

Dear EYSA Family ---

Fall soccer registration begins on April 1st, and we'd like to update [our members](#) on the developments within EYSA aimed to improve your child's soccer experience.



What's New

Beginning in the summer of 2014, we kicked off the "EYSA Futures" project with the goal of delivering more value to EYSA families. The focus of EYSA Futures is one of "Players First." It's all about creating a better EYSA that can deliver the best soccer experience to all players, no matter their level of play. The initial roll-out of the Futures program includes:

- **New EYSA website and logo!** Visit EYSA.org to find helpful information and resources for players, parents and coaches such as the interactive [player pathways](#) graphic.
- Renewed emphasis on **recreational programming**. We're in the process of bringing on a new EYSA Director of Coaching, whose primary focus will be to better educate our U8-U18 recreational players, coaches and parents to ensure that player development is a constant at all levels!
- Beginning this summer, EYSA will offer a new single-weekend "**jamboree**" for all U8-U11 EYSA teams to kick off the Fall season. In addition, EYSA will offer a new Recreational Cup at the end of the Fall season for all U8-U10 teams. Teams U11 and older will continue to have **post-season tournament** options through [Washington Youth Soccer](#).

What's the Same

EYSA has for years offered a variety of programs and services, and we're working hard to improve our communications to help educate families on all that is available as a member of EYSA:

- **EYSA Curriculum:** We've developed an EYSA Curriculum to improve player/coach teaching methodology based on the [Ajax system](#), one of the premier European professional clubs. This curriculum is gradually rolling out to all players and coaches at all levels.
- **Junior RCLs:** Delivered by our Association Regional Club, Eastside FC, the [RCL Juniors](#) program has been offered for the past few years in both the Fall and Spring, and allows some of our younger players (regardless of club affiliation) the chance to experience a more competitive level of play. Starting in the Spring of 2016, we will offer a "local" Club version of the program in the spring season only (so players won't have to travel to Preston for practices) to complement the current local club fall Recreation programs.
- **EYSA/Eastside FC College Advisory Program:** For players who aspire to take their game all the way to the college level, we have a robust [College Advisory Program](#). In the last few years alone, participants in this program have gone on to play at such schools as Stanford, Harvard, MIT, Brown, Dartmouth, Tufts, Princeton, Cornell and the University of Washington.

What's on the Way

Based on feedback from you, we're developing projects to further improve EYSA programming. Here's a selection of some of the projects --- please let us know if there are others that we should zero in on too:

- **Organizational and Financial Efficiencies:** EYSA is working to provide more value at the same costs, more fields and field availability, and better equipment and uniforms.
- **EYSA Scholarships:** Our collective mission is to make soccer available to all, but there are still children in our community who can't afford to play. By pooling our efforts, we hope to get more kids on the pitch.
- **Partnerships:** There are some other prominent organizations offering youth soccer to the Eastside community such as the Boys & Girls Club, Jubilee Reach and Arena Sports, just to name a few. We are creating a more seamless soccer experience to allow all of these organizations to better utilize resources.
- **Camps and Clinics:** Some families are only looking to play soccer in the fall, while others can't get enough of it. We aim to increase the camps and clinics offered throughout the year, especially during key downtime periods such as mid-winter break and summer.

What this Means to You

So what's the best way to summarize the value that your kids get by playing soccer with your local EYSA club (Bellevue Youth Soccer Club, Issaquah Soccer Club, Lake Hills Soccer Club, Mercer Island Football Club, Newport Youth Soccer and Eastside FC) within the Washington Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer system? As a member of EYSA, your soccer players are a part of an organization that is...

- **Child-centric:** We are 100% focused on the children; making sure there are great opportunities for every player, whether they're playing on locally based recreational and select teams, or playing in statewide, regional, and national competition with Eastside FC.
- **Community Oriented:** Whenever possible, we focus on locally based teams with minimal travel to games and practices.
- **Safe:** National Background Checks, Player Insurance, Concussion Education and more all focus on keeping your children safe.
- **Established:** Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth sports organization in Washington and some of our EYSA clubs have been around for over 50 years.
- **Building Life Skills:** The EYSA system will help your child develop at every level, both on the field and off!

EYSA Futures Update Letter

- Fun: At the end of the day, soccer is a game that is fun to play with friends. We nurture this every chance we get.

Thanks for being part of the EYSA Soccer Family!