

Dear Bend FC Families, Members, Staff, Board Members, and Community Partners,

As 2025 comes to a close, I want to sincerely thank you for sharing another remarkable year with Bend FC. Each season, it is a true joy to watch our young players grow—both on and off the field—not only as athletes, but as people. The lessons learned through sport, teamwork, and perseverance stay with them long after the final whistle, and that growth is why we take such pride in what we strive to provide for our families.

Together, we continue building what I believe is the number one youth soccer club in Oregon, and 2025 was another outstanding year across the entire organization. As I reflect on the past 12 months, I am excited to share just a few of the many accomplishments that made this year so special.

## **Club Highlights & Achievements**

- **January–February 2025:** Bend FC set out to join Girls Academy Aspire and, after extensive preparation, was officially accepted in February. This milestone represents a huge step forward for our girls' programming. The Girls Academy and GA Aspire are leaders in youth sports, and we are proud to grow alongside the largest single-gender youth sports organization in the country.
- **April 2025:**
  - 8 Bend FC teams advanced to the OYSA quarterfinals
  - 5 teams reached the semifinals
  - 2 teams advanced to the OYSA State Championship matches
- **Player, Coach & Referee Development:**
  - Over 100 new Central Oregon referees were certified and trained through the Bend FC Referee Program
  - More than 150 recreational coaches were educated and supported by Bend FC administration
  - 8 coaches earned United Soccer Coaches Advanced National Diplomas
  - 2 coaches earned USSF National B Licenses
  - 2 coaches earned USSF C Licenses, with many more completing USSF D and Grassroots certifications
  - Recreational Director Stef Emerson was named Oregon Administrator of the Year
  - Bend FC staff started running the Central Oregon Community College Club program creating a new partnership with the college
- **Total Player Development:**
  - Bend FC hosted multiple Total Player educational courses, including a featured presentation by former NFL player Cornelius Edison
  - Our partner Capacity Physical Therapy ran a knee injury prevention class
- **May 2025 Milestones:**
  - 4 Bend FC boys players were invited to the prestigious Jefferson Cup on the East Coast

- Bend FC hosted its first-ever Club Picnic and Team Formational Meeting on May 30
- Bend FC 2010 Girls won the State Cup
- Bend FC 2011 Girls finished as State Cup Runners-Up
- Bend FC recorded the largest club tryouts in our history
- **Participation & Community Reach:**
  - Spring 2025 Central Oregon Soccer League served nearly 1,500 recreational players
  - Summer recreational camps and programs welcomed nearly 500 additional participants
  - Summer 2025 marked the largest participation ever in our Unified Sports / Special Olympics program
- **Summer & Fall Success:**
  - Bend FC 2010 Girls represented Oregon at Regional Championships
  - Bend FC staff operated the largest Bend Premier Cup since before COVID-19
  - Several teams captured championships at the Mt. Hood Challenge
  - Bend FC piloted a competitive program in Prineville, partnering with Prineville Premier
  - The Bend FC Adult Program exceeded 900 players, reaching new heights in participation
- **Expanding Opportunities:**
  - On September 15, Bend FC launched Girls Flag Football as a new community and recreational sport
  - Bend High Lady Lava Bears won the OSAA State Championship
  - Bend FC 2013 Girls won the Founders Cup
- **Facilities & Future Growth:**
  - The Phase 2 Field Project advanced significantly thanks to the incredible volunteer efforts of Kyle Anderson, Tyler Moore, and James Traynor

These accomplishments represent only a portion of what was achieved in 2025, but they speak to the collective effort, passion, and commitment that define Bend FC.

As we close the chapter on another year filled with shared moments and community spirit, I want to express heartfelt gratitude to everyone who makes Bend FC possible—our players, families, coaches, referees, staff, board members, volunteers, and supporters. Your dedication is the lifeblood of youth soccer in Central Oregon. Every practice, game, cheer, and act of service contributes to an environment where young people can thrive and create memories that will last a lifetime.

It is with great humility that I say Bend FC is home to some of the finest coaches and staff—not only in Oregon, but in the nation. Our administrative team is energized and excited for what lies ahead in 2026, and we are proud to continue serving our members and our community.

Thank you for your trust, your support, and your belief in Bend FC. I am incredibly proud of the work we do and deeply honored to lead this club into its next chapter here in Bend.

With gratitude and excitement for the future,

**Donnie Emerson**

Executive Director

Bend FC