



NSSA joins Surf Nation

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Affiliation

Q: What is Surf Nation? A: [Surf Nation](#) is one of the largest and most respected youth soccer organizations in the United States, with affiliated clubs across the country. The organization provides elite training resources, national networking opportunities, and a proven player development pathway.

Q: Why is North Suburban Soccer joining Surf Nation? A: This affiliation will provide our players with enhanced development opportunities, access to national tournaments and showcases, improved coaching education resources, and connection to a larger soccer community while maintaining our local identity and values.

Q: Why did Surf want to partner with NSSA? A: Surf seeks a particular type of club that fits a particular set of criteria, such as: club culture, play style, competitiveness, coaching philosophy, and club leadership. These factors combined with the absence of a Surf affiliate in Minnesota were key reasons that made NSSA an attractive partner.

Q: How is this different from a merger? A: The simple answer is as a club we remain independent with our same leadership structure, values, nonprofit status, and financial controls, as well as our mission to give all youth soccer players a place to belong. We will be an affiliate of Surf Nation, which gives us access to a host of resources and player benefits — while still having the freedom to make decisions in the best interest of our community.

Q: Is Surf Soccer known to be a successful organization around the country? A: Absolutely. Surf teams have a strong reputation on and off the soccer field. They compete at the highest levels, have won many national championships, and have hundreds of club alumni in the college ranks. There are 60+ other Surf Nation affiliates around the USA and Puerto Rico.



Impact on Players and Families

Q: Will my child's team or coach change? A: Not as it relates to our transition from North Suburban Soccer to North Surf Soccer. As we have previously announced, like the majority of youth soccer clubs in the country, we will be following the new US Soccer age-group mandate. This will result in teams forming based on grade level instead of birth year.

Q: Will membership fees increase? A: All 2026-27 player/club fees are posted on our website. Fees have increased by less than 10% for the majority of teams and levels. We acknowledge the cost of youth sports continues to rise. However, you will find membership costs for NSSA are on the low side compared to other Minnesota clubs.

Q: Will the training schedule or locations change? A: No changes to training schedules or field locations. We will continue to train at our current facilities.

Q: Does this affect our competitive league play? A: Teams will continue to compete in the same leagues. The affiliation may provide additional tournament and showcase opportunities through the Surf Nation network.

The Name Change

Q: What will the club's new name be? A: The club will be rebranded as North Surf Soccer. On a local/regional level, we will continue to use the NSSA acronym, which will now stand for North Surf Soccer Academy.

Q: When does the name change take effect? A: We will begin transitioning to the new name over the course of the 2026-27 competitive soccer season.

Q: Will I need to purchase new uniforms immediately? A: No. All competitive teams will continue to use the current uniform kit through the 2026-27 season, as planned. This will be year two for those kits — the last year of the uniform cycle. In the Fall of 2027, we will transition to new North Surf Soccer uniforms. Surf Nation updates its home and away uniforms in alternating years, meaning NSSA families will purchase both kits in 2027 and one kit per year thereafter.



Q: What happens to our current club logo and branding? A: We will transition to new branding that incorporates the North Surf Soccer identity while maintaining elements that reflect our local community.

Benefits and Opportunities

Q: What benefits does Surf Nation affiliation provide? A: Benefits include:

- Access to Surf Cup Sports tournaments and national showcases
- Enhanced coaching education and development resources
- Player development curriculum and technical standards
- Networking with other Surf affiliates nationwide
- Access to best-in-class technology (field scheduling, operations, etc.)
- College recruiting exposure through Surf Nation events
- Brand recognition that opens doors for our players

Q: Will there be new tournament opportunities? A: Yes. Surf Nation clubs have access to premier tournaments and showcases across the country, including events that attract college scouts and elite competition.

Q: What other opportunities can players look forward to? A: Surf Nation has a Surf Select program that draws “best of the best” players from affiliated clubs around the country to compete in high-profile events. In addition, Surf’s close ties to Nike affords it unique opportunities to participate in events and promotions.

Q: How does this help with college recruitment? A: The Surf Nation network includes showcase events specifically designed for college exposure, and the brand is well-recognized by college coaches nationwide.

Q: Are there currently other Surf-affiliated clubs in Minnesota or the Midwest (or will there be in the future)? A: The nearest Surf affiliate is in the Chicago area. Our club will be the exclusive Surf Nation affiliate within a 50-mile radius of the Twin Cities for both the near term and long term.



Club Operations

Q: Will our club leadership change? A: No. Brady Hicks will remain Executive Director, Katelynn Fast will remain Director of Operations, and our coaching directors will continue in their roles. The NSSA board will continue to operate as its currently structured.

Q: Will our training programs (like Shots & Stops) continue? A: Yes. All current programs will continue, and we may introduce additional programs through the Surf Nation curriculum.

Q: Any changes to the Junior Academy or Rec Program? A: No. Both programs will continue to operate as they have previously.

Q: How does this affect our financial standing as a club? A: The club remains on solid financial footing. The affiliation includes modest fees but also provides resources that enhance our offerings without significant cost increases.

Q: Will we still partner with local schools and parks for fields? A: Yes. We will continue to seek field partnerships locally and pursue our Capital Funding and Development Taskforce goals.

Getting Involved

Q: Where can I learn more about Surf Soccer Nation? A: Visit surfsoccernation.com to learn about the organization, its history, and affiliated clubs.

Q: Who can I contact with additional questions? A: Please reach out to our Executive Director, Brady Hicks, at brady.hicks@nssasoccer.org, or visit our website at nssasoccer.org.

Q: When can I buy North Surf Soccer apparel? A: Surf operates a year-round online store. Stay tuned for information on when North Surf apparel will be available.

Q: How can I stay updated on the transition? A: We will provide regular updates through email, our website, and social media channels throughout the transition process.