

NEWS RELEASE

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ASL KICKS OFF IN BETHESDA Girls Weekend to Showcase 90 Teams

[Atlantic Soccer League Web site](#) | [US Club Soccer Web site](#)

Bethesda, MD (November 10, 2011) – The Atlantic Soccer League has shown tremendous growth since its inception in 2010 and has expanded from 56 boys teams to 190 boys and girls teams for year 2. The excitement from the addition of top clubs and an upgraded event schedule has created a buzz throughout the East Coast soccer community. Players, coaches and club directors will embark on Bethesda, Maryland this weekend for the ASL Girls opening event and promise to leave their mark on this prestigious youth soccer competition.

The ASL is especially excited to partner with Bethesda Soccer Club and be a part of one of the top ranked tournaments in the country. "The addition of the Bethesda event further enhances the ASL as a league that provides top competition at the best facilities with tremendous exposure for the players." Says Commissioner Kevin Darcy. Bethesda has opened up their arms to accommodate the ASL and provided the Maryland Soccerplex for all of its matches. "You can't ask for more than to play at the Soccerplex, which is regarded as one of the top soccer specific facilities in the country. We appreciate Bethesda's hospitality and are proud to offer this top notch environment for the ASL players."

The weekend's action kicks off at 1:00 Friday afternoon and continues through Sunday with the ASL teams playing 1 match a day against divisional opponents from ASL1 or ASL2's tiered system. "The league is excited to introduce the new divisional structure with promotion and relegation and will help to provide the appropriate competition level and match-ups for our member teams." Says President Dewan Bader. "Looking ahead at ASL in the future we want to make sure that the structure of the league promotes competition and will provide the most competitive/balanced matches to enhance player development and exposure. There will be growing pains in the process of implementing the structure but we are confident overtime that this will serve our member clubs and players well."

The opening weekend for the ASL Boys teams will take place next weekend back in Maryland as part of the Bethesda Showcase as well.

US Club Soccer provides sanctioning for the Atlantic Soccer League (ASL), a second year league for U-14 through U-18 boys and girls clubs.

The inaugural ASL member clubs returning for year 2:

Beach FC (Va.)
Bethesda SC (Md.)
Charlotte United FC (N.C.)
Chesterfield United FC (Va.)
FC Frederick (Md.)
Freestate Soccer Alliance (Md.)
Lower Dauphin United (Pa.)

New York Elite (N.Y.)
Prince William Soccer, Inc. (Va.)
Soccer Association of Columbia (Md.)
South Jersey Elite Barons (N.J.)
Triangle FC (N.C.)
Yardley Makefield Soccer (Pa.)

The ASL welcomes new member clubs for the 2011-12 seasons:

Baltimore Bays (Md.), Cobb FC (Ga.), DC Stoddert (DC), Hockessin SC (De.), Jersey United (N.J.),
Lake Norman Eclipse (N.C.), Match Fit Academy Chelsea (N.J.), Montgomery United (Pa.),
PA Classics (Pa.), Roanoke Star (Va.), SOCA (Va.)

The league has scheduled three major events throughout the fall, winter and spring and will culminate in a season-ending championship tournament. The 2011 season will kick off at the Bethesda Thanksgiving Showcase in late November in Maryland, followed by the Triangle Friendlies event weekend in Fayetteville, NC. The Richmond Strikers will again play host to ASL teams in the prestigious Jefferson Cup Tournament to finish the regular season and SAC will host the ASL Championships, on Memorial Day weekend in Columbia, Md.

For additional information on the Atlantic Soccer League, clubs are encouraged to view the league Web site at www.aslsoccer.net. Specific questions on the league and the application process should be sent to ASL commissioner Kevin Darcy at info@aslsoccer.net.

About the Atlantic Soccer League:

Mission Statement

To provide top level clubs in the East Coast region a high quality league (boys & girls) in a showcase format that has significant games, limits expenses, and provides a platform for collegiate recruiting. In addition, ASL will create a scouting program to identify the top players and will promote those players through the league website and the regional and national media.

www.aslsoccer.net

About US Club Soccer:

US Club Soccer is a non-profit organization whose mission is to develop competitive club soccer in the United States. A member of the United States Soccer Federation since July 2001, US Club Soccer has grown to include member clubs and leagues in all 50 states. In addition to sanctioning and administering tournaments, leagues and other competitions as well as offering a range of programs for its members, US Club Soccer annually conducts the *National Cup*. US Club Soccer also directs its own player identification and development program – *id²*.

<http://www.usclubsoccer.org>

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