

WEEK 9 PREVIEW

Games of January 9-11, 2025
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MAJOR ARENA SOCCER LEAGUE



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THE LEAGUE

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Welcome to year five of Major Arena Soccer League 3, and the second season since the combination of MASL 3 and the Premier Arena Soccer League prior to the 2024-25 season.

A total of 13 teams are back from the 2024-25 season, with some new faces, old faces, and new faces in old places making up the 20-team league.

In total, MASL 2, MASL 3 and MASL, W, the foundation of the North American's premier pro indoor soccer pyramid, the 2025-26 season will feature 70 teams in three different countries. Including the top of the pyramid – the Major Arena Soccer League – no less than 78 teams will be playing under the MASL banner this winter.



Returning are the league champions – the RGV Barracudas out of Brownsville, Texas – who ended the three-year title run of Northern Virginia FC.

New teams this season in the Atlantic Division include Cumberland Valley SC, the Maryland Storm (who will play where the DMV Gunners played for the last two seasons) and Delaware City FC who will play out of the state's capital Wilmington.

All four teams in the East – the Roc City Boom who played RGV in the championship game – along with Buffalo, Cleveland and Youngstown are all back this year. New to the Great Lakes North Division this year are the Muskegon Risers, but they are far from new to the MASL. They have for the last

eight seasons fielded a team in MASL 2, and are stepping down a level in 2025-26. Also back in the pyramid are Cincinnati Swerve while Detroit Waza Flo and Indiana United both return.

The five-team South Division will feature four teams returning from last season including the OKC Certified Lions, who will play in the brand-new 4,500 seat OG&E Coliseum in downtown Oklahoma City this winter. Also back in 2025-26: RGV, the Wichita Selection and Springfield Demize. New is The Bold Dream FC based in Austin and Deportivo Shaolin.

Each MASL 3 team plays a 10-game regular season schedule, with a national playoffs to conclude the year.



Detroit Waza Flo at Muskegon Risers



Friday, January 9

Kickoff at 7 p.m.

Trinity Health Arena, Muskegon, Michigan

- >> PREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the season between these two teams.
- >> GAME NOTES: Muskegon makes its MASL 3 debut this year, after a long run in MASL 2, with new owners taking over, and moving down a level in their first season. The Risers are under second year coach Mike Boogaart who did well at the Muskegon helm last year in MASL 2, guiding them to a 6-6 record after going just 3-9 the previous M2 season. Detroit is 0-2 to start the year, having fallen to the Cincinnati Swerve twice, 12-1 and 11-4. Both games were in Cincinnati.
- >> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Miguel Torres was for many years one of the best players in MASL 2. In 39 career starts for the Risers, he had 69 goals, dating back to the 2021-22 season. His best year came in 2021-22 when he had 21 goals in 10 games ... Brandon Edwards is another

reliable and talented long time Riser, going all the way back to 2018-19. A defender, he as 15 goals in 49 career games ... Omar Lahbiki is off to a good start offensively, with three goals in two road games ... Veteran Dominic Scicluna is solid and always a threat in the offensive end.

>> UP NEXT: Detroit Waza Flo vs. Indiana United on Sunday, January 18 at 4:30 p.m. EST at TOCA Novi East, Novi, Michigan / Muskegon Risers vs. Detroit Waza Flo on Saturday, January 24 at 7 p.m. EST at Trinity Health Arena, Muskegon, Michigan.

Roc City Boom at Sahara Gunners

Saturday, January 10

Kickoff at 1 p.m. EST

Kenan Center, Lockport, N.Y.



>> PPREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the year between these two teams.

>> GAME NOTES: The Thruway Series continues as these two teams are only about 60 minutes apart down the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90). Rochester was its usual explosive self, pumping in 23 goals in their home and season opener last weekend. The Buffalo based Gunners will play their first game at home after splitting two on the road, winning 7-3 in Youngstown and falling 22-10 in Cleveland.

>> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Austin Gerber was named the league's Offensive Player of the Week last week for his six-goal, two assist performance. Five of his goals came in the first half ... Jake Schindler is the consummate indoor soccer pro. The veteran player and coach has more than 200 games played in the MASL mostly with Rochester, Syracuse and Utica ... Any talk of the Gunners attack starts with the league's leading goal scorer last season, Douglass Tshibuyi. So far this year, he has five goals in two games ... Teammate Ali Shawish is keeping pace so far as he also has five goals.

>> UP NEXT: Roc City Boom vs. Youngstown Nighthawks on Saturday, January 17 at 8:15 p.m. EST at Rochester Sports Garden, Rochester, N.Y. / Sahara Gunners at Cleveland Samba on Saturday, January 17 at 6:15 p.m. EST at Soccer Sportsplex, North Olmsted, Ohio.

OKC Certified Lions at Deportivo Shaolin

Saturday, January 10

Kickoff at 2 p.m. CST

Edge Sports Complex, Wichita, Kansas



>> PPREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the year between the two teams.

>> GAME NOTES: OKC is off a 3-0 start, one of five teams who have started their season so far, that remain undefeated in MASL 3. They own wins over Springfield, The Bold Dream FC, and most recently the defending league champion RGV Barracudas. They are the only club to field both a MASL 2 and MASL 3 team ... Deportivo Shaolin lost on the road to the Wichita Selection, 12-9, in their only start so far.

>> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Shaolin's Daniel Malhue signed with the MASL KC Comets in November, 2024. The Santiago, Chile native matured in the development academy of Colo-Colo, the most successful club in Chile, and signed his first professional contract for the club as a teenager in 2014. As a young prospect, Malhue spent time with Colo-Colo B and on loan with Trasandino de Los Andes and Coquimbo Unido in the lower tiers of Chile. Those early experiences gave him the opportunity to get to Chile's first division. He debuted in some of South America's most prestigious competitions in 2018 after signing for Deportes Temuco, where he featured in the Chilean Primera División and Copa Sudamerica. Malhue recorded two assists in eight matches for Deportivo Temuco. Malhue joined Rodelindo Román in 2019 and helped his new side earn promotion twice. First, they won the Tercera B title in 2019 to earn promotion to Tercera A. Malhue was among the leading scorers to help Rodelindo Román earn promotion to the Segunda División. He appeared in 12 games with the Comets last year, picking up two goals and adding three assists. He has four goals in his MASL 3 debut ... OKC's

UP NEXT: OKC Certified Lions at The Bold Dream FC on Saturday, January 24 at 6 p.m. CST at Menchaca Soccer, Austin, Texas / Deportivo Shaolin vs. RGV Barracudas on Saturday, January 16 at 2 p.m. CST at Heartland Credit Union Arena, Park City, Kansas.

Maryland Storm at Virginia Marauders

Saturday, January 10

Kickoff at 7 p.m. EST

Winchester Sporsplex, Winchester, Virginia



>> PPREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the year between the two teams.

>> GAME NOTES: The Marauders (0-5) continue to play markedly more competitive soccer, but are still seeking their first win of the season. Maryland is 2-2, and is on a win one, lose one start to the season. However, their last loss came to Northern Virginia, the three-time MASL 3 champs, and it was only by a 6-4 score. They have wins over Cumberland Valley (14-9) and Delaware City on the road in their first ever game. Two of the Marauders last three losses have come against two of the best in NOVA and the Baltimore Kings, and both losses were by just two goals.

>> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Angel Stanley Maravilla Chavez has been the leader on offense with seven goals in three games ... Andrew Wivell scored five goals in the team's opening win, but hurt an ankle late in that game and missed Maryland's next two. He got a goal in his return last weekend, and in two games as racked up seven total points ... Bethson Fuentes continues to excel for Virginia, with 10 points on eight goals and two assists in four games. ... Matthew Martinez has been a good playmaker with four assists to lead the team, along with three goals scored.

>> UP NEXT: Maryland Storm vs. Northern Virginia FC on Saturday, January 17 at 7 p.m. EST at Carroll Indoor Sports, Westminster, Maryland / Virginia Marauders at Delaware City FC on Sunday, January 18 at 7 p.m. EST at Kirkwood Sports, Wilmington, Delaware.

The Bold Dream FC at RGV Barracudas

Saturday, January 10

Kickoff at 7 p.m. CST

Barracudas Park, Brownsville, Texas



>> PPREVIOUS MEETINGS: These two teams played a game-of-the-year candidate last weekend in Austin, where RGV scored no less than seven goals to rally from a huge deficit to get the win. In fact, the Barracudas trailed 7-2 heading into the final 15 minutes before Luis Salas capped off the rally with the game winner. Jose Martinez singlehandedly led the charge, scoring five goals Damian Peregrina and Kekuta Manneh each had a pair for the Bold Dream.

>> GAME NOTES: Both teams come in with road losses to OKC to start the season, and then last week's thriller which left RGV with a mark of 1-1 and The Bold Dream at a tough-luck 0-2.

>> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Austin got two goals each in their first game in the MASL (against OKC on the road) from Jacob Powell and Damian Peregrina, who played his high school soccer at Hays High in Buda, Texas. RGV got two goals from Jamie Ochoa in their opener (also a loss at OKC). Marco Don Juan had a goal and one assist, and in five career regular season MASL 3 starts, has four goals and seven assists. In the team's three playoff wins last season, he totaled five points as well.

>> UP NEXT: The Bold Dream FC vs. OKC Certified Lions on Saturday, January 24 at 6 p.m. CST at Menchaca Soccer, Austin, Texas / RGV Barracudas at Deportivo Shaolin on Saturday, January 16 at 2 p.m. CST at Heartland Credit Union Arena, Park City, Kansas.

Springfield Demize at Wichita Selection

Saturday, January 10

Kickoff at 7:30 p.m. CST

The Soccer Zone, Wichita, Kansas



>> PPREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the season between the two clubs.

>> GAME NOTES: This is only the second game of the season for both. Wichita opened their winter with a 12-9 home win over Deportivo Shaolin while the Demize fell at home to the undefeated OKC Certified Lions, 15-4.

>> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Wichita's Wesley Carson is a sniper extraordinaire. He had four goals in his teams first win, and last season, was fourth in the league in goals with 26 and also added three assists. Jose "Pepe" Martin had a big start to 2025-26 after scoring just one goal in six games last year. He picked up two goals and two assists against Deportivo. ... Jose Ortega will need to be marked closely after the Springfield standout got three goals in the loss to OKC. He was a big threat last year too with 14 goals in nine starts.

>> UP NEXT: Springfield Demize at Deportivo Shaolin on Sunday, January 18 at 8:30 p.m. CST

at Edge Sports, Wichita, Kansas / Wichita Selection at Springfield Demize on Saturday, January 24 at 8:30 p.m. CST at Lake County Soccer, Springfield, Missouri.

Delaware City FC at Cumberland Valley



Sunday, January 11

Kickoff at 7 p.m. CST

Hagerstown Fieldhouse, Hagerstown, Maryland

>> PPREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the second meeting of the year between the two teams. They met December 20 in Wilmington, with the hosts scoring a 15-1 win. Carlos Lievano had two goals and two assists to pace DCFC while teammate Miles Hood had two goals and one assist.

>> GAME NOTES: Cumberland Valley (1-4) , which in its first season has been very competitive but had yet to break through with its initial win, finally got that "Dub" last weekend on the road with a 13-9 road win against the Virginia Marauders. The opened the season with back-to-back losses to the undefeated Baltimore Kings, but lost by just one goal on the road and two goals in Hagerstown. Delaware (3-1) is in its first season as well, and has been tough at both ends of the field, scoring 60 goals and allowing just 19 so far in 2025-26. Their additional wins have come over the Marauders and Maryland Storm.

>> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Delaware's high octane attack has been led by Odell Johnson and Agi Pacheco who have nine goals to date. Luis Flores is actually their leading overall scorer with seven goals and six assists for 13 points ... For Cumberland, Jose Alvarado has six goals and two assists on the season. Erick Villatora also has eight points with five goals and three assists.

>> UP NEXT: Delaware City FC vs. Virginia Marauders on Sunday, January 18 at 7 p.m. EST at Kirkwood Sports, Wilmington, Delaware / Cumberland Valley vs. Northern Virginia on Saturday, January 24 at 7p.m. EST at Hagerstown Fieldhouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

>> For all the latest information on your favorite team – including streaming options for their home and away games – visit those team social sites for the most up to date information.<<



UP NEXT

For information, visit www.masl3com.com

Saturday, January 17

RGV Barracudas at Deportivo Shaolin, 2 p.m. CST

Saturday, January 17

Sahara Gunners at Cleveland Samba, 6 p.m. EST

Saturday, January 17

Northern Virginia at Maryland Storm, 7:30 p.m. EST

Saturday, January 17

Youngstown Nighthawks at Roc City Boom, 8:15 p.m. EST

Sunday, January 18

Virginia Marauders at Delaware City FC, 7 p.m. EST

Sunday January 18

Springfield Demize at Deportivo Shaolin, 8:30 p.m. CST



STANDINGS

For information, visit www.masl3com.com

» ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	RW	GF	GA	DIF
Baltimore Kings	4	3	0	0	12	4	28	15	+13
Delaware City FC	4	3	1	0	9	3	60	19	+41
Northern Virginia FC	2	2	0	0	6	2	18	14	+4
Maryland Storm	4	2	2	0	6	2	33	45	-12
Cumberland Valley	5	1	4	0	3	1	33	51	-18
Virginia Marauders	5	0	5	0	0	0	27	55	-28

» EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	RW	GF	GA	DIF
Roc City Boom	1	1	1	0	3	1	23	3	+20
Cleveland Samba	2	1	1	0	3	1	25	33	-8
Sahara Gunners (Buffalo)	2	1	1	0	3	1	17	25	-8
Youngstown Nighthawks	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	7	-4

» GREAT LAKES NORTH

	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	RW	GF	GA	DIF
Cincinnati Swerve	2	2	0	0	3	2	23	5	+18
Indiana United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muskegon Risers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit Waza Flo	2	0	2	0	0	0	5	23	-18

» SOUTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	RW	GF	GA	DIF
OKC Certified Lions	3	3	0	0	9	3	42	12	+30
Wichita Selection	1	1	0	0	3	1	12	9	+3
RGV Barracudas	2	1	1	0	3	1	13	21	-9
Deportivo Shaolin	1	0	1	0	0	0	9	12	-3
The Bold Dream FC (Austin)	2	0	2	0	0	0	12	23	-11
Springfield Demize	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	15	-11



» 2025-26 GOAL LEADERS

Player	Team	GP	GL
Aboubakr Diallo	OKC Certified Lions	3	13
Odell Johnson	Delaware City	4	9
Agi Pacheco	Delaware City	4	9
Bethson Fuentes	Virginia Marauders	4	8
Angel Stanley Chavez	Maryland Storm	3	7
Luis Flores	Delaware City	2	7
Miles Hood	Delaware City	4	7

» 2025-26 ASSIST LEADERS

Player	Team	GP	AS
Josh Danza	Baltimore Kings	4	9
Johnny DeSouza	Northern Virginia	2	6
Luis Flores	Delaware City	2	6
Rafael Zalvidar	OKC Certified Lions	3	6
Aboubakr Diallo	OKC Certified Lions	3	5
Gavin Boyer	Baltimore Kings	2	5
Kel Ordonez	Delaware City	4	5
Mac Smith	Delaware City	4	5

» 2025-26 TOTAL POINTS LEADERS

Player	Team	GP	PTS
Aboubakr Diallo	OKC Certified Lions	3	18
Luis Flores	Delaware City	2	13
Odell Johnson	Delaware City FC	4	12
Agi Pacheco	Delaware City FC	4	11
Kel Ordonez	Delaware City FC	4	10
Bethseon Fuented	Virginia Marauders	4	10
Carlos Lievano	Delaware City FC	3	9
Miles Hood	Delaware City	4	9
Josh Danza	Baltimore Kings	4	9
Johnny De Souza	Northern Virginia	2	9