



Cullina to Depart, Hired to be US Club Soccer CEO

For Immediate Release - Woodbridge, VA

It is with both happiness and sadness that we announce the departure of Mike Cullina, Prince William Soccer (PWSI) & Virginia Development Academy (VDA) Executive Director, in June 2021. Mike has accepted the position of CEO of US Club Soccer and will continue to make an impact on youth soccer nationwide. Mike has been a driving force in PWSI, VDA, and throughout the soccer community locally and nationally.



Over the last 8 years Mike has had an enormous influence on every program. Coming to PWSI in the summer of 2013 as the Boys Director of Coaching and coach he made an immediate impact on the culture and process for the Boys Program. Mike carried that over when he was named Technical Director in March 2014. As the Technical Director his role in bringing first the Boys Development Academy to PWSI and work to develop a partnership with VSA that we now know as VDA was second to none. That partnership now includes the Boys ECNL and Girls ECNL through a collaborative effort that few club partnerships have ever attained. Mike's ability to work with others, think outside of the box, and listen to input made him the natural choice to take over for long time Executive Director Mike Yeatts in the Summer of 2016. Since 2016 he has expanded the reach of PWSI and VDA, developed programs for coaching education, focused the programs on player development being named one of the original Player 1st Licensed clubs, expanded our league opportunities through the ECNL, Virginia Premier Soccer League and ECNL Regional League, and focused on the growth of not just the coaching staff but administration staff as well. Mike's impact is not limited to the programs and staff, he has coached teams on both the boys and girls side in PWSI and VDA. Mike is someone that his former players choose to stay connected. His immense influence on his players teaching not just soccer, but life lessons, will last them a lifetime.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have led such an amazing organization over the last 8 years," said Cullina of his time with PWSI and VDA. "I am especially thankful for the support of the board and entire staff as well as our partnership with VSA to help provide levels of competition for children at all levels of the game. My children grew up in PWSI and VDA and it will always be a special part of our family. I leave PWSI and VDA knowing full well that the opportunity in front of me is due to the people I have had the privilege of working with and the children I have been blessed to coach."

Tim Hurley, PWSI & VDA Board President said of Cullina "Mike Cullina has been instrumental in the growth and success of PWSI and VDA over the last 8 years and has executed with a level of



perspective and professionalism that demonstrate the positive potential within the soccer landscape of the United States. Mike's leadership in roles including coach, mentor, teacher, director and friend have been realized by so many within our Club and beyond with impacts that are manifest at both the organizational level and as importantly, at the personal level. It is with confidence that I speak for our Board of Directors, Staff, Membership, and Players, as well as those of our partners, in offering our gratitude for Mike's dedication and service. This evolution within our organization provides a level of excitement and opportunity as we look forward to building on the foundation Mike has established. We are truly proud of Mike and while it is with a heavy heart, I offer my congratulations and wish him nothing but the best in his new role as US Club Soccer's CEO.”

“On behalf of the VDA staff, players and parents, I would like to wish Mike the best of luck in his new role, one that he thoroughly deserves. On a personal level due to our combined vision, hard work, and sacrifices to create VDA our daily lives have become heavily connected as work colleagues and eventually friends. Mike can be very proud of what he has helped build at VDA. Without his leadership and skill set we would not have been able to achieve what we have on a regional and national level. I will personally cherish the journey we have been on together to create VDA and will have lasting memories of all the good and challenging times we shared. The best compliment I can give is that VDA will continue to succeed due to the foundations and relationships that Mike built to help create a sustainable future for the club. We (I) will miss Mike but we understand he is going on to great things and we look forward to seeing his continued success” Matt Lacey - VDA Co-Founder and Technical Director

We want to thank Mike for his years of service to PWSI, VDA, and the soccer community. Mike's leadership and legacy will be felt here for years to come and we wish him luck with US Club Soccer.

We will be releasing PWSI and VDA transition plans over the next few days.

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About VDA - Virginia Development Academy is the summit of the elite player pathway for Prince William Soccer and Virginia Soccer Association. Formed in 2015, the collaborative partnership represents more than 8,000 players and participates in the Boys and Girls ECNL.

About PWSI - PWSI is a youth soccer organization that serves Eastern Prince William County, VA. The club is a 501(c)3 non-profit that caters to 5,000 unique members. PWSI provides opportunities for players U4 through Adults at the Grassroots, Adult Recreational, and Travel programs. PWSI's mission statement is to make meaningful contributions to the community through the game of soccer.

About US Club Soccer - A National Association member of the U.S. Soccer Federation, US Club Soccer fosters the growth and development of soccer clubs in order to create the best possible environment for players of all ages. Anchored by Players First and its five pillars of Club Development, Coaching Development, Player Development, Parent Engagement & Education and Player Health & Safety, US Club Soccer offers registration, league- and cup-based competition platforms, player identification and a variety of other programming, resources and services. US Club Soccer is sponsored by Nike and supported by LaLiga through a technical partnership.