



From left to right: WOSC President Brian Mason, OSA President Ron Smale, and WOSC CEO Bjorn Osieck at the 2013 OPDL Selection Announcement

## **West Ottawa Soccer Club steps up investment in player development, reduces 2014 OPDL participation fees in a big way**

Ottawa, ON: The West Ottawa Soccer Club (WOSC) announced today that it has taken its commitment to support the new Ontario Player Development League to a new level. Through prudent cost management and additional resourcing through Club reserves, monthly fees for members of the U13 Girls' and Boys' teams for the inaugural 2014 OPDL season have been reduced to \$199/ month.

Through extensive consultation with its OPDL stakeholders the Club had identified player costs to be a potential barrier to participation compounded by the uncertainty around certain league implementation details ahead of the inaugural 2014 season of this pivotal new OSA player development program.

While the program operations budget (not including transportation) had been forecasted to amount to costs of approximately \$3,500+ per player, the WOSC board of directors, after careful deliberation, has made the leadership decision to approve a special 2014 OPDL registration fee of \$2390, thereby, granting a significant program subsidy to all participating players.

This bold move was made in light of the rapidly changing Ontario soccer landscape with OPDL as a further catalyst for much needed progress. Not only will program fees for non-OPDL players at WOSC not increase to cover this subsidy, but the Club leadership anticipates significant spin off benefits for its constituents, as result of the WOSC OPDL program.

“All along we have said that becoming an ODPL franchise would be a tide that lifts all boats within our Club, not an elite program supported to the detriment of other programs,” emphasized WOSC President Mason. “Our full-time coaching staff will be able to bring football development mentorship to bear across all levels of play and coaching and our heightened focus on areas such as our expanded sports medicine and science offerings, will reverberate far beyond the teams that will represent WOSC in the OPDL from 2014 going forward.”

With the Club having assembled a technical A-team in recent times, consisting of OPDL U13 Girls’ head coach Kristina Kiss (National B License), a Canadian Women’s National team icon, and only female OPDL head-coach in Ottawa, OPDL U13 Boys’ head coach and former Celtic Glasgow ace David Hannah (UEFA A License), and Technical Director Erik Stoffelshaus (UEFA A License), an 11 year veteran with leading German Bundesliga Club Schalke 04, it brings a level of coaching experience and pedigree to the table that is second to none in the league.

From a sport medicine perspective, WOSC OPDL players will be supported by some of the best services in the City at Carleton University Sport Medicine and Physiotherapy Clinic and at Stittsville Sport Physiotherapy. In addition, SportsCan, a leader in long-term athlete development sport science programming, is working closely with WOSC OPDL teams specifically with weekly strength and conditioning training, but also through making education offerings available to the larger WOSC coaching community.

As an added bonus, with support made possible by its new Club Partners from Soccer Express, WOSC, as the only franchise in Ottawa, will also be able to provide a full kit of high quality Adidas apparel to its athletes at no additional costs to the players and their families.

“With WOSC officially having become an Adidas Club as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, we are proud and excited to know that our thousands of WOSC Warriors will be looking their best when they step onto the field this season,” stated WOSC CEO Bjorn Osieck. “Soccer Express and Adidas have most graciously agreed to provide this extra coverage based on our excellent partnership, which means that the players in our flagship OPDL program will receive the same quality uniforms we will see at the FIFA Men’s World Cup Brazil 2014™ at no cost to them,” he added.

Based on the Club’s well documented and long-standing support of the Canadian Soccer Association’s Long-Term Player Development framework, the WOSC Board of Directors is convinced that this heightened commitment is the right start-up investment in a development approach that seeks to be inclusive and puts the players first.

“Providing a holistic player development pathway in keeping with LTPD principles is a critical component of our Vision and a successful OPDL development platform is a key success factor of that vision,” opined WOSC President Brian Mason. “Much has been said about how the OPDL is the long-overdue paradigm shift for the top players in Ontario, and WOSC feels that a special team effort is needed to give this great development framework and the youth athletes within it the best chance of success.”

For further details about OPDL and other WOSC programs feel free to contact us at [coordinator@wosc.com](mailto:coordinator@wosc.com) or [613-831-1135](tel:613-831-1135).

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## **About the West Ottawa Soccer Club**

The West Ottawa Soccer Club (WOSC) was founded in 2010 and is now the largest soccer club in the Ottawa area, and the second largest club in the country. The Club is the result of a merger of a number of soccer clubs in the west end of Ottawa and continues to grow.

The WOSC delivers a full suite of soccer programs from very young children to adults. A variety of league and player development programs are offered to meet all levels of ability and interest. The Club is a leader in Long Term Player Development.

The Club is professionally managed with a growing full time and part-time staff. WOSC is governed by a volunteer board of directors and thrives on an extensive network of volunteers to assist in delivering its programs.

In 2013, WOSC was granted the status as one of only 19 founding franchise partners of the new Ontario Player Development League with the inaugural season to kick-off in 2014.

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