Draft

Recreation and Parks Board - Sep 03 2026 Minutes

Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Chesapeake Building, 41770 Baldridge St., Leonardtown, MD

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL - all present

3. MINUTES

A. **Aug 06 2026 - Minutes - Public.docx** 2

I move to approve the August 6, 2026, meeting minutes as presented.

Moved by: Lawrence Ludwig; seconded by: Ryan Hanley

Yea: Ryan Hanley, Jeffrey Kennedy, Lawrence Ludwig, John Lydon, David McDonough, Sean Ritchie, Nathanial Scroggins, and Sara Urtz

Motion Carries 8-0

4. DIRECTORS UPDATE

A. Director Raymond Bivens presented a review of Department events, activities and projects. Questions were taken from the board. **9 3 2026 director updates.pdf** 4

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. St. Mary's Soccer 11

Kevin Smith, President presented an overview of St. Mary's Soccer and took questions and comments from the board. St. Mary's Soccer Community Brief.pdf

6. ADJOURN

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. MINUTES #

Recreation and Parks Board - Jun 04 2026 - Minutes - Public (1).pdf

I move to approve the June 2026 minutes as written. #

Moved by: Sean Ritchie; seconded by: Lawrence Ludwig

Motion approved

4. DIRECTORS UPDATE

A. **director update 8 6 2026 pdf.pdf** Director Bivens gave an overview of upcoming and past events, activities and project status updates. #

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sports Complex Study Review #

St Marys Sports Complex - Master Plan - Final Report.pdf

SportsComplexOverview.pdf Director Bivens gave an update on the Sports Complex Report and took questions from the board.

B. Comprehensive Planning and Technology Updates #

Jessica Hale, Deputy Director gave updates on the 2027 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) & Strategic Plan updates

Strategic Plan Mid-Term Update to Board 8.06.26.pdf

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. ADJOURN

USCT Memorial Restoration Project









Forest Landing Boat Ramp Renovations

Arts Council Partnership- Lexington Manor Passive Park















Seeking Qualified Staff





Registration Open Upcoming Fun Runs


R&P
Classic
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Play Golf. Support Local Kids.
Proceeds benefit the R&P youth scholarship program.
Friday,
October 2, 2026
Wicomico Shores
Golf Course,
Mechanicsville
$375 per
four-person team
($94 individual)
REGISTER TODAY!
stmaryscountymd.gov/golftournament
18 HOLES OF GOLF | LIGHT BREAKFAST & LUNCH | DOOR PRIZES
ON-COURSE BEVERAGES | FUN FOR ALL!

St. Mary's Soccer (SMS)

ST. MARY'S COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS BRIEF

Kevin Smith
SMS President

Who We Are: Purpose & RISE Values

Purpose & Mission

St. Mary's Soccer (SMS) is an independent, non-profit youth sports organization affiliated with the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) and St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks.

For more than 40 years, we have existed to foster a lifelong love for the game while developing the whole person. We measure success by the quality of youth we develop and lives we positively impact.

Core RISE Values

- **Resilience:** Overcoming adversity and persevering through athletic and life challenges.
- **Integrity:** Honesty, strong moral character, and accountability in every decision.
- **Sportsmanship:** Absolute respect for teammates, opponents, referees, and coaches.
- **Excellence:** Relentless pursuit of personal growth and athletic potential.

Program Scale & County Footprint

2,374
Total Active Players
Across recreation and competitive programs

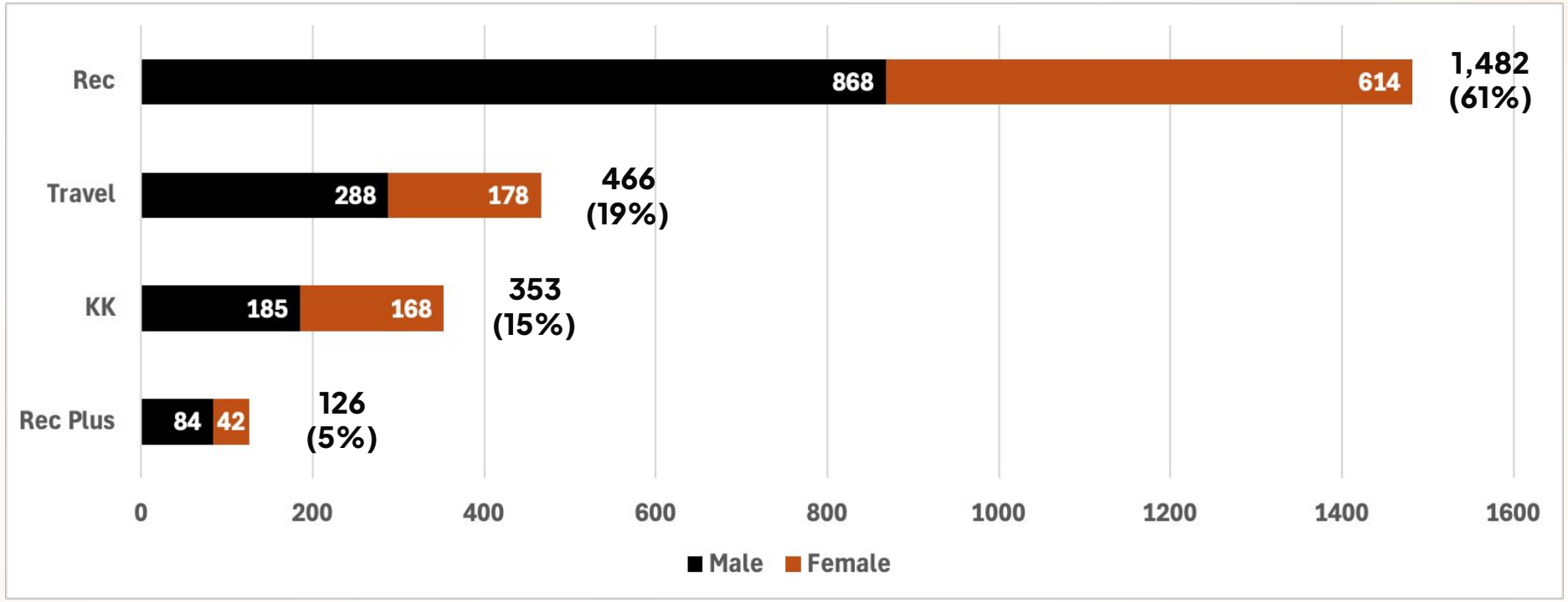
1,835
Peak Recreation Enrollment
Historic club high achieved in Spring 2026

+48% +95% Girls
Recreation Player Growth
Consistent registration expansion since 2015

345
Coaches and Volunteers
It takes a village

17
R&P Scholarships
Funded county recipients supported in Fall 2026

Player Participation by Program (Spring 2026)



A balanced player pathway: 75% of players participate in grassroots recreation, while 25% participate in accelerated developmental and travel programming.

Recreation & Grassroots Academies

Kiddie Kick Expansion

Record seasonal enrollment of 353 early-childhood players in Spring 2026, building movement literacy and love for sports in preschoolers.

U18 Girls Division

Successfully established and growing an older-division girls' bracket to keep female athletes actively engaged through their high school years.

Annual Spring Showcase

Over 195 players featured in seasonal showcase matches, celebrating skill development, teamwork, and healthy community competition.

Competitive Pathways Rec Plus and Travel

- **Rec Plus Bridge:** 16 development teams (U8–U10) utilizing academy-style multi-coach training to prepare young athletes for advanced competition.
- **Championship Pedigree:** Multiple SMS teams earned titles across State Cup, President's Cup, Jefferson Cup, and regional tournaments in Maryland and Virginia.
- **Record College Commits:** The 2026 graduating class sent a record number of SMS scholar-athletes to collegiate soccer rosters across NCAA and regional programs.
- **Holistic Coaching:** DoC led periodized training cycles and Individual Development Plans (IDPs), GK Training | Continuing education support, US Soccer coaching certifications, coach evaluation framework and competitive selection.



SMS Tournaments: Tradition & Scale

Community Cup

The premier small-sided (4v4) Fall festival uniting Rec, Rec Plus, and Travel players (U08–U14) in a fast-paced, high-energy seasonal finale.

Claire's Cup

A beloved annual charity & memorial 4v4 tournament hosted in late November, celebrating camaraderie, joy on the pitch, and community giving.

St. Mary’s Cup

The club's flagship competitive showcase attracting premier squads across MD, VA, and DC—driving local sports tourism and high-level competition.

4v4 Fall Festival: Community & Claire's Cup

Community Cup (U08–U14)

Hosted each November to celebrate the close of the Fall season across all divisions.

Small-Sided 4v4 Format
Maximizes ball touches, quick decision-making, and creativity with no goalkeepers and rapid substitutions.

Cross-Program Unity
Brings together recreational teams, academy squads, and travel players under one shared festival atmosphere.

Claire's Cup Tradition

Held jointly with the Community Cup, supporting a local family in need of support.

Charitable Community Impact
Unites players and families around meaningful causes, inspiring service and empathy through sport.

Pure Joy of the Game
Focuses on teamwork, smiles, sportsmanship, and celebrating youth athletics in Southern Maryland.

The St. Mary's Cup: Flagship Showcase

- **Regional Premier Competition:** Draws travel clubs across Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. area.
- **Multi-Flight Excellence:** Goal is to feature championship and competitive flights across all travel age groups (U09 through U19). 44 teams in first year.
- **Local Economic Catalyst:** Brings hundreds of visiting players, coaches, and families to St. Mary's County hotels, restaurants, and businesses.
- **Referee & Facility Showcase:** Provides high-level game assignments for developing youth officials under senior referee mentors.



Community Access & Inclusion

County R&P Scholarship

SMS actively partners with the St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks scholarship framework.

In **Fall 2026, SMS supported 17 youth recipients**, ensuring financial limitations never bar a child from participation, structured coaching, or team belonging.

Accessible Programming

We believe every child in Southern Maryland deserves access to clean, safe, and positive youth athletics.

All-inclusive fee structures, transparent team budgets, uniform donation exchanges, and community cups ensure soccer remains our county's most accessible sport.

Referee & Youth Leadership

- **Donald & Margie Watson Scholarship:** Sponsoring youth officiating recognition in honor of over 25 years of dedicated community service.
- **State-Level Recognition:** SMS youth officials selected to center and officiate Maryland State Cup and Mid-Atlantic Regional Finals.
- **SMS Referee Mentorship:** Senior referee mentors provide pitch-side support, constructive feedback, and de-escalation for young officials.
- **Character Building:** Teaching accountability, leadership, and composure under pressure for dozens of local teens.



Voice of the Community: Feedback

Strong Core Values

Coaches scored **4.36 / 5.0** for demonstrating RISE values, and families rated intent to return at **4.33 / 5.0**, showcasing deep community trust.

Parking & Game Spacing

Heavy Saturday morning traffic bottlenecks identified at county parks. SMS is reconfiguring start times.

Field Quality & Equipment

Survey responses stressed the need for consistent practice goals, dedicated training grids, and appreciated turf access during inclement weather.

Growth & R&P Collaboration

1. Field Capacity & Turf Expansion

Accommodating 2,370+ active players requires joint long-term planning for all-weather turf facilities, reducing rainouts and turf degradation.

2. Saturday Flow & Parking Logistics

Adjusting practice windows and staggered kick-off times (30-min buffer between games) to clear lots safely and reduce park congestion.

3. Girls' Athlete Engagement and Retention

Continuing work to increase retention of female athletes U12+.

4. Equipment & Facility Upgrades

Researching facility and field investments to improve program delivery and expand participation, including potential Program Open Space grants.

Elected Executive Board

Office / Role	Officer		Primary Responsibility Area
President	Kevin Smith	EXECUTIVE	Executive Strategic Direction, Governance & Community Relations
VP Recreation (U10–U18)	Aaron Koch	PROGRAM LEAD	Program Lead Full-Sided Rec Divisions, Scheduling & Volunteers
VP Kiddie Kick / Academy	Jodi Tenney	PROGRAM LEAD	Program Lead Early Childhood (U04–U08) Grassroots Foundations
VP Rec Plus	Nolan Ryon	PROGRAM LEAD	Program Lead Academy-Style Bridge & Developmental Squads
VP Travel	Nicole Downs	PROGRAM LEAD	Program Lead Premier/Classic League Play & State Competitions
Treasurer	Holly Jett	FINANCE	Finance Financial Controls, Budgeting & Audit Readiness
Secretary	Wayne Mozzo	ADMINISTRATION	Administration Club Records, Governance & Meeting Proceedings

Operations & Appointed Staff

Title / Role	Individual		Operational Scope & Function
Director of Operations	Ashley Walter	KEY STAFF	Key Staff Club Operations, Facilities, Field Schedulers & Tournaments
Director of Coaching	Dr. Sheri Huckleberry	KEY STAFF	Key Staff Technical Curriculum, Coach Education & Player IDPs
Director of Goalkeeping	Chad Selph	KEY STAFF	Goalkeeper Development
Club Registrar	Donald Finch	KEY STAFF	Key Staff Registration Systems, Rostering & MSYSA Compliance
Head Referee	Mick Goodnow	APPOINTED	Appointed Officiating Quality, Rules Guidance & Mentor Program
Rules & Discipline	William Cronkright	APPOINTED	Appointed Code of Conduct, Incident Review & Sportsmanship
Referee Assignor	Wayne Mozzo	APPOINTED	Appointed Match Official Assignments & Field Officiating Logistics

Questions & Discussion

Thank you to St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks and our community partners for investing in our youth and the future of county sports.

St. Mary's Soccer • www.stmaryssoccer.org • One Club, United