

Arlington & Falls Church, Virginia

# Arlington Soccer Association

**For Immediate Release**  
**29 August, 2006**

**Contact: Robert Waffle**  
**Tournament Coordinator**  
**703.358.9448**  
**703.966.3672 (c)**

## ASA ANNOUNCES "RECREATIONAL" SOCCER TOURNAMENT FOR COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND

The Arlington Soccer Association (ASA) today announced plans for the first Annual Columbus Day "Recreational" Soccer Tournament. Tournament matches will be held on several Arlington fields Saturday and Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of October and will involve over 1000 players.

"With almost 5,000 kids playing on Arlington teams, ASA is one of the largest soccer clubs in Virginia. The vast majority of our players are on 'recreational' or 'house' teams, affiliated with one of our twelve clubs organized around neighborhood schools" said Stephen Spangler, president of ASA, "Most tournaments focus on elite or travel teams. We wanted to give Arlington players of all abilities the experience of participating in a soccer tournament. This will be a real celebration of community soccer."

In this, its inaugural year, the tournament will provide competition for boys and girls from 9 to 14 years old. Plans are for two brackets of five teams each for both genders in each age group, or approximately 100 teams.

The Tournament Planning Committee has been working with Arlington County and has been given access to several of the County's artificial grass fields for the tournament. "The County is looking to showcase these fields which are appreciated by players for the nice rolls and bounces," said Tournament Scheduler Dennis Bruns. "An added plus, is that artificial turf will allow tournament games to go forward rain or shine. We plan to divide them for the younger age brackets to give these players a chance to play on these nice fields."

ASA has entered into an agreement with DC UNITED, our local professional soccer team and four-time Major League Soccer (MLS) Champions to co-sponsor the tournament. The ASA tournament is honored to be selected as one of only four such sponsored events under DC UNITED's program of support for youth soccer. A free ticket to DC UNITED's match on the evening of Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> will be included in the registration packet and extra tickets for family members and friends will be available at a special discount. Tournament matches will be suspended at 5:00 p.m. that day in order for all participants and their families to get to RFK stadium in their tournament T-shirts.

ASA is actively seeking other sponsors to cover the significant costs of putting on an event of this scale. "From the beginning, we've been determined to provide a quality experience for our tournament participants, at a cost that every Arlington family can afford. But, if we want to make this an annual event, we need to cover our expenses," explained sponsor coordinator Michael Frias. "We'll have well over a thousand players and their families involved in this tournament. And, we have almost 5,000 kids playing during our regular season. I just know that there are members of the Northern Virginia business community who would love to reach out to these families. This is their chance. They need to give me a call at 703.534.4133." Sponsorship is available on several levels and comes with a variety of visibility opportunities, including signs at fields, links on the ASA website, space in the tournament program and placement on tournament T-shirts.

"This is not just another tournament for elite players. This is a once-a-year chance for players who might not play in any other tournament, maybe ever. It's not about points, or standings, or rankings or any of those things," concluded ASA President Spangler, "This tournament is just all about fun."