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North Puget Sound League Readies for Fall 2011 with Strengthened Play Venues

BOTHELL, WA – June 6, 2011 – The member clubs and youth soccer associations of Washington Youth Soccer’s District I and II are excited to announce plans for year three of the North Puget Sound League (NPSL).

The Washington Youth Soccer-sanctioned NPSL was launched in 2009 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 second year of its operation, the NPSL grew over 20% in team strength, with over 205 teams participating in its leagues during 2010.

This past year also saw truly phenomenal state competition performances by teams that played league in NPSL or D3/NPSL divisions. Many NPSL teams went onto success in the 2011 Washington Youth Soccer Founders Cup, tallying 10 Championships (a whopping 50% of all Founders Cup champions, up from 6 in 2010), 8 Finalists (up from 3 in 2010), and 14 Semi-Finalists (up from 11 in 2010). The NPSL also had the distinction of fielding 5 Semi-Finalists in the Washington Youth Soccer Challenge Cup. All this is a testament to the year-to-year increasing 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 competition.

During these challenging economic times, the 100% volunteer-powered NPSL has sought to hold the line on team registration costs and still represents the greatest value in youth select soccer in Washington State both in registration fees and families’ expenditures on weekly travel costs.

2011 Fall League registration is scheduled to open on Wednesday, June 8th and conclude on Sunday, July 31st. To register, please go to: <http://www.northpugetsoundleague.org> for instructions.

The NPSL will provide teams with the following:

Play Coverage From U11 Up To U18 -- The NPSL is open to boys and girls competitive teams, ages U11 to U18. We expect the league to have over 210 teams from over eleven associations this year.

Family-Friendly Convenience for Local Competition -- The NPSL provides necessary competition at as local a level possible, limiting additional travel until necessary. With the increased team density this league provides, NPSL delivers equal or shorter average travel commutes to matches than alternative venues and gives back to the families some of their weekend time.



12-Match Fall League -- 12 matches with home and away games. League play will commence on the September 10th weekend and conclude on the December 3rd weekend, with Thanksgiving weekend off.

Multiple Competitive Divisions per Age -- The NPSL will once again establish 2-3 divisions per age/gender to optimize like-or comparable competition. Divisions will incorporate non-RCL/PDL Select teams, as well as interested RCL/PDL "C" teams/below (other RCL/PDL teams require NPSL approval).

Promotion and Relegation -- Teams will be moved in order to compete at the appropriate level based on their age group, ability and past year's results.

Access to Washington Youth Soccer State Cup Competitions -- By participating in this Washington Youth Soccer- sanctioned league, teams meet the league play requirement for post-league play in Washington Youth Soccer State Championship Tournaments.

Adherence to Washington Youth Soccer League Play Calendar -- The NPSL league calendar aligns with Washington Youth Soccer State, District and RCL/PDL leagues, simplifying match scheduling.

Great Value – The NPSL is, by design, the greatest value in youth select soccer in Washington State. With a competitive play venue unmatched in non-premier youth select soccer in Washington State, a 100% volunteer-powered delivery model and low travel costs, the NPSL is a great value as it remains vigilant on costs during these challenging economic times.

Older Boys League -- The NPSL and District 3 Leagues are once again partnering for the benefit of their players by operating their Older Boys League at BU16-BU18. Older boys teams will realize sufficient depth of competitive play for their interested teams without requiring state-wide travel.

Older Girls Winter League – Based upon the success of last year's inaugural launch of a winter league for its older girls participating in high school soccer, the NPSL is again offering an Older Girls Winter League. This league will start its 10-match season in early January to permit the girls to participate in high school soccer without having to play for their club teams at the same time. Registered teams interested in getting an earlier start on the Older Girls Winter League, to avoid overlap with spring sports such as softball and track in March, will have NPSL support to start match play in December. With the understanding that some older girls teams prefer fall play, the NPSL has maintained its partnership with District 3 League so those District I and II girls U15-U18 teams wishing to continue to play in the fall season will be placed by their Districts into the District III 3 League. The NPSL Older Girls Winter League is open to interested Girls U15-U18 teams from Districts III and IV wishing to play club soccer upon conclusion of their high school soccer.

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.