



Welcome!

Rush Union Update

We had a very successful August. Many of our teams had great success in local tournaments this past month including the SSA Summer Classic, GSA Jrs Cup, NASA Tophat Boys and Girls weekends, Georgia Express Cup, AFC Lightning Challenge, and Steamers Fall Classic just to name a few. All our tournament finalists and Champions are highlighted below in this newsletter and on our social media handles.

August brought a busy start to the fall soccer season. All our Recreational programs have started practices and are getting ready for opening weekend. We held Orientation meetings for all programs and a series of parent workshops with our partner, Positive Coaching Alliance. Our commitment to supporting our parents as they navigate the difficult world of sports parenting does not stop there. We also offer a FREE membership to the Soccer Parenting Association for Rush Union members. Please scan the QR code at bottom of this newsletter to take the Sideline Pledge and get access to a whole host of resources from videos to articles, to online courses.

Rush Soccer's College Advisory Program National Director, Josh Tyler spent some time at our locations in the middle of August. Josh was able to work with all our players 8th grade and older and hosted a couple of parent meetings about the programming Rush has to offer our older athletes to support them during their journey to college. The CAP program is not just for athletes trying to play in college. The program supports all students who want to attend college. For more information on our CAP program please visit the following website: [College Advisory Program \(rushsoccer.com\)](http://rushsoccer.com)

We hosted two USSF Grassroot Coaching Courses in August at our Dunwoody location, a Referee Certification Course at our Milton location and two Jr Referee Courses, one at Brook Run and one at Stars Athletic Complex. Our commitment to growing the game in all areas; Coaching, Referees and Players is unmatched.

Continuing with the theme of growing the game, we have partnered with Georgia State Soccer Association (GSSA) and American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) with an Innovate to Grow grant (ITG). We held our first clinic on August 23 at Pleasantdale Park and it was very well attended. We had over 30 new players attend, along with coaches and parents. We will be offering more opportunities like this in the future as we continue to grow the game.

Our Fall Adult programs are kicking off in early September. We offer a variety of leagues and levels, both indoor and outdoor options are available. All our adult leagues have moved to an individual registration process, so folks no longer must collect or chase money for their teams. This also allows us to create teams of free agents and continue to grow and diversify our adult membership. For more information on all our adult leagues and options please visit our website.

September 2024

R | U RUSH UNION R | U in?

We are excited to announce that long term Georgia Rush Coach and current Rush Union Facility Manager Brian Smith, will be moving into a new role within the organization. Brian will serve Rush Union as Operations Manager. Brian will continue to oversee our facilities as part of his new role and work closely with our administrative team. Please join me in congratulating Brian on his expanded role with Rush Union. If you want to read more about Brian's story and journey at Rush please see below in this newsletter.

Thanks to the great work of the Rybos family we have an amazing new spirit wear store. The store opened in early August and boasts a vast array of Rush Union items. A portion of all sales go back to supporting Rush Union. We are very excited to show our Rush Union pride in the soccer community with some amazing new apparel. Please get your orders in NOW! More information is included below in the newsletter.

Additionally, we have created a new means for parents and players to share their Rush Union photos with us. Please email photos or videos to socialmedia@rushunionsoccer.org. What sending any media, please identify the Event, Team Name, Rush Union location, and if any player is highlighted, their name.

Planning for our winter programs is well underway. We will have a wide range of options available to our members including indoor and outdoor skills clinics, camps and weekly small-sided leagues and events. Registration for all winter programs will open by October 1, so please stay tuned for future updates.

Although the FIFA World Cup is a little under two years away, planning started months ago. Rush Union is leading the charge with many exciting opportunities for players and families just around the corner. We will need help from our membership. Please look for a call to action later this fall as we start to formalize ideas into reality. Watch parties, sponsorships, programs and community engagement are just some of the things being discussed.

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



SERVE, DEVELOP, INSPIRE.



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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AYSO
AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
FOUNDED 1964

INVITES YOU TO
Come Out and
PLAY!

Georgia Soccer and AYSO present
FREE DAY OF PLAY
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

RIU RUSH UNION SOCCER
PLAY! AYSO
GEORGIA SOCCER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD
5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM
PLEASANTDALE PARK



We had a great first FREE day of play in partnership with Georgia Soccer + AYSO!

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RIU RUSH UNION RIU in?

BRIAN SMITH TAKES ON NEW ROLE:

Rush Union Soccer has appointed Brian Smith to the new role of Operations Manager for the organization. In his new role, Brian will be responsible for overseeing administrative functions, the facilities operations, and special projects for both the Dekalb, Milton and future locations.

Brian has been a fixture of the youth soccer community where he began as a player and moved to coaching in 2003. While growing up in Georgia, Brian played for the Dekalb YMCA and Tucker Youth Soccer. While coaching started as a part time role as a coach for his son's team, Brian quickly learned he would rather spend his time on the soccer fields than behind a desk in the corporate world. So he left his corporate job in Commercial Banking to pursue a career in soccer. He has been a member of the Rush Nation since 2011 as a coach with Texas Rush. Upon his return to Georgia, he joined Georgia Rush in 2015 where he served in various administrative roles in addition to coaching. He has also served as an Age Group Coordinator with Georgia Soccer and as the Rush Union Tournament Director.

Brian has been instrumental in the management of our facilities, including the renovation of the Indoor Facility at Milton, and he has a passion to make Rush Union the best for its players and families. His experience in both Commercial Banking and the Soccer landscape are tremendous assets and will be pivotal in his new role. We can't wait to see what he has in store for the future of Rush Union - Neil McNab, Executive Director

I am excited and energized to further serve Rush Union and our members in this new role - Brian Smith



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RIU RUSH UNION RIU in?



Get all Spirit Wear now!

WWW.RUSHUNIONSTORE.COM

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RIU RUSH UNION RIU in?



Josh Tyler, Rush National CAP Director spent some time with our players and parents during his visit in the middle of August.

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RIU RUSH UNION RIU in?



We hosted two USSF Grassroots Coaching Courses in August!



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RUSH UNION
SOCCER

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TOPSOCCER THUNDER PROGRAM

Thunder Program is Rain or Shine!

Fall 2024
Starts Sunday
Sept 8
at 3:30 pm.

All Sessions are
held at our
Milton
Indoor Facility.

Our TopSoccer Thunder Program is a community-based recreational program specifically designed to help athletes with physical and intellectual disabilities participate in soccer.

14295 Birmingham Hwy Milton, GA 30004

The TOPSoccer Thunder Program is a community-based recreational program specifically designed to help athletes with physical and intellectual disabilities participate in soccer. The Thunder program has been a part of the Rush organization since 1992 and continues to grow in popularity, bringing soccer to players who refuse to let their challenges stop them from participating.

The emphasis of the program is on development, training, and a rewarding experience rather than on competition enabling individuals to improve their fitness and enhance their self-esteem. One-on-one assistance is available for those who are in need of it.

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R | U RUSH UNION R | U IN ?

Come be a Mentor to the next generation of Rush Union soccer players!



R | U A MENTOR?



Inspire younger players through the game by being a leader and role model

Learn how to coach while having fun and gaining volunteer hours!

Requirements

- Must be 15U+ age group
- Consistent communication via email and TeamSnap
- Available for at least 1 practice/week
- Commitment for 1 full fall or spring season

Other Info

- Volunteer position
 - Hours toward school clubs/college applications
- Attendance at games optional/schedule dependent
- Apply:
<https://forms.gle/fxA6seqqagWqhFQLA>



Apply!

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Our Request for Good Sideline Etiquette

<https://www.rushunionsoccer.org/>



- Be the role model on the sideline you want your kids and neighbors to see.
- Let kids be kids. Chaos is OK! There are no 'important' games. Just enjoy it!
- Coaches and referees. Everyone is a volunteer.
- "Coaches Coach, Referees Ref, Players Play, Parents Cheer!"

How You Can Help (Your Child)

1. Be relentlessly positive with all players, referees, coaches. We're all neighbors!
2. When cheering - simply be encouraging, not directing with "instructions".
3. Please keep the focus on FUN! (not game outcomes)
4. Tell your child after every game: "I love watching you play!"

THANK YOU!

Check out the link below to join to gain access to articles, interviews, courses, and more-created specifically for youth soccer parents. Paid for by the Rush Union leadership.



SCAN ME
to learn more



SERVE, DEVELOP, INSPIRE.

