



Welcome!

Rush Union Update

We held our Rush Union, State of the Union annual meeting recently. Operating in a transparent manner has been integral to our programming growth over the last several years. If you missed the meeting, do not worry. We recorded the session so you can stay updated on the amazing progress we have made this year. New staffing, new website, new leagues, and a general club health update were all provided. This is a must watch for any Rush Union member.

On the theme of updates, we are extremely excited to announce the addition of Chris Panayiotou, better known as Chris P., to our Rush Union staff. Chris joins us from Virginia Rush where he has served in various capacities over the last several years. Chris has a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience, and we cannot wait for him to have a significant impact at Rush Union Soccer.

Our spring season is almost over and many of our teams are preparing for tournaments to end their season. All our summer programs are open for registration via our website. We will have weeklong camps, clinics, mini camps and more. We look forward to having you join us this summer for some soccer fun. Before we get to the summer opportunities, we will hold tryouts for our competitive programs. U8-U14 tryouts will be May 19-21 and U15-U19 tryouts will be May 27-29 respectively.

Our competitive programs will have the opportunity to participate in new leagues in the Fall 2025 Season. We are proud to announce our acceptance into the National Premier League (NPL) for our boys' programs, and the Development Player League (DPL) for our girls' program. We will continue to have teams participate in the SCCL as we have in previous seasons. By offering these new opportunities for our players we will continue to be able to offer the best player development pathways and experiences to our athletes. More information about the NPL and DPL is available on our website.

Speaking of registration, we are very excited to announce that Rush Union Soccer is moving to a new website and registration platform. 360 Player is an all-in-one comprehensive club management and communication tool. Fall 2025 Tryouts is the first program that we moved over to the new platform. Our existing registrations, including summer programs will remain on our current Demosphere platform as we transition over to 360 Player during the remainder of 2025. More information on the capabilities of the new platform is shown below.

We are extremely excited about 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 can be found here: [Event Details - Rush Union Rec Cup](#)

May 2025

R|U RUSH UNION R|U IN?

We are hosting a USSF D License course starting in May. 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 ongoing educational opportunities. To learn more about the courses offered please visit the US Soccer Learning Center: [U.S. Soccer Learning Center \(ussoccer.com\)](https://ussoccer.com)

Our referee program continues to grow. We hosted two Referee Certification classes in March that both had over 30 participants attending. This is in addition to the three Referee Jr Classes we had already held in the early spring. We have now had over 100 participants in referee courses and classes alone this spring season. This is a great step forward in building our internal and external referee community.

We had several of our players recognized recently in different ways. G2009 Team member Ava Gainer and B2013 Team member Jason Toomer were both recognized by The City of Dunwoody during National Student-Athlete appreciation day. Ava and Jason both go above and beyond the game. Ava is a coaching mentor with our girls Academy Program and Jason is a Jr Referee. B2011 Rush team member, Korben Vertz, was recognized in the Milton Neighbor for his success in the Rush regional and National programs. The article about Korben is shown below. Congratulations to our players for their recognition.

On the same topic of articles, The Milton Neighbor published an article I wrote recently about the top 5 ways to keep soccer fun for athletes. The article is shown below in this newsletter, I hope you enjoy reading it.

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 R|U IN?

SERVE, DEVELOP, INSPIRE. 



Annual Club Meeting
April 30, 2025.

PRESENTED BY:



NEIL MCNAB
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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RIU RUSH UNION RIU in?



Social Media

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram & Twitter

Rush Union

www.facebook.com/rushunionsoccer

Instagram: @RushUnion

Twitter: @Union_rush

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RIU RUSH UNION RIU IN?

WELCOME CHRIS PANAYIOTOU Director of Soccer



Support the development of our coaching staff with an immediate focus on Milton

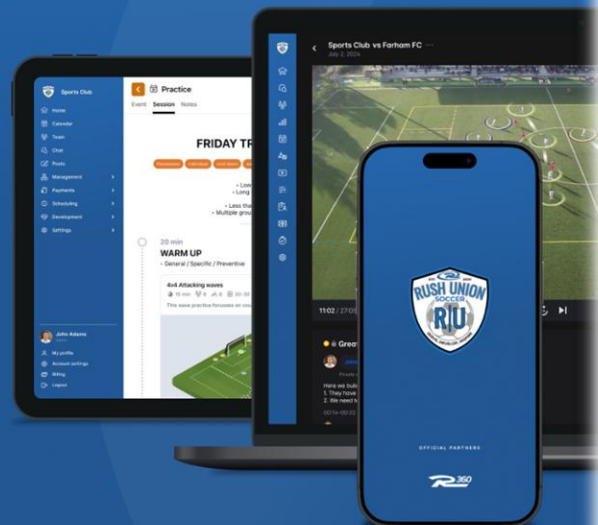
- UEFA B Licence
- USSF B License
- USSF Grassroots and Technical Leadership Educator
- VYSA Coach of the Year (2015 & 2016)
- Rush Soccer Development Technical Director 2014-2022



Above, welcome Chris P to the Rush Union family. Below, the fully integrated platform Rush Union is moving to that will streamline registration, club management and communication.

REVOLUTIONIZING CLUB ENGAGEMENT

INTRODUCING RUSH360



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RIU RUSH UNION RIU IN?



**RUSH UNION
SOCCER**



**2025 2026
COMPETITIVE PROGRAM
TRYOUT DATES**

TRYOUT REGISTRATION OPENS IN APRIL!

| | |
|---|--|
| MAY 19, 20, 21 boys & girls 2012-2019 | MAY 27, 28, 29 boys & girls 2007-2011 |
| DUNWOODY LOCATION BROOK RUN PARK 4770 N PEACHTREE RD DUNWOODY 30338 | MILTON LOCATION 14295 BIRMINGHAM HWY MILTON, GA 30004 |

RUSHUNIONSOCCE.RG

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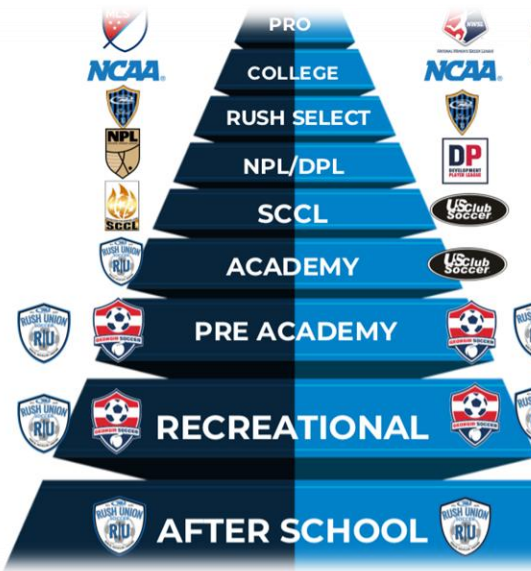
RIU RUSH UNION RIU IN?

NEW LEAGUES OFFERED AT RUSH UNION SOCCER!



We are very excited to be able to offer the NPL and DPL leagues for our teams and players. Below you see a snapshot of how this will add to our player development pathway for our athletes.

RUSH UNION



PLAYER PATHWAY



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EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR

TOP 5 WAYS TO KEEP SOCCER FUN FOR YOUNG PLAYERS



BY NEIL MCNAB,
RUSH UNION SOCCER



Soccer is the world's game, and for young players, it should be a source of excitement, creativity, and joy. While development and competition are important, keeping the game fun is the key to fostering a lifelong love of soccer. Here are the top five ways to ensure young players stay engaged and enthusiastic:

1. ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY ON THE BALL

Players should feel free to experiment with dribbling moves, tricks, and different ways of striking the ball. Allowing them to express themselves without fear of making mistakes builds confidence and enjoyment. Small-sided games and free play sessions give kids opportunities to be inventive without constant direction from coaches.

2. MAKE TRAINING A GAME

Drills should be designed to be competitive and engaging. Instead of repetitive exercises, incorporate small challenges, races, and team-based competitions. Activities like 1v1 duels, target shooting, or skill challenges can turn a regular training session into an exciting experience that players look forward to.

3. CREATE A POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Young players thrive when they feel encouraged and supported. Coaches and parents should celebrate effort and improvement rather than just results. A culture where mistakes are seen as learning opportunities helps kids stay motivated and resilient. Fun should always take priority over pressure.

4. INTRODUCE VARIETY AND NEW CHALLENGES

Keeping things fresh prevents boredom. Rotate activities, introduce new skills, and occasionally let players try different positions or roles within the game. Organizing friendly competitions, themed practices, or even crossover sports like futsal can keep players engaged and eager to learn.

5. LET KIDS PLAY FREELY

Sometimes the best way to make soccer fun is to step back and let the players play. Pick-up games, street soccer-style play, and unstructured scrimmages encourage kids to develop their skills naturally while enjoying the pure fun of the game. The more they play for the love of it, the more they will grow as players. Playing soccer outside of structured practices, such as in the backyard, at a local park, or with friends, enhances enjoyment and skill development.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT THE FUN

Parents play a vital role in keeping soccer enjoyable for their children. Encouraging effort over results, staying positive on the sidelines, and allowing kids to take ownership of their soccer journey can make a huge difference. Supporting a balanced approach where fun is prioritized over pressure ensures that young players stay motivated and enthusiastic about the sport. Parents

SUMMER PROGRAMS

MILTON AND DEKALB LOCATIONS

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

SCCL

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can also contribute by fostering a love for the game outside of practices and games. Watching professional matches, supporting a local team, and creating a family tradition around soccer can inspire young players and deepen their connection to the sport. Being around friends and teammates in a fun, social setting also increases enjoyment and long-term participation.

THE GROWTH OF SOCCER AND ITS BRIGHT FUTURE

Soccer continues to grow rapidly in the U.S., and with the excitement of the 2026 FIFA World Cup on the horizon, the sport is set to reach new heights. The World Cup will inspire a new generation of players, bringing even more opportunities to develop a passion for the game. As soccer's popularity increases, programs

like those at Rush Union Soccer will play a crucial role in nurturing young talent and fostering a lifelong love for the game.

At Rush Union Soccer, our goal is to create an environment where players not only develop their skills but also cultivate a genuine passion for the game. We offer a wide variety of programs to suit players of all ages and skill levels, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and most importantly, have fun. By focusing on creativity, challenges, and joy, we can help young athletes build a lifelong connection with soccer. Let's make the game fun—because when kids love the game, they'll keep playing, learning, and growing! RU Ready? Come check us out this summer!



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RIU RUSH UNION RIU IN?

Join us May 17/18 for our first Annual Rush Union Rec Cup

The poster features a central graphic of a soccer ball with a stylized 'R' logo, surrounded by the text 'RUSH UNION' in a curved banner above and 'REC CUP' in a large, bold font below. The year '2025' is displayed in a smaller font at the bottom of the graphic. To the right, a soccer player in a 'capelli SPORT' jersey is shown in action, kicking a ball. Above the player, a child is celebrating with arms raised. The background is a dark, blurred image of a soccer field with blue and white diagonal stripes.

MAY 17 & 18
REC- ONLY TOURNAMENT

REGISTER HERE!

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RIU RUSH UNION RIU IN?

Getting involved at Rush Union

We need your help!



- THANK YOU
 - Team Managers
 - RU Local Committee Members
- There are other ways to help!



Above, Thank you to our amazing Team Managers and Local committee members. We need more help, so sign up our additional committees. Below, the upcoming USSF D Course we are hosting this May/June!



UPCOMING US SOCCER
D COACHING COURSE

ATLANTA/DUNWOODY

MAY 5TH - JULY 3RD 2025

*Limited Seats Available

USA

COACHING COURSE

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SUMMER CAMPS 2025



Recreation
Academy
Select



Serve, Develop, Inspire

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KICKING ONTO THE NATIONAL SOCCER SCENE AT 13

BY TRACY LYNN DRYE

The City of Milton has long been known for producing top-tier athletes across all sports, and soccer is no exception. At just 13 years old, Korben Vertz has already kicked his way onto the national soccer scene. As a dedicated center back, Korben has been playing since he was six and currently represents Hopewell Middle School and Rush Union, a local competitive club team. With impressive accomplishments at the regional and national levels, he is proving that Milton's athletes excel.

Korben's passion for the game is evident in his commitment to improvement. He works on developing both physically and mentally, setting his sights on playing at the high school and collegiate levels. His biggest challenge has been managing the fear of failure and the pressure of not letting his team down. However, he credits his father's advice, "If you do not think you are good enough, you aren't. If you think you can do it, you can" which has helped him build confidence and push forward.

His hard work has already earned him recognition. Korben was selected for the 2011 South Region Team (the team names are based on birth year) and the National Team for Rush Select. This past year, he competed with the South Region at the International Rush Cup in Palm Beach, Florida, where his team won the championship. He was also chosen to play in the President's Tournament in Arizona for the Rush Global Team, an elite squad featuring the top 32 Rush players from across the nation.

Korben's dedication does not stop at soccer. He follows a strict pregame routine, starting with prayer and a personal warm-up before joining his team. He believes in training with maximum effort, following the philosophy, "The way you practice is the way you play." Off the field, he maintains his physical fitness by working



out at home and enjoys watching and learning from automotive racing. He used to swim competitively for the Milton Mustangs Swim Team too.

Korben is not navigating this journey alone—his family plays a huge role in his success. His parents have supported his soccer dreams every step of the way, and he is also inspired by his sister, Kamyryn, who is an accomplished gymnast. Their shared dedication to their sports fuels a competitive yet supportive environment at home, where striving for excellence is their norm.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

RUSH UNION SOCCER

RU

EST. 2009

SCCL Competitive • Recreational • All Ages

NEW INDOOR TURF IN MILTON! • Adult Leagues

College ID Opportunities • Local/Regional Tournament Play

MILTON AND DEKALB LOCATIONS

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Being part of a team has taught Korben valuable lessons about communication and leadership. While he admits it can be frustrating when not everyone gives their all, he focuses on what he can control which is his own performance and work ethic. These impressive skills will stay with him long after his soccer career.

The Milton community continues to be committed to developing young athletes across all sports, and Korben is just one example of the incredible talent emerging from our community. With his discipline, skills, and strong support system, he is well on his way to making a name for himself at the highest levels in the sport of soccer.

At just 13, he is already kicking the ball nationally, and we cannot wait to see where his journey takes him next as he heads to Cambridge High School.

Congratulations Korben!



FOR RUSH UNION MEMEBERS



YOU GET SO MANY

EXTRA TOUCHES ON THE BALL

CAMPBELL M.
TOCA Athlete



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