

2007 MLS Season Preview

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Furthering the development of the league was the decision to create the Designated Player Rule, which allows for a league team to pay up to two players a salary beyond that covered in the salary cap at their own expense. Following David Beckham to MLS are a host of veteran players, including Claudio Reyna, Juan Pablo Angel, and Cuauhtémoc Blanco. Following the creation of the Designated Player Rule, the league announced in conjunction with the La Primera División del Fútbol Mexicano (Mexican First Division) that it would be creating a tournament called Superliga, which would start in 2007, with 4 teams from MLS and 4 from Mexico competing for a 1 million dollar prize to become the champions of North American club soccer. These matches will initially only be covered in Spanish by Univision and Telefutera. Currently an English-language broadcaster has not signed to cover the tournament yet, although if its debut is a success this may change.

Following these announcements the league announced "Game-First", a series of initiatives aimed at improving the league in a myriad of ways, one of the most immediate being the hiring of the first full-time professional referees in league history.