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//FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE//

WA Youth Soccer Partners with Skyhawks Sports Academy

Partnership will aim to increase the scope of local soccer league enrollment and support participation of the multi-sport athlete at the Recreational and Select levels.

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Tuesday, June 12, 2012) – Washington Youth Soccer announced today a new partnership with Washington-based Skyhawks Sports Academy, one of the largest youth sports activities providers in the country.

The partnership encourages the Recreational and Select level soccer player to stay active and participate in multiple sport activities Skyhawks offers for youth throughout the summer months. Skyhawks will promote league registration to its thousands of campers for Washington Youth Soccer Recreational and Select programs.

"Youth soccer players have always played multiple sports and now we have a partnership that will embrace the benefits of diverse athletic background," said Chris Stiles, President of Skyhawks Sports Academy. Stiles has been involved in Washington Youth Soccer, the largest youth soccer organization in Washington, as a player, coach, and parent. He has coached and played at every youth level from Recreational to Select to Regional Club.

"Many of us remember when we were children and spent long days playing in the yard, driveways, and parks. Most of us played everything from soccer, basketball, and football to games of capture the flag, kick the can, and hide-and-go-seek. Unwittingly, we were developing fine motor skills that would create the foundation for our future athletic endeavors. Our bodies were learning vital skills for soccer, like how to accelerate, slow down, jump, and balance, while conceptually, we were learning about winning and losing, how to work as a team, and how to strategize."

Through the partnership Skyhawks will provide Washington soccer players with multiple sport opportunities during the summer and will be able to provide summer campers with league options in the non-summer months. According to Kim Grant, Technical Administrator for Washington Youth Soccer, "This partnership supports thousands of players along the Washington Youth Soccer's Player Development Pathway."

Learn about the benefits of participating in multi-sports from the Seattle Children's Hospital article in Washington Youth Soccer's June publication of *Play On!*

For more information on Washington Youth Soccer and its partnership with Skyhawks Sports Academy, 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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