

RIU

RUSH UNION

Welcome! Rush Union Update

We are concluding our winter programs and starting spring soccer. We had very positive attendance at our winter programs and would like to thank all those who participated. We continue to diversify our playing opportunities as we move into our spring programming. We are adding Advanced Rec Training Program in both locations and Futsal in Milton after we piloted the program in Dunwoody this past fall. Please check out our website for more information on our new spring programs.

As we kick off our spring season, please be on the lookout for our program parent orientation meetings. We host a series of targeted meetings aimed at sharing program specific information for our Recreational, Pre-Academy, Academy, and SCCL Programs. In addition, we will be offering a free workshop hosted by our partners Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) on Wednesday, March 6 and two USSF Grassroots Courses for coaches in early February. If you have any questions about the education programs we offer, please reach out to us directly.

You may have noticed a special opportunity for our adults. On Wednesday mornings, we have partnered with the Milton Athletic Club (MAC) to offer boot camp style training sessions for anyone interested in getting an amazing workout. We are piloting the program at the facility with the aim of being able to offer more opportunities like this in the future. More information is listed below... Please check them out!

We still have a need for more Certified Referees and Jr Referees in the organization. If you are interested in getting involved (and making a little money as a referee), please complete this questionnaire which will put you on our list for future courses: [REF COURSE INTEREST: FALL 2023 \(google.com\)](#) We will be offering more classes as we get closer to the spring 2024 season.

We were extremely proud to announce the reintroduction of the Rush TOPSoccer Thunder Program, an adaptive program which provides the means for children with physical and intellectual disabilities to participate in soccer. We had a tremendous response to our request for volunteers for the program and are proud to partner with The City of Milton to bring this program to our community. Our two lead Coaches are both former players at Rush and we are so excited that they are "Playing it Forward" in our community and giving back to Rush and our members. Spring registration information is already available and can be found here: [THUNDER | Rush Union Soccer \(demosphere-secure.com\)](#)

Our Thunder Program and coaches we featured in the Milton Neighbor and Neighborhood TV. The article is also featured below, and a direct link to the TV News Story can be found here: [Neighborhood Sports: Spotlighting Rush Union Soccer's Thunder Program - Atlanta | NeighborhoodTV](#)

Our Spring Season will officially kick off with the Rush Union Spring Cup on February 24-25, 2024. We will be welcoming over 225 teams to our spring event, making it the largest Rush Cup to date. More information on our Rush Union Spring Cup can be found on our tournament website: [Event Details - Rush Union Spring Cup \(sincsports.com\)](#)

February 2024

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As we have previously reported, Rush Union has been working with The Collective to create a strategic plan for the organization. With the new year, we are proud to officially announce our new and improved Mission Statement and Core Values. We are very excited to share this with the membership and to continue our work with The Collective as we work to make Rush Union the best it can be for our members, community, and staff. Please see the official press release below and for exciting ways you can get involved at Rush Union Soccer.

Finally, I was invited to attend the first Rush Soccer Executive Director retreat that was held in Honolulu, Hawaii January 26-28, 2024. The event brought together what Rush National considers to be its best local organizations within Rush Soccer to collaborate and discuss ways to improve the services that Rush offers on a national level and share how clubs operate at a local level. The event was extremely successful, and it was an honor to be able to attend.

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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MILTON ATHLETIC CLUB

meets

RUSH UNION SOCCER MILTON



STRENGTH & STAMINA FOR BUSY LIFESTYLES

Frequency: Every Wednesday

Class Times: 530am, 630am, 730am, 930am



Come check out the Wednesday morning programming offered by Milton Athletic Club at Stars Athletic Complex!

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Several of our players and coaches were able to compete in the South Regional Futsal Showcase in January. Congrats to everyone involved.

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Social Media

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram & Twitter

Rush Union

[www.Facebook.com/rushunionsoccer](https://www.facebook.com/rushunionsoccer)

Instagram: @RushUnion

Twitter: @Union_rush

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RUSH UNION TOPSOCCER THUNDER PROGRAM

BY MIRANDA WILEY



Rush Union's newest program is the TOPSoccer Thunder Program which is for players with physical and intellectual disabilities. 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. The TOPSoccer Thunder Program is an opportunity for the soccer community to come together and make a difference in the lives of all that participate.

Cara Murray serves as an administrator at Rush Union and has been involved with their Thunder Program since its inception in 2019. However, due to Covid the program only had one season before it was halted during the pandemic. Cara says, "This is a program that is personally near and dear to my heart as I also have a family member who is an adult with intellectual disabilities. He never had an opportunity or program like this to participate in with his peers growing up, which would have been very beneficial for his social and emotional growth." She shares that her biggest inspiration is watching the participants interact with their peers in a safe, fun, and comfortable environment and says, "The smiles are priceless!"

Caitlin Creviston says, "When I found out about the opportunity in Fall of 2023 to be a coach for the Thunder Program in Milton, GA, my face lit up. As a pediatric occupational therapist and former D1 college athlete, I knew this

was an opportunity to serve families and children I am passionate about, with the sport that I love the most." The Thunder Program is an adaptive soccer program to serve all children in our community to find their version of success on the soccer field. She continues, "Our success as a program is exemplified by the smiling faces and echoing laughter on the field. The most rewarding part of my time with the program is the beaming faces, watching the parents cheer on their child, and the bond that is formed between the players." The players in this league have diagnoses of ADHD, sensory processing disorders, anxiety, autism, and Down syndrome. The goal of the Thunder program is for both the families and children to have a space to play, find community, relationships, build confidence, and participate in a team sport.

Of her contribution to the program, Caitlin shares, "My greatest role is simply creating space for a child to be successful. We all need a place to go and feel successful.

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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

SCCL VISIT RUSHUNIONSOCGER.ORG AND FILTER BY LOCATION

18 • OUR MILTON NEIGHBOR

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We all need a place to show up and to be 100% yourself, 100% accepted, and from that type of environment, we then feel supported to step into trying something new, learning something new, taking risks, and growing. Being a coach for this program means I get to be part of providing opportunities for any child to find their version of success. For these children the feeling of making foot contact with the ball for the first time is as thrilling as a hat trick. And showing up to a space that everyone is cheering you on while you do a dribbling drill is as exhilarating as a game winning goal. This spring we look forward to serving as many children as we can to be filled with the empowering feeling of success from one session to the next!"

The Spring 2024 sessions begin on Sunday, 3/3/24. Registration is now open for the Spring 2024 season! Information regarding the program and registration can be found at rushunionsoccer.org.

TOPSoccer programs are entirely dependent upon the dedication provided by volunteers. Volunteering brings more awareness and understanding to the special needs community. Community service hours can be counted towards assisting the program whether that is as a "Buddy" or assisting with the organization and promotion of the program, it all makes a difference. As the program grows, they will also need parent/adult volunteers to help as Assistant Coaches. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cara Murray at cmurray@rushunionsoccer.org for more information.

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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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RIU
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TEAMWORK
MAKES THE DREAM WORK
SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS OPEN

WWW.RUSHUNIONSOCER.ORG
SEARCH BY LOCATION FOR YOUR PROGRAM

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FEBRUARY 24 -25

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