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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Youth Soccer Names Terry Fisher Executive Director

FEDERAL WAY, WASH. (June 1) – Washington Youth Soccer President Doug Andreassen announced Monday that Terry Fisher has been named the association’s Executive Director, effective immediately. As Executive Director, Fisher will oversee all day-to-day operations of the sixth-largest state youth soccer association under the US Youth Soccer umbrella, including budget, operations, tournaments and office management.

"This is a great step for soccer and for our association in adding Terry to our team," Andreassen said. "His experience with this game and his vision for growth and stability is what we need during a very dynamic time within our organization. We searched nationally for the best candidate and we feel we made the right choice in tapping Terry for the executive directorship. I look forward to working with him and welcoming into our soccer family."

Fisher boasts an extensive background in soccer as a coach, player and executive, as well as decades of experience in business and fundraising.

In 1975, at the age of 25, Fisher was named head coach of the North American Soccer League’s (NASL) Los Angeles Aztecs, becoming at the time the youngest head coach of any professional team in the United States. Fisher also had stints with the San Jose Earthquakes, Houston Hurricane and Calgary Boomers of the NASL, and the Detroit Lighting of the Major Indoor Soccer League.

As an executive, Fisher has worked as owner, general manager, director of player personnel and director of sponsorship for professional franchises at all levels of the game. As owner and GM, Fisher built the USL’s Palo Alto Firebirds into national champions in the early ‘90s, before taking over as sponsorship director with Major League Soccer’s San Jose Clash in 1995-96. Fisher then returned to the USL in 1997-98 as general manager of the Albuquerque Geckos, leading that franchise to its own USL crown.

Fisher, who holds a USSF “A” Coaching License, has also served on the National Board of Directors for US Soccer, has developed coaching curriculums for elite training camps throughout the United States and worked in a business capacity for corporations and companies in three different World Cups.

“I’ve known Terry for over 25 years and know his commitment and passion for the game, as well as his keen sense of the soccer business,” says Dan Flynn, CEO and Secretary General of U.S.

Soccer. “In addition, Terry has a deep understanding of the technical side of the game...[and a] proven track record of complementing an existing workforce and showing the leadership necessary to meet the operating goals and objectives of the organization.”

Fisher will assume operational management of 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 boasts the sixth-largest membership in the nation, with over 128,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 teams and 6,500 referees.

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.

“This rare opportunity for me to work in the State of Washington at a critical time in the further development of the sport of soccer is like a lightning bolt in a clear sky,” Fisher says. “The rich tradition of Washington Youth Soccer, the explosion of the Seattle Sounders and the new franchises coming to Vancouver and Portland make the Pacific Northwest the ‘soccer place to be’ in North America.

“I have been impressed with the intellect, dogged diligence and vision of Doug Andreassen and those members of the Board of Directors I have met in the selection process,” Fisher says. “I have tremendous respect for the core of volunteers that make everything possible in the Association. I look forward to meeting each one on their home turf and helping them have the best association in America. It is with a great deal of enthusiasm and humble appreciation that together we work hard each day to advance ‘the game for all kids.’

“Thank you for the opportunity. Let’s get to work.”

For more on Terry Fisher or Washington Youth Soccer, contact Brenda Heintz at 253-476-2237, or visit wsysa.com.

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