 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

May 26, 2022 Dr. Eric Lamberg, President & Head Coach

 American Amputee Soccer Association (AASA)

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**TEAM USA TO TRAIN IN DALLAS FOR 2022 AMPUTEE SOCCER WORLD CUP**

(Dallas, TX) – Team USA has begun preparing for this fall’s Amputee Soccer World Cup in Istanbul, Turkey, and plans to train in five locations across the country in the coming months, including Dallas.

The Americans qualified for the 24-team World Cup, to be held Sept. 30-Oct. 9, by placing second at a North and Central American qualifying tournament in Jalisco, Mexico in March. That competition — the region’s first-ever Amputee Soccer World Cup qualifying event — included national teams from the U.S., Costa Rica, El Salvador, Haiti and Mexico, with three spots available in Turkey. Playing four games in as many days, Team USA secured a 2-1-1 record to finish behind only Haiti and ahead of Mexico, which placed fourth at the 2018 World Cup. Team captain Nico Calabria, of Boston, Mass., was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player.

With its qualification, the U.S. joins 23 other nations in amputee soccer’s premier global event. Head Coach Dr. Eric Lamberg, an associate dean at Stony Brook University and president of the American Amputee Soccer Association, said: “This is by far the best group of athletes to compete as the US Amputee Soccer Team. The team bonded and played beautiful soccer. A well-deserved ticket to the 2022 Amputee World Cup.”

Team USA includes players and staff from California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Texas. With such a geographically diverse roster, the U.S. has scheduled training camps in five locations before the World Cup, including Dallas (June 10-12).

TOPSoccer and Amerigroup have stepped up to help sponsor the team’s June 11 community event in Dallas. Amerigroup, one of Texas’ largest coordinators of managed healthcare benefits, serves as an ongoing supporter of the AASA. “Amerigroup is incredibly proud of what these athletes have achieved, and is grateful for the opportunity to introduce them to our Dallas-area residents,” said Greg Thompson, president of Amerigroup Texas. “Disability has not been an obstacle to these players’ success, and we hope that Texans, and especially the tens of thousands of Amerigroup members who live with disabilities, can use that as inspiration to take control of their own health to live the most independent and healthiest life possible.”

Invented in 1980 by Seattle native Don Bennett, amputee soccer is played on a ¾-size pitch with seven players to a side. Field players use forearm crutches and may play the ball with only one leg. Goalkeepers defend a 7’x16’ net and may use only one arm. The AASA believes everyone should have access to play soccer. Our mission is to 1) promote, develop and provide access to the sport of amputee soccer for all people living with limb difference and 2) to develop and train elite amputee soccer athletes to represent the United States in international competition.

Sponsors can help send Team USA to Turkey via donations@usampsoccer.org. Donations are welcome [online](https://usampsoccer.networkforgood.com/projects/158224-american-amputee-soccer-association).

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The AASA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Please direct sponsorship inquiries to usampsoccer@gmail.com. Learn more about us at <https://www.usampsoccer.org/>.

   