

**Contact: Todd McGann
Executive Director/COO
Washington Youth Soccer
253-476-2237 (phone)
todd@wsysa.com**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seattle Sounders FC Launch Youth Development Program

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Friday, July 18) – The Seattle Sounders FC, in cooperation with Washington Youth Soccer, introduces the Youth Development Program (YDP). Supplementing the current youth soccer club experience, the YDP will run for boys and girls ages 8-17 in six week increments at Starfire Sports Complex in Tukwila working on the technical aspects of soccer in a professional and enjoyable environment.

“We look forward to helping youth soccer grow in the years to come,” said Sounders FC/Washington Youth Soccer Director of Youth Development and current Sounders Assistant Coach Darren Sawatzky. “With the excitement of the new MLS team coming to town, both Washington Youth Soccer and the Seattle Sounders FC want to serve the youth soccer community the best way possible.”

Through encouragement, motivation and appropriate pressure, professional coaches and players will work to advance the individual game of each participant. All Youth Development Program training will focus on improvement as a soccer player, responsibility to the community, and the expression of individual personality within the game. To serve as development tools for students of the game, each participant will receive nutritional education materials and reading lists related to high level sport.

Complementing the Youth Development Program will be specific position training. Goalkeeper training will run in six week increments on a yearly basis. Strikers, midfielders and defenders will each have a six week training cycle starting with the strikers and goalkeepers on August 11th.

The price per six week session is \$200. Each participant receives a Sounders FC YDP jersey, shorts and socks to be worn at each training session compliments of adidas and Seattle Sounders FC. Registration begins the week of July 21st for an August 11th start date.

For more information please contact Darren Sawatzky at (206) 622-3415 ext. 122 or darrens@seattlesounders.net. To register for the Youth Development Program or Position Specific Training please visit www.soundersfc.com or www.seattlesounders.net.

Seattle Sounders FC Youth Development Program Fact Sheet

<u>Coaching Staff:</u>	Darren Sawatzky Chris Henderson Tom Dutra David Griffiths David O'Neill Danny Jackson Josh Gardner Amy Carnell	Sounders FC Director of Youth Development Sounders FC Technical Director Seattle Sounders Goalkeeper Coach Manchester United Coaching Schools Highline Premier Football Club Advisory Current Seattle Sounders Captain Current Seattle Sounder Midfielder Seattle Sounders Camp Director
<u>Location:</u>	Starfire Sports Complex 14800 Starfire Way Tukwila, WA 98188	
<u>Dates:</u>	YDP Session #1 Striker/Goalkeeper Session #1 YDP Session #2 Midfielders/Goalkeepers Session #2 YDP Session #3 Defenders/Goalkeepers Session #3	August 11, 18, 25, September 8, 15, 22 August 11, 18, 25, September 8, 15, 22 September 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3 September 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3 November 10, 17, 24, December 1, 8, 15 November 10, 17, 24, December 1, 8, 15
<u>Times and Ages:</u>	Ages 8 -12; 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Ages 12-17; 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	
<u>Price:</u>	\$200 per participant per session	
<u>To Register:</u>	www.soundersfc.com	www.seattlesounders.net
<u>For More Information:</u>	Contact Darren Sawatzky Sounders FC/Washington Youth Soccer Director of Youth Development (206) 622-3515 darrens@seattlesounders.net	