



Soccer Chaplains United End of Season Checklist

End of Season (MLS, NWSL, USL)

Overview

The “offseason” in soccer in North America is a time of opportunity for a chaplain/ chaplain team to serve in particularly tangible ways that were more difficult during the rhythms of the season. This document will hopefully help to serve with creative ideas and ways to serve the athletes, coaches, staff, and families of the club you are serving.

The offseason is also a time for the chaplain to rest, especially if rest during the season has not occurred. The longevity of one’s service to a club will likely produce more opportunities to serve beyond the typical season time frame and in different ways.

At Season’s End (1-2 weeks)

As the season draws to an end, the chaplain should start to prepare for completing some end of year tasks. Different teams will approach the end of season in unique ways — the following are generalized suggestions that should be contextualized for a chaplain based on their particular team and considerations.

Key Issues to be aware of:

- Athletes will, likely, desire to leave as soon as possible
- Some athletes will be out of contract, not returning or future up in the air
- End of year meetings will likely be happening — futures decided
- Some teams may continue training until a CBA/league “release date”

Task	Description	Completed?
Year-end Letter/E-mail/Text	A final communication (see example) is helpful in order to assist with end of year needs, a transition to a new team/city, or a retirement.	
Airport Transportation	Some may have rented or leased a vehicle during the length of their time at the club. Can you assist with transportation to help personalize a goodbye and help someone save their money from an Uber?	
Lease/Move/Clean-up	As a chaplain can you assist or find help for someone whom is moving, putting things in storage, or cleaning up an apartment or home?	



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Off-Season (1st month)

There will likely be those at the club whom have chosen to make their home in the city/ club where you serve or for other extenuating circumstances, their travel “home” may be delayed or postponed. Below are some additional considerations and opportunities for the 1st month of the offseason.

Task	Description	Completed?
Holiday Invitation/Hospitality	Season extension or the offseason may mean some from the club are sticking around during the holidays with no family/friends, is there extra space around your table with your family?	
Additional Meetings/Support	Offseason can be a great time to continue meeting with those whom you have built one-to-one meeting rhythms with - whether for counseling, Bible study, or a weekly meal with your family.	
Organization	Specific to the chaplain, the offseason is a good time to try to organize and report on the past year while it is still fresh in the mind. Suggested tasks: contact management cleanup, compile year-end summary for Soccer Chaplains United, start to get setup for next season, etc.	

Off-Season (2nd-3rd months)

This portion of the offseason typically includes the busiest months — especially for chaplains who also have church or non-profit duties at the end of the calendar year, Christmas and New Year holidays, and vacation time for the chaplain and the chaplain’s family, among other things. By now, the chaplain should be aware of who is in town, major transitions, and there may be more unique moments to serve.

Task	Description	Completed?
Officiating a Wedding	Off-season in the soccer world is the time to do other life-events, the chaplain may have opportunities to travel and officiate for a wedding or other types of services.	
Continuing Education/ Conference Attendance	Offseason can be a good time to complete professional development and continuing education or to attend annual meetings with other chaplains.	
Organization	Organizing prior to the season is helpful for getting through busy spring months — pre-selection of Bible studies or other season planning, connecting people that have moved to new teams to the chaplain, imputing new personnel data, calendarizing the team’s scheduled, as examples.	