

# **GROW THE GAME**

## **SOCCER CLINIC SERIES**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GROW THE GAME OF SOCCER CLINIC AND CELEBRATION EVENT CONTINUES TO BUILD FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™ MOMENTUM ACROSS LOS ANGELES**

*Local youth players, coaches & referees participated in the Grow the Game of Soccer Clinic, a community legacy program of the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee in collaboration with the Play Equity Fund, on May 9, 2026, at Galaxy Park.*

**LOS ANGELES (May 11, 2026)** – The Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee, in collaboration with the Play Equity Fund, hosted the ***Grow the Game of Soccer Clinic and Celebration Event*** on **Saturday May 9, 2026** at **Galaxy Park** in Carson, bringing together youth players, coaches, referees, and community partners for an inspiring afternoon dedicated to the future of soccer in Los Angeles.

As part of the Host Committee’s legacy program leading up to the FIFA World Cup 2026™, the event showcased how the global spotlight of the world’s largest single-sport event is helping create meaningful, community-driven impact. With support from the LA Galaxy, Cal South, and the Center for Healing and Justice through Sport (CHJS), the clinic delivered hands-on programming designed to educate, empower, and connect participants across all levels of the game.

“The Grow the Game of Soccer Clinics are an important part of the legacy of the FIFA World Cup in Los Angeles, helping create access and inspiration for the next generation of soccer players,” said **Kathryn Schloessman, CEO of the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee**. “We are proud to work alongside our partners to ensure that the impact of this tournament is felt across our region long after the final match is played, giving fans an opportunity to be involved and feel the impact of the World Cup through our various legacy initiatives.”

Youth players ages 6–12 took part in engaging, age-appropriate training sessions focused on skill development, confidence-building, and fostering a love of the game. Grassroots coaches received on-field instruction rooted in positive youth development principles and long-term athlete growth, while referees participated in guided learning experiences emphasizing their critical role in creating a supportive and inclusive soccer environment.

“By inspiring a new generation of youth—as well as the coaches and referees who support them—these clinics are a significant part of the lasting legacy we are building of the FIFA World Cup in Los Angeles,” said **Renata Simril, President of the Play Equity Fund, and President & CEO of the LA84 Foundation.** “These clinics foster a love for the game in all who are involved. They encourage growth, increase belonging, and bring communities together leading up to the World Cup.”

The event kicked off with a special welcome from Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Community Ambassador and global soccer icon Julie Foudy, setting the tone for an inspiring day centered around soccer, community, and opportunity.

**Full Media Toolkit:**

[Click here](#)

**Video B-Roll:**

Footage sound bites from Kathryn Schloessman, Renata Simril, Natalie Gutierrez, Julie Foudy, and b-roll from the May 9<sup>th</sup> event at Galaxy Park.

**Photos:**



Kathryn Schloessman, CEO of the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee; Renata Simril, President & CEO of the LA84 Foundation, and President of the Play Equity Fund; Julie Foudy, Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Community Ambassador; Dr. Branden Turner, Health Expert for Kaiser Permanente; *Grow the Game of Soccer* Clinic and Celebration Event Participants



*Grow the Game of Soccer Clinic and Celebration Youth Participants*



*Grow the Game of Soccer Clinic and Celebration Coaches and Referee Participants*

The *Grow the Game of Soccer Clinic Series* is supported by the Los Angeles World Cup Host City Supporters: Amgen, Archer, Kaiser Permanente, LA Tourism, and Metro.

To continue the *Grow the Game of Soccer* Clinic Series, Cal South will be running additional youth clinics at locations throughout the Los Angeles region this summer in an effort to extend the impact of FIFA World Cup 2026™ to more locations around the region.

For more information on the upcoming clinics and the Host Committee's community engagement plans, visit [losangelesfwc26.com](https://losangelesfwc26.com).

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### **About the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee**

The Los Angeles World Cup Host Committee was established to deliver a premier FIFA World Cup 26™ experience and drive lasting social, cultural, and economic impact for the region. We serve as the liaison between FIFA and the Los Angeles region to harness opportunities surrounding the tournament to elevate our community. The Host Committee is co-chaired by LAFC Co-President Larry Freedman and former U.S. Men's National Team player Chris Klein, and is led by the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission (LASEC). It also includes the Los Angeles Rams, SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park, Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC), and LA Galaxy. For more information, visit [losangelesfwc26.com](https://losangelesfwc26.com).

### **About the Play Equity Fund**

The Play Equity Fund supports the sports-based youth development ecosystem, raises awareness of inequities, and develops partnerships to advocate for sustainable solutions to ensure children from all backgrounds have pathways to lifelong well-being and success through sport. By creating social impact programs with its partners that focus on community and young people, the Play Equity Fund shows access to sport is not a privilege for the few but a fundamental right for all. For more information, visit [playequityfund.org](https://playequityfund.org) and follow @playequityfund.

