



Greater Renton Jr. Soccer Association

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New Local Youth Soccer Club Announced for Advanced Players Top-Licensed Local Professional Player to Direct Competitive Program

While Greater Renton area youth soccer clubs have traditionally fielded quality recreational and club select teams, many of the area's best players typically looked elsewhere to play at the highest levels of competition. That has all changed with the announcement of the new Greater Renton Football Club.

The newly formed premier club is part of the Greater Renton Junior Soccer Association (GRJSA), which serves the communities of Issaquah, Newcastle, Renton, Tukwila, Cascade and Skyway. Nearly 2,000 players were registered within the GRJSA last year, and that number is expected to continue to grow for the foreseeable future. The new premier club will fulfill GRJSA's mission to provide appropriate levels of competition and a quality soccer experience for all local youth.

Leighton O'Brien, Seattle Sounders Captain and star Midfielder, has agreed to serve as the new club's Director of Coaching. O'Brien has extensive soccer experience, playing in Major League Soccer and in Europe as well as coaching youth soccer for the past eight years. He currently holds his USSF "A" coaching license – the highest level offered nationally. O'Brien brings with him an enthusiasm for youth soccer as well as the energy and desire to develop a quality premier soccer organization.

"We have wanted to provide a premier program for the kids in this area for a long time," said Todd Johnson, GRJSA Vice President of Development. "They deserve the same opportunity as other Puget Sound communities. Now they don't have to go elsewhere to play high level soccer."

"Top select teams from GRJSA's clubs have been invited to form the foundation of the new club," Johnson said. Try-outs will start in March for both boys and girls teams serving ages from U-11 to U-18. The season runs year-round for teams competing at the premier level.

GRFC will host open training sessions in late February, with team try-outs starting in early March

For more information, visit www.grjsa.org. Todd Johnson can be reached at 425-765-4468 cell, or email at Obogeyz@comcast.net.