

WEEK 8 PREVIEW

Games of January 2-4, 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.



RGV BARRACUDAS at THE BOLD DREAM FC

Saturday, January 3

Kickoff at 6 p.m. CST

Menchaca Soccer Zone, Austin, Texas



- >>PREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the season between the two teams.
- >> THE SKINNY: Each team will be looking for their first win of 2025-26 as both are 0-1. RGV, the defending MASL 3 champs, fell in OKC against the Certified Lions, and in fact, Austin's The Bold Dream's only start was a loss in OKC as well and by strikingly similar score lines. The Lions defeated the Barracudas 13-4 and Austin 14-4
- >> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Austin got two goals each in their first game in the MASL 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. 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: RGV Barracudas vs. The Bold Dream FC on Saturday, January 10 at 7 p.m. CST at Barracuda Park, Brownsville, Texas / The Bold Dream FC at RGV Barracudas on Saturday, January 10 at 7 p.m. CST at Barracuda Park, Brownsville, Texas.

Sahara Gunners at Youngstown Nighthawks



Saturday, January 3

Kickoff at 8 p.m. EST

Farmer Jim's Sports Complex, Cortland, Ohio

>>PREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the season between the two teams.

>> THE SKINNY: There might not be a division in the entirety of MASL soccer that has more firepower than the East Division of MASL 3. The Gunners live up to their nickname game in and game out, but are just one game into the season, that a 22-10 loss to the Cleveland Samba on the road. Youngstown will try to keep up as this is their season-opener. In 2024-25, the Gunners were 2-8 and surrendered 165 goals, most in the league. Youngstown was also 2-8 with 129 goals allowed.

>> PLAYERS TO WATCH: The Gunners have one of the best finishers in the league in Douglass Tshibuyi who led the league in goals last year and had four in his first game of 2025-26 ... Ali Shawish had a big opening night as well with three goals and two assists ... Skyler Surckla was one of the Hawks big offensive threat last year. He is a 2013 graduate of Newbury High School where he was a four year letter winner for the Black Knights. He was a 2013 first team Chagrin Valley All-Conference, and second team Grater Cleveland honoree. He played club soccer for AC Premier and Olympic Development Program, including trips to play in France, Holland and Germany.

>> UP NEXT: Sahara Gunners vs. Roc City Boom on Saturday, January 10 at 1 p.m. EST at the Kennan Center, Lockport, N.Y. / Youngstown Nighthawks at Roc City Boom on Saturday, January 17 at 8:15 p.m. EST at the Rochester Sports Garden, Rochester, N.Y.

Cleveland Samba at Roc City Boom

Saturday, January 3

Kickoff at 8:15 p.m. EST

Rochester Sports Garden, Rochester, N.Y.



>>PREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the season between the two teams.

>> THE SKINNY: Hopefully the scoreboard operator is in good shape, because it's likely he'll get quite a workout in this one between two teams that light up the scoreboard. Cleveland scored 22 in its season opening win over the Sahara Gunners, and last year pounded in 105 goals. That was nothing, however, compared to Rochester's 177. This is the season opener for the Boom, who lost in the MASL 3 finals last year to the RGV Barracudas.

>> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Cleveland got five goals from Mikey Schmid in their opener, and another four off the foot of Conner Hollett. Roc City has a bunch of MASL familiar names, starting with Jake Schindler who has played in 207 MASL games with the Rochester Lancers, Syracuse Silver Knights, Utica City, Florida Tropics and Baltimore Blast. He has 112 career points and 177 career blocked shots. Jameson Railey had 26 goals last year for the Boom.

>> UP NEXT: Cleveland Samba vs. Sahara Gunners on Saturday, January 17 at 6 p.m. EST at Soccer Sportsplex, North Olmsted, Ohio / Roc City Boom at Sahara Gunners on Saturday, January 10 at 1 p.m. EST at the Kennan Center, Lockport, N.Y.

Maryland Storm at Northern Virginia

Sunday, January 4

Kickoff at 2 p.m. EST

Winchester Sportsplex, Winchester, Virginia



>>PREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the season between the two teams.

>> THE SKINNY: The Storm come in at 2-1 having won their last outing 14-9 over Cumberland Valley. They also have a 12-10 win over Delaware City, who also defeated them in Wilmington when the Storm played with a very short bench, 20-3. Northern Virginia was

the three-time MASL 3 champions until last year when they were replaced by RGV. This is only their second start, and they had to work hard for their first win, a 12-10 final against the Virginia Marauders.

>> **PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Johnny De Souza burst on the scene with a huge opening night performance, in on eight of his team's 12 goals. He scored three himself and assisted on five others. Jean Phillipe is a veteran of the MASL pyramid, and he scored three times in the win over Virginia. Angel Stanley Maravilla Chavez is off to a strong start for Maryland, and look out for Drew Wivell if he is able to go. He is nursing an ankle injury, so he's only played once for the Storm in their season opener, but he scored five times.

>> **UP NEXT:** Maryland Storm at Virginia Marauders on Saturday, January 10 at 7 p.m. EST at Winchester Sportsplex, Winchester, Virginia / Northern Virginia at Maryland Storm on Saturday, January 17 at 7:30 p.m. EST at Carroll Indoor Sports Center, Westminster, Maryland.

Detroit Waza Flo at Cincinnati Swerve

Sunday, January 4

Kickoff at 6 p.m. EST

Gametime Training Center, Fairfield, Ohio



>> **PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** This is the second meeting of the season with Cincinnati having a 12-1 win on their ledger back in mid December in the season opener for both sides. Nathan Neal led the charge with four goals for Cincy. Shawn Lamar and Jacob Pokorski each scored twice. Alex Pinkney was the winning goaltender. Dominic Scicluna got the lone Detroit score.

>> **THE SKINNY:** Cincinnati has only played once, with two postponements already because of severe winter weather in the Midwest which made travel difficult. These two teams are long time rivals, having played against each other in different leagues and different iterations. Detroit was a very solid 7-3 in MASL 3 play last year, with a goal differential of zero, having both scored and given up 55 goals in their 10 starts.

>> **PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Sam Fiore is a key veteran to help bring the younger Swerve players along. He played his college soccer at Xavier and at Wayne High School. He has appeared in games in both the PASL and MASL indoors and will also serve on the team's coaching staff this season ... Andrej Novakovic is another indoor veteran that will be asked to be a leader. Dangerous offensive threat, led the Swerve in points in the 2021-22 PASL season ... Eddie Zavala played collegiately at Cincinnati State and the University of Pikeville.

Played in 23 games for UPIKE, with five points. Native of Maysville, Kentucky. For Waza Flo, Omar Lahbiki played collegiaty at Cleary University and Muskingum University. He also appeared in four games for the MASL San Diego Sockers in 2024-25.

>> UP NEXT: Detroit Waza Flo at Muskegon Risers on Friday, January 9 at 7 p.m. EST at Trinity Health Arena, Muskegon, Michigan / Cincinnati Swerve at Indiana United on Saturday, January 10 at 6 p.m. CST at Dyer Indoor Arena, Dyer, Indiana.

Cumberland Valley at Virginia Marauders

Sunday, January 4

Kickoff at 6 p.m. EST

Winchester Sportsplex, Winchester, Virginia



>>PREVIOUS MEETINGS: This is the first meeting of the season between the two teams.

>> THE SKINNY: This is an intriguing matchup for a lot of reasons, but none bigger than this; one of these two teams will win their first-ever MASL 3 game. The difference is Virginia is in its fourth season, while Cumberland Valley will be playing in its fifth ever game. Both come in at 0-4, but there are reasons to think both could break into the win column. CVSC has one one goal and one two-goal loss so far, both to a very good Baltimore Kings team. And Virginia is coming off maybe its best performance ever, a 12-10 loss to the three-time league champs Northern Virginia. They also have a two goal loss to Baltimore. So, something's gotta give tonight and the taste of victory will be sweet. Have the cigars ready to pass out in the locker room.

>> PLAYERS TO WATCH: Cumberland Valley is led by Erick Villatora with five goals and one assist so far. Marcos Garcia also has six points on four goals and two assists. For the Marauders, Bethson Fuentes continues to be not only their best player, but one of the best in the league with six goals in three games.

>> UP NEXT: Cumberland Valley vs. Delaware City FC on Sunday, January 11 at 7 p.m. EST at the Hagerstown Fieldhouse, Hagerstown, Maryland / Virginia Marauders vs. Maryland Storm on Saturday, January 10 at 7 p.m. EST at Winchester Sports Complex, Winchester, Virginia.

>> 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

Friday, January 9

Detroit Waza Flo at Muskegon Risers, 7 p.m. EST

Saturday, January 10

Roc City Boom at Sahara Gunners, 1 p.m. EST

Saturday, January 10

Cincinnati at Indiana United, 6 p.m. CST

Saturday, January 10

Maryland Storm at Virginia Marauders, 7 p.m. EST

Saturday, January 10

The Bold Dream FC at RGV Barracudas, 7 p.m. CST

Saturday, January 10

Springfield Demize at Wichita Selection, 7:30 p.m. CST

Saturday, January 10

OKC Certified Lions at Deportivo Shaolin, 8:30 p.m. CST

Sunday, January 11

Delware City FC at Cumberland Valley, 7 p.m. EST



STANDINGS

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» ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	DIF
Baltimore Kings	4	3	0	0	12	28	15	+13
Delaware City FC	4	3	1	0	9	60	19	+41
Maryland Storm	3	2	1	0	6	29	39	-10
Northern Virginia FC	1	1	0	0	3	12	10	+2
Cumberland Valley	4	0	4	0	0	20	42	-22
Virginia Marauders	4	0	4	0	0	18	42	-24

» EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	DIF
Cleveland Samba	1	1	0	0	3	22	10	+12
Roc City Boom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youngstown Nighthawks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sahara Gunners (Buffalo)	1	0	1	0	0	10	22	-12

>> GREAT LAKES NORTH

	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	DIF
Cincinnati Swerve	1	1	0	0	3	12	1	+11
Indiana United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muskegon Risers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit Waza Flo	1	0	1	0	0	1	12	-11

>> SOUTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	DIF
OKC Certified Lions	3	3	0	0	9	42	12	+30
Wichita Selection	1	1	0	0	3	12	9	+3
Deportivo Shaolin	1	0	1	0	0	9	12	-3
RGV Barracudas	1	0	1	0	0	4	13	-9
The Bold Dream FC (Austin)	1	0	1	0	0	4	14	-10
Springfield Demize	1	0	1	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
Angel Stanley Chavez	Maryland Storm	2	7
Luis Flores	Delaware City	2	7
Miles Hood	Delaware City	4	7
Tony Araviakis	Baltimore Kings	3	6
Bethson Fuentes	Virginia Marauders	3	6
Carlos Lievano	Delaware City	3	6
Ken Truong	Baltimore Kings	4	6
Michael Chavez	OKC Certified Lions	3	6

» 2025-26 ASSIST LEADERS

Player	Team	GP	AS
Josh Danza	Baltimore Kings	4	9
Luis Flores	Delaware City	2	6
Rafael Zalvidar	OKC Certified Lions	3	6
Aboubakr Diallo	OKC Certified Lions	3	5
Johnny DeSouza	Northern Virginia	1	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
Carlos Lievano	Delaware City FC	3	9
Miles Hood	Delaware City	4	9
Josh Danza	Baltimore Kings	4	9
Angel Stanley Chavez	Maryland Storm	3	8
Johnny De Souza	Northern Virginia	1	8
Ken Truong	Baltimore Kings	4	8
Marco Del Vecchio	OKC Certified Lions	3	8
Rafael Zalvidar	OKC Certified Lions	3	8