, 2020 - JULY 31, 2021	U6
AUG 1, 2019 - JULY 31, 2020	U7
AUG 1, 2018 - JULY 31, 2019	U8
AUG 1, 2017 - JULY 31, 2018	U9
AUG 1, 2016 - JULY 31, 2017	U10
AUG 1, 2015 - JULY 31, 2016	U11
AUG 1, 2014 - JULY 31, 2015	U12
AUG 1, 2013 - JULY 31, 2014	U13
AUG 1, 2012 - JULY 31, 2013	U14
AUG 1, 2011 - JULY 31, 2012	U15
AUG 1, 2010 - JULY 31, 2011	U16
AUG 1, 2009 - JULY 31, 2010	U17
AUG 1, 2008 - JULY 31, 2009	U18
AUG 1, 2007 - JULY 31, 2008	U19

# COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

As we continue to celebrate the growth within our club, we are especially proud to recognize our college commits and players graduating to the next level.

These athletes represent years of dedication, resilience, and commitment—not only to their own development but to their teammates and our club. We are incredibly proud of all players taking this next step in their journey. They leave a lasting impact on our program and set the standard for those who follow. Congratulations to our graduates and commits—we look forward to watching you all thrive at the next level.

A graphic featuring a central photograph of a soccer player in a dark jersey on a field. The photo is framed by a white border with the word "COMMITTED" written vertically in large, stylized letters on both sides. Above the photo is a small blue logo with a white figure and the letters "MCAA". Below the photo, the name "OLIVER CANNON" and "2008 Boys MLS Next" are printed. At the bottom, the Belmont Abbey College logo is shown on both sides, with the text "OLIVER CANNON COMMITS TO BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE" in the center.

**OLIVER CANNON**  
2008 Boys MLS Next

OLIVER CANNON  
COMMITS TO  
BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

A graphic featuring a central photograph of a soccer player in a dark jersey on a field. The photo is framed by a white border with the word "COMMITTED" written vertically in large, stylized letters on both sides. Above the photo is a small blue logo with a white figure and the letters "MCAA". Below the photo, the name "OWEN MCCABE" and "2008 MLS NEXT" are printed. At the bottom, the Drew University logo is shown on both sides, with the text "OWEN MCCABE COMMITS TO DREW UNIVERSITY MENS SOCCER" in the center.

**OWEN MCCABE**  
2008 MLS NEXT

OWEN MCCABE  
COMMITS TO  
DREW UNIVERSITY  
MENS SOCCER

A graphic featuring a central photograph of a soccer player in a dark jersey on a field. The photo is framed by a white border with the word "COMMITTED" written vertically in large, stylized letters on both sides. Above the photo is a small blue logo with a white figure and the letters "MCAA". Below the photo, the name "ABBIE SHAW" and "2008 GA Aspire" are printed. At the bottom, the Virginia Military Institute logo is shown on both sides, with the text "ABBIE SHAW COMMITS TO VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE WOMENS SOCCER" in the center.

**ABBIE SHAW**  
2008 GA Aspire

ABBIE SHAW  
COMMITS TO  
VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE  
WOMENS SOCCER

A graphic featuring a central photograph of a soccer player in a dark jersey on a field. The photo is framed by a white border with the word "COMMITTED" written vertically in large, stylized letters on both sides. Above the photo is a small blue logo with a white figure and the letters "MCAA". Below the photo, the name "WYATT MCCLURE" and "2008 MLS NEXT" are printed. At the bottom, the Lees-McRae College logo is shown on both sides, with the text "WYATT MCCLURE COMMITS TO LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE MENS SOCCER" in the center.

**WYATT MCCLURE**  
2008 MLS NEXT

WYATT MCCLURE  
COMMITS TO  
LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE  
MENS SOCCER

A graphic featuring a central photograph of a soccer player in a dark jersey on a field. The photo is framed by a white border with the word "COMMITTED" written vertically in large, stylized letters on both sides. Above the photo is a small blue logo with a white figure and the letters "MCAA". Below the photo, the name "JOEY LIGHTHART" and "2008 MLS NEXT" are printed. At the bottom, the Lees-McRae College logo is shown on both sides, with the text "JOEY LIGHTHART COMMITS TO LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE MENS SOCCER" in the center.

**JOEY LIGHTHART**  
2008 MLS NEXT

JOEY LIGHTHART  
COMMITS TO  
LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE  
MENS SOCCER

# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT



**Gracie Ridings**  
**U.S Soccer Talent ID Center - Invited**



Congratulations to Gracie Ridings on her invitation to attend a U.S. Soccer Talent ID Center.

A tremendous opportunity for individual growth and to represent our club at a highest level.

U.S. Soccer Talent ID Centers (IDCs) are free, single-day player identification opportunities for top talents to train and play games under the direction of U.S. Soccer Talent Identification Managers. IDC's are a critical element to our Talent Identification Plan and are designed to identify and evaluate top talents for Youth National Teams, while accelerating their development in a challenging environment. IDC's are scheduled throughout the year in key markets across the country.

U.S. Soccer Talent ID Centers are designed to replicate Youth National Team camps. The sessions are closed to parents and spectators. U.S. Soccer's objective is to create an environment free from any distractions, where players take responsibility for their own development. IDCs are the pathway to the Youth National Teams. Club representatives (Members, Coaches, Scouts, State Associates, Talent Reporters) may attend and observe the session from designated areas away from field and players with prior approval.

As the National Governing Body of soccer in the United States, and under the auspices of the United States Olympic Committee, we are empowered and charged with developing the teams that represent the United States in all international competitions such as the Olympics and World Cup. The Talent ID Center Program is an integral part of this process.

# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

**id2** Gracie Ridings  
**U.S Club Soccer id2 National  
Training Camp - Invited**

In addition to her recent U.S. Soccer Talent ID Center invitation, Gracie has also been selected to attend the id2 National Training Camp through US Club Soccer. The id2 National

Training Camp puts players on teams on-site for a variety of performance testing, training, competition, classroom sessions and matches. Top coaches will facilitate a holistic team environment for players to develop on and off the field, while encouraging an elite athlete mentality that focuses on a culture of high effort, accountability and respect. Players at the id2 National Training Camp will then be scouted and evaluated for inclusion in the id2 National Selection Camp in May in Atlanta, Georgia alongside U.S. Soccer youth national team programming.



 **Ella Ulmer**  
**DPL All-Star 2026 Selection - Invited**

Congratulations to Ella Ulmer on her selection to the U15 All-Star Team at the DPL National Finals. Chosen by independent scouts from across the Development Player League, Ella was selected from a pool of more than 14,000 players league-wide.

This recognition reflects the consistency, effort, and growth she has shown throughout the season. The U15

All-Star Game will take place on June 25, 2026 at the Hampton Roads Soccer Complex in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This is an individual honor, and Ella will represent the DPL at the National Finals regardless of team qualification. Players participating in the All-Star event may also be considered for the DPL International Performance Program, with additional details to follow from the league.



# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT



**Bennett Dinkins**  
**Charlotte FC Discovery Program**  
**Committed**



This spring Bennett Dinkins (2012 MLS Next) has been selected to be part of the Charlotte FC Discovery Program. The program is for players currently playing in the U12 and U13 age groups within their club environment. This program is used for the Charlotte FC Academy to discover future professional players, but more importantly, for players to discover and develop their talent through game exploration, high level training, proven educational methods and top-level coaching. Charlotte FC believes in developing a sustainable soccer community within the Carolinas and working with ALL local clubs in identifying and developing the top soccer talent in the region. The Charlotte Discovery Program will supplement the club environment by providing twice-weekly training as well as special event programming. Players selected to participate in the Charlotte Discovery Program will continue to train and participate in games with their respective club team.



**Chandler Maxwell**  
**Charlotte FC Academy Program**  
**Signed** ✓



This past summer, Chandler Maxwell was invited to become a full member of the Charlotte FC Academy — a tremendous achievement for one of our own and a proud moment for our entire club. Now six months into his journey, Chandler continues to embrace the challenge and opportunity of training and competing in one of the top professional development environments in the country.

# UPCOMING EVENTS/PROGRAMS

## Summer Camps!

The 2025 summer season of No. 1 Camps saw over 300 campers enjoy our programming! We are excited to be returning for the Summer '26! Visit the club website for full details and registration. Please see the camp dates below:

June 1st - 4th, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

June 15th - 18th, 2026 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

July 13th - 16th, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

July 20th - 23rd, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**REGISTER NOW!**

## Summer Super 6's!

The Super 6's program is back once again this summer!! Designed to replicate pick-up soccer whereby players come out with their friends and simply play soccer. The Summer Super 6's program is open to all players regardless of your club affiliation. We encourage all players to come out, have fun and express themselves without the pressures of impressing the coach. We want kids to take players on, score goals and ultimately love playing in the summer sun. **Registration coming soon.**



# SPONSORSHIPS

A large percentage of the funds raised are used for player scholarships, ensuring that financial limitations never keep our players off the field.

How Can You Help?

If you're a business owner - or interested parent - please consider becoming a club sponsor.

Packages start at just \$250 and offer high-visibility options including field signage, presence at events, web and social media mentions, and jersey naming rights.

We have over 1200 players participating across all club programs, with local tournaments and league games drawing visitors from across South Carolina and throughout the Southeast region.

Your generosity will increase the profile of the club and assist in making our program stronger. Your sponsorship will help your company build an image of community support while positively impacting youth development WHERE YOU LIVE, and your donation could be considered tax deductible (please consult your tax professional).

If you are interested, please contact our fundraising director at [fundraising@jiysc.org](mailto:fundraising@jiysc.org).

# VALUED CLUB SPONSORS

We'd also like to take a moment to thank our valued club sponsors. Your support makes a real difference, helping our players grow and keeping our programs strong —thank you for being part of our soccer family!

## FIELD SPONSORS



## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



## BRONZE SPONSORS



# CONTACT INFORMATION

Clark Brisson – cbrisson@jiysc.org

Liam Watt – lwatt@jiysc.org

Ryan Hedley – rhedley@jiysc.org

## STAY CONNECTED!

Follow the club on Facebook, Instagram and Threads for the latest club news along with team and player successes!

Tag JIYSC/LUSA in your soccer posts!



@jamesislandyouthsoccerclub



@lowcountry.united



@jamesislandyouthsoccerclub



[www.jiysc.org](http://www.jiysc.org)

**Kind Regards,**

Clark Brisson

JIYSC & Lowcountry United SA Executive Director

