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North Puget Sound League Announces New Milestones for Fall 2011

BOTHELL, WA – August 8, 2011 – The member clubs and youth soccer associations of Washington Youth Soccer’s District I and II are excited to report milestone results coming out of 2011 fall registration for the North Puget Sound League (NPSL).

In 2009, the member clubs and associations of Washington Youth Soccer’s Districts 1 and 2 recognized that dynamic changes to the competitive youth soccer landscape were placing at risk the viability of the select tier of league play. The NPSL was launched, in part, in response to this dynamic as well as to realize these specific goals: allow select teams to play in a league that makes geographic-sense and is not limited by District or Association boundaries; allow select teams to play in a league that is economical in both cost and time; and structure play to ensure “like or comparable” competition.

In only its third year of its operation, the NPSL has delivered on these commitments and has registered back-to-back 20%+ participation level growth rates with team counts slated to surpass 270 in 2011. The following milestones have been realized heading into fall 2011 league play.

Growth and Increased Play Density. The number of select teams playing in the NPSL league has now surged past 250 and is on track to reach 270 teams once the Older Girls Winter League registration closes on November 1st. In the age groups and geographies it serves, the NPSL has now become the largest non-premier competitive youth soccer league for Fall League Play in the state, inclusive of US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer leagues. With these team counts, the NPSL is leveraging high team density to keep to a minimum the family time spent in automobiles travelling to and from league matches.

Retention of the Top NPSL League Participants. The 2010 champions of the NPSL have overwhelmingly affirmed the league as a quality league both by state cup performance and by returning. 87% of the teams that won their NPSL brackets and remain active teams are returning. 90% of the 32 NPSL teams that were either 2010 Washington Youth Soccer State Cup Champions, Finalists or Semi-Finalists (in the Founders and Challenge Cups) and are active teams are returning. That percentage is consistent regardless of state cup finishing level (champion, finalist or semi-finalist). These retention rates attest to the both quality of the teams enrolling in the NPSL and the strength of the league as a play platform in preparing its teams for state cup competitions.



Cross-Boundary Organizational Collaboration. The collaboration with NPSL member clubs in Districts 1 and 2 and the district, association and club leadership of Districts 3 and 4 have put into tangible action one of the concepts of Washington Youth Soccer’s visionary ‘Seamless Soccer’ initiative. Working together, the member clubs, associations and districts of these regions have ensured pools of sufficient numbers of “like or comparable” competition are established within non-premier select league play.

Economizing To Benefit Our Members. During these historic challenging economic times, the 100% volunteer-powered NPSL has held the line on team registration costs and still represents the greatest value in competitive youth select soccer play in Washington State, both in registration fees and families’ expenditures on weekly match travel. By leveraging the volunteer engine that drives the member clubs and associations of Washington Youth Soccer, the NPSL is pleased to report it is continuing to deliver a full 12-match competitive play venue for less than half the price of alternative competitive play venues.

About the North Puget Sound League

North Puget Sound League (NPSL) is a Washington Youth Soccer-sanctioned, competitive youth soccer league that is a partnership of Washington Youth Soccer’s District I and District II and their eleven youth soccer associations comprising over 57,000 youth soccer players. NPSL’s mission is to supply a competitive venue to its teams that makes geographic sense and is not limited by District or Association boundaries, is economical in both cost and time, and ensures “like or comparable” competition. League website: <http://www.northpugetsoundleague.org>. For more information, contact info@northpugetsoundleague.org.