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Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Supports World Cup Bid

MILWAUKEE (December 1, 2009) – At the recent meeting of its board of directors, the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) pledged financial support of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) bid to host the FIFA World Cup™ in either 2018 or 2022. A total commitment of \$51,914 representing \$1 per player registered with WYSA for the 2008-2009 season was unanimously approved by the board representing youth soccer clubs from around the state. The first of two checks in the amount of \$25,957 was sent to USA Bid Committee last week. The second payment on the pledge will be made in October 2010.

“The importance of support from the entire soccer community is essential given the amount of resources required in bidding to host such a prestigious international sports event. The competition against the USA is stiff, with the government of Australia announcing support of their country’s bid in the amount of \$38M.” states WYSA President Peter Mariahazy. “History has shown that bringing the FIFA World Cup™ back to America will increase the awareness, interest and passion for soccer.”

USSF affiliated organizations, including US Youth Soccer and their 55 state associations have been asked to help bring the World Cup back to the United States. Wisconsin Youth Soccer joins other US Youth Soccer affiliated state associations including Cal South and North Texas Soccer in support of the bid effort.

A grassroots effort is underway to seek individual supporters of the bid. More information on supporting the effort may be found at www.gousabid.com.

In addition to Australia, other countries in contention to host either the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup™ are Belgium/Netherlands, England, Indonesia, Japan, Korea Republic (2022 only), Qatar (2022 only), Russia, and Spain/Portugal.

Announcement of the selected host countries is expected in December 2010.

The Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association is a member of the US Youth Soccer Association, the largest youth sports association in the country. The Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association oversees registration and league play of 52,000 players annually and is the largest youth soccer organization in Wisconsin. Players register through over 130 member clubs assigned to one of 12 geographic districts throughout Wisconsin.