



Welcome! Rush Union Update

As we reach the end of another exciting fall season, it's a great time to reflect on all that's been accomplished across Rush Union. From our Recreational and Academy programs to SCCL, NPL, and DPL teams, it's been a season full of growth, competition, and development. Players have continued to improve, teams have come together, and our community has remained strong. We've seen so many positive moments across all levels, and we're proud of the effort and commitment that everyone has shown throughout the fall.

November brings one of our favorite events of the year, the Rush Union Fall Cup. This year's tournament will be our largest ever, with more than 325 teams from across the South joining us for a weekend of great soccer and community. It's always incredible to see so many players, coaches, and families come together, and we look forward to showcasing what makes our club and facilities so special. For more information on our tournament please visit here: [Event Details - Rush Union Cup](#)

Beyond competition, Rush Union continues to be involved in growing the game on a broader level. We're proud to share that we'll be working closely with U.S. Soccer to help pilot their new School initiatives. Rush National and Rush Union were selected to be part of this national effort to connect soccer programs more closely with local schools, helping increase access to the game and providing resources for educators and students.

We are also excited to announce that Rush Union will be hosting a U.S. Soccer D License Course beginning this month and running through February. This is a fantastic opportunity for coaches to continue their education and development right here within our club environment. Supporting coach growth remains one of our top priorities, and we're proud to provide these types of professional pathways for our staff and community coaches.

As we look ahead to winter, registration is open for our winter programs at both of our main locations. With multiple training and play options available, these programs are a great way for players to stay sharp, active, and connected to the game during the off-season. We'll also be hosting our first Adult Tournament in December, continuing to expand our event portfolio and offering even more opportunities for players of all ages to stay involved. For more information on our adult tournament please visit this link: [Event Details - Rush Union Adult Cup](#)

Community connections have also been major focuses this fall. We were thrilled to attend a workshop recently at Atlanta United with a focus on growing the female game. Both Chris Panayiotou and I were in attendance and it was a great opportunity to collaborate with other local clubs. Events like these help strengthen our culture and reinforce the shared values that make Rush Union so unique.

November 2025

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We also want to thank Coach Cookie and Coach Helena for organizing the Milton Fall Bash, a fantastic evening of fun and community for our players and families. It's events like these that bring everyone together and remind us why we do what we do.

Special congratulations as well to our Director of Soccer, Chris Panayiotou, who was featured in the November issue of the Milton Neighbor. It's great to see his leadership and contributions to the local soccer community recognized and celebrated.

On the player development front, congratulations to all our Rush Select players who were named to IRC and Showcase teams. These selections are a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the quality of training happening across our programs.

It's been a rewarding and successful season across the board, and we couldn't be prouder of our players, coaches, and families. Thank you for being part of our Rush Union community and we are looking forward to carrying this momentum into the winter and beyond.

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 on the field soon.

R|U Ready?



Neil McNab Jr.
CEO Rush Union



Resource Hub Contributor

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The Fall Bash held at our Milton Facility was a big success!



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Please send any pictures, videos, and everything you captured during games and practices to help us promote better.

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20 25
WINTER INDOOR
WORLD CUP

MILTON 25/26

Boys & Girls (Academy/Select Level)
(U9/10, U11/12, U13/14, U15)
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

\$950 PER TEAM
5 Season Games Plus Playoffs
REGISTRATION OPEN ON SINC SPORTS OCTOBER 2ND

14295 Birmingham Hwy Milton, GA 30004

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EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR

TRUST THE PROCESS: MEET CHRIS PANAYIOTOU, DIRECTOR OF SOCCER AT RUSH UNION



BY NEIL MCNAB,
RUSH UNION SOCCER



Earlier this year, Rush Union Soccer welcomed Chris Panayiotou as a Director and key leader within our organization. With an extensive background in player development, coaching education, and leadership, Chris brings a wealth of experience that will further strengthen our commitment to excellence.

Chris joined Rush Union Soccer after serving as the Boys Director of Coaching for Virginia Rush since 2014, as well as holding key leadership roles within Rush Soccer, including Developmental Technical Director and Rush Select XI Staff Coach. His experience spans multiple levels of the game, from grassroots to elite competition, and he has worked extensively as a US Soccer Coach Educator for Grassroots Licenses and the Club Technical Leader Course.

A highly credentialed coach, Chris holds UEFA B, USSF B, C, and D licenses, as well as the National Youth License and Director of Coaching License. His passion for player development has been

recognized through multiple accolades, including VYSA Recreational Boys Coach of the Year (2015), Competitive Boys Coach of the Year (2016) and the Positive Coaching Alliance Double-Impact Coach National Award (2016). Throughout his career, he has guided teams to state and regional championships.

"We are excited to add someone of Chris's caliber and experience to Rush Union," said Neil McNab, Executive Director of Rush Union Soccer. "His expertise in developing young people as players and educating coaches will be invaluable in enhancing our programs and helping our players reach their full potential."

MILTON AND DUNWOODY LOCATIONS

RUSH UNION SOCCER
RU
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WINTER PROGRAMS

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

VISIT RUSHUNIONSOCCEOR.ORG AND FILTER BY LOCATION

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MOTIVATION | CLARITY | PERSONAL DISCIPLINE

14 • OUR MILTON NEIGHBOR

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Chris said "I am thrilled to have joined Rush Union and to see what I can add to the club and community. I am excited to continue my learning journey and look forward to serving the community. My family and I are excited for this next chapter."

Beyond his coaching achievements, Chris has been a leader in community outreach, spearheading initiatives like "Club in the Community," which partnered with the Virginia Beach School District to introduce over 100,000 children to soccer. Chris also serves as a facilitator for the US Soccer Foundation where he works with teachers and mentors coaches.

Rush Union Soccer continues to build a leadership team dedicated to fostering growth, competition, and passion for the sport. Chris's addition marks another step in elevating the level of coaching and player development within the club. For more information about our programs, visit www.rushunionsoccer.org or follow us on social media.

What are one or two things that the team does in training that are keys to their success?
Smile often. Hold each other accountable.

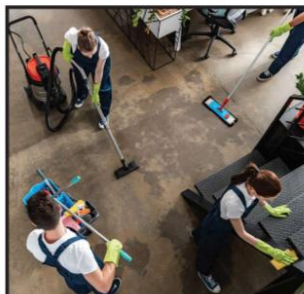
Please describe the most memorable games/tournaments/championships your team has won.
As a player, winning the British Association of Sport in Colleges national championship was super. As a coach, reaching the Region 1 finals with the Va Rush 2010 boys and then going to US Club Nationals in California.

How do you encourage the team after a disappointing loss? I remind them to trust the process and that we work hard as effort never has a bad day.

What is the biggest life lesson you've learned from being a coach? Everyone has a story – be kind.

What legacy do you hope to leave as a coach? Keep as many children and people involved in the sport for as long as possible by creating the best possible environments. Every experience should give children roots to grow and wings to fly. We should aim to prepare the children for their World Cup, not the World Cup.

Anything else you'd like to add: I have been blessed to coach thousands of children over the years and be a part of their journey as people and players. It is amazing the influence we can have on children's lives, but what is even more amazing is the influence that they can have on our journey.



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WINTER **7V7** LEAGUE

TEAMS U8-15



ALL GAMES AT BROOK RUN PARK ON TURF FIELDS

PLAY DATES: JANUARY 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24

\$800/TEAM

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Carvin in Crabapple was a lot of fun... thanks to all those who attended the RU Booth!

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NOVEMBER 15 & 16

ATLANTA

FALL CUP



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RUSH UNION ADULT CUP 2025

DECEMBER 6-7

7v7 tournament
Open + Coed Divisions

Where: Brook Run Park - Turf Fields
Age: 18 Years old and UP



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