



RUSH THUNDER PROGRAM

Information Handout

Program. – The Rush Thunder is a part of The Outreach Program for Soccer (TOPS). This is a national program for soccer players with special needs. This special needs program was established to promote the game of soccer in a unique segment of our club's community. The program is free to all players with uniform jersey provided.

Schedule. – There are two seasons, one 8-week season in the fall and one 8-week season in the spring. Each session of the fall and spring season is on Saturday between 10 am and 11:30 am. The timing of the seasons is generally defined by the following:

- **Fall season.** – Start is the Saturday after Labor Day weekend in September and End is the last Saturday in October.
- **Spring season.** – Start is the first Saturday in April and End is the Saturday before the Memorial Day weekend.

It should be highlighted that each season will include a tournament, awards, and pizza party with another TOPS team would be held (usually a home tournament in the Fall and an away tournament in the Spring) and player-parent/guardian games. Additionally, other activities, such as the Easter egg hunt during the spring season and Halloween party during the fall season could be included. Finally, some of our sessions may be visited by women's and men's college soccer teams.

Cancellations of a given Saturday session may occur due to inclement weather conditions. Presently, players and their families will be notified by email (phone call if no email address) the day/night before the cancelled session. However, it is encouraged that the parent/guardian go to the Thunder website (www.coloradorush.com/thunder) for cancellations as a primary source for information.

An informational flyer with specific details and dates will be emailed to each player and their families prior to the start of each season, and can be found on the Thunder website (www.coloradorush.com/thunder).

Expectations. – As a fully volunteer program, there are expectations of the coaches, helpers, and parents/guardians. Specific expectations include:

- **Coaches and helpers.** – Timely arrival to sessions, tournaments, and other activities; be prepared and focused on sessions with special attention to the safety and development of players.



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- **Parents/guardians.** – Ensure players show up to each session prepared (i.e., has water, uniform jersey, shin guards, and sunscreen); timely arrival to sessions, tournaments, activities; do not drop off player and leave, stay the entire practices; watch your player if he/she leaves the field for any reason; consider ways in which you may want to contribute to the fun and success of the program; be part of the program even if it can only be providing encouragement to the players; come out and play when you want.

Communication. – Key to the program's success is communication between players and coaches, and coaches and parents/guardians.

- **Players and coaches.** – Each session will be led by one of the Thunder coaches with the other Thunder coaches and helpers assisting the lead Thunder coach. The lead Thunder coach will prepare a session plan focusing on specific soccer skills/tactics, which will be worked on with the Thunder players. Implementation of this session plan will be tailored/adjusted to each player to ensure that each player will succeed and have fun.
- **Coaches and parents/guardians.** – During any session, it is encouraged that parents/guardians seek out and appropriately communicate with any Thunder coach whenever there are questions/concerns, or suggestions. Other types of communication include phone and email. Also, Thunder Program employs the Internet (www.coloradorush.com/thunder).

Facilities. – A number of facility locations include:

- **Field (Grant Park in Governor's Ranch).** – Directions to the soccer field are South on Wadsworth to Belleview Ave., West (right) ½ mile to Field St., South (left) ½ mile to Governor James Grant Park on East side of Field St. and adjacent to the Governor's Ranch Elementary School soccer field.
- **Bathroom.** – Port-a-potty located near the field in Grant Park adjacent to parking lot. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to take the player to the bathroom since coaches/helpers cannot leave the field during sessions, no exceptions.
- **Urgent Care.** – Nearest location is Urgent Carbon Health, 9116 W. Bowles Avenue, Suite 3A, Littleton CO 80123, phone – 303-904-2600, Hours of operation – 8 am to 6 pm.
- **Emergency Room.** – Nearest location is Swedish Medical Center – SW ER, 6196 S Ammons Way, Littleton CO 80123, phone – 303-932-6911, Hours of operation – 24 hours/day.