

Maryland State Youth Soccer Association  
221 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
P: 410.768.5401



## **Maryland State Youth Soccer Association Partners with WorldStrides Excel for ODP International Soccer Tours**

**Glen Burnie, Maryland — August 16, 2017** — The Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) is proud to announce the continued partnership with WorldStrides Excel, the nation’s largest and most trusted sports travel provider, to deliver international soccer tours for the Maryland Olympic Development Program (ODP) players. What started years ago as a single tour to Scotland has grown into one of the most established international travel programs in the country sending more teams to Scotland as well as England, Spain and Italy.

MSYSA has been WorldStrides Excel’s longest tenured partner starting with its first trip to Scotland fifteen years ago. The relationship has proven that international soccer tours with WorldStrides Excel provide an exclusive glimpse into the hard work and dedication that it takes to become an elite athlete. From the coaching sessions to the friendly matches and professional games with well-known soccer clubs, MSYSA’s ODP teams have experienced many levels of international soccer and applied many of the lessons learned to its own coaching and development program. Those lessons from international soccer tours with WorldStrides Excel have helped Maryland ODP become one of the most successful and respected programs in the nation.

Expanding on the already inseparable bond with MSYSA, WorldStrides Excel will be sending six more ODP teams from MSYSA on once-in-a-lifetime soccer tours to Scotland, England, Spain and Italy during spring break. From Sunday, March 25 – Monday, April 2, 2018, six ODP teams will be traveling to Europe to compete against elite academy and club teams, train with top European coaches, see amazing new sights, and created an unbelievable bond with their teams that can never be broken.

”Over the past 14 years, Maryland Youth Soccer Association has worked exclusively with WorldStrides Excel to build what I believe is the longest standing and most robust ODP international travel tradition in the country. Our partnership has grown to offer international travel to hundreds of players and their families each year. Maryland State Youth Soccer Association firmly believes in international travel and its benefits toward developing players and young adults.” said Mark Cantor, President of Maryland State Youth Soccer Association.

“We are excited to announce our 15<sup>th</sup> year of partnering with Maryland State Youth Soccer Association for international soccer travel and build on our longstanding relationship of

providing amazing opportunities for its players and coaches. We can't wait to see the new experiences that its players and coaches will have while traveling to Scotland, England, Spain and Italy in 2018" said Eric McAleer, Vice President of WorldStrides Excel Programs.

For more information:

Greg Smith, Ph.D., MSYSA, [director@msysa.org](mailto:director@msysa.org), 410-768-5401

Eric McAleer, WorldStrides Excel Programs, [ericmc@worldstrides.org](mailto:ericmc@worldstrides.org), 410-489-2287

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### **About MSYSA**

MSYSA is a US Youth Soccer National State Association and is affiliated with both US Youth Soccer and the US Soccer Federation. The mission of MSYSA is to serve as the primary advocate for youth soccer in the state. MSYSA is dedicated to offering the highest quality soccer education, player development and programs while fostering sportsmanship, fitness, diversity, teamwork and passion for the game.

### **About WorldStrides Excel**

WorldStrides Excel Programs is the leader in international tours for U.S. soccer teams and is a specialist in meeting the unique requirements of international team travel at the recreational, travel, ODP, and collegiate team level. Founded in 1998 by Eric McAleer, a former European professional soccer player, Excel International Sports was acquired by WorldStrides in 2015. For more information on WorldStrides Excel Programs, visit [www.worldstrides.com/excel](http://www.worldstrides.com/excel).

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