



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Golden Ball Soccer Academy AND Virginia Futbol Club FORMED VFA “VIRGINIA FUTBOL ALLIANCE”

April 29, 2021; Chesapeake, VA - Golden Ball Soccer Academy (GBSA) and Virginia FC (VAFC) have announced a partnership which will integrate training curriculum, technical staff, player pools and access to facilities, leagues, national and international academies as well as minor league professional teams as the top of the Alliance pyramid. The new collaboration will not only enhance the grass roots development programs but will field teams to compete under the banner of Virginia Futbol Alliance (VFA).

With this new initiative VFA will not only enhance its grass roots development but will expand its overall programming with access to appropriate competitions in CCL/Club Champions League, EDP/Elite Development Program and VSL/Virginia Soccer League. In addition, the alliance will bring more qualified coaches along with senior teams in the UPSL Semi-Pro (Men), UWS League 2 Pro/Am (Women), NLP Futsal (Men) and U23's in EDP national leagues.

“We are very proud to form this alliance and excited about the future of our organizations.” Says GBSA Technical Director Jonathan Baca. “The possibilities with this partnership are endless and the opportunity to create the best environment for the players is our goal.”

“Player development has always been the primary focus for both clubs and this partnership will expand those possibilities while providing endless access to resources and levels not afforded to most club players and staff.” said Kevin Darcy VAFC Technical Director. “We are excited about the opportunities, consistency and quality of coaching that will be provided to our players under the Virginia Futbol Alliance banner.”

The creation of Virginia Futbol Alliance between VAFC and GBSA brings together administrative support, coaches and technical staff to build one of Virginia's top player development academies serving players of all ages and levels.

VFA will have access to 2 indoor facilities and several soccer training centers from Suffolk to Yorktown. In addition, the Alliance will have international partnership in:

- England, Southampton FC Academy (English Premier League)
- Ecuador, Liga Deportiva Universitaria Quito (LDU) (Ecuadorian Professional League)
- Bolivia, Dios es Amor (Bolivian Futbol Federation)
- Brasil, Sociedade Esportiva Salepolense (Sao Paulo Soccer Federation)

About Golden Ball Soccer Academy (GBSA)

Golden Ball Soccer Academy (Bola de Ouro) opened in **2016** and our goal is to train professional soccer players and goalkeepers.

GBSA is a Year-Round Academy Program, our mission is to provide a well-balanced developmental environment to the Western Tidewater Area. With facilities located in North Suffolk, Western Chesapeake, and Portsmouth. We offer

unique accessibility for players from every city in Hampton Roads. Our training staff with their internationally recognized coaching and physical training licenses focus on technical training, athletic performance training and match related tactics. GBSA has affiliations with Professional teams in Ecuador “Liga Deportiva Universitaria de Quito”, Professional in Bolivia “Dios es Amor”, also in the Semi-Pro level in Virginia with the ACC commonwealth Virginia and Partnership in Brazil with “Sociedade Esportiva Salepolense”, also playing in International tournaments and local leagues like VSLI, EDP.

About VIRGINIA FC (VAFC)

Home to the Peninsula and the Hampton Roads region, VAFC provides participation opportunities for players of all ages and levels while creating partnerships with like-minded organizations that put the player first. Offering quality, convenient and affordable playing opportunities with the focus to develop the whole player in a fun, challenging & competitive environment. Virginia FC boasts a platform that includes grass roots to professional level teams as well as affiliations with strategic partners PUMA, CCL “Club Champions League”, EDP “Elite Development Program”, VSL “Virginia Soccer League, Southampton FC International Academy and Richmond United’s ECNL National Academy program.