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Club 9 Sports Inc.'s Client, NISA, Announces Open System Pyramid Details

Plan Includes New Pro 4th Division, Free Entry & Pro/Rel With Top Amateur Leagues



Chicago, Thursday, December 21: The National Independent Soccer Association announced details of a new open system pyramid with free club entry. The structure is scheduled to launch in the spring of 2019 with professional 3rd and 4th divisions building to include professional 1st and 2nd divisions in the future.

NISA's announcements include the creation of the first Division IV professional soccer league in the United States to go along with the Division III league NISA announced in June. US Soccer currently does not have a professional 4th division, but NISA will be working with US Soccer to develop minimum standards that will make access to its new open system pyramid accessible to all clubs in the country.

Highlighting NISA's push for an open system pyramid with promotion and relegation is the announcement that entry to both the 3rd and 4th NISA divisions will be free to qualified applicants with no territorial restrictions. "This is a very exciting day for professional soccer in the United States," NISA Co-founder Peter Wilt said. "We have created the structure and laid the foundation for an alternative pyramid in the United States that mirrors the structure of the sport in almost every other country in the world."

NISA also announced plans to partner with amateur soccer organizations that will bring hundreds, if not thousands, of top amateur soccer clubs into the open system

pyramid. Those partnerships will include participation in promotion and relegation between NISA IV and the amateur organizations. "We are building a pathway for amateur clubs throughout the country that have ambition to play professional soccer via merit of competition rather than buying their way in," Wilt said. The NISA leagues and their partner amateur organizations will also participate in an annual tournament for open system clubs. "Details are not finalized, but the vision is to include the four semi-finalists from each NISA league and each amateur organization in a knock out tournament the following year with prize money. The first US Open System Tournament is planned for 2020 with each league's semi-finalists from 2019.

"The open system that has been announced by NISA is extremely important for the growth of soccer in the United States. This allows great operators, that may or may not be millionaires, to invest domestically in the sport," stated Mr. Joshua Prutch, Partner of Club 9 Sports, Inc. Mr. Prutch continued, "A passionate fan base and a great operator can create demonstrable examples of civic pride in any market, big or small, with the only limitation being his or her own ambition."

About Club 9 Sports, Inc. <u>www.club9sports.com</u> Club 9 Sports Inc. advises and consults in the sports industry. The firm focuses on sports, media, and entertainment and facilitates transaction facilitation on a global basis. The professionals at Club 9 Sports have deep experience in sports management, sports advising, sports operations, turnaround management, investment banking and private equity. Team members and senior advisors include: a former MLS executive of the year, former executive NFL Europe executive, and numerous investment banks specialized in sports media and entertainment.

The National Independent Soccer Association is a United States based professional soccer league preparing to launch in the spring of 2019. The League is committed to bringing high level, competitive professional soccer with meaningful games throughout the country. For more information about NISA visit <u>www.NISAOfficial.com</u> or contact Peter Wilt at <u>peter@nisaofficial.com</u> or by phone at 317-292-7993 or 312-464-9842. Follow NISA on Twitter @NISAleague.