



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Next Wave Coach Academy Pilot Program Begins

August 1, 2018 – The Alliance of Women Coaches, in partnership with the Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club, launched the Next Wave Coach Academy last week. This pilot program engages the “next wave” of women coaches by creating an environment where women are encouraged to coach and providing a pathway tailored to each individual.



“We’ve gone beyond simply including women in coaching assignments at our club,” said CRYSC Zone 1 Technical Director Kincaid Schmidt. “With the support of leaders in the club, we’ve gone a step further by establishing a system that supports each individual coach in her long-term development. We help each coach maximize her potential by creating a holistic learning environment that encourages young women not just to be coaches, but to be excellent coaches.”

Next Wave Coach Academy offers a solid foundation for these high school players and young professionals entering the coaching profession by providing the U.S. Soccer grassroots licensing course led by a female instructor, season-long mentorship, and a second professional development weekend in November focused on developing leadership and management skills. U.S. Soccer Instructor and founding member of the Women in Youth Sports Coalition Jené Baclawski led the licensing course. Additionally, the twelve participants will receive a one-year, complimentary membership to the Alliance of Women Coaches.

“One of the priorities in our strategic plan is focused on identifying a ‘pipeline’ of future female coaches,” said Alliance Executive Director Megan Kahn. “The Next Wave Coach Academy is our first meaningful initiative in the youth space to provide a pathway for women to enter the profession and hopefully create a future pipeline. We couldn’t be more excited about the potential of this partnership and are so proud of these women.”

Participants of the inaugural Next Wave Coach Academy:

Sophia Bertolone
Regan Brown
Alana Chubb
Emma Dickinson
Jayla Elstad
Liz Lechuga
Rebekah McCabe
Ellison Mucharsky-O’Boyle
Megan Sforzini
Madison Snyder
Eleanor Sommers
Mae Swenson

Visit www.gocoaches.org/programs-events/next-wave/ for more information on the Next Wave program.

About Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club

Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club is a soccer club who strives to provide an opportunity for all levels of players from beginner to advanced, from three to professional. CRYSC is one of the only true full-service soccer clubs in the nation providing soccer for all types of players from all different types of backgrounds. For more information on CRYSC, visit www.rapidsyouthsoccer.org.

About the Alliance of Women Coaches

The Alliance of Women Coaches was founded in 2011 and has become the premier membership organization dedicated to the recruitment, advancement, and retention of women coaches of all sports and levels. For more information on the Alliance of Women Coaches, visit www.gocoaches.org.

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