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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ten Game Fall Season Set For Washington Youth Soccer's State League

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Tuesday, August 19) – Washington Youth Soccer's Board of Directors approved to change the Fall State League season format from fourteen games to ten games starting in September 2008. This new format will impact more than 4,000 players participating in the Washington State Premier League (WSPL) and Washington State Youth Development League (WSYDL), at the Girls Under-13 through Under-14 age groups and the Boys Under-13 through Under-19 age groups.

After evaluating the current league structure, Washington Youth Soccer felt three components needed to be addressed in order to best meet the needs of the players and program. First, Washington Youth Soccer incorporated the research and recommendations given by USSF which proved that players had a higher rate of development when they practiced more and had fewer games. Thus it was decided that a shorter ten game season with a re-designed format would strengthen development and provide opportunities for better competition.

Secondly, soccer fields especially in the fall are always in high demand. By limiting the number of games in the season it would ease the pressure put on these fields and the administrators who are responsible for them.

Finally, Washington Youth Soccer realized that the season's format presented a burden to most players and families. As it was currently structured, the fourteen game season generally coincided with hectic holiday schedules and inclement weather. In addition, with gas prices and environmental concerns at an all-time high, moving to a ten game season would hopefully alleviate many of the financial strains put on our members.

Changes to the Fall State League season come nearly one year after Washington Youth Soccer successfully moved and modified the Girls State League Spring season for similar reasons.

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“Moving our fall league schedule to ten games aligns us with what we did this past spring with our high school age girls. This is a decision that takes into consideration our players and the total numbers of competitive games they play throughout the year. There is general consensus that youth soccer players should play around thirty games per year. The decision by Washington Youth Soccer is to move towards this number,” said Director of Coaching Dave Schumacher. “We understand that for those players that are playing year round that there needs to be a balance between the number of competitive games in a year and the amount of rest & regeneration. We have a developmental goal to provide a quality playing environment for our players and this decision is step in achieving this goal”

The new fall league schedule will be structured exactly like the inaugural girls spring league schedule. For Division that contain 8 teams, the first seven games of the season will involve all teams playing each other once. After week seven the top four teams and the bottom four teams will play each other for the remaining three games of the season. In this structure, teams that are in the top four after week seven can finish no worse than 4th place in the final league standings and teams in the bottom four can finish no better than 5th place in the final league standings. If your Division does not contain 8 teams please contact the state office to answer any of your schedule structure questions.

“Washington Youth Soccer understands that this new format will be an adjustment, however it is our goal to continually evaluate all of our programs and leagues to ensure they are running efficiently and effectively within the soccer calendar,” said Executive Director/COO, Todd McGann. “We feel these changes to the Fall State League season will provide a better soccer environment for our players to both develop and succeed.”

For additional information, please contact Washington Youth Soccer at 253-476-2237 or visit wsysa.com.

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. The Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 126,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 11,000 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.

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