

# RIU

# RUSH UNION

## Welcome! Rush Union Update

We hope you had a great summer and would like to welcome you all back to fall soccer. We have many programs and items to update you all on, as we get ready for the fantastic fall season ahead of us.

We held a wide variety of summer programs. Starting back in June, we held Recreational Camps, Advanced Technical Training, a 7v7 league, and teams competed in the SCCL Summer League. We concluded the summer with our Director's Camp in each location. This camp provided a variety of different training opportunities including TOCA, Yoga, Video analysis, small-sided games, injury prevention and more. Our summer programs were a big success overall, and we are looking to improve the player experience even more for next year. Several of these programs will be offered during winter break due to the positive feedback received.

Rush National's Rush Fest was held in mid-July for U12, rising U13 competitive players, in Denver, Colorado. Rush Union was well represented with 2 teams and 4 coaches in attendance. Our 2010 Boys and Girls played against other Rush teams from around the country. The trip was an amazing experience for everyone. The games, team bonding, and education our players experienced will stay with them for many years to come. We are already excited about representing Rush Union at Rush Fest next year with our 2011 players. For more information on Rush Fest, please visit this link: <https://rushsoccer.com/rush-fest/>

A few days before the Rush Fest, is the annual Summit of Rush club leaders, was held. Of course, we were in attendance to hear about all the great developments from Rush National. The release of The Rush Way coaching courses will help enhance the experience of not only our coaches, but our players as well. The additional opportunities abroad, and connectivity to other Rush clubs is exciting and a special announcement regarding Rush's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming in early August. A lot of exciting times are ahead for the Rush Family.

We were excited to walk in the Dunwoody 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade again this year. We had many families, coaches, and players take part and show our community spirit. We are always looking for more ways to get involved in the community, and if you know of any great ways to help us achieve this, please let us know.

Our very own Technical Director, Juan Castellanos participated in the CONMEBOL education courses this summer. This enabled Juan to rub shoulders with some incredible coach educators, including coaches who have worked with some of the worlds greatest players ever. Juan is excited to share his experience with our coaching staff in a variety of development sessions this fall.

The Fall 2022 Recreational registration is open at both of our locations, and we are proud to add more parent and coaching education opportunities to our programs. All of our Recreational Programs will have parent orientation meetings, parent education webinars, and comprehensive coaching education available

August 2022

# R|U RUSH UNION R|U in?

at no additional cost to our membership. The release of the Rush National Rush Way Coaching education courses is a huge step forward for coaching development within our organization.

Rush Select is a Regional and National Program that provide opportunities for players from across the Rush network to play and compete at the highest level. It was our pleasure to nominate over 60 players into the program at the beginning of this fall season. We know that not all nominated players will be selected, however it is a great achievement by all nominees who received personal congratulation letters from their coaches in the last couple of weeks. For more information on Rush Select please visit this website: [Rush Select - Rush Soccer](#)

The Referee Program continues to be a big focus for our organization. Our Jr Referee Program is supplementing our referee pool with over 50 graduates. The addition of the Jr Referees now enables us to successfully fill most games with competent referees. We are continuing to invest in our Jr Referee program, and I have been part of a larger Statewide program which will provide additional funding for referee development and mentorship as we go into the Fall 2022-Spring 2023 seasons. As part of an initiative with Georgia Soccer, and my role on the Board of Directors for our State Association, I am very excited to be part of growing and educating our referees.

We are very proud to announce that both Brook Run Park and Stars Athletic Complex are Heart Safe locations. We have recently conducted a CPR /First Aid training program for our staff and coaches. We have also purchased an AED for our Stars Complex and are in the process of finalizing our emergency action plans should the need arise.

Finally, I was featured in the Milton Neighbor in their August issue. The theme of the article was the role of the parent in youth sports. The article specifically addresses when and how parents can get involved in a positive way with their youth sports organizations. I hope you enjoy the article.

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 this fall season.

R|U Ready?



**Neil McNab Jr.**  
**CEO Rush Union**



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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



# RIU RUSH UNION RIU in?



*Our Summer Camps were a huge success this summer!*



# R/U RUSH UNION R/U IN?

**RUSH FEST 2022**  
BY THE NUMBERS

→ **3 COUNTRIES**  
USA, CANADA, BOLIVIA

**23 STATES**

**35 CLUBS**

**RUSH FEST**  
RUSH UNION SOCCER  
HUMILITY • LEADERSHIP • PASSION • RESPECT • SAFETY • TENACITY  
UNITY • ACCOUNTABILITY • ADVICE • EMPATHY • ENJOYMENT

**75 COACHES**

*Come check out our Academy Programs beginning the week of May 16*

**56 TEAMS**  
(MOST EVER)

**800 PLAYERS**

**1400 ATTENDEES**

**138 GAMES**

AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF  
**CHANTS & CHEERS**



*Our teams had a an amazing time at Rush Fest 2022, we are already planning for the 2011 groups to participate in the event in 2023!*



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*We are excited about getting onto a singular platform and new website... please check it out at [www.rushunionsoccer.org](http://www.rushunionsoccer.org)*



*Thank you to our NEWEST sponsors, we really appreciate all the support!*

*Our Boys and Girls teams had an amazing experience at Rush Fest 2022 in Colorado this July.*



# RIU RUSH UNION RIU in?



*Rush Fest 2022 was the highlight of the summer!*

# R | U RUSH UNION R | U IN ?



EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR

## Roles Parents Can Play in Youth Sports



BY NEIL MCNAB,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
RUSH UNION

Youth sports are not just for the kids. Music to a parent's ear if they long to be involved, though let's keep in mind the primary focus should stay on the kiddos. There are many different and rewarding roles that parents can play. Parents can pick one, or take on a couple/few concurrently. Dip your toe in or dive in the deep end with more than one role! In either scenario, parents can have a rewarding experience in youth sports.

Taking on a role in your athlete's youth program is a generous gesture, but keep in mind that your athlete should still "own" his/her experience. Defining a role within the organization for which parents can direct energy in a positive/productive manner is important for the parent and the athlete. Being a soccer parent can be tough... being a bystander can be even tougher... so get involved in the right way! Here are some roles you can consider.

### The Coach

Volunteering to coach seems like a daunting task for many. In reality, it is a step back into childhood. Not only do volunteers receive the support they need with equipment, coaching support, session planning apps, and even coaching education courses, they get something even better! It's an opportunity to incorporate childhood favorites that help with conditioning and endurance. Games like freeze tag, sharks & minnows, Simon Says and many more. Having fun is a critical element in a player's development, so go ahead, break out the games of your childhood and get them moving!

### The Team Parent

Any Type A personalities out there? This sport needs you! Every team needs a communicator, a planner—someone to keep the group organized from a macro-level. A regular cadence of useful information, calendar planning, game day logistics, tournament

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**COME SEE WHAT RUSH UNION IS ALL ABOUT. R | U IN ?**

[RUSHUNIONSOCCKER.ORG](http://RUSHUNIONSOCCKER.ORG)

Summer options at all locations • Adult Leagues • Summer SCCL League • Rec Programming | Summer Training Options, Partnerships with Playmaker, Atlanta United, and College ID



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organization, and meal/snack schedules all contribute to the success of the program and the kids' enjoyment of the season. It's an ideal way to support the coach, keep the group connected, and stay engaged with the families without stepping into the sport itself.

### The Encourager

Be more than a spectator! Youth sports are not spectator sports solely meant to entertain the audience. Our children are playing youth sports to get exercise, learn valuable skills, and have fun. And the field is a great place to lend encouragement to all players. So, instead of 'spectator', be The Encourager. This person encourages and supports all the participants—on both teams and sidelines (this includes those guys and gals in yellow shirts with whistles!). In youth sports, everyone is learning the game. The encourager praises the efforts of all involved and is a cheerleader for the players, club, and organization. They support child, coach, and official development. And good news—anyone with a good attitude has the role locked!

### The Referee

There is a significant referee shortage in all sports, at all levels. This is partly due to poor behavior by parents/coaches. Who wants to go to work and get yelled at all the time!?? Thumbs down. If you commit to the Encourager role, then we make it easier for referees to say yes to their very important role in youth sports. US Soccer is pouring financial support into Georgia over the next several years to help develop and retain referees. We have established a Jr Referee program and mentor program at Rush Union to be a part of the solution. If each parent refereed one game a year—just one—we would eliminate our shortage. This is a vital area of need, and let's not forget this position pays too! Think you have what it takes? We need you!

### The Donor

The cost of youth sports continues to increase, from the expense to play, travel, facilities maintenance, field use; and more. Established financial aid programs help support families who can't cover all the costs for their athlete, but there are other costs that

*Continued on page 24*



### Roles Parents Can Play in Youth Sports CONTINUED

also need to be covered to offer a comprehensive program to communities. Organizations need help from financial donors to maintain facilities, develop new programs, and minimize overhead costs to keep fees reasonable. Being a financial donor—either at an individual patron or corporate level—is a great way to contribute to the overall success of a program and attract new members.

### The Everything Else

Coach, ref and team parent roles already taken in your program? Well, there are still ways for you to get involved. You're the 'Everything Else'. And we couldn't do it without you! You attend the education meetings the organization hosts; participate in field clean-up days or do other volunteer activities that may not happen on a regular basis. You're an advocate for the program and help promote it at your local school or church. You purchase the spirit wear and represent the organization with pride! You help make

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sure the volunteer coach, team parent, and referees get the thanks and recognition they deserve. You are needed!

Whatever role fits you best, or even if you are filling multiple roles, there are always ways to get involved with your local organization. Groups like Rush Union offer coaching, parent, and referee education and support. We offer many incentives to be part of our community team. Once you find your role, we wholeheartedly believe you will enjoy the youth sports experience even more! So, are you RU ready to get involved?!

We hope everyone will get involved in their local community. Together, we make a difference.

*For more information on Rush Union Soccer and our many program offerings, please visit our website [www.rushunionsoccer.org](http://www.rushunionsoccer.org)*

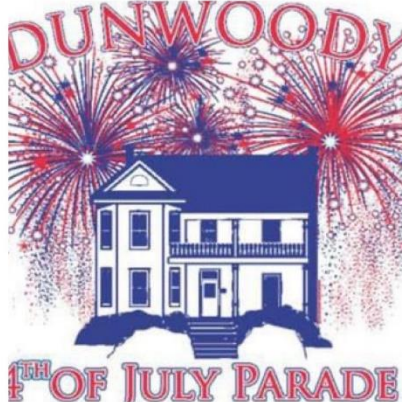
# RIU RUSH UNION RIU in?



*Congratulations to all our players nominated for the Rush National Select Program, a record number of nominations from Rush Union were submitted this summer!*



# R U RUSH UNION R U IN?



***We had a great time participating in the Dunwoody 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, and are already looking for more ways to get involved with the community!***



# RIU RUSH UNION RIU in?



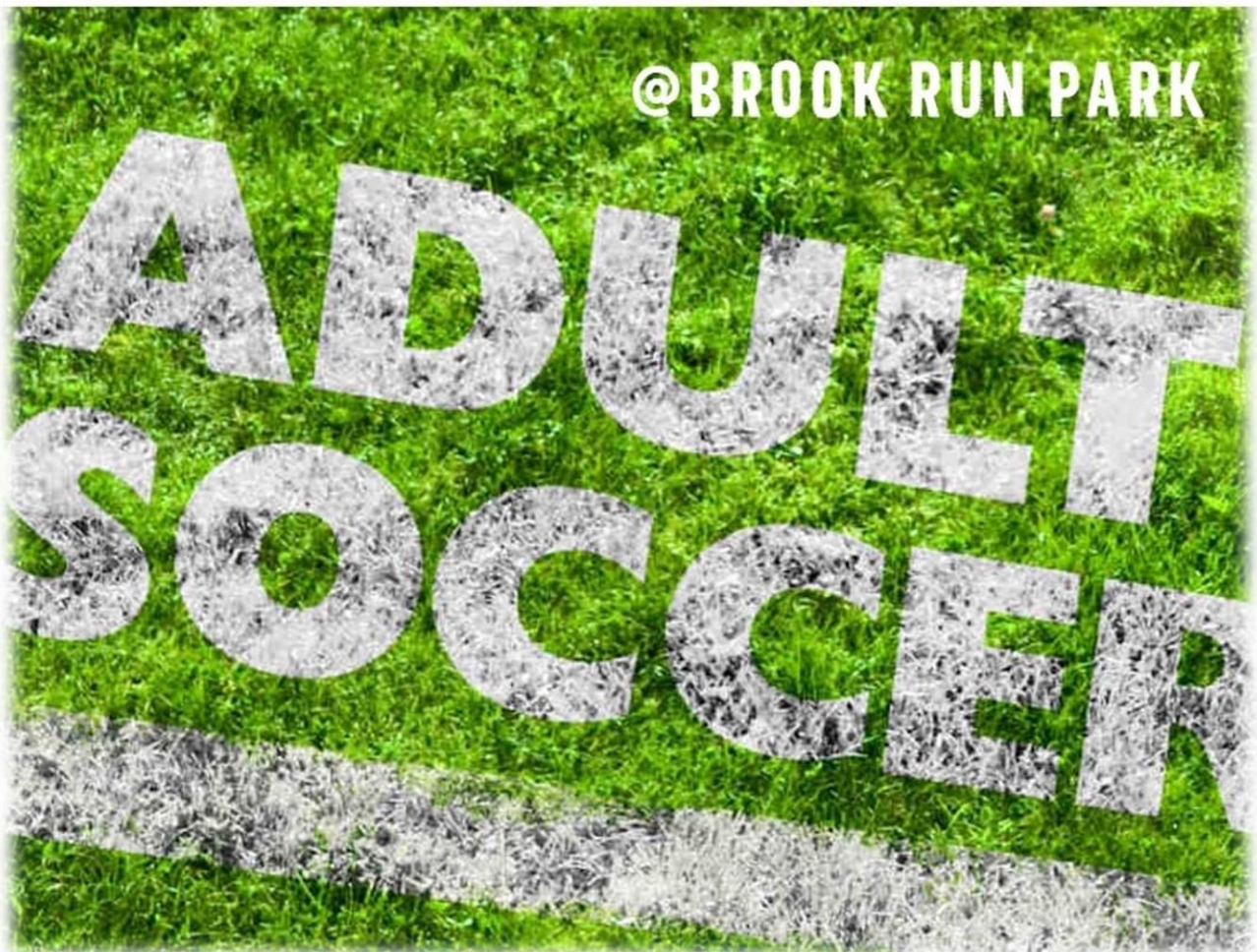
***Our Technical Director Juan Castellanos concluded a CONEMBOL Coaching course earlier this summer, working with some of the best in the sport!***



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R | U  
RUSH UNION

STARTS SEPTEMBER 12  
MEN 40-55 YEARS OLD  
CO-ED 18-60 YEARS OLD  
8-WEEK SEASON



*Adult league play is available in Dunwoody and Milton this fall season!*



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RIU  
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FALL RECREATIONAL SOCCER  
IS ALMOST HERE!  
PROGRAM REG IS OPEN!

#RecIt

Registration closes in Aug.  
Games begin in Sept.  
Volunteer coaches needed!

*Come join our Recreational Program!*



# RIU RUSH UNION RIU IN?



*Congratulations to our SCCL Summer League Champions above, and our Adult Summer League Champions below. A great way to finish our the summer.*



# RIU RUSH UNION RIU IN?

## RIU RUSH UNION

**PRE-ACADEMY TRYOUTS  
ARE COMING!**

### **DUNWOODY**

Brook Run Park  
Aug. 9, 2022  
6:00-7:00 pm

### **MILTON**

Stars Soccer Complex  
Aug. 10, 2022  
5:00-6:00 pm

**REGISTER BY LOCATION AT [WWW.RUSHUNIONSOCGER.ORG](http://WWW.RUSHUNIONSOCGER.ORG)**



# R | U RUSH UNION R | U IN ?



*Coming this November 12/13 our Fall Rush Cup!*