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//FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE//

WA Youth Soccer Partners with Cal South on First Class Elite Player Programming
Partnership will create specialized and professional environment to prepare players for highest levels

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Tuesday, May 8, 2012) – Washington Youth Soccer today announced a new partnership with Cal South to create new elite player identification and development programming for WA Youth Soccer’s Elite Player Development program and Cal South’s Pro + program. The partnership will include the creation of a structured training and identification camp for Cal South and Washington Youth Soccer players and a new annual invitational tournament run by Cal South. The programs created through the partnership will elevate the current standards in elite player identification and development and provide Cal South and Washington players with the best competition and identification opportunities available.

Through the agreement, Cal South will run a training and identification camp for EPD and Pro + players at Concordia University in Irvine California. The camp’s curriculum will be developed annually by both Washington Youth Soccer and Cal South Technical staff and will meet all technical standards outlined by US Soccer National Staff with a minimum of three training sessions to one game. On the field, training will be based on position specific concepts such as defending the central channel and attacking the flanks. Off field lectures will cover match analysis, sports nutrition, injury prevention and regeneration. The training will be conducted by staff from US Soccer, Cal South Pro+ and Washington Youth Soccer, as well as selected Division 1 college coaches.

“This partnership, between two of the most modern and forward thinking youth soccer associations, is a breath of fresh air for a new era in elite player development,” said Gary White, Technical Advisor for Washington Youth Soccer. “Our technical and executive leaders have been in discussions and planning for this bold and brave step for the past several months now and we expect the initiative will afford our players the best opportunities available to receive the needed education, exposure and excellence they deserve and that meet the vision of US Soccer developmentally.”

The partnership will also entail the Pro+ Invitational (PPI) – an identification tournament for each gender age group – run by Cal South annually. The tournament will provide players premier identification opportunities and scouting exposure with US Soccer Regional and National scouts in attendance and will also serve as a comprehensive learning opportunity for playing at the highest level. Important off the field training elements will be included in the curriculum including lessons on professionalism, healthy nutrition and mental strength. Cal

South and Washington Youth Soccer will work together to develop an in-depth player and staff assessment methodology to consistently elevate the quality of the event.

Cal South's Director of Player Development and the head of the Pro+ program Steve Hoffman is looking forward to working with Washington Youth Soccer. "They are a forwarding thinking state association. EPD is a great player growth and development program. Incorporating their players brings more competition to the camp. And it gives their EPD kids another opportunity to be identified by US Soccer." Hoffman added that the local camp fulfills a goal of Pro+ to significantly reduce costs and to lessen the time camp participants are away from their clubs.

"Working with our fellow State Association, Cal South, to enhance the training, competition and exposure opportunities for our elite players will bring great benefit to all," said Doug Andreassen, Washington Youth Soccer President. "It is a great honor to partner with such a prestigious organization as Cal South and I know the collaboration between our Technical Departments will lead to great things for our youth and the sport of soccer"

The programs created through the partnership with Cal South will be seamlessly integrated in the current inventory in Washington Youth Soccer's EPD program and all gender age groups will participate in both the PPI and training camp.

For more information on Washington Youth Soccer and its EPD program, 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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