



# ANCHORAGE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

Growing Youth Football Players in Anchorage Since 1986



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Professional soccer teams bring alliance to Alaska**

MLS Portland Timbers and NWSL Portland Thorns FC plant flag in Last Frontier

**Anchorage, Alaska** – One of Anchorage’s oldest youth soccer clubs has entered into a partnership with the MLS Portland Timbers and NWSL Portland Thorns FC. Anchorage Youth Soccer Club is Portland’s latest official Alliance Club, joining nine teams from Washington, Oregon and Idaho beginning in January 2020.

AYSC will be the first and only soccer club in Alaska to have a professional affiliation. As an Alliance Club, players and coaches will receive new exposure and a direct connection with professional expertise from Portland’s men’s and women’s coaches, staff and players. Alaskans will benefit from having Portland scouts at AYSC Club tryouts, the club-hosted Far North Invitational Soccer Tournament and its players will further benefit from in-state coaching education and player clinics.

“AYSC has a long history of developing Alaska’s soccer players and this alliance opens a unique pathway for our elite players to reach a higher level of competition and improved exposure to play in college and beyond,” said AYSC Technical Director Jo Reid.

The Portland Thorns FC and Portland Timbers organization is one of only three in the nation to operate both an MLS club and NWSL club – the highest level of professional soccer in the United States. The Timbers also have a USL Championship team (Portland Timbers 2) and boys’ and girls’ academy programs competing in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy League, again the highest national level.

AYSC players will continue to wear the Anchorage Youth Soccer Club crest, carrying on the more than 30-year tradition of the club. Beginning in January, players will add a Thorns FC or Timbers badge and teams will be named AYSC Alaska Thorns or AYSC Alaska Timbers, respectively.

The Portland Timbers and Thorns Youth Sporting Director, Mike Smith, will visit Alaska in early December 2019 to meet with players and families.

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## **ABOUT AYSC:**

Anchorage Youth Soccer Club's mission is to create a positive club culture while creating highly skilled and competitive players. The club focuses on educating players and coaches in a positive environment. It promotes sportsmanship, respect and hard work while teaching the technical, tactical, physical and psychosocial components of the game. AYSC invests in the community and the sport through its social charters that provide annual scholarships for foster youth and refugees to play.

## **ABOUT adidas PORTLAND TIMBERS ALLIANCE:**

The alliance is a strategic partnership with elite local youth clubs in the Portland Timbers' development territory, designed to build unique working relationships and development opportunities to help channel the top youth players toward the Timbers' development programs and the Timbers Academy. As part of the alliance, the Timbers share coaching resources and curriculum with alliance clubs in the development of both boys and girls youth players.

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