



## BETHLEHEM SOCCER CLUB ACADEMY PROGRAM COACHES INFORMATION

### U8 COED Program - Coaches: Andrew Rathbun and Jeremiah Horton

**Coach Andrew** is the eldest of three boys and a proud dad to 2-year-old son, Caleb. He grew up in Poughkeepsie and attended Roy C. Ketcham High School, where he was part of the 2019 Section 1 Championship team and earned All-Conference honors that same year. After high school, he continued his education and soccer career at Dutchess Community College, receiving All-Conference honors and Honorable Mention recognition for the All-Regional teams. He holds a Class C Coaching License as well as the 11v11 Coaching Certification. He previously coached U10 Boys and Girls, giving him a strong foundation in developing young athletes at multiple stages.

My **coaching philosophy** is driven by a desire to help kids grow both personally and athletically. I aim to teach a heightened maturity within the game; lessons that translate not only to soccer, but to everyday life. My goal is to leave players with a wellrounded respect and understanding of the sport, along with a sense of responsibility for the impact they can have on and off the field.

I focus on helping kids learn the importance of spacing and passing in a natural, fun, and age-appropriate way. Watching them grasp these concepts while growing in confidence is one of the most rewarding parts of coaching.

**Favorite Soccer Team:** Manchester United, and Zlatan Ibrahimović is my favorite player; his personality, self-confidence, and presence on and off the pitch have always inspired me.

**Coach Jeremiah** is 29 and grew up in Broadalbin, NY, where his love for sports started early. He graduated from Broadalbin-Perth CSD after playing both soccer and baseball throughout his school years. He went on to attend SUNY Schenectady and SUNY Polytechnic Institute for Business and played an integral role on each school's baseball team. His favorite player growing up was Wayne Rooney.

**Coaching philosophy:** Soccer has always been a huge part of my life. I still play at the recreational level and follow the sport globally, which helps me bring an informed and modern approach to coaching. I'm passionate about teaching young players how to understand and use space on the pitch, focusing on ball control, smart passing, and creating opportunities through movement and awareness.

More than anything, I want the kids I coach to develop a genuine love for the game—one built on joy, confidence, and fun. My goal is to help them create positive memories that keep them excited about soccer for years to come. I love coaching because it gives me the chance to play a direct role in shaping those experiences, supporting their personal growth, and guiding the next generation of athletes.

**Favorite Soccer Team:** Manchester United

## **U9-U10 BOYS EDP Program - Coaches: Art Scheuermann, Greg Maher and Pat Seely**

The new U9/U10 EDP program is designed for players to develop superior technical skills with both feet. In addition, the coaching staff actively engages the players to be tactically aware on the field and understand different patterns of play and set ball plays. Equally important, the coaching staff encourages and rewards players who demonstrate sportsmanship, teamwork, and hard work. While we work with players about five hours a week (outdoors) and four hours a week (indoors), the players are given specific assignments to work on each week. The purpose of encouraging players to work on their own is to develop an excellent work ethic in the players, which will serve them for the rest of their life. Finally, the coaching staff focuses on igniting players' passion for soccer. If the players are engaged, they will spend hours perfecting the weekly training lessons.

The newly created EDP project is designed to develop all-around players. The player's individual skills and their understanding of team play, and competition are the primary focus. The development of a player's ability to control the ball individually and as part of the team permeates the curriculum. Other areas of focus include improving mobility, pace and speed over distance and giving the players a solid foundation in soccer intelligence and decision-making.

**Coach Art** resides in Delmar with his wife Barbara. They have two adult sons, Alex and Clay. Art grew up on Long Island in Northport, where he played for the Northport Soccer Club. Art was a member of a state championship soccer team. Thereafter, Art was recruited and played at Brandeis University. He has continued to play soccer in a Capitol Region over 40 league. Art has coached since 1983 in several clubs on Long Island and then in Bethlehem after he moved his family in 1998. Art holds a national "D" coaching license from U.S.S.F. He has coached both boys and girls teams over the years, but over the past fifteen years has concentrated on the U-8 (coed) and U-10 age (boys) groups.

**Coach Greg** has been Head Coach or Assistant for Bethlehem Soccer Club (age groups U6 to U21, both male and female), Albany Soccer Club (U18 and U21, Assistant Coach) and Alleycats (Assistant Coach). He was Head Coach or Assistant for Bethlehem Central School District's Middle School and High School Soccer programs including BCSD Modified, and JV teams. In addition, he served as a Coach Mentor from time to time. Greg is a founding member of the Over 30 Soccer Team and played on the over 30 and 50 teams from 1990 to 1999; is a past BSC Board Member and President 2005 to 2025; and President of Empire State Soccer Club (currently the Alleycats/Elite Soccer Club).

***Training, Courses, Licenses & Certifications include:***

USSF State D License, New York State Professional Coaching License, Head Up Concussion Management Course by CDC, NFHS Concussion Management Course, Safe Sport Training plus refresher courses regarding all types of abuse in the sports environment, American Red Cross Emergency Medical Responder training which includes CPR and AED training plus Emergency First Aid training.

**Coaching philosophy:** "Nobody is good at something immediately. But with time and effort anything can happen." My youth coaching philosophy is a set of beliefs and values that guide my approach to working with young athletes with a focus on their development, enjoyment, and teamwork. My aim is to create a positive environment that prioritizes character building and personal growth through soccer which hopefully will translate into winning more games in the biggest game of all - LIFE. - **Favorite Soccer**

**Team:** Liverpool FC. YNWA

**Coach Pat** has been a Bethlehem town resident since 1990. He has three kids, all grown. He started playing when there were only two teams in his town--total for all pre-high school age groups. After four years of high school ball, he played four years at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. He continued playing in the local men's leagues for a few years after college. Coach Pat previously coached rec and travel teams when his kids went through the program.

**Coaching philosophy:** I hope to help the players improve the many aspects of their technical and tactical abilities so that they want to work through areas that are not as strong as others. If you're only as strong as your weakest link, then you're only as good as your weakest skill or ability to anticipate the next play. That progress happens only through practice, and most of that is outside training sessions. As such, I hope to instill the desire to improve so that the players work on the areas of their game that need the most improvement, whether that's their off-foot or another aspect of their game. More importantly, to help each player develop the resilience that comes from failing, getting back up and getting the next loose ball or taking the next shot so that it translates to other areas of their lives off the field. Watching the players improve in any area makes it worthwhile.

## **U10 GIRLS Program - Coach: Justin Haviland**

**Coach Justin** has lived in Delmar NY for 14 years and has a 9-year-old daughter. He graduated from Union College in 2004 and played goalkeeper in high school and at Union College for a few years. He coached JV Boys and Varsity Girls at Troy High School and U8 Coed at BSC. He holds a Grassroots 11v11 License, NYS Coaching Certification. He is currently President of the Bethlehem Soccer Club and has been a board member since 2021.

The U10 girls program focuses on developing players individually and as a team. The goal is for all players to improve their abilities in a competitive environment while building their self-confidence and learning to enjoy all parts of the game. Supporting the needs of each player and the team are the cornerstones of the U10 Girls program.

**Coaching philosophy:** My coaching philosophy is to always develop a culture of excellence where players take pride in working as a team and in their own efforts. I do my best to create a positive and supportive atmosphere while emphasizing resilience and a never give-up attitude. Creating this environment encourages players to build self-confidence on and off the field. **Favorite Soccer**

**Team:** Philadelphia Union and Everton FC

## **U10 BOYS Program - Coaches: Phil Ridgeway, Curtis Wilkinson**

**Coach Phil** has been a Delmar resident for 20 years, is a PE teacher at Elsmere Elementary and has 4 children. He has been coaching at Bethlehem Soccer Club since 2003 at many different levels and abilities. He coached the Bethlehem Central SD boys Varsity team for 17 years, and is currently coaching JV boys. He played at SUNY Fredonia and went to 2 national championships.

**Coaching philosophy:** Make it fun, focus on developing players' technical skills.

**Favorite Soccer Team:** Arsenal

**Coach Curtis** is married with two kids, Charlotte and Thomas. They live in West Cocksackie.

He attended SUNY Cortland where he played a year of club soccer while getting his Physical Education degree. He has spent the last 22 years coaching varsity soccer at Cocksackie-Athens and is currently an Athletic Director and coach.

**Coaching philosophy:** My focus will be on player development with footwork and position/special awareness, while creating a fun atmosphere. I love developing players. Nothing brings me more joy when skill development and teachings are used in game play.

**Favorite Soccer Team:** Arsenal

## **U12 GIRLS Program - Coaches: Christen Jordan and Mike Young**

**Coach Christen** is originally from Saugerties, NY and now lives in East Greenbush with her husband and daughter. She teaches 5th grade at Eagle Elementary in Bethlehem. This is her 8th year in the district. She attended Plattsburgh State and played four years on their women's soccer team. She minored in athletic coaching in college, has coached with the Bethlehem Club the past few years including the U12, U14, and U16. She coached modified level for five years in two different districts and has been part of the varsity coaching staff at Bethlehem High School for the past two years.

I love coaching the U12 age group because it's an exciting developmental stage where players begin to form their competitive mindset, build their confidence, and discover how fun and rewarding the game can be. It's also the age when I personally fell in love with soccer and the same age group I teach in school, which makes connecting with these players even more meaningful. Getting to support young female athletes as they grow, take risks, and find joy in the game is very rewarding. Soccer has always been something that gave me confidence, and sharing that passion with them while creating an environment where they feel supported, challenged, and eager to grow is one of my favorite parts of coaching.

My **coaching philosophy** centers on developing age-appropriate technical and tactical skills while creating an environment where young girls build confidence, resilience, and a love for the game. I believe in teaching players what it means to be a good teammate and a coachable athlete, while encouraging them to play freely and with joy. My goal is for each player to grow not only as a soccer player, but also as a person. I want them to take the lessons they learn on the field about teamwork, effort, and confidence in themselves into all areas of their lives. I hope my passion for the game inspires them to discover and pursue their own passions with the same enthusiasm.

**Favorite Soccer Team:** I've been a huge fan of the USWNT since I was a kid. I love following women's soccer. I root for Kansas City and Gotham FC in the NWSL, but really love watching all the games because of the parity in the league.

**Coach Mike** currently resides near Clarksville, NY with his wife Jeanne Young and 3 kids: Alexandra (15), Andrew (13), and Amelia (10), Champ (black lab, 4 yo-28 yo in dog yrs). He is a proud Wildcat of Gouverneur High School, attended and played at SUNY Buffalo State and SUNY Potsdam, and attended SUNY Albany for grad school. He holds an E License, NYS Coaching License (soccer); USC National Diploma.

Our U12 Girls group is such an exciting group! The willingness to learn, work as hard as they can, and compete, is infectious and pushes Coach Christen and I to be the best coaches we can be.

**Coaching philosophy:** The primary goal of a coach should be to guide players to a level that they would never be able to take themselves to. I love coaching because you get to have a hand in developing good soccer players but also, good human beings. That is the legacy every coach should strive for.

**Favorite Soccer Team:** Manchester United (there is only 1 team to truly support!)

## **U12 BOYS Program - Coaches: Matt Glannon, Evan Price**

**Coach Matt** is a Bethlehem High school graduate who played Bethlehem varsity soccer when they were League and Section 2 champions in 2001-2002. He attended Elizabethtown College and later SUNY Oswego from 2004-2006 and played in the SUNY Conf. Semi-finals 2006. Matt was part of the Eastern NY Olympic Development Program and also played for coach Miles Joseph (former MLS, US National Team player, currently associate head coach of MLS Charlotte FC). As a younger club player, Matt's teams were champions in multiple tournaments, including Needham, MA, LaGrange, Virginia Elite, Clifton Park and Laval Montreal. He holds a USSF National C license.

Under-12 age group **soccer philosophy**: Develop each player's skills, technical proficiency, and tactical understanding. At the under12 age group, developing technical skills such as dribbling, passing, receiving, and shooting is a crucial part of a player's growth. Focus on increasing individual positional play and overall team tactical understanding. Instilling a desire to compete and win is important, but it must be balanced appropriately with the age group and their level of development. Help players cultivate a positive attitude towards competition and learn how to handle wins and losses gracefully. Create an environment where players are encouraged to be creative and express themselves on the field without the fear of making mistakes, instead of solely focusing on winning. Exhibit good sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect towards players, parents, and officials.

**Coach Evan** is from Helena Montana and has been in Albany for 2 years. He has 4 children, ages 13 to 5. He attended Brigham Young University

I like to focus on player development, mindset, work over talent, and playing as a team.

**Coaching philosophy**: I love seeing boys develop into young men. I hopefully can aid in instilling skills that will serve these young men throughout their lives.

**Favorite Soccer Team**: Liverpool, Real Salt Lake

## **U14 GIRLS Program - Coach: Scott Geiss**

**Coach Scott** grew up in Bethlehem and played soccer for the Bethlehem Soccer Club until he left for college. He has three children; one son (a senior), and two daughters (6th and 9th grade).

After Bethlehem he played soccer at Siena College for four years, and after graduation played several seasons with the NY Shockers. In addition to his playing career, he's coached various levels for both girls and boys. He was an assistant coach for the Siena College Men's team, the boy's Modified team at Bethlehem, countless rec teams, and both Modified and JV girls soccer at Bethlehem High School.

I am a very technical coach focusing on the mental aspects of the game, as well as building footwork and confidence with the ball. My **coaching philosophy** is I want to build each player's confidence and encourage their love of the game. I tell my players I never get angry and I love failure. Failure means they are trying new things and testing themselves on the field. I currently coach the U16 girls team and the JV girls team at Bethlehem. Practices are usually light hearted and focused on encouraging playmaking, passing patterns, and having fun.

Soccer has given me so much over the years and I truly love coaching. I hope the kids love being on the field, and take away that I believe in them.

**Favorite Soccer Team:** the Scottish national team and I'm so excited they are in the World Cup.

## **U14 BOYS Program - Coaches: Mike Sgroi, Bobby Syed, Chris Szczesiul**

**Coach Chris** is originally from Enfield, CT, but moved to Bethlehem in 2012. He and his wife Kara have 2 boys, Harrison (12) and Maxwell (9). He started playing soccer at age 5 and continued through high school playing varsity for the Fermi Falcons! He went to UConn and played recreational soccer while in college. He continues to play in adult leagues throughout the capital district and manages the Albany-Over 30 adult soccer team.

**Coaching philosophy:** The program is dedicated to providing the best possible soccer experience for the players to learn and develop. I am so impressed with the desire of all the kids to want to learn and improve with every practice. My goal for the U14 is to develop each player as they settle into their desired positions. I look to reinforce the positive aspects of their play and advise on ways to improve where needed all while continuing to keep it a fun atmosphere for all.

I love the sport for many reasons. It provides a great atmosphere for building lasting friendships, it allows you to exercise while playing a game you love and it teaches you how to compete individually and as a team. You learn to win and lose and it applies to life beyond the pitch. It builds character and you can continue playing for your whole life.

**Favorite Soccer Team:** I get asked this a lot and for me I follow the players rather than any one team. My favorites players to watch right now are Alexis McCaister, Vitorinha and Moises Caicedo.

## **GOALKEEPER Program: Coach: Mitchell Jordon**

**Coach Mitchell** lives in East Greenbush with his wife and their daughter Cait. They also have another on the way! He played college soccer at Plattsburgh State University and coached collegiately for two years. He has been training goalkeepers and coaching goalkeepers since the age of 18. He worked at SoccerPlus Camps for six years. He will be coaching all the age groups.

**Coaching philosophy:** My main focus for young goalkeepers is building confidence through repetition and making an environment where failing is encouraged. Young goalkeepers need to learn that it is OK to get scored on. Every goal against you is a learning experience just like every save. As a goalkeeper, mental toughness is essential, and the cool thing is I am able to help instill that into the kids I work with. Goalkeepers have the hardest job on the field, but it can also be the most rewarding! What I love about coaching the most is seeing the progression of player development. Seeing kids that couldn't dive correctly, making a diving save, having a kid be able to catch a ball consistently and do it with confidence. Goalkeeping is a special job where you need to be able to fail and fail and fail, but keep getting up again.

**Favorite Soccer Team:** Liverpool football club