Michigan State Youth Soccer Association
Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MSYSA Launches Director's Academy to Expand the Development of Players, Coaches and Competition in Michigan

Plymouth, Michigan (January 4, 2013) – MSYSA is pleased to continue its excellence in leading, educating, and serving the soccer community by developing and establishing a Director's Academy within the State of Michigan. The MSYSA Director's Academy will improve the development environment for players and coaches throughout Michigan. The MSYSA Director's Academy will feature elite youth clubs from around the State to compete, train, and develop a new generation of players.

Each Director's Academy Club will serve as a focal point on developing and educating players in each club's home community. An advantage to clubs who participate in the Director's Academy is a club will receive coaching education experience and opportunities with MSYSA's Coaching Education Director of Coaching, Bryan Thorp and other MSYSA Key Coaching Education Staff. In turn, the Director's Academy will provide an improved education experience and development experience to all players and coaches.

The Director's Academy will be open to Boys and Girls teams in the Under 11 (9 v 9 format) and Under 12 (11 v 11 format) age groups. Teams and clubs wishing to participate in the Director's Academy can visit www.michiganyouthsoccer.org to download the Director's Academy Application and submit it to the MSYSA State Office on or before May 10, 2013.

Those clubs selected to participate in the Director's Academy must prepare a training program that will increase the amount of time spent on meaningful training while also increasing the quality of their matches. This concept will continue the emphasis on creating a superior everyday training environment in the Director's Academy.

Director's Academy clubs will be selected through review of a detailed application that includes team history, player development history, coaching education history and other club history. This comprehensive approach will ensure that the most elite teams and clubs are considered for taking their team and club to a new level of development.

Director's Academy Objective: The Director's Academy is a statewide program of the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association for teams who aspire to play at the highest level in US Youth Soccer (National League and/or Midwest Regional League). The Director's Academy focuses on player development through coaching education and roster flexibility. MSYSA will only consider those teams who participate in the MSYSA Director's Academy for endorsement to the Midwest Regional League (MRL) as a U13 team in the Fall of 2014.

Director's Academy Standards: All clubs with at least one team accepted into the Director's Academy must provide 12 weeks of training session plans per team, as followed:

- Four weeks of FALL training session plans
- Four weeks of WINTER training session plans
    - Winter training sessions must involve small sided programming (3v3, 4v4, 5v5, or 6v6)
- Four weeks of SPRING training session plans

Director's Academy Age Groups: The Director's Academy will be open to Boys and Girls teams in the Under 11 (9 v 9 format) and Under 12 (11 v 11 format) age groups.

Director's Academy Competition Format: The Director's Academy shall consist of sixteen teams in each age/gender group. All sixteen teams within the same age/gender group will be placed in the same division. Games will be played in a "round robin" format. All teams will have a 10 month season to complete the required amount of games, training, and coaching education requirements.

About Michigan State Youth Soccer Association
The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (MSYSA) is a nonprofit organization that represents over 89,000+ youth soccer players, 12,000+ coaches, and 8,000+ referees throughout Michigan. MSYSA consists of a vast number of leagues that register players (boys and

girls) from ages 4 through 19 throughout the state. MSYSA is a member of the United States Youth Soccer Association and the United States Soccer Federation. For more information on MSYSA, visit www.michiganyouthsoccer.org.

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