



**WEST HOLLYWOOD
SOCCER CLUB**



The **West Hollywood Soccer Club** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that **began in 1985**, and has grown to one of the largest and most storied LGBTQ+ sports programs in the U.S.

Our mission is to **provide safe, supportive playing opportunities where all individuals feel welcome**; regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political beliefs, athletic/artistic ability, age, physical challenge, and health status.

Our organization has become **more than just a soccer club**. It's a home that **supports its members, gives back to the community**, and continually **expands its outreach** by participating in events throughout Los Angeles, across the U.S. and around the world.



Achievements



International Championships

2022 IGLFA International Outdoor Championships

- Women's - Gold Medalists
- All-Gender D1 – Silver Medalists

2022 IGLFA International Indoor Championships

- Women's - Gold Medalists
- All-Gender D3 – Gold Medalists
- All-Gender D2 – Bronze Medalists

2020 IGLFA International Indoor Championship

- Women's - Silver Medalists
- All-Gender D1 – Silver Medalists

2019 Didesex Championship Mexico City - 11v11 Champs

2018 Gay Games Paris - Gold Medalists

1997 IGLFA World Cup D.C. – Gold Medalists

1990 Gay Games in Vancouver – Gold Medalists



Domestic Championships

LA Municipal League

- Fall 2022 - Women's Division 11v11 - Champions
- Fall 2019 - Metro Division - Champions
- Spring 2019 - Metro Division - Champions

Desert Pride Cup

- 2021 - Gold Medalists



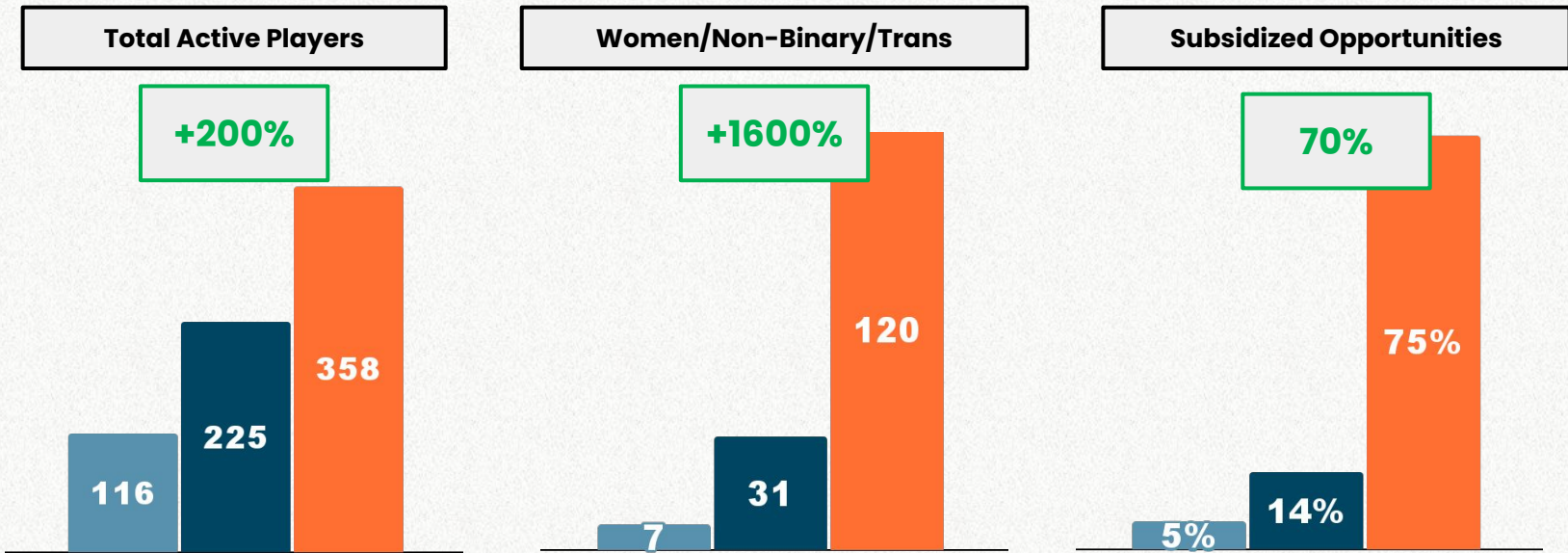
Membership & Reach

- Over 300 active members; 100% YOY growth, *women/non-binary/trans* (2021-2022)
- 4k+ in social reach; over 700 email subscribers
- 8 LA based teams, across 3 different leagues; including 2 women's teams
- Members of *Pride Republic* (LAFC LGBTQ+ Supporters' Group)
- Partners with Angel City FC (LA's new NWSL franchise)
- Participants in 5-8 domestic tournaments each year
- Participants in 1 international tournament each year
- Hosts of the annual Desert Pride Cup Tournament (Palm Springs, November)



Club Snapshot

Over the last 3 years, we have experienced **impactful growth** in membership, share of women/non-binary/trans players & increased our subsidized opportunities for players.



Our Teams

All Gender (11v11)

Our most competitive league offering. We currently field 3 teams in different divisions across the LA Muni League. These teams are all gendered, though the league is defined as "Men's", & we play against mostly cis-male teams.

ECLIPSE



Two time Metro Division champions & 2018 Gay Games Gold Medalists.

Currently competes in the Super Metro Division, the most competitive division in the league.

FUSION



Our newest 11v11 team.

Finished 3rd in the Minor Division in its inaugural season.

SUNS



Our legacy team.

Has been an institution in the league since the 80s. Most recently finished 3rd in the First Division.



Our Teams

Women's

With over 100% YOY growth in our women's program, we are adding more playing opportunities at varying levels & subsidizing costs to continue growing representation in the club & across leagues.

ROCKETS



**Two time international 7v7 world champions.
2022 LA Municipal League, Women's 11v11
champions.**

Our most competitive women's team. Currently competes in the Women's Divisions of the LA Muni League and travels to IGLFA competitive tournaments around the world, champions in both 7v7 & 11v11 play.

COMETS



Our newest women's team.

Mid-level competitive opportunity, helping to support the growth of our women's program across all skill levels.



Our Teams

All Gender (8v8)

We roster 2-3 small-sided, all gender teams each season. Our small-sided teams remain a great opportunity for players to get to know our club, our members and get back to playing with lower stakes than the LA Muni League rosters.

NOVA



Our legacy, small-sided team.

Since 2018, this squad has notched Zog League championships and routinely participates in tournaments.

COSMOS



Back and better than ever.

Just before the pandemic, this team won a Zog championship in only its second season together. Now as a home for a handful of our newer members, we're excited to see this team continue to grow!

PROTONS



Our newest addition.

Enjoying their first season together, playing the game we all love.



Our Board

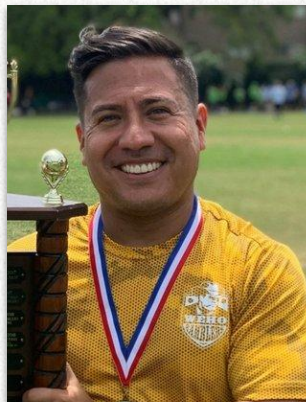
As a non-profit organization, our board is here to serve our members. We work together to ensure that members' needs are addressed & met in ways that best support & help to advance the club's mission. Board members are self-nominated, then vetted by an independent committee of club members, and finally, put forth for acceptance by the club overall.



RACHEL DERRICO
(PRESIDENT)

Rachel has been playing with WHSC for the last 4 years and is energized & inspired by the club and its' members every day. Proudly serving over the years as team captain, club Secretary and now, the club's first ever, female President.

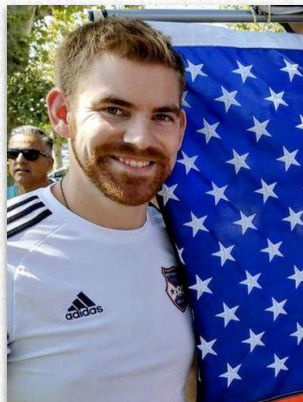
It's not about having more time...it's about how best to use the time you have.



KEN SANCHEZ
(VICE PRESIDENT)

Ken has been a club member for 5 years & has served on the board for 3 1/2 of those years, as a team captain, club Secretary and currently in his second term as Vice-President. He's proud to see how far the club has come and excited for what the future holds.

Loyalty isn't grey, it's black and white. You're either loyal completely, or not loyal at all.



RANDALL AUNA-VILLA
(TREASURER)

Randall moved to L.A. in 2014 and needed a fun, casual way to make friends. A Google search of "gay soccer 'Weho'" led him to his first practice, and he was hooked! Fast forward through years of playing, Captaining, and supporting the Board, he now serves as our club Treasurer.

You wanna hot body? You wanna Bugatti? You wanna Maserati? You better work, bitch.



KEVIN REPICH
(MEMBERSHIP
OUTREACH)

Kevin is the former WHSC President, don't call it a break-up though. You can catch his personal flare on the field, in the newsletter, and on our gram. Weekly.

I'm the only one of me. Baby, that's the fun of me.



CHRIS FAJARDO
(STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIPS)

Chris has been winning championships with WHSC since 2013. He has held a variety of roles, such as team captain, club President, Treasurer, and now lead for Strategic Partnerships.

Of course, I dress well. I didn't spend all that time in the closet for nothing.



Our Board



JESSON CALLOWAY
(DEVELOPMENT)

Jesson has been playing with the club for the past 8 years. This year, he has stepped into the captain role and joined the Board as the Development Lead, helping to build & maintain relationships with sponsors and donors.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is who we are. WHSC has served as an outlet that many like myself needed. To play. To be myself.



KRISTY SOWIN
(DEVELOPMENT)

Kristy has been playing with the club the last 3 years, and joined our all women's team in winning their first ever championship at the Sin City Classic.

Back in 2019 she was invited to a Saturday practice by VP Ken Sanchez, instantly clicked with the club members, and hasn't left since. On the weekends you can find her surfing, eating pizza, or hanging with her dog.



SERGE CHAKMAKJIAN
(EVENTS)

Serge has been part of WHSC for almost three years now. This is his first time on the board and hopes to be able to help push the club onwards and upwards! He originates from Europe where the sport is called Football, so apologizes in advance!

If he's not wearing a WHSC shirt at practice, you'll usually find him wearing his favorite team's jersey (and also the best club in the world) - Manchester United.



FLACO CRUZ
(MEMBER AT LARGE)

Flaco has been a stalwart with the club for years now. Serving as captain and on the board, as an ambassador for the club and the mission we carry, on & off the field.

Sports have no Gender. Prove them wrong!



AHUATL AMARO
(MEMBER AT LARGE)

Ahuatl ("Ahuál") joined WHSC in 2017. He loves traveling and has enjoyed playing at LGBTQ+ soccer tournaments in Paris, San Francisco, Las Vegas, and Palm Springs.

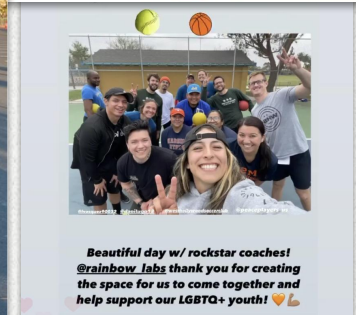
Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.



Our Community

More Than Just a Soccer Club

We create opportunities for our club members & our allies to participate in **community outreach initiatives** including social events, fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, activism & education.



Our Press

Helping to spread our mission of inclusivity for the LGBTQ+ community in sports.

[LA 5 Pride Presented by DoorDash](#)

Feature on Angel City FC Instagram
June 30, 2022

[Proud Voices by Heineken](#)

Feature on Angel City FC Instagram
June 16, 2022

[Homophobic chant's impact goes beyond the pitch in the Latino community](#)

Annenberg Media
February 15, 2022

[Shoulder 2 Shoulder - Pride Republic / Chris Fajardo](#)

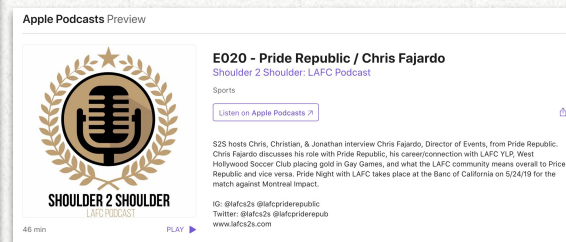
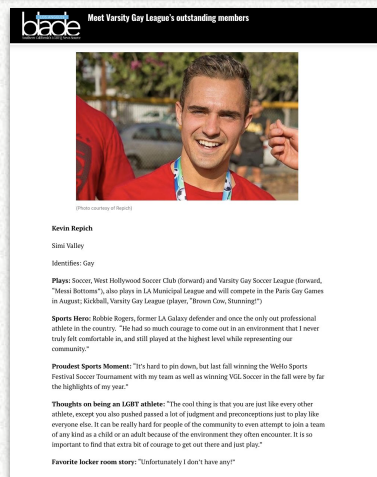
Shoulder 2 Shoulder, LAFC Podcast
May 24, 2019

[Meet Varsity Gay League's outstanding members](#)

Los Angeles Blade
July 11, 2018

[2013 Compete Sports Diversity Awards](#)

Compete News Team
January 2, 2014



Our Stories

Member Testimonials

"Soccer has been a part of my life since I was 3. After high school I received a Scholarship to play for a Division I, NCAA, college team competing in the Big West. I had success with soccer, but I never felt like I fit in with my team.

My race and sexuality were always at the forefront and seemed to be an impediment to making connections with my teammates and team staff. Loving soccer but being the outcast on every team created a perverse relationship with the sport. But after finding WHSC things began to change.

For the first time in my life I was able to combine my love for the sport and play alongside people that related and supported me. I made amazing friends, traveled to foreign places, found support through many of life's obstacles and even found a partner.

West Hollywood Soccer Club has touched the lives of many people and continues a tradition of community support to some of the most vulnerable people in our neighborhoods. I am proud to have been a member for the last decade."

- Indy



"After I played my last collegiate soccer game, I thought my days of competitive soccer on a well-organized team had come to an end. That's because this is in fact the case for many college athletes, with post-grad sports dominated by disorganized rec leagues and scrappy pick-up games. But not for those lucky enough to find their way to West Hollywood Soccer Club.

WHSC provides the ultimate intersection of high-level soccer and social connection. The infrastructure of the club offers the foundation and support so that players of all skill levels can keep finding athletic and competitive fulfillment as adults, while giving those same players a chance to meet, mingle, and thrive as their authentic selves in a safe, inclusive space.

WHSC is a core part of both my soccer and social life in LA, and I am immeasurably grateful for the experiences I've shared with teammates and clubmates on and off the field, whom I now consider close friends."

- Charlotte

"My first time to a West Hollywood Soccer Club practice, I had never played soccer before. I was really nervous at both my lack of skill and my lack of friendships; however, that night was full of so many fun soccer drills and scrimmages that I didn't have the time to worry about my nerves. It felt incredible to be a part of an LGBT+ space that was loaded with people who were passionate about a sport. Even though at first I wasn't sure if I belonged, I never stopped showing up.

Since that first practice in fall 2021, I've made dozens of new friends, and I've even had the opportunity to participate in both local and national team events. WHSC has honestly been an amazing LGBT+ athletic space for me in 2022. Since playing with the club, I feel like I can always trust that I'll get a good workout, I'll always learn something new, and I'll always feel like someone's there who wants to help me improve."

-Stephen

"I'm so pumped to have found West Hollywood Soccer club, I've made amazing friends and have had a great time no matter who I've played with. I love that I've found a community that celebrates queerness (and competition) and is always looking to create more opportunities to play and get connected."

- Lou



Our Stories

Member Testimonials



"As an ally, I didn't know what to expect when joining the club a couple of years ago.

What I found was the nicest group of people that I've met in LA. I found an incredibly well-organized club with tons of events, social activities, and tournaments, all with incredible people.

I couldn't believe how much fun it was to play soccer with everyone. The game is the game; it doesn't matter how you identify in any facet of your life. Open practices are truly open - any and all are welcome and so many feel comfortable here that wouldn't otherwise. This club immediately became one of my homes here in LA, and I barely picture myself in LA without seeing myself in WHSC as well. I'm incredibly grateful I was ever invited to that first practice."

- Cole

"The first time I heard about West Hollywood Soccer Club, I was on a Tinder date four years ago. We quickly established that soccer was a common interest (though I hadn't set foot on a soccer field in nearly 10 years.) I attended my first practice a few days later and was immediately engulfed in a gaggle of gay joy and excellence. I didn't even know a world existed where you could warm up to a Lady Gaga playlist, yet here I was, silently participating in drills while 'Bad Romance' blasted through the speakers.

That initial practice was the beginning of my most cherished friendships here in Los Angeles as well as the revitalization of my love for this beautiful game. Every queer person deserves to be seen and celebrated for who they are. The athletic arena has been notorious for making queer athletes believe they should hide their identity for fear of backlash, communal isolation, or even physical harm. I am in constant awe of the familial love and support WHSC members fervently provide for each other on and off the field, and I watch in amazement as the club prioritizes community regardless of race, gender identity, or skill level. Everyone will always be welcome at West Hollywood Soccer Club."

- Caleb



"I started playing soccer when I was 5, joined my first competitive team when I was 8, went to my first professional game when I was 10, met my idol Mia Hamm when I was 12, and then quit playing when I was 16.

Being a gay teen in the midwest wasn't easy, and being a gay teen athlete was even harder. I felt like I had to choose between my identity as an athlete and my identity as gay. The sport had lost its joy for me. I went ten years without ever touching a soccer ball, and truly never thought I'd play again.

But when I moved to California in 2015, I was lucky enough to find a whole community of gay soccer players - first through the San Francisco Spikes and now through the West Hollywood Soccer Club. Being a WHSC member has offered me a place to play soccer at a competitive level (both locally in LA and traveling to tournaments), hone my skills during practices and drills, and find a community of teammates and friends who make me feel safe, included, and valued."

- Ashley



To further expand our outreach and make the club affordable for everyone, we work to secure donations and sponsorships from businesses, organizations & individuals to help offset costs.



We offer flexibility with our sponsorship packages and are happy to adapt to what might be a better fit for your business. If you would like to discuss further opportunities, please contact us at contact@wehosc.org.



A Note From Our Club President

"I am beyond thrilled and humbled to be leading this club. WHSC has been a constant source of joy and support in my life, since my wife Ali and I moved to LA. From my first time on the field, I knew this club was different. There is a vibrancy and an energy here that is unparalleled in adult sports. I have always felt welcomed, supported and that I can be my authentic self on and off the pitch, and my goal is to ensure that each and every one of our members feels the same.

What stood out to me in my first days is what continues to energize me, as a player and as a leader. We aren't merely a soccer club or a community; we are the creators of a distinctive space of acceptance and celebration, where one had not been before. Every time we set foot on the field with the WHSC crest on gear, we stand for more than just competitive play. We stand for the LGBTQ+ community and our allies, for equity in sports for all and for each other. And we will continue to carry our mission, invigorate our community and play a ton of great soccer along the way!

We invite you to take this journey with us, and become a part of our family and our community. Here's to what we can do for LGBTQ+ athletes together!"

-Rachel D.

I've never scored a goal in my life without getting a pass from someone else. - Abby Wambach



Thank You!

