

RIU

RUSH UNION

Welcome! Rush Union Update

It is hard to believe that we are already at the halfway point of the spring season. We are excited to announce the expansion of our programs with the addition of Advanced Rec Skills training at both locations for the spring. This program is aimed at our recreational players who want to work on their game and improve their skills. We have also expanded our Futsal Program to now be offered in both locations, and our Brazilian Soccer Skills is once again being offered at our Milton location. For more information on all our programs please visit our website.

While we still need more Certified Referees and Jr Referees within the organization, we made a big step in the right direction during February and March by holding multiple Referee Jr Classes with more than 40 of our players going through the training program. If you are interested in getting involved (and making a little money as a referee), please complete this questionnaire which add you to our list for information on future courses: [REF COURSE INTEREST: FALL 2023 \(google.com\)](#)

Educating our referees is just one example of our commitment to making the game better. Others include hosting multiple USSF Grassroot courses in March. We had 10 of our coaches complete the courses we offered this spring season, and we are looking forward to more coaches completing their Grassroot Certifications this summer.

Tryouts for our competitive programs will start in mid-May. Please be sure to register for Tryouts on our website starting April 1. If you know anyone who is interested in trying out for a spot on one of our competitive Pre-Academy, Academy or SCCL teams please let us know so we can help them register for Tryouts. Specific tryout information and registration details can be found on our website now!

We believe in keeping our membership updated on the many great things going on at Rush Union Soccer. To that end, our annual "State of the Union" parent information evening will be held on April 24th at 7:30pm. This meeting will be held via Zoom and will provide an update on the past year at Rush Union as well as things to look forward to in the Fall 2024-Spring 2025 seasons. More information on this meeting will be sent via email very soon.

Planning for the Summer has been underway, and we are excited to offer a variety of programs to suit family's needs during the summer. These programs include but are not limited to; training programs, weeklong camps, 7v7 team play, mini camps, futsal, and our Complete Player Camp at the end of the summer. Please check out all the options we have available this summer via our website and of course reach out if you have any questions.

I want to share a special shout out to one of our players, Rebecca Pascuzzi who recently completed a trip to Spain with our Rush National teams. Rebecca was called up to the G2011 team but ended up playing with both the G2011 and G2010 National teams. Congratulations to Rebecca! We have had nearly 40 players represent Rush on a Regional and National level this year.

April 2024

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We would also like to recognize Coach Luis Seijas. Coach Luis was recently recognized by the Venezuela National Soccer Federation for his amazing service to Soccer in Venezuela. Luis' playing career saw him achieve 82 caps over 19 years representing the National team in 4 Copa Americas and 3 World Cup Qualifying campaigns. Great job Coach Luis, we are proud to have you at Rush Union.

Included in this newsletter is an article that was recently published in the Milton Neighbor. The article discusses what real success in youth sports looks like and how our organization is positioned to excel in developing the next generation of soccer players, coaches and community leaders.

If you have any questions about Rush Union, our programs or anything soccer related please reach out to our staff at any time.

Thank you for being part of our Rush Union family. We look forward to seeing you back on the field soon.

R|U Ready?



Neil McNab Jr.
CEO Rush Union



R|U RUSH UNION

Wanna improve technical skills and speed?

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OPEN TO PLAYERS U9-U15
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2024-2025

TRYOUTS

U9-U14 U15-U19

MAY 20-22 MAY 28-30

BOYS & GIRLS BOYS & GIRLS

WATCH FOR DETAILS ON U8 TRYOUT DATES

SCCL SOUTHEASTERN CLUBS CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHECK THE SITE FOR DETAILS
WWW.RUSHUNIONSOCCEER.ORG

RUSH SOCCER

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Below: One of the USSF Grassroot Courses we held in March!



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Social Media

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EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR

SUCCESS IN SPORTS



BY NEIL MCNAB,
RUSH UNION SOCCER



PLAY IT FORWARD.

Success in sports at the highest level is easy to see. It usually involves winning some type of an award like a Super Bowl trophy, or World Cup, or Olympic medal. And a parade with ticker tape. It's tangible hardware by which one can judge the best team or athlete.

Success in sports at the youth level is different—as it should be. And true success doesn't always mean a medal around the neck. Sadly, that necklace means a lot to people when they are gauging success, so many youth players—who don't always win the game, take the tournament, or score the winning goal—are overlooked as being "successful". Let's shine a light on the importance of remembering the better, more important reason for youth sports, and that most of our children aren't gunning for the elite status that comes with professional athletes.

I remember being in school many years ago and being told to "always do your best" and it's the growth and development that comes with competition that's important, not whether you win or lose. But hey, we know—and so do our kids—winning is fun. It feels good. But should it be the whole point of the game? I don't think so. After many years in the field, on the field, and watching youth athletes, I have realized that youth sports' purpose is to achieve a much loftier goal. We are

preparing our children for the greater arena of life—making them winners on a much bigger stage.

Take the Olympics for example. The Olympic message is centered around excellence, friendship, and respect. There is no reference to winning or earning a championship. Something that always resonates with me is the Olympic torch. The ever-burning flame that is passed from one event to the next, representing the true spirit of the games and passing that spirit from athlete to athlete and city to city. This is very similar to how coaches and mentors pass the joy of their sport to the youth with whom they work. They played once, they fell in love with the sport, they moved on to coaching to pass the torch and love of the game to the next generation.

And when you see the child athlete evolve into an adult coach who wants to give back to a sport that provided so much to him/her, it's incredibly rewarding. And a measure of athletic success in its own right. You don't have to be the star of the team to bring success to your sport or team.

My own child is currently being coached by one of my former players and we have had dozens of former players come back to Rush Union over the years and enter the very rewarding world of coaching youth soccer, paying it forward to the ones who follow.

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R U RUSH UNION SUMMER PROGRAMS

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 • NEW INDOOR TURF IN MILTON!
 • Adult Leagues • College ID Opportunities
 • Local/Regional Tournament Play

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18 • OUR MILTON NEIGHBOR

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Our vision at Rush Union is to "Elevate our community to become the best version of themselves. Play It Forward!". The tagline of "Play it Forward" really resonates with me when we talk about success in youth sports. When you have impacted someone so greatly that they want to "Play it Forward" to another, it's transformational and transcends what you do on the field for that team in one season. It has a lasting impact on the success of athletes on and off the field.

I have been so fortunate to have coached an Olympic Gold Medalist, a three-time Super Bowl winner, several professional players, and dozens of college soccer players. These are all success stories at the highest level of international sports. However, when I look back on my coaching career and the legacy that is left behind, I hope to see a great succession of former players who decide to "Play it Forward" however they can, whenever they can. That will be the success of youth sports and how we judge ourselves at Rush Union Soccer.

I challenge everyone when working with youth, in whatever arena you may be in, to honor the privilege of passing the symbolic Olympic torch along.

PLAY IT FORWARD!

RU Ready? Come check out our programs at Rush Union and get involved in an organization that is trying to elevate our community.



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We had a great time in the Community at the Easter Egg Hunt held at Bell Memorial Park on Saturday March 23.

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April 2024

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Rush Union and The Collective continue to work together to implement a strategic plan for Rush Union as we strive to be the best organization we can be! More information is below...



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As we start the New Year, we want to share the journey of Rush Union and its staff over the past year. We have worked with The Collective Global, a consulting group to evaluate who we are and who we want to be in the “World of Soccer”. To that end, we have realigned our Mission, Vision and Values to better reflect who we are and how we are to be known in our soccer community. The outcome of this process has led us to the following-

Mission – Serve, Develop, Inspire

Vision – Elevate our community to become the best version of themselves. Play It Forward!

Values – CREATE

C- Confident

R- Respectful

E – Engaged

A – Accountable

T – Tenacious

E- Empathetic

These are the attributes we want to see in our own children and want to help develop in our players and our community.

In the coming months, we will be rolling out initiatives relating to our Mission, Vision, and Values. As we roll these out, we hope that you will embrace them and the culture we are trying to develop with in our community by getting involved with Rush Union Soccer.

List of opportunities for involvement -

Volunteer Coach	Thunder Program
Mini Kickers Program	Sponsor
Facilities Improvement	Field Marshal
Community Clean Up Committee	Community Project Committee
Local Committee	

Click the link and complete the google form to express your interest in volunteering and a member of our staff will contact you with additional information as the opportunities become available – [Rush Union Volunteer Opportunities](#)

If you wish to donate, please click - [Donate](#)

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More Coaching education, a course held in March... We offer more USSF Coaching Education courses than any youth club in Georgia.

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Save the dates... Rush Union Fall Cup will be on November 16-17, 2024!

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