

FLORIDA RAPIDS SOCCER CLUB



HEART PRIDE HONOR



WHY ARE WE HERE?

VISION

To create a “community involved” entity that is “professionally affiliated and run” with all involved, committed to the same mission of providing the finest youth soccer program available to players and parents wishing to pursue a either comprehensive recreational program or a competitive youth development program.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide for each player to excel at the highest level commensurate with his or her talent, commitment, work ethic, desire and speed of learning.

Why do we need this partnership?

- Joining forces will:
 - reduce the instances of “club hopping”
 - reduce focus on individual teams
 - allow club resources to be focused on player development and retention vs. recruitment
- Increased player registrations equals an increased ability to fund equipment, programming and staff.
- Unified membership will strengthen relationships with local community / government entities allowing more attractive sponsorship opportunities.
- Aligning clubs reflects a true commitment to the best interest of youth soccer and player development.



By combining the resources of the Palm Harbor Nighthawks and East Lake Arsenal Soccer Clubs including coaches, trainers, players, administrators and facilities, under the guidance and direction of the Colorado Rapids Professional Soccer Organization, a more standardized and progressive training environment can be formed.





OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS

Combining clubs and securing the Rapids affiliation will provide:

- professional level training and coaching resources under the guidance of the Colorado Rapids Technical Staff
- a complete path for players to progress from recreation to the highest level based upon their ability & desire up to and including Colorado Rapids Professional Team
- a competitive environment where players understand that winning through effort is more important than just the result.
- organization, training and support of “Developmental Academy” players and staff
- training and support for players and coaches on the recreational level who desire to develop and transition to competitive soccer
- each player a written skills assessment & evaluation at specific intervals to identify what areas from which a player can benefit
- an opportunity to pool resources such as staff, volunteers, fields, sponsors, etc. in order to utilize them to their fullest potential



FLORIDA RAPIDS PROGRAMS

Florida Rapids Programs will be structured into 4 distinct program offerings or 'levels' to be as inclusive as possible for those players and parents who desire a competitive youth sports environment and model. Based upon the Colorado Rapids themes of *Heart, Pride & Honor* the Florida Rapids competitive teams will utilize those designations to signify both their level and commitment.

I. Florida Rapids **Recreational Soccer: Ages U6 – U19**

- “Local based” recreation soccer programs geared to providing "first level" experience in soccer.
- Recreational Travel opportunities for those players who want to continue playing recreational soccer through their middle & high school years.
- Recreational programs will remain under the overall umbrella of the Florida Rapids Club but with consideration to individual local parks & recreation requirements.
- Player Development, Coaching Education and Academy Select will be provided by Florida Rapids Technical Staff.
- Intra-club recreational all-star teams and cross-over festival games will be offered.
- Rec teams will bear the Florida Rapids badge as part of their uniform.



II. Florida Rapids "**Heart**" Teams: Ages U8 - U11 Academy

- This is a U.S. Youth Development Academy style program that will be organized with training provided at each local facility. It will be offered based upon geographic proximity to all families, given available soccer site locations.



- Player assessments will be open to any child who is committed and motivated towards a competitive program. The player developmental focus and structure is truly the "**heart**" of technical development for youth soccer players. It serves to teach the correct technical skills necessary for them to be successful at the older age groups.
- Seasonal competition would be with other true academy or developmental focus programs.
- There will also be the possibility of combining similar level players to provide additional suitable playing opportunities at the discretion of the Technical staff.
- Teams will compete as Florida Rapids **Heart** teams. (Ex: Florida Rapids Heart U9Girls)



III. Florida Rapids “Pride” Teams: Ages U12 - U19

- Players and teams at this level program will train based upon "appropriate level of play and commitment" as well as coaches assignments.
- Teams will train 2 nights per week with a combination of "professional" & "volunteer" coaches and trainers who will make up the coaching/training staff.
- Focus for league pursuit at this level will primarily be local and regional leagues.
- Teams will bear the Florida Rapids **Pride** designation. (Ex: Florida Rapids **Pride** U15G)





IV. . Florida Rapids “**Honor**” Teams: Ages U13 - U20

- This elite level program is designed and focused for the top level athletes who have been identified as having the potential to develop at the highest level possible through professional guided training programs and commensurate regional/national competitive leagues, tournament and showcase play.
- Players and teams selected for the “**Honor**” program will commit to a minimum training 3 nights per week with "professional" coaches and trainers guided by a curriculum based upon the Colorado Rapids Academy.
- Teams will bear the Florida Rapids **Honor** designation. (Ex: Florida Rapids U15B Honor)



HEART PRIDE HONOR



Why Affiliate with Colorado Rapids?

I. BRANDING

- Branding that allows us to meet the requirements of MLS Homegrown player initiative while retaining local community ties.
- Immediate identification as a club committed to “professional development”.
- Florida Rapids will become part of the Adidas Alliance of youth clubs affiliated with the Colorado Rapids.





Why Affiliate with Colorado Rapids?

II. TECHNICAL

- Access to Rapids professional curriculum and syllabus for each age group.
- Involvement of Rapids players and coaches at selected team training sessions/games for the purpose of player evaluation and development
- Access to Rapids player, team training forms including team logs, training logs & player evaluation forms
- Monthly meetings between Colorado professional staff and Florida Rapids technical staff to review curriculum, scouting and other technical issues.
 - Meetings will take place via both conference call, video conference as well as 4 – 6 face to face meetings per year.
- Membership in the Rapids Coaching Network for each coach in addition to coaching education opportunities both on site in Florida and Colorado.



Why Affiliate with Colorado Rapids?

III. Competition

- Ability for teams to play in highest levels of National, Regional & State competition.
- Participation of Florida Rapids teams in annual Adidas Alliance Jamboree.
- Participation of Rapids and other affiliates in Florida Rapids tournaments is possible.
- Florida Rapids players are eligible for selection to SUM/MLS U-17 Cup and any other domestic and international competition allowing an open roster.
- Florida Rapids will serve as promotion arm of the Colorado Rapids pre-season training and competition in the Florida market.



MEMBER OF
THE UNITED STATES
SOCCER DEVELOPMENT
ACADEMY

Community Involved + Professionally Affiliated and Run
FLORIDA RAPIDS



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