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// FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE//

**Washington Youth Soccer Technical Director Gary White Successfully Achieves  
Elite International Coaching Qualification**

*State coaching leader joins world's elite coaches at UEFA "A" level*

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Mon., June 14) – Washington Youth Soccer announced Monday that its Technical Director, Gary White, has joined the elite class of soccer coaches worldwide by earning his UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) "A" License from the prestigious English FA.

The UEFA "A" License is the highest practical coaching award available, with the English FA's program seen as the PHD of soccer qualifications. This license is required to coach in the English Premier League and other elite professional leagues in Europe. To earn the distinguished license, White completed more than 240 hours of training spanning more than two years, including extensive on- and off-field coursework, peer analysis by course instructors and a display of world-class expertise in the tactical, technical, physical and psychological aspects of the game.

"Continued development and education is paramount for all coaches in sport, especially one that is ever evolving like soccer," White says. "I am obviously extremely happy to be deemed competent to coach at the highest level of the game and especially by the English FA and UEFA, whose standards and expectations are second to none."

In earning his UEFA "A" License, White joins an elite group of coaches including coaches of the top clubs in Europe, and beyond. White's impressive resume includes U.S. Soccer's "A" License, FIFA and CONCACAF qualifications and now the UEFA "A." White's experience on the field is as impressive as his qualifications, as he is a current U.S. Soccer national staff coach and the former head coach of the Bahamas National Team during two FIFA World Cup qualifying campaigns.

White took the reins of Washington Youth Soccer's Technical Department in November 2009. In less than a year, he has increased coaching education opportunities for coaches at all levels statewide, implemented a Long-Term Development Plan for Washington Youth Soccer's 130,000-plus youth players, and worked closely with Seattle Sounders FC to develop the state's elite players and coaches. Under his direction, Washington has already won two regional championships, the state's first in many years.

"We are all extremely proud of Gary's achievement in successfully passing his UEFA 'A' License, but we are not surprised," says Washington Youth Soccer CEO/Executive Director Terry Fisher. "The fact he was just one of four coaches from his class of 18 that met the strict

criteria, further highlights his knowledge base and the elite nature of the UEFA 'A' License and the English FA's integrity on who they credit such an honor."

For more information about Washington Youth Soccer, visit [www.washingtonyouthsoccer.org](http://www.washingtonyouthsoccer.org).

### **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 eighth largest membership in the nation; representing over 130,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 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.

***Media Request:*** *When referring to Washington Youth Soccer, please refer to the association only as Washington Youth Soccer, and never as WYS or WSYSA. We appreciate your cooperation.*

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