

Our current framework for discussion on a US Youth Champions League format:

- 1) The age creep for player development in the Academies/ECNL is impacting clubs throughout Washington and making the youth leagues not as deep for 'high level' competition. Resolved – tighter brackets help some of the issues, but player development is lagging in the breadth of our system.
- 2) As players move into systems that don't have dual-registration options, we are seeing a reduced depth in quality players in WA Youth Soccer, putting some smaller clubs at risk for team formation in these age groups (and going forward). This hurts league depth and quality. Resolved – registration options for USSF and US Youth programming should be explored, including US Youth changes for WA Youth Soccer.
- 3) What alternatives exist for MLS franchises running youth programming across the nation?
- 4) Players should play matches to get better. Large rosters of players that don't include playing time hurts the player and the product (and there's a trickle down for the rest of the clubs in WA Youth Soccer). Resolved – balancing league play with roster depth is a critical issue for all clubs in the RCL. Better draw options from local pool play is significant and must be improved, along with a refinement of player draw from the top end for Academy.
- 5) Current clubs pay fees and have rules to follow in US Youth for team formation. Those should apply to all teams in the leagues Washington Youth Soccer runs.
- 6) There are resources available today that could greatly improve the overall product and lower the cost, and improve relationships between the clubs and the Sounders Academy (EPD options).
- 7) Sounders Camps run in competition with local club camps that have existed for years and are principle to fundraising within that club structure. Can a better relationship between Sounders Camps and WA Youth clubs be resolved?

Resolved - Target Questions/Statements were drafted for the meeting with the Sounders on January 24th at Starfire.