



## **VYSA and DICK's Team Sports HQ Partnership FAQs**

*VYSA is excited to announce its travel registration system will be moving to Dick's Team HQ for the upcoming year. The Affinity Sports platform with Dick's Team HQ will offer updated technology and a new platform for travel rosters, player cards, transfers and more. VYSA will be holding trainings in mid-May and then open the database May 31st. Here is some additional information and answers to questions you may have:*

### **Q: What will VYSA be using Dick's Team Sports HQ for?**

A: VYSA will utilize this platform to manage BOTH travel and recreation players as well as coaches and admins. The platform will be used to manage eligibility, rosters, ID cards, scheduling for state run programs and ODP registration. Dick's Team Sports HQ will also be used for registration and scheduling of VYSA managed tournaments including the National Championship Series starting in the fall.

### **Q: What is the database program that VYSA will be using as a part of Dick's Team Sports HQ?**

A: The travel database is the Affinity Sports Platform. Blue Sombrero is the registration platform available to clubs that many VYSA clubs already utilize. Both are under the umbrella company of Dick's Team Sports HQ.

### **Q: When and where will training be offered?**

A: Webinars will be offered on:

- Tuesday, May 8: 12:00 pm – for Club Representatives
- Wednesday, May 9: 6:00 pm – for Club Representatives
- Thursday, May 10: 12:00 pm – for Assigned League Registrars
- Friday, May 11: 6:00 pm – for Assigned League Registrars

In-person training's for Club Administrators, Club Registrars and Assigned League Registrars will be offered throughout the state. We will need our Club and League registrars to train Team Managers over the summer. **Information on how to register for all trainings will be available in late April.**

- *Virginia Beach* - May 15 at 6:00pm at the Operation Smile office (3641 Faculty Blvd.)
- *Richmond* - May 15 at 5:00pm at the Richmond Library-West End Branch (5420 Patterson Ave.)
- *Roanoke* - May 16 at 6:00pm at the Holiday Inn Roanoke (3315 Ordway Dr.)
- *Northern Virginia* - May 17 at 6:00pm at the Reston Association Conference Center (12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston)

### **Q: When will the database be available for clubs to beginning using and learning?**

A: May 31

**Q: Why did VYSA select Dick's Team Sports HQ for their database management?**

A: DSG Team Sports HQ Affinity Technology platform is currently successfully serving over 9 million youth sports players nationwide and are the provider for our governing body USYS. This technology will result in streamlined interaction between our members, VYSA, USYS and USSF. Affinity Sports has been in the soccer market since 2002 serving State Soccer Associations. Currently Affinity Sports works with 16 US Youth Soccer state associations.

**Q: I've heard rosters will be created by uploading a completed spreadsheet template. What if I don't have Excel on my computer?**

A: There are several alternatives to using Microsoft Office. One of the easiest, of course, is Microsoft Online, if you are used to using Excel. This is a free service and offers access to Excel. You would need to create a Microsoft account, but the file is then available to you from anywhere. Other alternatives are FreeOffice, LibreOffice, and WPS Office. All three have high ratings on their compatibility with Excel.

**Q: How will the new spreadsheets be created?**

A: The spreadsheets for the teams will initially set up by the Club. This will be fully explained in training.

**Q: Will the new system reflect that a player's proof of age has been approved?**

A: Yes! Dick's Team Sports HQ will be uploading current player information so that the application can check our player history to know which player's have had their proof of age previously approved. However, in order for it to reflect this, the player's name and birthdate must be entered in exactly as it is in the current system.

It is highly recommended that the Club Travel Coordinator for each club go into the VYSA database and click on "Download Data" from the main menu. For the type of download, select "Travel Players." This will provide the Club Travel Coordinator a list of all the travel players currently in your club. This would be very helpful in creating the initial spreadsheets for the new season. Please note: If there is a value in the "Surname" field, it will be appended to the "LastName" field using a "-" in the new system. For example, last name= Smith, surname=Jones. The new LastName field will be Smith-Jones. This is how it currently prints on our passes.

**Q: Will the teams need to provide proof of birth date documents again?**

A: All players in the current year system (2017-2018) ONLY will be uploaded and marked birth document verified by VYSA. Players not registered in the 17-18 system will have to provide the proof of birth date document again.

**Q: Will we have to supply new photos?**

A: Yes. Please plan ahead - take the photos at tryouts! This will allow you to have a photo of all prospective players.

**Q: How will the background check management process change?**

A: The new database will be integrated with Trusted Employees, the background check company VYSA has been using for several years. Clubs can continue using Trusted Employees to conduct background checks with the convenience of an integrated system or they may choose another company.

**Q: Is the new software provider compliant with the US Soccer and FIFA requirements?**

A: Yes, they are working closely with US Soccer to test out the integration that will allow US Soccer access to the required data fields. Once US Soccer receives the information, the US Soccer and FIFA ID numbers will be appended to the player record.

**Q: We've heard the US Soccer Federation (USSF) and FIFA are requiring more information on the international players. What do we need to supply?**

A: For all players born outside the US, you will need to find out: (a) the country in which they were born; (b) if they ever played outside the US; and (c) if they are a US citizen. If a player has already been cleared by USSF, then the fact they have been cleared will be marked in the new Dick's Team Sports HQ database. However, we will still need these 3 pieces of information, since it was not collected before.

**Q: We've heard there will be unlimited transfers next year. What does that mean?**

A: In February 2018, the VYSA board voted to allow for intra-club (within the club) player moves that would not count toward your 5 transfers. This rule will take place starting in the 2018-19 seasonal year.

This is wonderful news for everyone! A move such as this will now be approved at the club level, making it a very streamlined process for the club to adjust rosters to best fit the level of play of their own players. Please note - when these moves may occur may be impacted by league rules.

Inter-club transfers (players coming from another club) will count toward the 5 player transfer limit.

For ease of understanding what type of player move is being discussed, movement of players within the club will be called a "player move." Movement of players between clubs will be called a "player transfer."

**Q: How with the new VYSA database integrate with the DCC for coaching education?**

A: Affinity Sports is still working with US Soccer on the work flow of information being pushed from the DCC into Affinity Sports. The gist of it is though that as long as the first name, last name and email address match in both the Affinity Sports platform and the DCC, then Affinity Sports will automatically check the DCC for updated coaching licenses and append the record with those results. If VYSA needs to update a record on their own, maybe the email addresses didn't match and now they do, they will have a button to push that can also get the results from the DCC.

**Q: I see that DSG and VYSA will be providing \$10,000 annually to recreational players via a scholarship fund. How can my club apply for these scholarships?**

A: VYSA is currently working on an application and requirements for these scholarships and they will be made available this summer with scholarships awarded in the fall.

**Q: Who would a club contact if they would like information about switching their player registration system to Blue Sombrero with DICK's Team Sports HQ?**

A: [www.bluesombrero.com/vysa](http://www.bluesombrero.com/vysa)

**Q: I still have questions and need more information. Who can I contact?**

A: You may contact Krista Lenzmeier, VYSA Manager of Members Services at [Krista@vysa.com](mailto:Krista@vysa.com). Krista will get back to you as soon as possible or refer you to a registrar that can be of help.