

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Croatian Eagles Soccer Club Issues Statement Regarding Recent Media Reports**

**Franklin, Wisconsin — December 5, 2025 —** In light of recent media reports concerning the arrest of a *“Wisconsin youth soccer club director,”* the Croatian Eagles Soccer Club believes it is important to provide accurate information to our members and the broader community.

The individual referenced in some early reporting is not a member of the Club’s Board of Directors, leadership team, or coaching staff. He has never been an employee of the Club. He is a parent with children who have participated in the Club for several years and who volunteered in administrative roles, including “director of tryouts” and assisting with accounts receivable. These volunteer duties involve coordination of schedules, fields, and payments—they do not involve coaching, supervising, or working with children.

Before assuming any volunteer functions, the individual completed a standard background check, which revealed no concerns or disqualifying information. At no point has law enforcement contacted or questioned the Club regarding him, either before or after his arrest, and the Club has never received a complaint or report from players, families, or staff suggesting that he engaged in inappropriate conduct.

Members of our Club community were shocked and saddened to learn of the allegations reported this week. On November 29, a representative acting on behalf of the individual notified the Club that he had been arrested and requested that he be removed from the Club’s website. At that time, the Club was not informed of the reason for the arrest and the nature of any charges were unknown. The Club did not learn the specific allegations until they became known through media reporting on December 2. As soon as the Club became aware of the nature of the allegations, it followed all required reporting guidelines without delay. The Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association was promptly notified and has taken action in response consistent with its policies and procedures.

The Club recognizes that this situation is particularly sensitive not only because of the serious and reprehensible nature of the federal charges that have been filed, but also because the individual has a child who is a member of the Club and other family members who have been active in our programs. None of them have done anything wrong, and we ask the community to keep their well-being in mind during this difficult time.

Established in 1922, the Croatian Eagles Soccer Club is North America’s oldest continuously operating soccer club, and the safety and well-being of children in our programs has always been, and will remain, our highest priority. Effective immediately, the individual was suspended from all Club operations and is prohibited from being on Club property while the legal process runs its course.

We understand that circumstances like these create uncertainty and concern. We are not aware of any playbook for handling a situation like this, but our aim is to remain responsible as we navigate this challenging moment. We respectfully ask for our community’s understanding and patience.

For further inquiries, please contact the Club’s attorney, Michael Cerjak, at (414) 488-1985 or [mjc@bartoncerjak.com](mailto:mjc@bartoncerjak.com).