

**Positioning Statement**  
**WSYSA/Club Development Partnership**

Executive Summary

The new soccer nation has risen and it is time to re-evaluate the needs of the professional youth soccer clubs in Washington. Washington state teams continue to fall behind the levels of the other Region 4 state associations and USYSA programs. WSYSA teams have performed poorly in the Region 4 championships **but** have performed very well as state ODP programs.

This would suggest that the players are here in Washington but at the club level, the players have been diluted across many clubs and not developed by the necessary leadership at the local and state level and at the right time of age.

The state ODP programs has successfully organized the top players from Washington with good coaches, and are able to compete with California, Colorado, Arizona ect. WSYSA teams have won National competitions in the last three years.

But- WSYSA teams have not had the same success in the National arena.

Why?

While the state run league (u-14 to u-19) has provided a great opportunity for the same level ability teams to compete. the Golden years of development (u-11 to u-13) has been sacrificed. In fact, the dilution of the players and the holding back of the competitive athlete at u-11, and u-12 has hurt the development of the top players and teams in the state.

### What does this mean?

1. Too many clubs wanting to provide the select team concept without the proper leadership and resources.
2. Self fulfilling parents who have no worry about development of the athlete but the collection of athletes to finding the winning combination
3. The fragmentation of the Districts to not allow the development clubs to work and compete together without the layers of political oversight.
4. The local associations rules for the select programs differ from area to area and does not allow the clubs to have consistent development opportunities
5. The WSYSA u-13 league (sign-up) has no qualifications and oversight to the level of the competing teams and divides all the Top clubs into four color groups. This causes a very lopsided and weak league system. The Top clubs will be provided with four quality games and 10 games of problems. The problems are three fold. The first is a wasted competitive opportunity. The second is a perception of elitism and poor sportsmanship. The third is the local animosity created because the top developing clubs are forced to play local less ability clubs.

In conclusion- Facts and Statistic can support all the concerns above from the National and regional competitions, to the u-11 district leagues and u-13 state league. WSYSA must re-evaluate the rise of the new soccer nation and support the development of the professional clubs and the needs of the most competitive players, teams and coaches in the state to become competitive with the National soccer programs.

## WSYSA Mission statement.

### • **Mission Statement -**

It is the mission of the WSYSA 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**

We applaud WSYSA for their great achievements and in particular the growth of participation and organization in the state. But- the needs of the small percentage of competitive athletes and clubs are not being met today. We understand that this is a small percentage of players, but we believe the mission of the WSYSA is to provide development of “ all levels of age and competition”. This is not being met.

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In answer to "Who is Washington State Youth Soccer Association?" all of us involved in its programs - players, coaches, referees, administrators, parents and families belong to and have the opportunity to be involved in the programs and the decision-making process that guides the Association.

**Region IV**



**WSYSA Objectives and Purposes -**

1. Promote and further develop the game of soccer.
2. Organize and govern the game of soccer for youth within the State of Washington.
3. Assign administrative responsibilities to member organizations.
4. Establish uniform Rules and Regulations applicable to Youth Soccer competition in this State consistent with the principles and laws of the Federation Internationale de Football Association, and those of the US Youth Soccer Association, and those of the USSF.
5. Develop the game in non-affiliated areas within the State of Washington.
6. Provide programs for the membership as required.
7. Administer and conduct state-wide competitions as required.
8. Represent this state in all matters of organized Youth Soccer with regard to the US Youth Soccer, USSF and interested parties.
9. Where conditions and circumstances prevent full compliance, the WSYSA shall effect deviations best suited to its own particular

needs.

### WSYSA Objectives.

The development of the competitive players and clubs is not being met. Objective 6 and 7 have been neglected in regards to this small percentage of athlete. New programs and competitions are "required" and we hope that WSYSA will provide the resources to the members. Also- We have matured as a state and as Clubs. It is impossible to work with multiple associations and have consistent development for the players. The clubs are willing to work with the state association to secure consistent standards to provide a responsible development of the clubs and athletes

While objective 9 has other purposes- we also believe that it is time for WSYSA to take the professional development clubs out of the local politics and manage this small but important group of athlete at the highest level. This will assure a consistent, safe, assurance that the competitive athletes will not be abused by uneducated coaches, parents, and self fulfilling teams who care more about winning than development.  
"the WSYSA shall effect deviations best suited to its own particular needs."

The needs of the most competitive athlete are not being met. The WSYSA must take control of the districts and local association and provide the necessary leadership to allow the players to develop and grow. The Top development and professional clubs in the state are ready to support WSYSA in leading this development. A partnership is necessary and the clubs are ready to work extremely hard to provide the state association and the players this possibility. The clubs recognize the hard work of the district commissioners. We believe that this will allow the districts to be more effective and supportive to the greater numbers of teams, players and coaches who are not involved at the most competitive level.

## WSYSA Club Development League

**Mission:** To provide the best soccer development opportunities for the most competitive soccer athletes and coaches in Washington.

**Vision:** To raise the level of our soccer athletes in the Northwest so they are more capable of competing in the National arena.

### Objectives;

1. To Support the Fulltime Professional development clubs in Washington to create a unified development league and program to further the growth of the players, teams and the coaches
2. To accredit those clubs who work towards development leadership and development philosophy from u-11 to u-18
3. To provide a league of accredited clubs who will work together to enhance and develop players and coaches
4. To partner with WSYSA to support the development of the most competitive athlete and facilitate the resources and necessary needs to operate
5. To create additional opportunities for players and coaches through the unified group such as player training, coaches education and player identification.

### Accredited Clubs:

The following criteria are necessary to be a charter member of the Club Development league.

1. Historical development of premier level teams ages u-11 to u-18 for the past five years and currently managing u-11 to u-18 teams
2. Full time paid Director of coaching for the club. (A license or Professional playing experience 4 years or US National team experience)
3. Accredited coaching staff of team coaches. 8 (C license or better, four year college player, Professional player 4 years or US National team experience)
4. Historical placement of premier one and two teams in the WSYSA for the past five years.

## Charter Members

Each Charter member will be granted a three year, (one year renewable, if in good standing) opportunity

Each Charter member must participate with at least one u-11 to u-13 age groups in year one.

Charter members will be divided in three groups' boys and girls.

### U-11 and U-12

1. Tier One Development- (5 charter clubs)
2. Tier Two North Development ( 6 B/G charter clubs and 7 girl clubs)
3. Tier Two South Development ( 6 B/G Charter clubs and 7 girls clubs)

The Groups will be awarded as following u-11 and u-12

### Tier One

1. Crossfire
2. Emerald City FC
3. Eastside FC
4. NWN
5. (United and Royals)

### Tier Two North

1. ESA
2. Snohomish United
3. Whatcom Rangers
4. FC Alliance
5. tbd
6. tbd
7. tbd

(Clubs who have expressed an interest in the being a development club- Bainbridge, ISC, and others)

#### Tier Two South

1. FC Vancouver
2. Columbia Timbers
3. FC Kitsap
4. Highline
5. tbd
6. tbd
7. Marauders (girls only)

(Other clubs have also expressed interest like Harbor FC, Blackhills, Federal Way )

#### The Following Clubs at U-13

4. Tier One Development- (6 charter clubs)
5. Tier Two North Development ( 8/9 charter clubs)
6. Tier Two South Development ( 8/9 Charter clubs)

The Groups will be awarded as following u-13

#### Tier One

1. Crossfire
2. Emerald City FC
3. Eastside FC
4. NWN
5. (United and Royals)
6. Spokane Shadow

#### Tier Two North

1. ESA
2. Snohomish United
3. Whatcom Rangers
4. FC Alliance
5. TBD
6. TBD
7. TBD
8. TBD
9. Dos (girls only)

## Tier Two South

1. FC Vancouver
2. Columbia Timbers
3. FC Kitsap
4. Highline
5. tbd
6. tbd
7. tbd
8. tbd
9. Marauders (girls only)

The Charter members will commit to the following requirements

1. At least one team in club u-11 to u-18  
(Charter league year ages u-11, u-12 and u-13 boys and girls)
2. Each club will register with the club development league only (u-11 to u-13)
3. Each club will only play charter members clubs from Washington only.  
(Exception- Eastern Washington Teams e.g. Spokane Shadow)
4. Each club will play two league seasons (May- June) and (September- December)
5. State Cup with WSYSA

## Partnership with WSYSA

The CDL would like to partner with WSYSA under the following conditions

1. WSYSA sanctions and administrates the scheduling and registration
2. The CDL will report directly to WSYSA and will not be under the local administration and Policies and procedures of the various associations and districts
3. WSYSA will allow club pass registration program for players and Coaches
4. The CDL teams will be eligible for the WSYSA state cup championships
5. The u-14 LPT seeding will be awarded to the final eight teams from the u-13 state cup tournament
6. The State with support of the CDL will handle all disciplinary issues
7. WSYSA will assign a committee rep to work with CDL
8. The CDL will provide a responsible oversight board of directors to assure a safe and responsible development of the program.
9. CDL players will pay appropriate registration, league and insurance costs
10. The CDL will have an annual symposium of the following but not limited to programs.
  - Proper Coaches behavior and conduct (All coaches must attend)
  - DOC oversight committee
  - Unified Recruiting Policies and procedures
  - Unified Parents code of conduct and behavior
  - Player development programs
  - Coaching development opportunities

**Timelines:**

**January-WSYSA agrees to the partnership with the CDL.**

**February- CDL will provide the necessary league outlines and rules to WSYSA approval**

**March-CDL clubs will register directly with the State and report directly to the state association.**

**March- CDL with the State will implement the spring league and begin the process of the fall league.**

**All other district programs can forward as in the past u-11 and u-12.**

**April- The u-13 CDL will replace the current u-13 FALL state wide league.**

**In conclusion:**

**The following clubs and directors believe that this new program will effectively help the competitive soccer athlete grow and develop. The program will also help coaches develop and will have more responsible coaches directing our players. Coaches will be educated and qualified. Players will be better prepared to meet the needs of the regional competition, national competition and ultimately we believe that more players from Washington will represent college programs, national programs, and professional opportunities. We also believe this will be the first step toward better representation at the regional and National level.**

**The CDL leadership is ready to support WSYSA in this partnership.**

**We hope that WSYSA will partner with the CDL clubs and support the needs of the athletes.**