



Welcome!

Rush Union Update

We hope everyone has had a safe and happy winter break, and new year celebrations. We have had a very busy winter with a wide range of programs for our members including indoor and outdoor skills clinics, camps and weekly small-sided leagues and events. We are always looking at ways to improve our winter offerings, so if you have any feedback for us, we would love to hear from you.

The start of 2025 saw several of our staff attend the United Soccer Coaching Convention in Chicago. The Convention is the largest gathering of soccer coaches from across the world. It was a great experience for those that attended and included the Rush Soccer uniform reveal for the Fall 2025-Spring 2027 uniform cycle. Images are included below, and we are excited about seeing our players in the new uniform this fall.

Planning for our Spring 2025 programs began in October, and registration has been open for some time now. We will have our traditional Recreational and Competitive Programs this spring season, along with additional training options that will include Advanced Recreational Training, Brazilian Skills, Ball Mastery, Shooting Clinics and After School Soccer Clubs. For more information on the programs offered this spring and how to register please visit our website and filter by location for what is available close to you. We are not forgetting about the Adults. We will also have indoor and outdoor options for our adult players.

The start of our spring season will include the annual Rush Union Spring Cup. Our spring tournament will boast over 250 teams from all over Georgia and the surrounding states. We are anticipating this being our largest Rush Union Spring Cup to date. For more information on the Rush Union Spring Cup please visit our Spring Cup website: [Event Details - Rush Union Spring Cup](#)

On the theme of tournaments, we are extremely excited to announce the addition of a third tournament in our tournament series. The Rush Union Rec Cup will be played on May 17-18, 2025, and be open for Recreational teams aged U8-U14. We are proud to offer this fun addition for our recreational families to conclude their spring season. More information on the Rush Union Rec Cup will be available soon.

We hosted a USSF D License Coaching Courses in during the winter break at our Dunwoody location. We had three of our coaches involved with this course, and two others involved in other USSF D Courses this winter period. Rush Union prides itself for being at the forefront of Grassroot Soccer Education in Georgia, and it shows through our coaches' commitment to learning by participating in educational opportunities during the offseason. To learn more about the courses offered please visit the US Soccer Learning Center: [U.S. Soccer Learning Center \(ussoccer.com\)](https://ussoccer.com)

Regarding education, we are also planning to host all our regular Program Orientation Meetings over the next few weeks. We hold a Parent Orientation Meeting for our Recreational, Pre-Academy, Academy and SCCL Programs. In addition to this we are hosting a parent workshop that is FREE for all

February 2025

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parents to attend on March 5, 7:30pm-8:30pm via Zoom. Our long-term partner: Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) will be conducting the workshop. Registration information will be available shortly.

Details are being finalized now for another Referee Jr Workshop during the month of February. Our Referee Jr Program has really helped support our referee pool and cover a much need gap in available referees due to a national shortage. This is a great way for players to get more involved in the sport and gain a better understanding of the rules of play.

Featured this month in the Milton Neighbor is an article about a day in the life of our coaching staff. It was a lot of fun to write the article, so I hope you enjoy reading it, and learning about what goes on behind the scenes to help create a great environment at Rush Union Soccer. The Article is featured below .

On a personal note, I was nominated in December and elected in late January to the position of President of Georgia Soccer. I have been a board member for the last five years, and a member of Georgia Soccer for over 20 years. I am extremely honored to have the opportunity to lead this great organization at a very exciting time for soccer in Georgia. I would like to thank everyone who supported me throughout this journey, and I am looking forward the next chapter for soccer in Georgia.

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?

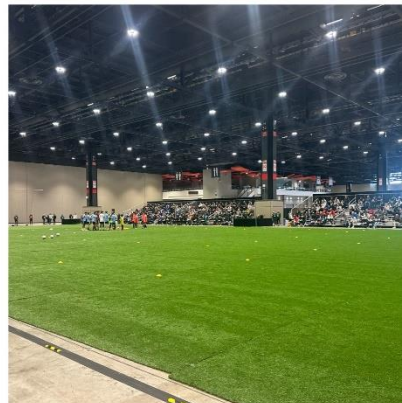
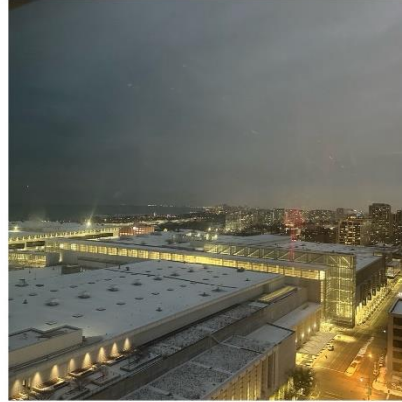


Neil McNab Jr.
CEO Rush Union



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We had several staff members attend the USC Convention in Chicago!

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EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR

BEHIND THE CREST: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE RUSH UNION SOCCER COACHES



BY NEIL MCNAB,
RUSH UNION SOCCER

At Rush Union Soccer, the coaches are more than just leaders on the field—they're mentors, motivators, and role models. Each day brings new challenges and rewards, as they balance training schedules, guide young athletes, and foster a lifelong love for soccer. Today, we step into the shoes of our Rush Union Coaches, who exemplify the passion and dedication that defines our organization.



Coach Mauro Morales



Coach George Saunders

PREPARATION AND INSPIRATION

For Coach George Saunders, the day often begins with planning. Whether it's brainstorming drills, reviewing last week's performances, or mapping out strategies for an upcoming game, preparation is key.

"Every session needs to have a purpose," George says. "It's not just about running drills—it's about developing skills and character."

When not on the field, Coach Mauro Morales balances other responsibilities, including work, family, and community involvement.

"Time management is everything," they explain. "Coaching isn't just a job—it's a passion, and that makes it worth the effort."



Coach Steve Reid

PRACTICE WITH PURPOSE

At the fields of Rush Union, Coach Steve Reid greets players with energy and enthusiasm. Practices are designed to

challenge and engage every player, whether they're working on basic footwork or advanced game tactics.

• **Dynamic Warm-Ups:** The team starts with a series of fun and active exercises to get everyone moving.

• **Skill Development:** Drills are tailored to each age group. Younger players might play small-sided games to improve confidence, while older ones work on tactical positioning.

• **Team Bonding:** Beyond soccer skills, Coach's Steve emphasizes teamwork and communication.

"We want our players to be more than just good athletes," they say. "We want them to be great teammates."

GAME DAY EXCITEMENT

Game days are a special highlight. For Coach Jack Maher, they're not just about competition but about teaching resilience, strategy, and sportsmanship.



Coach Jack Maher

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- **Pre-Game Prep:** Arriving early, Coach Jack ensures the team is mentally and physically ready. A quick pep talk emphasizes focus and fun.
- **Sideline Strategies:** During the game, they balance giving instructions with letting players make their own decisions on the field.
- **Post-Game Reflection:** After the final whistle, Coach Helena Dias gathers her team to discuss what went well and what they can work on next time.

"Every game is an opportunity to learn and grow," she explains. "It's not just about the scoreline it's about building character, and a love for the game. That's how we grow as players and people."



Coach Helena Dias

BEYOND THE FIELD: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

For Coach Tyler Guentz, coaching is as much about connection as it is about soccer. They make time to check in with players, celebrate their progress, and ensure every child feels valued.



Coach Tyler Guentz

"Some of the best moments aren't about the game," they admit. "It's about seeing a player light up when they achieve something they didn't think they could."

Parents are also an essential part of the equation, and Coach Junior Burgos values open communication.

"We're a team—coaches, players, and parents. When we work together, the kids benefit the most."



Coach Junior Burgos

WHY THEY COACH

For Coach Kevin Ndongo, the passion for coaching runs deep. Whether they're helping a shy player find confidence or



Coach Kevin Ndongo

guiding a talented athlete to the next level, their mission is clear: to inspire and uplift.

"Rush Union isn't just about soccer," they say. "It's about building better people. If I can be a part of that, it's the best job in the world."

CONCLUSION

Coaches at Rush Union Soccer are the heart and soul of organization. They dedicate their time, energy, and expertise to creating a positive environment where players can thrive. Their impact goes far beyond the game, shaping young athletes into confident, resilient, and compassionate individuals.

For more information on Rush Union and ways you can get involved with our programs please visit our website: www.rushunionsoccer.org

MILTON AND DEKALB LOCATIONS

SPRING PROGRAMS

- SCCL Competitive
- Recreational
- All Ages
- NEW INDOOR TURF IN MILTON!
- Adult Leagues
- College ID Opportunities
- Local/Regional Tournament Play

VISIT RUSHUNIONSOCCKER.ORG AND FILTER BY LOCATION

SCCL

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We are excited about the new uniforms that our players will be wearing in the fall 2025 season!

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Congratulations to Rush Union's Executive Director Neil McNab, on his election as the new President of Georgia Soccer!

It's a significant achievement and a testament to his leadership and dedication to the sport. Best wishes to him in this new role as he works to promote and develop soccer in Georgia!

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GEORGIA SOCCER

This is a great opportunity to grow soccer in Georgia and have a lasting impact on the entire soccer community!

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Join us February 22/23 for our Rush Union Spring Cup

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SUMMER CAMPS 2025



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Academy
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