



## NEWS RELEASE

February 21, 2025

### CONTACT::

Maurice Hughes, Technical Director, NVA  
maurice.hughes@nvasoccer.com

John O'Hara, Technical Director, Loudoun Soccer Club  
johara@loudounsoccer.com

### **Northern Virginia Alliance, Loudoun Soccer Club Partner with MLS NEXT** *League Affiliation Opens New Pathways for Clubs' Elite Male Players*

**Leesburg, VA – February 21, 2025** – In a significant move for youth soccer development in Northern Virginia, the Northern Virginia Alliance (NVA) and Alliance partner, Loudoun Soccer Club (LSC), are excited to announce their affiliation with MLS NEXT beginning in the 2025-26 season. This partnership will provide elite male players from both clubs with new opportunities to grow and showcase their talents within one of the nation's premier youth soccer leagues.

MLS NEXT, the nation's leading youth development league, offers top players a high level of competition, while fostering development and creating clear pathways to professional soccer. In focusing specifically on player development, MLS NEXT aligns with the values of both NVA and LSC, allowing players to compete against top-tier teams across the country, while also preparing them for the next stages of their soccer careers, whether that be college recruitment or even professional opportunities.

NVA boys teams will join MLS NEXT, the top tier of the MLS NEXT pathway. Loudoun Soccer's top boys teams will join MLS NEXT 2, the league's second highest level of competition

In joining the MLS NEXT league, NVA and LSC are positioning their athletes for greater success by exposing them to an elite competitive environment, connecting them with scouts, college programs, and professional opportunities. This partnership marks a significant milestone for youth soccer in the region, emphasizing the clubs' commitment to providing top-level development for players both on and off the field.

The 2025-26 season will mark the beginning of this exciting new chapter for Northern Virginia youth soccer. The combination of NVA's and LSC's strong history of developing elite talent, alongside the national reach, resources, and profile provided by MLS NEXT, will undoubtedly elevate youth soccer in the region while providing unparalleled opportunities for players to achieve their dreams in the sport.

“Joining the top tier of boys player development in the country marks a significant milestone for NVA, and we are honored to represent Northern Virginia and the DMV in Tier 1 of MLS NEXT. This opportunity allows us to uphold the league’s high technical standards while furthering our commitment to providing accelerated development pathways for our players.”

"Joining MLS NEXT 2 is a critical next step for the growth of Loudoun Soccer Club," said John O'Hara, Loudoun Soccer Club Technical Director. "We continue to look at pathways for our players, and MLS NEXT provides those opportunities. We are truly excited to be joining the league. Loudoun County is now home to the top tier of soccer in the country."

##

**About Loudoun Soccer Club:** Serving youth soccer players and parents throughout Northern Virginia since 1978, Loudoun Soccer is Virginia’s largest soccer program with over 16,000 soccer registrations annually, nearly 2,000 coaches, over 30 soccer-related programs and countless community outreach programs. Loudoun Soccer is dedicated to partnering with local government and communities to provide programs, facilities, resources and expertise to make soccer fun, safe and accessible to all players regardless of gender, social and economic background, or playing ability between the ages of 3 to 19 years.

**About Northern Virginia Alliance (NVA):**

Currently celebrating its second season, the Northern Virginia Alliance represents the preeminent elite soccer program in Northern Virginia. The twelve Alliance teams (six Boys and six Girls) have enjoyed great success in their Fall 2024 season, and are already looking ahead to Spring 2025 recruiting events, with multiple players already signed on for college play in 2025 and beyond.