



# **McLean Youth Soccer Townhall**

**Feb '25**

# Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Youth Soccer Landscape
- MYS Identity and Strategic Initiatives
- Player Development Pyramid & Leagues
- Girls Development Pathway
  - New Leagues and Development Opportunities
  - ID Sessions, Coaching Slate and Selection Philosophy
- Boys Development Pathway
  - New Leagues and Development Opportunities
  - ID Sessions, Coaching Slate and Selection Philosophy
- Program Standards, Philosophy and Style of Play



# **Welcome and Introductions**

# Youth Soccer Landscape



**Publix VIRGINIA STATE CUP**

PRESENTED BY

**JOIN THE COMPETITION!**

A collection of 25 youth soccer club logos, including Arlington Soccer, Barca FC, BRYC, Burke A, Chesapeake United, Dinos, FC Richmond, Great Falls Repton, Herndon, LVA, McLean, Northern Virginia, Real World, SFC, Stafford, SU, Timonium, VASA, VA United FC, Valor, and Virginia.

**OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 24/25 PATHWAY**

**STATE TEAM USYS** → **WEST** **SOUTH** **MIDWEST** **EAST** → **ODP INTERREGIONAL** → **NATIONAL USYS**

**SUMMER ID EVENTS JULY 2024**

**SPRING 2025**

**2007's: SPAIN**  
**2008's: ITALY**  
**2009's: ENGLAND**  
**2010's: COSTA RICA**

**SPRING 2025**

**EASTERN INTERNATIONAL CUP**  
**RAVADOS**

**2011's: ORLANDO**  
**2012's: ORLANDO**

★ **INVITED TO NEXT LEVEL** ★

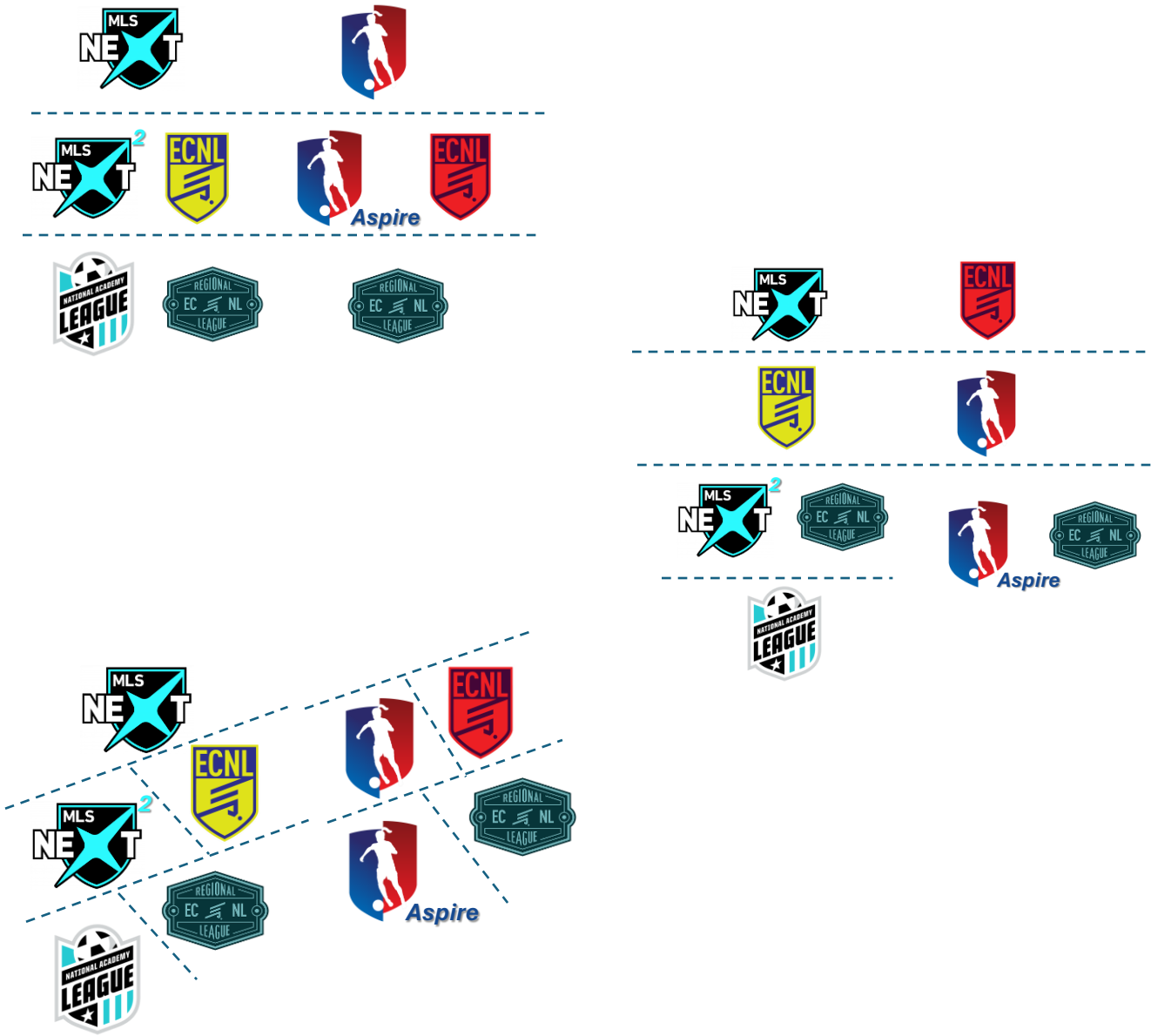


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# Youth Soccer Landscape



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# Youth Soccer Landscape

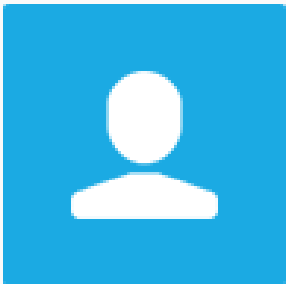


**TheFalseNine**  
Moderator

May 4, 2022

Can anyone recommend an article that summarizes the current status of the youth soccer pyramid/pathway in the US? I'm really confused.

#1



**TheKraken**  
Member

May 4, 2022

If there is a definitive article for that, the author should get a Nobel prize.

#2

# MYS Identity & Strategic Direction



- In Oct and Nov MYS leadership came together to revisit our identity and re-imagine the Club's next chapter
- MYS leadership held a series of working sessions to envision where MYS should be over the next 3-years
- Leadership were able to build shared consciousness, discover areas of strength and opportunities, and articulate a number of strategic initiatives and key metrics





# MYS Strategic Initiatives



## Player Development

*Become a top destination for college development and beyond*

## Coach & Volunteer Development

*Attract and maintain top level coaching and groom tomorrow's elite coaches*

## Organizational Effectiveness

*Mature our club operations and enable a positive and inclusive culture*

## Facilities

*Establish a new MYS Home with new program offerings and enhanced facilities*

## Advancement & Community Engagement

*Enhanced membership awareness, involvement, growth and investment opportunities*

## Club Performance & Impact

*Improve the performance of the club using a holistic approach focusing on both the sporting and organizational aspects of the club*



# Strategic Initiative – Facilities



## *New Indoor Training Facility*

McLean Youth Soccer is excited to embark on a board approved, transformative project to develop a state-of-the-art indoor facility that will serve as a hub for athletic excellence, academic growth, and community engagement. This facility will exemplify our commitment to innovation and excellence, providing a year-round space for our players to thrive. This new indoor facility is targeted over the next two years and looks to include:

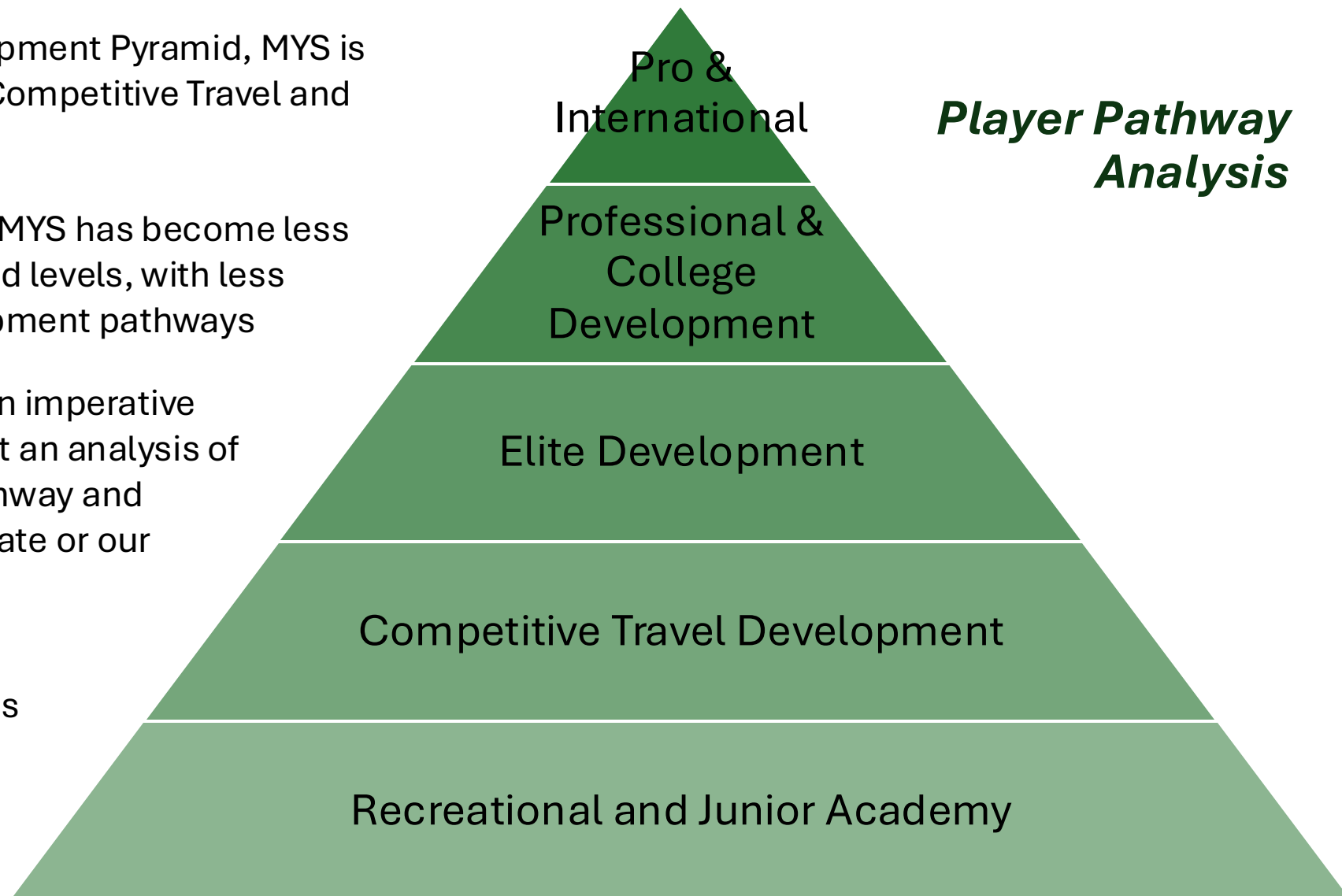


- **Sports Performance Training** – *The facility will feature cutting-edge equipment and expert-led training programs to enhance athletic performance, injury prevention, and physical development... this will include more formally pulling-in our existing partnerships with strength and conditioning, as well as physical therapy specialists.*
- **Multiple Academic Components** – *Recognizing the importance of holistic development, the facility will offer programs designed to balance athletic and educational goals... as well as classrooms and meetings spaces.*
- **Indoor Training Field** – *A high-quality indoor training field will provide players with a consistent, weatherproof space to develop their skills, ensuring uninterrupted training throughout the year.*

# Strategic Initiative – Player Development



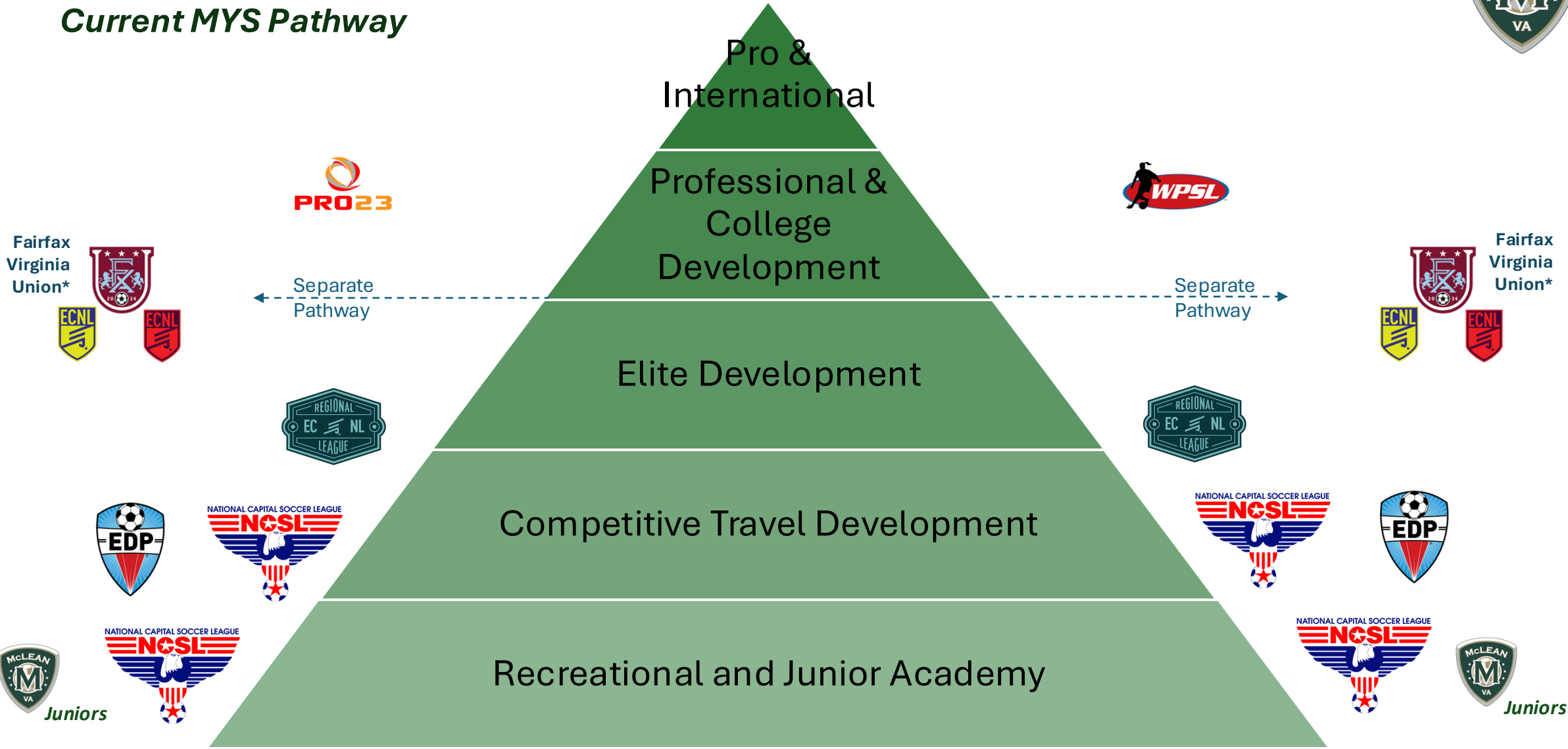
- If we look at the MYS Development Pyramid, MYS is currently very stable at the Competitive Travel and Recreational levels
- However, over the past year MYS has become less stable at the Elite and beyond levels, with less control of our player development pathways
- Given recent changes, it is an imperative that MYS leadership conduct an analysis of our player development pathway and understand the current climate or our membership
- Evaluating how the different regional and national leagues complement our pathway needs to become a cyclic exercise



# Strategic Initiative – Player Development



## Current MYS Pathway



Boys

Girls

*\*FVU is a separate non-profit entity, partially owned by Vienna, BRYC, and MYS soccer associations*

# Strategic Initiative – Player Development



*Future MYS Pathway*

Pro &  
International



Professional &  
College  
Development



Elite Development



*Aspire*

Competitive Travel Development



Recreational and Junior Academy



*Juniors*



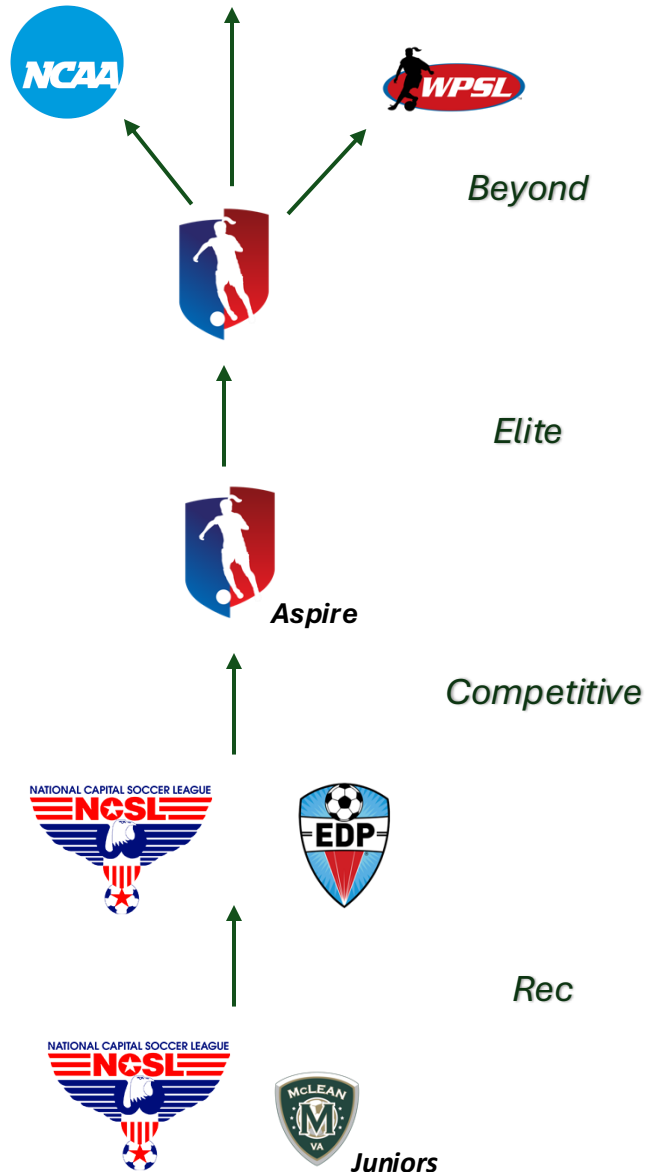
*Juniors*

**Boys**

**Girls**



# Girls Development Pathway & Opportunities



- Background and the shift to Girls Academy (GA)
- Thoughts from the GA Commissioner, Trish Hughes
- MYS Green teams playing in GA Aspire
- Development and Exposure Opportunities



# Girls Elite ID Sessions & Coaching Slate



## ***2007/08 & 2009 ID Sessions***

**Session I:** Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 7:35-9:00pm

**2007/08 Coach:** TBD

**Session II:** Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 7:35-9:00pm

**2009 Coach:** Ryan Austin

**Session III:** Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Lewinsville Park, 3:30-5:00pm

## ***2010 & 2011 ID Sessions***

**Session I:** Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 6:10-7:35pm

**2010 Coach:** TBD

**Session II:** Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 6:10-7:35pm

**2011 Coach:** Farzad Mahmoudpour

**Session III:** Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Lewinsville Park, 1:45-3:15pm

## ***2012 & 2013 ID Sessions***

**Session I:** Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 4:45-6:10pm

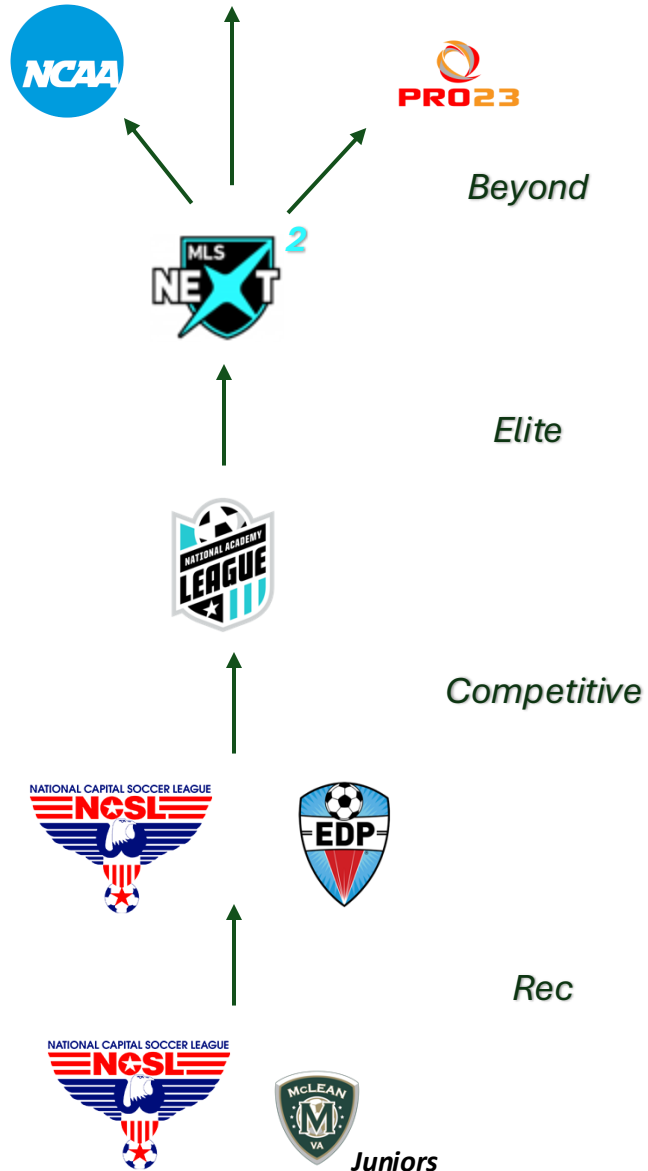
**2012 Coach:** Farzad Mahmoudpour

**Session II:** Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 4:45-6:10pm

**2013 Coach:** Michael Newhall

**Session III:** Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Lewinsville Park, 4:45-6:10pm

# Boys Development Pathway, ID Sessions & Coaching



- Background and the shift to the MLS Next Platform
- Thoughts from Luis Robles, MLS Next Tech Director
- MYS Green teams playing in National Academy League
- Development and Exposure Opportunities



# Boys Elite ID Sessions & Coaching Slate

## *2007/08 & 2009 ID Sessions*

**Session I:** Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 8:10-9:20pm

**2007/08 Coach:** John Harkes

**Session II:** Mar 6<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 8:10-9:20pm

**2009 Coach:** Alex Pinto

**Session III:** Mar 10<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 8:10-9:20pm

## *2010 & 2011 ID Sessions*

**Session I:** Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 6:50-8:00pm

**2010 Coach:** Cristian Michel

**Session II:** Mar 6<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 6:50-8:00pm

**2011 Coach:** Micah Cooks

**Session III:** Mar 10<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 6:50-8:00pm

## *2012 & 2013 ID Sessions*

**Session I:** Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 5:30-6:40pm

**2012 Coach:** Kevin Panameno

**Session II:** Mar 6<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 5:30-6:40pm

**2013 Coach:** Omid Namazi

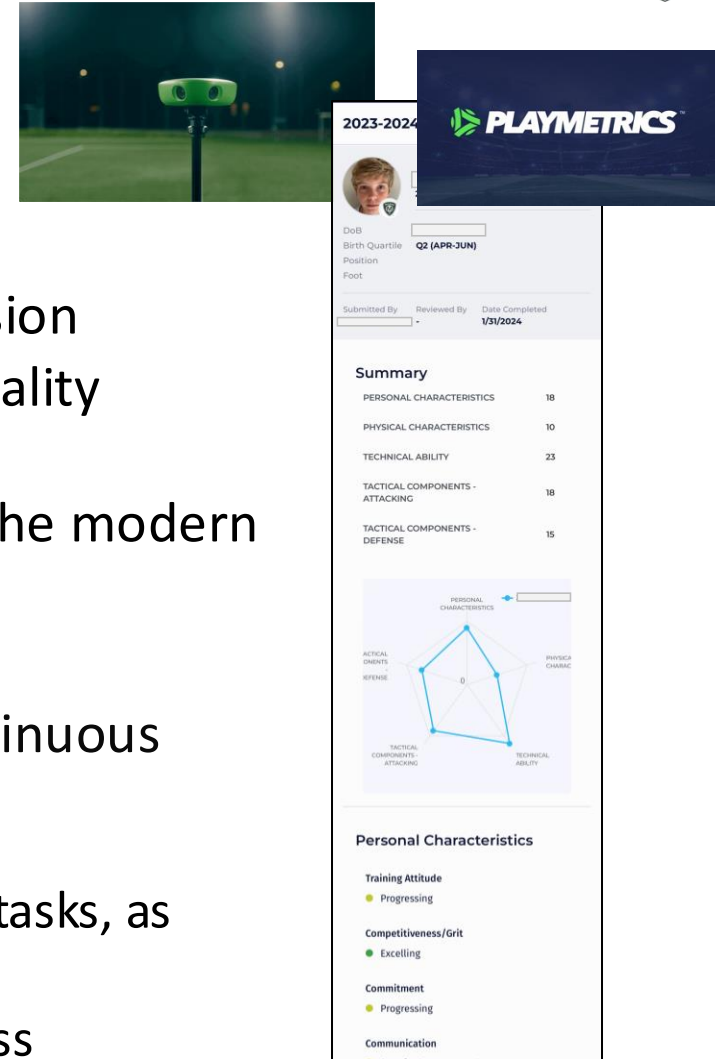
**Session III:** Mar 10<sup>th</sup> Lewinsville Park, 5:30-6:40pm



# Program Standards, Philosophy and Style of Play



- The MYS Training Philosophy is based on the decision that playing an attractive, attacking way, will produce the highest percentage of skillful, thoughtful players.
- Style of play will be skillful, creative, age-appropriate, and possession oriented. Defensively we will press and exhibit a win it back mentality
- Coaches will be motivators, understand the physical demands of the modern game, and be able to read the “details” in the match.
- Leverage tools within the club to apply McLean’s process for continuous development (***Assess, Teach & Train, Execute & Adapt, and Observe***).
- Playmetrics – schedules, training plans, performance goals and tasks, as well as Individual Development Plans (IDPs)
- VEO – video feeds to support game analysis and training progress
- MYS Coaching Portal – teaching/education information for coaches



# Notes from our FAQs on MLS Next and GA at MYS



## **1. How will this transition affect current FVU ECNL players?**

Current FVU ECNL players are invited to register for the ID Sessions and will have the opportunity to integrate into our new GA and MLS Next II teams. We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and will provide detailed information on ID Sessions, team placements, and training schedules in the coming weeks.

## **2. What does this mean for players currently in the ECNL Regional (ECNL-R) program?**

Our MYS ECNL-R players will continue to receive high-level training and competition opportunities. With the transition, our boys' second-tier teams will participate in the National Academy League (NAL) and our girls' second tier teams will participate in GA Aspire. These platforms are designed to offer competitive matches and development opportunities tailored to player needs.

## **3. Will there be changes to coaching staff or training facilities?**

We anticipate retaining our current MYS coaching staff to maintain continuity and uphold our training standards. However, we acknowledge that some MYS coaches may choose to remain with the ECNL program. John Harkes and the MYS technical staff are committed to retaining and recruiting the best coaching talent and we are prepared to address any staffing changes to ensure our players continue to receive high-quality coaching. All training sessions will continue to be held on McLean-permitted fields.

## **4. How will this impact player exposure to college recruiters?**

MLS Next and GA are highly regarded by college recruiters, and this move aims to enhance exposure and development opportunities for players

## **5. What travel commitments will be required?**

Travel expectations for MLS Next II and GA teams will be similar to ECNL, with some adjustments based on the new league schedules and competition formats.

## **6. How does this affect the MYS program structure?**

This transition marks a significant step forward for our Club as we establish an independent MYS led program within the Girls Academy and MLS Next II frameworks. Unlike our previous collaboration with Fairfax Virginia Union (FVU) in the ECNL, this new structure is solely managed by MYS, ensuring a unified approach to player development, coaching, and club operations.