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//FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE//

WA Youth Soccer Alumni, Coach & Soccer Expert Kim Calkins Joins WA Youth Soccer as Recreational & Select Programs Coordinator

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Monday, April 30, 2012) – Washington Youth Soccer today announced the addition of Kim Calkins to the Washington Youth Soccer staff in the newly created position of Recreational and Select Programs Coordinator.

In her new position in Washington Youth Soccer's Technical Department, Calkins will coordinate all aspects of Washington Youth Soccer's recreational and select programs. She will also work to create new opportunities for the growth and development of the over 128,000 players in Washington Youth Soccer. Calkins will focus on current programs while developing new opportunities and partnerships within communities and Member Associations.

The Spokane native joins the staff after years of being involved as a player, coach, and parent in WA Youth Soccer. Calkins has coached all levels from recreational to collegiate. As a player, she was a member of the first ever WIAA State High School Championship team from the Greater Spokane League to win a Washington State Girls' Soccer Title with Mead Senior High School. She went on to play at the University of Portland as a NCAA Division I Finalist, as well with United States Youth National Teams and Full National Team player pool. She finished her playing career as a Boston Breaker of the inaugural Women's Professional Soccer League (WUSA). Calkins has since spent her professional career in development and program directing for non-profit organizations, earning a Masters in Communications and Leadership, and coaching youth soccer.

"Kim brings a wealth of knowledge not only on soccer, but our unique soccer community, to the team," said Terry Fisher, Washington Youth Soccer CEO. "She has experienced the game at all levels and in many roles – as a player, coach and parent. Kim is the perfect fit to foster and grow our programs at the grassroots level."

"I'm excited to join the Washington Youth Soccer staff," Calkins says. "I look forward to working with Associations across the state at the recreational and select levels to provide a positive playing experience for kids, parents, coaches, volunteers, and administrators and bringing soccer opportunities to as many kids as possible."

To learn more about Washington Youth Soccer, visit washingtonyouthsoccer.org.

About Washington Youth Soccer

Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth soccer organization in Washington. Washington Youth Soccer is the state's affiliate for US Youth Soccer, which is the largest sports organization in the United States and the most populous member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 128,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 teams and 6,500 referees in the state of Washington. Washington Youth Soccer's mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the State of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

Media Request: When referring to Washington Youth Soccer, please refer to the association only as Washington Youth Soccer, and never as WYS or WSYSA. We appreciate your cooperation.

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