

On Tues. 8 Feb, 2014, the Ontario Soccer Association introduced **ANB Futbol** one of the ten inaugural teams to be accepted into the new semi-professional soccer league, League 1 Ontario. The league will be the highest division of domestic league soccer in Canada and is strongly supported by the Canadian Soccer Association and Canada's Men's National Team coaching staff.

League 1 Ontario has certain minimum standards that are in line with the world's game and will focus on the younger soccer player. The league is considered an adult men's league however, a minimum of 8 players who are under-23 years old (1991 born) must listed on the each game-sheet. Additionally, even though League 1 Ontario is considered a professional league, there will be amateur teams for players who wish to maintain their amateur status for university scholarship opportunities.

ANB Academy Futbol is a founding member of Soccer Academy Alliance Canada and has once again received Ontario Recognized Non-Club Academy recognition for 2014. Operating a team Senior team, **ANB Futbol**, in the new league is a natural extension the Academy's plan to develop young players for the highest level of soccer in the province, and in the country.

"We are very excited by the prospect of having young ANB players participate in the innovative league," says Academy Director and Head Coach, Bassam Naim. "We will be looking for some new experienced players, but the majority of the team will be composed of the young players who have been an integral part of the Academy since its inception 7 years ago. These players are either in University now or will be going to University in the fall."

There will be a lot of work in the upcoming weeks to ensure ANB Futbol fields a competitive team as well as ensuring the game-day operations are followed according to League 1 Ontario procedures.

More information on League 1 Ontario can be found in various places: Facebook – League1 Ontario Website – <u>www.league1ontario.com</u> Twitter – @League1Ontario OSA Press release - <u>http://www.ontariosoccer.ca/OSABlog/index.php/archives/9764</u>

ANB Academy Futbol's vision is to become Canada's leading soccer development organization. Its mission is to identify Canadian soccer talent, and to maximize the potential of players at any level, through professional coaching and training.

For more information on all the programs offered by ANB academy, review our website at <u>www.anbfutbol.com</u> or by telephone at 905-313-8661 or via e-mail at <u>info@anbfutbol.com</u>.



ANB Futbol (Bassam Naim & Marcelo Almeida) with CSA Coaching staff (Benito Floro & Rafael Cabarjal) and OSA Directors (Ron Smale & Dino Rossi)



ANB Futbol (Bassam Naim & Marcelo Almeida) with representatives of the participating teams.