



WHITECAPS AND BC SOCCER STRENGTHEN 2009 SUPER Y PROGRAM

The Vancouver Whitecaps FC, in conjunction with BC Soccer announced today evolutions to the Super Y Affiliate program that will provide BC clubs, players and coaches with more support for local club infrastructure and a more integrated player development model.

The Super Y League affiliate program will transition in 2009 and be rebranded from “Affiliate” to “Professional Development Partners”, recognizing that clubs are independent, but partners in the overall professional development of players and the game of soccer. BC Soccer continues to provide governance; however, the Whitecaps role will change from micro, operational Involvement, to using its professional network to enhance the global opportunities within the league and to research and plan for the upcoming seasons.

2008 Affiliates, Mountain WFC, Coastal WFC, and Surrey WFC along with the Abbotsford Mariners, West Coast Capitals and Okanagan will all become “Professional Development Partners” for 2009. In addition the Whitecaps and BC Soccer are pleased to announce that Coquitlam Metro Ford will become a “Professional Development partner” to compete in the 2009 Super Y League season. All clubs will field U13 to U16 boys and girls teams for the 2009 season.

“As partners in development, we are working closely with BC Soccer to strengthen the development path in BC,” says Whitecaps Youth Director, Dan Lenarduzzi. We share the philosophy that club-based programs are the infrastructure to a strong soccer network and regional delivery method. The evolution of the Super Y Affiliate program to a Professional Development Partner model respects this, putting more emphasis on regional club infrastructure while allowing for the exploration of opportunities, hand in hand with the club network and membership.”

“We continue to collaborate with our partners the Vancouver Whitecaps FC and the various BC Soccer membership groups involved in the evolution of the BC player development model” said BC Soccer Executive Director, Bjorn Osieck. “This includes the requirements of Long-Term Player Development (LTPD), the growing need for resources and services for clubs, and the dynamic of regionalization and club development that synergizes grassroots programs and High Performance soccer with BC Soccer and the Vancouver Whitecaps.”





An example of this collaboration is the creation of the Super Y League Advisory Committee (SYLAC), which includes members of each club, in addition to the Whitecaps and BC Soccer. This committee serves as an outlet for sharing information and steers the club's participation in the league in a more collaborative way off field, while ensuring a highly competitive environment on field. The SYLAC will advocate at all levels of the game.

The Whitecaps and BC Soccer Professional Development Partners will continue to use the Super Y League as its competitive league platform. This platform will build upon the existing North American Super-Y League program while developing more BC based direction and benefits. In 2009, the Super Y League Pacific Northwest division will operate purely as a BC based division with enhancing local benefits including alignment to maximize province-wide high performance scouting. Future benefits include further alignment and scheduled breaks for additional integrated high performance opportunities.

The 2009 platform will continue to allow for American competition in the Super Y League playoffs through connection to the over 600 Super Y League teams competing across eight geographic divisions of the U.S. and Canada. All teams vie for a birth in the Super Y-League North American Finals, where over 130 of the best youth soccer teams in the United States and Canada face off over a five day tournament in Florida.

In 2008 13 British Columbia-based teams reached the championship finals in Florida. BC highlights included the Mountain WFC U16 boys winning the North American Championship and a total of 13 players being selected as tournament all stars.

More information including player evaluations and other major announcements will be coming soon.

