



Welcome!

Rush Union Update

As we move through February, it's been encouraging to see the strong momentum carrying us through the winter months. Our winter programs have been a real success, with great attendance, high energy, and continued development across all age groups. It's been rewarding to watch players stay engaged, sharpen their skills, and build confidence as we prepare for the transition into spring.

This month also gave us an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the people who make Rush Union special. Our annual award ceremony was held back in December, and in this newsletter we are proud to feature all of our award winners who were recognized for their impact and contributions to the club. We also want to offer a special congratulations to Cara Murray, who was recently named Georgia State Soccer Association Administrator of the Year following a lengthy and highly competitive review process. Cara's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving our families and players continue to set the standard within our club.

On the competitive side, January brought strong performances from our teams at NPL and DPL regional events. Competing against top opposition from across the region, our players and coaches represented Rush Union with quality, resilience, and character. These experiences are an important part of our long-term development pathway and continued growth.

Behind the scenes, planning for the spring season is well underway. Our recreational and competitive programs are being finalized with a focus on clear pathways, positive environments, and age-appropriate challenges for all players. We're excited to welcome families back to the fields soon and to build on the foundation established throughout the fall and winter.

Our staff has also been investing in continued learning and collaboration. Several Rush Union coaches and leaders attended the United Soccer Coaches Convention in Philadelphia, engaging with peers from across the country, learning from best-in-class presenters, and bringing new ideas and perspectives back to our club.

We also continue to prepare for the upcoming U.S. Soccer age group changes, which will take effect in Fall 2026 as the system moves from calendar-year age groups to an August 1–July 31 format. Our leadership team has already met internally with our coaching staff to begin building a thoughtful implementation plan. An article featured in the Milton Neighbor this month helped reframe this change in a positive light, focusing on how it can better support long-term player development. We'll continue to share more information throughout the spring, including opportunities for parents and coaches to engage in the conversation.

February 2026

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February will also bring one of our signature events, the Rush Union Spring Cup, taking place February 21–22. This year’s event will be our largest Spring Cup to date, and we’re excited to welcome teams from across the region for a weekend of great soccer and community.

Finally, we’re proud to share that Rush Soccer was recently featured on U.S. Soccer’s social media platforms, highlighting the World Cup Toolkit initiative. This project, which I’ve had the opportunity to lead for Rush Soccer since Fall 2023, reflects the collective work being done across the Rush network to support community engagement and grow the game in the lead-up to the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. February has been another strong step forward, and we’re excited for what lies ahead as we move toward the spring season.

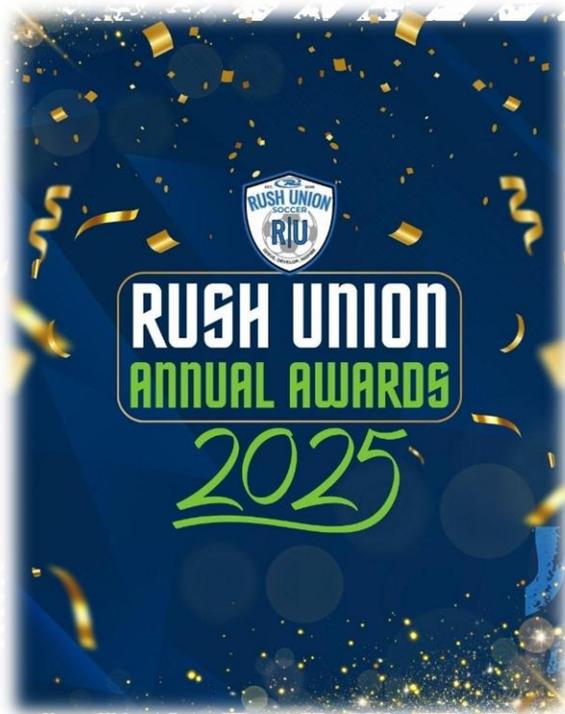
If you have any questions about Rush Union, our programs or anything soccer related please reach out to our staff at any time.

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



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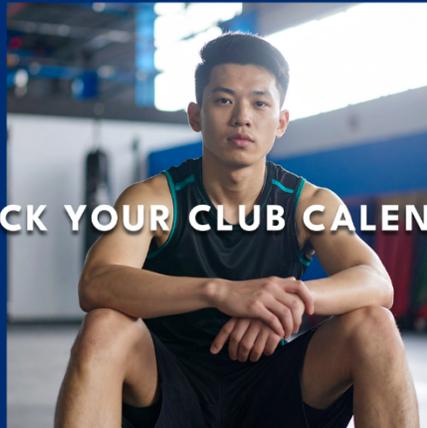
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The Rush Union annual awards evening was a huge success, congratulations to all staff!



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TRYING SOMETHING NEW: WHY CHANGE IS NOT ALWAYS AS SCARY AS IT FEELS



BY NEIL MCNAB,
RUSH UNION SOCCER

CHANGE HAS A WAY OF GIVING US PAUSE.
In youth sports, and particularly in soccer, moments of transition often bring questions and uncertainty. This summer, U.S. Soccer's age group realignment is one of those moments. It will change how teams are formed and how players progress year by year, and it's natural for players and families to wonder what this means for them.

At Rush Union, we see this moment not as a disruption, but as an opportunity that aligns closely with how we already approach player development.

GROWTH OFTEN LIVES JUST OUTSIDE COMFORT
One of the core principles we believe in at Rush Union is that development doesn't happen by staying the same. Players grow when they are appropriately challenged, by new teammates, new roles, and new expectations.

While the upcoming age group changes may feel unfamiliar at first, they also create environments where players learn to adapt, communicate, and solve problems. These experiences help players develop confidence and resilience, both

on and off the field. Over time, it's often these moments when things felt new or uncertain that players point to as important steps in their journey.

DIFFERENT DOESN'T MEAN WORSE, JUST DIFFERENT
It's easy to assume that change automatically means something is being taken away. In reality, the age group realignment is designed to better align youth soccer with long-term development standards, school calendars, and international norms.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

MILTON AND DEKALB LOCATIONS

RUSH UNION SOCCER RIU
EST. 2020
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- SCCL Competitive • Recreational • All Ages
- NEW INDOOR TURF IN MILTON! • Adult Leagues
- College ID Opportunities • Local/Regional Tournament Play

SCCL

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12 • OUR MILTON NEIGHBOR

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At Rush Union, our focus remains the same: creating positive, challenging environments that support each player's growth. Teams may look different, and pathways may feel new, but the underlying commitment to development, learning, and enjoyment of the game does not change.

A MOMENT TO RECENTER ON WHAT MATTERS

Transitions like this invite us to step back and reflect on why we play and coach the game in the first place. Success in youth soccer isn't defined by avoiding change, it's defined by how players grow through it.

This shift gives us an opportunity to reinforce our values:

- Prioritizing long-term development over short-term outcomes
- Supporting players as individuals, not just athletes
- Creating environments where learning, effort, and character matter

For players, it's a chance to meet new teammates, take on new challenges, and

discover more about themselves. For families, it's an opportunity to support that growth with patience and perspective.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Questions and conversations are a healthy part of any transition, and we welcome them. What matters most is that we approach this moment with openness and trust in the process.

At Rush Union, we remain committed to guiding players through change with care, clarity, and purpose. While this summer marks the beginning of something new, it also reflects something familiar: our belief that growth happens when we are willing to step forward, even when the path looks a little different than before.

Sometimes, doing something new isn't about changing who we are. It's about continuing to grow into who we want to become.

If you have questions about the upcoming age group changes or would like to learn more about how Rush Union supports players through each stage of their development, we're always happy to connect. Whether you're seeking information, clarity, or simply want to explore one of our programs, we encourage you to reach out and start a conversation. Our goal is to provide a positive, supportive environment where players and families feel informed, welcomed, and confident in the journey ahead.

Go Rush!



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WORLD CUP 2026 ACTIVATIONS

World Cup 2026 Activation

WORLD CUP ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVATION PLANS

“Together we thrive — Milton Celebrates the World Cup”
“Serve the Community!”



“Play It Forward — Dunwoody Celebrates the World Cup”
“Connecting the Community!”



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US SOCCER AGE GROUP CHANGE



Rush Union is aware of the upcoming age groups changes and is working with Rush National and our governing bodies to make sure we are informed and update our membership. More information will be made available this spring season.

To watch a short update video and access other resources we created so far please click here:

[Age Group Change Information | Rush Union Soccer](#)

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FEBRUARY 21 & 22

ATLANTA

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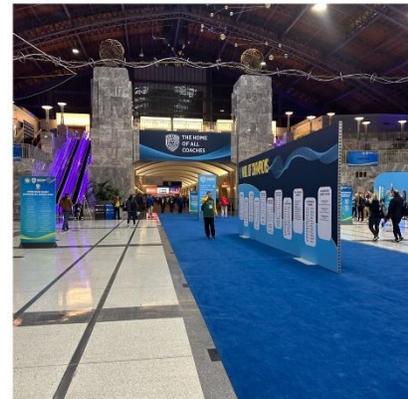
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The DPL Regional event in Tampa Florida put our best girls' teams to the test, congratulations to all who attended.



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The United Soccer Coaches Convention in Philadelphia was a great learning opportunity for our staff members who attended!

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