

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Scott Dupree**  
919-645-2657 (office)  
919-414-4022 (cell)  
sdupree@raleighsports.org

**US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships**

**Slated for June 20-25, 2008**

**Expected to Generate \$4.2 Million in Direct Visitor Spending**

**RALEIGH, N.C.** – The 2008 US Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships will bring 184 youth soccer teams from across the Southeast (11 states) to WRAL Soccer Center in Raleigh and Gillette Athletic Complex in Wilson, June 20-25, 2008. The opening ceremonies take place June 19 at the RBC Center.

The multi-day event is considered one of the largest youth sporting events ever held in the region in terms of hotel room nights. The average length of stay for a typical visitor during a sporting competition is two to three nights; however, this tournament is expected to lengthen the average stay to 5.5 nights, totaling between 15,000 - 20,000 room nights in more than 70 hotels. The Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates that this year's event will generate an estimated \$4.2 million in direct visitor spending. Approximately 10,000 visitors are expected, including players, coaches, families and college scouts.

The tournament is hosted by the N.C. Youth Soccer Association in conjunction with the Capital Area Soccer League, The City of Wilson and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau (GRCVB). This unique collaboration marks the first time that the GRCVB has partnered with a city outside of the Triangle to host a major sporting event.

Known for its history, elite level of competition and great play, US Youth Soccer annually hosts the national championships of youth soccer for boys and girls in the Under-14 through Under-19 age groups.

For more information, visit the official tournament website at [www.southernregionals.org](http://www.southernregionals.org)

**Contact information:**

**Charlie Slagle, Capital Area Soccer League**

Phone: (919) 796-8985, email: [charlies@caslemail.com](mailto:charlies@caslemail.com)

**Scott Dupree, Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau**

Phone: (919) 645-2657 or (919) 414-4022; email: [sdupree@raleighsports.org](mailto:sdupree@raleighsports.org)

**Jason Philbeck, Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau**

Phone: (919) 645-2660 or (919) 818-6280; email: [jphilbeck@raleighsports.org](mailto:jphilbeck@raleighsports.org)

**Lindsay Williams, US Youth Soccer**

Phone: (940) 452-8898; email: [lwilliams@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:lwilliams@usyouthsoccer.org)

The Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau, as the official destination marketing organization of Raleigh and Wake County, accelerates sustainable economic growth and development by increasing visitor and convention business. Through its website, VisitRaleigh.com and other tools, the Bureau assists local visitors in a variety of ways.