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## WeCOACH to Host 2024 Youth & High School Women Coaches Academy

October 28, 2024 – WeCOACH will host its fourth annual Youth & High School Women Coaches Academy on November 1. Established in 2021 as the "High School Women Coaches Leadership Academy," WeCOACH rebranded this transformational program in 2023 to be inclusive of women who coach at the youth, club, middle and high school levels.

This virtual program is modeled after the premier WeCOACH-NCAA Women Coaches Academy and is open to Youth, Club, Middle School & High School Women Coaches across all sports. This innovative virtual leadership development program elevates holistic coaching by combining expert-led workshops, interactive sessions, and collaborative discussions to enhance coaching leadership skills and strategies that directly affect personal and team success. Participants focus on non-sport-specific concepts in an environment that fosters inclusion across the sports community.

Now in year four of this program for women in the youth and high school space, Class #4 features coaches from 12 different sports in 17 different states. The Academy will provide insights on topics such as, Effectively Coaching Gen Z; Conflict Resolution; Mental Health & Emotional Well-Being; Understanding the College Recruiting Landscape; Leadership Best Practices, as well as offering peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

"Professional development for coaches is the key to unlocking potential—not just in their athletes, but in themselves. This is exceptionally important at the Youth and High School levels as we look forward to inspiring the next generation of coaches. Our coaches epitomize, 'If she can see her, she can be her,'" said WeCOACH CEO, Vanessa Fuchs.

WeCOACH awarded 26 Academy scholarships to this year's participants thanks to generous funding from BSN SPORTS, Hudl, U.S. Club Soccer and individual donors. WeCOACH partner, The United States Marine Corps, will also be featured as a session sponsor.

2024 Youth & High School Women Coaches Academy Class #4 Participants: Hannah Batchelor, Sunny Hills High School, Head Boys & Girls Cross Country Coach Stephanie Beall, Francis Parker School, Assistant Girls Varsity Soccer Coach Sam Brown, UW Center for Leadership in Athletics, Coach Developer Mary Carter, SF University High School, Varsity Flag Football Coach Nancy Chicas, Washington High School, Head Flag Football Coach Ashley Ellithorp-Segner, Club Ohio Soccer, Regional Head Coach Colleen Finegan, Germantown Friends School, Mental Performance Coach A'Jaee Foster, SF University High School, Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Megan George, Tennessee United SC, Girls Director of Coaching U13-U19 Leslie Golden, Bulloch Academy, Director of Soccer Alexandra Hammon, Glendale Raptors Youth Rugby, Youth Rugby Director Carrie Harrington, West Albany High School, Co-Head Volleyball Coach Michelle Hernandez, UC Santa Cruz, Assistant Women's Soccer Coach Jamie Hom, Washington High School, Director of Athletics Jodeci Houston, Christiansburg Middle School, Head Basketball Coach Ronisha Jordan, Collinwood High School, Head Girls Basketball Coach Dana Krilich, Niles West High School, Director of Athletics Elizabeth Langston, North Carolina FC, Head Girls Soccer Coach Jenna Marcus, Shore Aces, Head Girls Basketball Coach Josie Matlick, LA Bulls Soccer Club, Head Boys & Girls Soccer Coach Amelia Mauer, USGA Girls Golf-First Tee-Tallahassee, Golf Program Director Meredith Mayner, VA Revolution, Assistant Boys & Girls Soccer Coach Kelly McAllister, Ramona High School, Head Football Coach Kallie Mendenhall, Western Pennsylvania High School, Director of Athletics Heather Moulton, Arroyo High School, Head Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach Shannan Murray-McKay, North Carolina FC, Head Boys & Girls Soccer Coach Jennifer Peterson, UW Center for Leadership in Athletics, Coach Developer Margo Rettig, Ralston Valley High School, Assistant Boys & Girls Tennis Coach Heidi Roeser, North Carolina FC, Head Girls Soccer Coach Mary Jo Truesdale, Shelton High School, Retired Head Varsity Softball Coach Jen Verdugo, A&M Consolidated Middle School, Girls Athletic Coordinator Saki Watanabe, Los Angeles Bulls Soccer Club, Head Soccer Coach Alyssa Watson, Millard West High School, Assistant Girls Soccer Coach Corri Wilson, Head Tennis Coach Hannah York, Soccer Organization Charlottesville Area, Soccer Operations Manager

For more information about our Youth & High School Women Coaches Academy, please click <u>here</u>. If interested in funding an Academy Scholarship, click <u>here</u>.

## ABOUT WeCOACH

Founded in 2011, WeCOACH is a one-of-a-kind 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to recruiting, advancing, and retaining women coaches in all sports and levels through year-round professional growth & leadership development programs. Prior to Title IX, over 90% of women's collegiate sports teams were coached by women. Today, over 50 years later, the data indicates that number has decreased to 41% across all three NCAA Divisions, with only 7% women head coaches of color. Only 5% women coach men's teams. At the youth level, the data is hard to estimate, approximately less than 20% of teams are coached by women. WeCOACH launched MOVE the NUMBERS in 2022 to help change the landscape for women coaches and the student-athletes they lead. If she can see her, she can be her. For more information visit <u>MOVE *the* NUMBERS</u>.