



Date: April 2025

Re: Update on MSU Billings men's soccer

PUBLIC STATEMENT: MSU Billings working on next steps in evaluating the future of men's soccer program

- A. Montana State University Billings, working with its athletic department, alumni and community supporters, is continuing to evaluate the next steps for the recently discontinued men's soccer program.
- B. The university appreciates the passionate and enthusiastic support of MSUB men's soccer from program alumni and community members following the November 2024 decision to discontinue the program. Their work shows an optimism for the future. It is important to note that the difficult decision to eliminate men's soccer was made on financial grounds following a thorough budget review of all programs at MSU Billings, not just athletics.
- C. Our focus is to provide a quality student-athlete experience that is fair to all program participants. However, logistical challenges and lack of needed financial stability makes bringing back men's soccer successfully for fall 2025 highly impractical. There simply needs to be the proper amount of time for the university to hire a coach, allow that coach the appropriate time to recruit players and keep the fundraising efforts on track. There is a target goal of approximately \$1.1 million, which is the minimal foundational amount needed to operate the program for a minimum of five years.
- D. While a community group has secured pledges to support the re-establishment of the program for a year of operations, our target goal was set to ensure the program can operate for a minimum of five years. The next steps for consideration need to be as thorough and thoughtful as the original decision. Rushing into a timeline actually works against a truly successful re-implementation of the program.
- E. MSU Billings Athletic Department is getting guidance from MSU legal counsel and the administration of MSU Billings on the practical operational steps and logistics moving forward.

- F. With this new plan, MSUB Athletics can properly engage with the MSU Billings Foundation as the fiscal agent to receive any donations people may have to help restart and sustain the program.