



## **Alexandria Soccer to Host 3rd Annual Alexandria Soccer Kick-Off (ASK)**

March 12 & 13 Girls Weekend | March 19 & 20 Boys weekend

*Press Release: Alexandria, Virginia* - Alexandria Soccer will be hosting U9-U12 boys and girls travel teams from around the region in a unique format highlighted by 'festival' style games for the U9 and U10 teams and championship tournament style for the U11 and U12 teams.

The first two years of the Alexandria Soccer Kick-Off (ASK) featured over 125 teams in multiple levels of play facilitating an appropriate game day environment for all. Each game in the first two years has been played on turf fields, with no cancellations or shortened games, and the ability to de-conflict all games that have been requested by the the coaches. With the addition of two new turf fields in Alexandria City at Jefferson-Houston school and the Alexandria Renew Facility on limerick street the club anticipates being able to accommodate deconflicting all coaches requests, hosting all games on turf fields and providing enough time between games for teams to use the field for short warm-ups.

In the festival format for the U9 and U10 age groups, coaches are incentivised in the preseason environment to play these youngest players equal amounts of time, give players opportunities at numerous positions, and allow coaches to manage their team without the unfortunate repercussions from the pressure of making it to the playoffs or championship game. The benefit of the festival format for players is that they feel free to experiment and take chances in games without the weight of costing their team a chance at a trophy or medal. Alexandria Soccer does recognize and encourage the desire to compete and play at your team's and each individual's highest level, which through the division placement, the tournament can group teams together of similar ability so the games are competitive appropriate.

New to the ASK event this year will be the tournament setting for the U11 and U12 age groups. Utilizing the GotSoccer registration platform these age groups will be competing in group play, with the top teams advancing to the championship game on Sunday afternoon. ASA is excited to partner with Sports Pins International to provide those teams that reach the finals with an official medaling ceremony. The tournaments most experienced referees will be working these games to ensure quality control and provide for the highest possible level of enjoyment during the weekend.

With team registration costs for tournaments consistently rising, reaching \$700-\$1,250 in some cases, ASK has been able to keep fees at an affordable \$450 for U9 and U10 teams and \$550 for U11 and U12 teams. Register early to ensure acceptance, the deadline for the Girls Weekend is February 14th and February 21st for the Boys Weekend.

*For more information on the Alexandria Soccer Kick-Off (ASK) visit the club websites:*

- [Alexandria Soccer Kick-Off](http://travel.alexandria-soccer.org/Tournaments/2016/) -travel.alexandria-soccer.org/Tournaments/2016/
- [Alexandria Soccer](http://www.alexandria-soccer.org) - www.alexandria-soccer.org