



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MANHATTAN SOCCER CLUB EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE
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New York, NY (Feb 11, 2019) – In September of 2018, in order to support our teams and players, Manhattan Soccer Club (“MSC”) partnered with Prestige Prep to begin the process of offering educational services to all Club players. We understand that committed athletes have highly demanding schedules and often have educational support needs throughout their academic careers. Academic, personal, and professional support is essential to scholastic success. MSC is committed to creating a strong, relevant support program, which will enable student-athletes to reach their full academic potential. Our primary goal is to provide an environment that can facilitate the academic success of each athlete. Studies have shown that a student-athlete’s success is achieved through competent academic counseling, study-skills development, and individualized assessment and support, along with a wide array of tutorial services.

How do we plan to accomplish this? MSC, in partnership with Prestige Prep, is taking a two-pronged approach, which will offer our athletes preferred access to top educational resources in NYC:

- Prestige Prep will provide workshops, academic insights, and tips to all students, which may include test prep, academic review, high school checklists, and college-readiness assessments.
- Through a youth pilot program, funded by Yours in Soccer Foundation, Prestige Prep advised and guided MSC’s qualified 8th-grade financial-aid recipients on their NYC High School admissions process.

If families elect to retain Prestige Prep to advise, mentor, tutor, or prep their children, five percent (5%) of all revenues received from MSC families will be donated directly to MSC. These monies will be allocated by MSC’s Board of Directors among many areas, which may include: field acquisition, equipment upgrades, scholarship awards, program enhancement, and other needs.

While MSC is dedicated to improving the outcomes for all of our players, we want to ensure that each player, if desired, has support to get into and succeed in college. According to a 2018 NCAA study, only 5.5% of men and 7.1% of women will transition from high school soccer to NCAA soccer teams in college. The odds are against them from the start. The athletes’ ultimate success is even narrower when educational and “college readiness” factors come into play.



MSC is committed to developing high-performing soccer players who are also great students. We also expect our athletes to become important contributors to their wider community. It takes a broad array of experiences to increase a child's learning achievement. It is these experiences that directly contribute to their development of learning skills, social capabilities, academic capacity, and emotional patterns. If these are introduced early enough in a child's life, they enable students to make maximum use of their education and prepare them for living in a multicultural, diverse, global society, creating a pathway to their future. Our long-term desire is to offer an academic-support program with the vision of assisting all student-athletes. And, when appropriate, to further aid their eventual transition into college.

For further information, please contact Thom Waye via email at thomw@prestigeprep.com or cell phone at 917-664-4507.



About Manhattan Soccer Club (MSC)

Manhattan Soccer Club is the largest and most comprehensive soccer club in New York City, offering all levels of development and competition from ages 3 to 23. We serve more than 800 families each year, who come from all five boroughs of NYC. Every training session is run by licensed, professional coaches who follow a curriculum that develops both the player and the person. Through their dedication to mastering the sport of soccer, our players not only learn to love the “beautiful game”—they also build strength, stamina, self-esteem, and sportsmanship.

Starting at ages 3-5 with our Development Academy, MSC has a professionally developed curriculum designed to teach the skills eventually needed to play at the highest levels, taught by soccer professionals in age-appropriate ways. They play fall and spring outdoor seasons, futsal in the winter, and pick-up and league soccer during the summer. The goal is long-term development and nurturing love for the game; winning matches is the eventual byproduct, not the focus.

Our home fields are state-of-the-art turf and grass fields on the newly renovated complex at Randall's Island—now one of the most spectacular soccer venues in the country. In addition to Randall's, our teams practice in Central Park, Riverside Park, Chelsea Waterside Park, Pier 40, and Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. In the winter months, we train mostly in Manhattan, at City College facilities and contracted school gymnasiums.

About Prestige Prep:

Founded in 2002, by Phil Cohen, Prestige Prep (www.prestigeprep.com) is one of NYC's leading supplemental educational services and tutoring centers, dedicated to creating better learners. While we excel in academic teaching, and in preparing our students to succeed on standardized tests, we also pride ourselves as mentors and role models for our students. Our mentors teach students to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and leaders in their communities. Prestige Prep offers the following programs and services: academic tutoring for all subjects; test prep, including: ELA/Math, ISEE, SSAT, SHSAT, ACT, SAT & Subject Tests; diagnostic exams; and academic, high school & college admissions counseling. In 2018, 2017, and 2016, Prestige Prep was identified as one of the top 20 “Best Math Tutors in NYC” by Expertise, LLC, from a field of 2,042 tutoring firms.

Prestige Prep students have been accepted to, or matriculated at, some of the best high schools and colleges in the nation, including, but not limited to: Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical High School, LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, Hunter College High School, Horace Mann, Dalton, Trinity, Collegiate, Spence, Nightingale-Bamford, Andover, Hotchkiss, Lawrenceville, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, University of Virginia, Johns Hopkins University, Villanova University, Syracuse University, University of Texas at Austin, UC Berkeley, Stanford, University of Michigan, Princeton, Williams, and Amherst.



About Yours in Soccer Foundation (YSF):

The Yours in Soccer Foundation (www.yoursinsoccer.org) is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 2014, whose mission is to empower exceptional scholar-athletes from underserved communities by leveraging the potential of sports to realize their college dreams.

Many talented and intelligent scholar-athletes dream about pursuing college soccer but are not aware of the academic standards to do so as they begin their high school career. All too often, athletes who have the potential to play in college are left behind because they never receive the proper guidance regarding the collegiate academic standards—or, when they do, it's too late.

Per the NCAA, less than 5% of high school athletes from all sports go on to compete in college. This is often due to the highly competitive and complex recruitment process, which all scholar-athletes seeking college placement must aggressively navigate. YSF is committed to bridging the gap between those scholar-athletes who have access to the necessary resources and support to seek college placement, and those who don't.

Yours in Soccer works with other entities that are mission-aligned to identify scholar-athletes who have a strong academic record early in their high school careers. YSF's mission is to collaborate with established soccer associations and clubs, high school scholarship programs, and other public charities to offer more opportunities for deserving and talented college prospects to reach their potential. YSF advises scholar-athletes on how to showcase their athletic and academic abilities to college coaches and admissions personnel. Finally, by introducing scholar-athletes to the importance of sports AND academics before they begin the college-admissions process, they will be more likely to maximize their potential.

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