

VCCL Expands To Northern Virginia

News Release

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VCCL Expands by Eight Clubs Forming a Northern Virginia Division

Richmond, VA (April 1, 2011) – The Virginia Club Champions League (VCCL) Board of Directors is proud to announce that eight new clubs will be joining the league in the fall of 2011.

Current VCCL club members, Beach FC, FC Richmond, Richmond Strikers, Richmond Kickers, Roanoke Star, SOCA (Charlottesville), Virginia Legacy (Williamsburg), and Virginia Rush (Virginia Beach) serve players from central and southeastern Virginia.

Joining VCCL as members of VCCL North are eight clubs from Northern Virginia: Annandale Boys & Girls Club, Arlington Soccer Association, Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC), Fredericksburg Area Soccer Association (FASA), Great Falls Soccer Club, Loudoun Youth Soccer Association, Prince William Soccer Inc. (PWSI), and Southwestern Youth Association (SYA).

VCCL, a member of the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA), was founded in 1997 as one of a small number of soccer leagues in the country based on the philosophy that the player is a member of the club as well as a member of the team and that successful clubs develop players and teams from within rather than through recruitment.

“As president of VCCL it is very gratifying that the expansion into Northern Virginia has come to fruition. It is rewarding to those of us in the league who have worked to this end for a number of years. We believe that this growth is for the good of our clubs and especially our players as it will present new challenges and provide better competition for all,” said VCCL President Dave Amsler.

VCCL is the only soccer league in VYSA governed and administered by a Board of Directors whose members are either directors of coaching or technical directors in the sport. Each club has one member on the Board of Directors.

VCCL is arguably the only league in the country with club-to-club scheduling where all teams from the same club play on the same day at the same location against another member club. This unique scheduling model benefits all members of the club:

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Club Management and Development: Professional staff can observe and evaluate players and coaches to improve management and training.

Coaching Development: Coaches can work with more than one team as co-coach, assistant coach, or mentor to “coaches in training” as well as observe other coaches in the club.

Player Development: Players can expand their ability to work with different coaches – a valuable asset when playing high school, college and beyond. Players can observe and evaluate other teams in the club.

Parents and Siblings: The league is family oriented. Parents can easily arrange carpools. Families can watch more than one child play on a single play date.

VCCL was the first league in VYSA to use a club pass system that allows any age-appropriate player in a club to guest play with a team from the same club in VCCL league games. VCCL also championed the development of the Provisional Roster which allows players on other club rosters to play for a team in league play only without officially transferring to that team.

VCCL and its member club, Virginia Legacy, host the College Showcase held at the end of the fall season in Williamsburg. The Showcase is limited in size to VCCL clubs and a select group of other teams and attracts over 80 college coaches annually.

The VCCL model -- professionally managed clubs developing players from within -- represents a different cultural environment from traditional board-managed, team-centered programs. VCCL is encouraged that new national player development programs are based on the same model. Expansion to Northern Virginia with other clubs who embrace the VCCL model affords more players in Virginia the opportunity to benefit from this format.

“We are proud to become charter members of this new division of VCCL,” said Grant Smith, Boys Director of Coaching, Arlington Soccer Association. “It will bring to Northern Virginia a much-needed player-centered club development model of league play. We are excited to be a part of this evolution in youth soccer, and the members of our club will reap the benefits of the VCCL structure and its philosophies.”

To allow for a smooth transition and time for each club to meet VCCL standards, VCCL North clubs will enter their top teams in the rising U11-U14 boys and girls age groups beginning in the Fall of 2011. Every year thereafter each club will add new rising U11 teams until VCCL North includes all age groups through U11- U19.

VCCL clubs will informally schedule cross-over games with VCCL North during the 2011-2012 seasonal year. Cross-over games and division play-off games will be integrated into the master schedule beginning with the fall of 2012.

VCCL North has also elected to provide a U9 and a U10 division for those clubs who wish to participate. Scores and standings will not be collected for these two age groups, and coaches will be free to use the players from both teams at any time for games.