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MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER ANNOUNCES 2002 SCHEDULE *Nearly 85% of Matches on Weekends or Holidays, Beginning March 23*

NEW YORK (Thursday, January 24, 2002) – Dates and matchups for Major League Soccer's seventh season were announced today by MLS Commissioner Don Garber. Kicking off on Saturday, March 23, the 2002 schedule places 85 percent of the League's matches on weekends or holidays (July 4), while the 26-week season also allows for sufficient U.S. Open Cup mid-week match dates.

Each of the League's 10 teams will play a total of 28 games for the second consecutive season, with four games (two home, two away) against each opponent within its Conference. The remaining 12 games of the schedule will have each team playing at home and away against clubs outside its Conference, and hosting two home games against one club from the opposite Conference. This outside opponent was decided based on points-per-game rankings from the 2001 regular season, matching strongest vs. strongest.

By scheduling an all-time high 77 percent of the league's matches on Saturday, MLS schedule-makers were able to capitalize on supporters' desire to attend games on that specific day. All games during the first nine weeks of the 2002 season will be played on Saturdays, with weekly marquee games being televised as part of the League's Soccer Saturdays programming. MLS will play 119 of 140 regular season games on a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday (July 4), a total of 85 percent.

All but three of the non-holiday weekday games will be held on Wednesday, with the majority coming during the summer months when school is out of session. The three Thursday night games will be televised on ESPN2 at 7:30 p.m. ET. The complete MLS National Television Schedule will be released next week.

Seven of the 10 MLS teams will stage their home opener in either of the first two weeks. The 2002 MLS regular season kicks off on March 23, highlighted by the Chicago Fire traveling to Crew Stadium in Columbus in a match to be televised live on ABC Sports at 4:00 p.m. ET.

Other opening day games include: the battle of I-95, as the remodeled New England Revolution head south to face the MetroStars at Giants Stadium, while the defending MLS Cup champion San Jose Earthquakes visit the Dallas Burn at the Cotton Bowl. The new-look Colorado Rapids battle the Kansas City Wizards at Arrowhead Stadium and D.C. United opens the season at the historic Rose Bowl against the defending U.S. Open Cup Los Angeles Galaxy.

In week two, D.C. United returns home to RFK Stadium to host the Chicago Fire in a second consecutive MLS Cup rematch, while the Colorado Rapids begin their first campaign in Invesco Field at Mile High against defending MLS Cup champion San Jose. The other March 30 matchup sends the Columbus Crew against the MetroStars at Giants Stadium.

In addition to Colorado's christening of its new facility, two other MLS teams find new homes in 2002, as the Chicago Fire begins its stint at Cardinal Stadium in Naperville, Illinois with a Saturday, April 27 tilt against the New England Revolution. Two weeks later, New England opens CMGI Field in Foxboro against the Dallas Burn on Saturday, May 11.

The first rematch of MLS Cup 2001 takes place on Thursday, July 4, at the Rose Bowl, when Landon Donovan and the San Jose Earthquakes challenge the Los Angeles Galaxy in one of five Independence Day contests. The teams meet again three days later on July 7 at Spartan Stadium in San Jose, and close the 2002 season with home-and-home matchups on September 14 and 21.

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The annual MLS All-Star Game will take place on Saturday, August 3, at 3:30 p.m. ET, while the 2002 MLS Cup will be played on Sunday, October 20, at 1:30 p.m. ET. Sites for these events will be announced in the near future.

Intra-conference games dominate the beginning and end of the schedule as seven of the eight games in week one and two, and eight of 10 games in the last two weeks, are between Conference rivals.

A breakdown of MLS scheduling for each of the league’s seven seasons follows:

Year	Friday	Sat./Holiday	Sunday	Weekend (Fri, Sat, Sun)	Weekday Games	# of Weeks
2002	0	112 (80%)	7	119 (85%)	21 (15%)	26
*2001	1	128 (76%)	4	133 (79%)	35 (21%)	24
*2000	6	132 (69%)	6	144 (75%)	47 (24%)	26
*1999	11	107 (56%)	39	157 (82%)	35 (18%)	28
*1998	7	94 (49%)	35	136 (71%)	56 (29%)	28
1997	29	60 (38%)	52	141 (88%)	19 (12%)	27
1996	3	50 (31%)	47	100 (63%)	60 (38%)	25

*12 teams comprised MLS in these seasons

The following is a look at additional noteworthy items detailing the 2002 MLS schedule:

- The 2002 MLS regular season kicks off March 23 and ends September 22, making the league’s seventh season two weeks longer than the 2001 campaign (26 weeks compared to 24 weeks).
- On opening day, March 23, three of Major League Soccer’s most heated rivalries kick off the season with the Chicago Fire traveling to Columbus to face the Crew, D.C. United heading west to challenge the Los Angeles Galaxy, and the New England Revolution invading Giants Stadium to take on the MetroStars.
- The first MLS Cup 2001 rematch takes place on July 4, when the Los Angeles Galaxy host the San Jose Earthquakes. The teams meet three days later and face each other twice in the final weeks of the season.
- All 10 MLS teams will be playing on Thursday, July 4, a holiday that traditionally draws record crowds throughout the league.
- The schedule was designed with the fans’ interest in mind, as 85 percent of the league’s games in 2001 will take place on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

(all-time record)

Chicago Fire	71-41-11 (.622)
Columbus Crew	88-87-11 (.503)
D.C. United	100-78-8 (.559)
MetroStars	80-100-6 (.446)
New England Revolution	73-102-12 (.422)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

(all-time record)

Colorado Rapids	79-95-12 (.457)
Dallas Burn	91-86-9 (.513)
Kansas City Wizards	85-90-12 (.487)
Los Angeles Galaxy	107-66-13 (.610)
San Jose Earthquakes	79-93-14 (.462)

About Major League Soccer

Headquartered in New York City, Major League Soccer features many top stars from the United States and around the world, and is America’s only Division I men’s outdoor professional soccer league. The ten teams that comprise MLS are: the Chicago Fire, Colorado Rapids, Columbus Crew, Dallas Burn, D.C. United, Kansas City Wizards, Los Angeles Galaxy, MetroStars, New England Revolution and the San Jose Earthquakes. For the latest headlines and official information on MLS, log onto www.MLSnet.com.

The 2002 League and team schedules are available online at www.MLSnet.com or via the MLS Fax-on Demand system at (201) 585-5411. Following is the master schedule for the 2002 Major League Soccer regular season:

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

(All times are ET and subject to change)

Saturday, March 23			Time (ET)	Saturday, June 1			Time (ET)
1	Chicago	at Columbus	4:00	45	San Jose	at New England	4:00
2	New England	at MetroStars	7:30	46	Columbus	at Chicago	8:30
3	San Jose	at Dallas	8:30	47	Dallas	at Kansas City	8:00
4	Colorado	at Kansas City	8:00	48	Los Angeles	at Colorado	9:00
5	DC United	at Los Angeles	10:00				
Saturday, March 30				Saturday, June 8			
6	San Jose	at Colorado	9:00	50	Chicago	at Los Angeles	4:00
7	Columbus	at MetroStars	7:30	51	New England	at DC United	7:30
8	Chicago	at DC United	4:00	52	Colorado	at Dallas	8:30
				53	Kansas City	at San Jose	10:00
Saturday, April 6				Wednesday, June 12			
10	DC United	at Dallas	3:00	54	Columbus	at New England	7:00
11	MetroStars	at Columbus	7:30				
12	New England	at San Jose	10:00	Saturday, June 15			
13	Chicago	at Los Angeles	10:00	55	Los Angeles	at MetroStars	4:00
Saturday, April 13				56	San Jose	at Columbus	7:30
14	San Jose	at Kansas City	4:00	57	Dallas	at Chicago	8:30
15	MetroStars	at Colorado	9:00	58	DC United	at Kansas City	8:00
16	Dallas	at Los Angeles	10:00	59	New England	at Colorado	9:00
Saturday, April 20				Wednesday, June 19			
17	Kansas City	at DC United	7:30	60	Colorado	at DC United	7:30
18	Chicago	at MetroStars	7:30	61	Kansas City	at Columbus	7:30
19	New England	at Columbus	4:00	Saturday, June 22			
20	Los Angeles	at Dallas	8:30	62	MetroStars	at Chicago	4:00
21	Colorado	at San Jose	10:00	63	New England	at Kansas City	8:00
Saturday, April 27				64	Colorado	at San Jose	10:00
22	Colorado	at Los Angeles	4:00	65	Dallas	at Los Angeles	10:00
23	San Jose	at MetroStars	7:30	Wednesday, June 26			
24	DC United	at Columbus	7:30	66	Colorado	at MetroStars	7:30
25	New England	at Chicago	8:30	Saturday, June 29			
26	Kansas City	at Dallas	8:30	67	MetroStars	at New England	7:30
Saturday, May 4				68	Los Angeles	at DC United	4:00
9	Los Angeles	at Kansas City	8:00	69	Columbus	at Dallas	8:30
27	Columbus	at San Jose	4:00	70	Kansas City	at San Jose	10:00
28	Dallas	at MetroStars	8:00	Thursday, July 4			
29	Chicago	at DC United	7:30	71	Columbus	at New England	7:30
Saturday, May 11				72	DC United	at Kansas City	8:00
31	Los Angeles	at Chicago	4:00	73	MetroStars	at Dallas	8:00
32	Dallas	at New England	7:30	74	Chicago	at Colorado	9:00
33	Columbus	at DC United	7:30	75	San Jose	at Los Angeles	10:00
34	Kansas City	at Colorado	9:00	Saturday, July 6			
35	MetroStars	at San Jose	10:00	76	Dallas	at Kansas City	4:00
Saturday, May 18				77	DC United	at New England	7:30
36	San Jose	at Columbus	7:30	78	MetroStars	at Columbus	7:30
37	Chicago	at New England	4:00	Sunday, July 7			
38	MetroStars	at DC United	6:30	79	Colorado	at Chicago	4:00
39	Colorado	at Dallas	8:30	80	Los Angeles	at San Jose	9:00
40	Los Angeles	at Kansas City	8:00	Saturday, July 13			
Wednesday, May 22				82	Chicago	at MetroStars	4:00
41	New England	at Colorado	9:00	83	Kansas City	at New England	7:30
Saturday, May 25				84	Columbus	at DC United	7:30
42	Kansas City	at MetroStars	7:30	85	San Jose	at Dallas	8:30
43	Dallas	at Columbus	7:30	86	Los Angeles	at Colorado	9:00
104	Los Angeles	at New England	7:30	Saturday, July 20			
Sunday, May 26				87	New England	at MetroStars	4:00
44	San Jose	at Chicago	8:30	88	Colorado	at Columbus	7:30
				89	DC United	at Chicago	8:30
				90	Dallas	at San Jose	10:00
				91	Kansas City	at Los Angeles	10:00

2002 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE (cont'd)

(All times are ET and subject to change)

Wednesday, July 24			Time (ET)	Sunday, August 25			Time (ET)	
49	MetroStars	at Kansas City	8:00	118	DC United	at MetroStars	4:00	
92	Colorado	at New England	7:30	Wednesday, August 28				
93	DC United	at Columbus	7:30	119	Colorado	at New England	7:30	
94	Chicago	at San Jose	10:00	Saturday, August 31				
Saturday, July 27				121	MetroStars	at Los Angeles	10:00	
95	New England	at DC United	6:30	122	San Jose	at DC United	7:30	
96	MetroStars	at Chicago	4:00	123	New England	at Columbus	7:30	
97	San Jose	at Kansas City	8:00	124	Chicago	at Kansas City	8:00	
98	Dallas	at Colorado	9:00	Sunday, September 1				
99	Columbus	at Los Angeles	10:00	125	Dallas	at Colorado	9:00	
Wednesday, July 31				Thursday, September 5				
100	Columbus	at MetroStars	7:30	128	MetroStars	at Dallas	8:00	
101	DC United	at Chicago	8:30	Saturday, September 7				
102	Kansas City	at Dallas	8:30	126	DC United	at New England	7:30	
Saturday, August 3			2002 MLS All-Star Game	3:30	127	Los Angeles	at Chicago	8:30
Saturday, August 10				129	Columbus	at San Jose	10:00	
81	New England	at Los Angeles	10:00	Thursday, September 12				
103	Chicago	at Dallas	4:00	130	DC United	at MetroStars	7:30	
105	Kansas City	at DC United	7:30	Saturday, September 14				
106	Columbus	at Colorado	9:00	131	Chicago	at Columbus	7:30	
Wednesday, August 14				132	Colorado	at Kansas City	8:00	
107	Los Angeles	at Columbus	7:30	133	New England	at Dallas	8:30	
108	DC United	at Colorado	9:00	134	San Jose	at Los Angeles	10:00	
120	Kansas City	at Chicago	8:30	135	MetroStars	at DC United	7:30	
Saturday, August 17				Thursday, September 19				
109	DC United	at San Jose	4:00	136	Dallas	at DC United	7:30	
110	Dallas	at MetroStars	7:30	Saturday, September 21				
112	Colorado	at Los Angeles	10:00	137	MetroStars	at New England	7:30	
116	Chicago	at New England	7:30	139	Kansas City	at Colorado	9:00	
Sunday, August 18				140	Los Angeles	at San Jose	10:00	
113	Columbus	at Kansas City	8:00	Sunday, September 22				
Wednesday, August 21				138	Columbus	at Chicago	4:00	
30	Kansas City	at Los Angeles	10:00	END REGULAR SEASON				
114	Dallas	at San Jose	10:00	2001 MLS Playoffs to follow				
Saturday, August 24				Dates, Sites and Times TBA				
111	New England	at Chicago	8:30	Sunday, October 20				
115	San Jose	at Colorado	4:00	MLS Cup 2002				
117	Los Angeles	at Dallas	8:30	1:30				