



**SOUNDERS WOMEN NEWS RELEASE: Thursday, May 5, 2011**

## **Seattle Sounders Women and Greater Renton FC Build Partnership**

*Seattle, WA* - The Seattle Sounders Women and youth club, Greater Renton Football club have created a relationship for mutual benefit. As a leader in the Seattle soccer community, the Sounders Women have a focus on building women's soccer from the local youth level all the way up to the premier players in the Puget Sound that compete every summer in the USL, W-League. This partnership helps the Sounders Women extend roots into the youth game, while also giving Greater Renton FC contact with the highest level of women's soccer in the Northwest. The partnership is non-exclusive, and a great example of what the Sounders Women can build with other local clubs too.

"Working together with GRFC makes a lot of sense, since we share the same practice facility, values, and Leighton O'Brien, our Sounders head coach is also the Director of Coaching for Greater Renton." Sounders Women General Manager, Jon Billings, said. "A professional side should have ties to the youth game for many reasons, including player development."

Greater Renton FC and the Sounders Women will work together on like-minded efforts including youth camps, special game nights, elite level training and play, and production of the W-League National Championship Weekend. The Sounders Women players and coaching staff will provide expertise coaching for GRFC camps and clinics in 2011. The standouts from the upper GRFC age groups will even have the chance to rub shoulders with the Sounders Women players to gain valuable experience at the highest level.

Leighton O'Brien, has this to say about the partnership, "I am wearing two hats in this partnership, one as the Director of Coaching for GRFC and the other as the Head Coach of the Seattle Sounder Women. As a Director of a youth club this is a tremendous opportunity for our young elite players to train and play with the players on the Sounders. It should provide inspiration for these youth players that have aspirations to play collegiate/professional. It gives a value to our club for another avenue of development that currently other programs don't offer. As a coach of the Sounder Women its a great opportunity to see the local young talent and help them strive to get to the next level. We want to partner up with other local clubs to identify and train their best young players like GRFC is doing. We hope this is the beginning of an inexpensive way to develop the top high school age players int the Northwest."

"This is a great opportunity for the girls in our club to be able to train with and be mentored by some of the best players in the NW. Having GRFC and the Sounders Women begin working together to develop a long-term relationship in our community is something I'm proud to be a part of. I look forward to one day soon seeing some of our former players out there in a Sounders uniform," GRFC President, Todd Johnson commented.

As part of the relationship between the Sounders Women and GRFC, the June 29<sup>th</sup> match against the Vancouver Whitecaps will be GRFC night. The 8pm kickoff will feature GRFC players as ball girls, walking out with the teams for introductions, playing mini-games at halftime, and special discounts too. The clubs will partner for ticket selling fundraisers as another way to raise funds and awareness for Puget Sound soccer.

Season tickets are still available for this year. Ticket packages include the rest of the exhibition season, the regular season, final four playoff tickets, and a Sounders Women scarf. Packages start at \$45 for kids. More information on tickets, schedules, and news is available at [SoundersWomen.com](http://SoundersWomen.com)

### **Seattle Sounders Women**

Sounders Women Season Tickets are now on sale through [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com) or on [SoundersWomen.com](http://SoundersWomen.com). Season tickets start at just \$45 for kids and up to \$100 for adults. This package includes tickets to all 7 regular season home matches, all preseason games, all 4 matches in the 2011 W-League Final 4, AND the first ever Sounders Women Scarf! The Sounders Women open up the exhibition season on April 21 against Western Washington University.

**For more Sounders Women info, see [SoundersWomen.com](http://SoundersWomen.com), find us on Facebook at [Seattle Sounders Women](https://www.facebook.com/SeattleSoundersWomen), or on Twitter [@SoundersWomen](https://twitter.com/SoundersWomen).**

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**Greater Renton Football Club**

*Greater Renton Football Club provides a complete development experience for the premier soccer player. We focus on building confident players with a strong foundation of individual skill, knowledge of the game, and commitment to their teammates. At GRFC, we prepare players for success in the game, and individuals for success in life.*

**For more Greater Renton Football Club info, see [GreaterRentonFC.org](http://GreaterRentonFC.org)**

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