



NORTHERN

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED.....

When does this go into effect? With our announcement on February 3rd at the Annual General Meeting we have already started the integration. Chris Hurst from Rio Rapids will start working with our Select Teams in practices this spring. We have plans in place for him to run our Development Coach training on March 15, and we will shortly start to work with our Academy Program. Once the Duke City season begins later this month Rio coaches will be involved in doing game analysis and providing that information back to the Northern coaches to integrate into their practices. Our coaches will be involved in the Colorado Rapids coach training program in Albuquerque March 2 – 4. Over the next two years we will transition to the Rio Rapids uniforms at both the Select and Development Programs.

Why the Rio Rapids? The Rio Rapids SC looked for an organization that had similar goals and values that they have in their youth programs. They are geographically close, but what matters most is the clubs are a good match – we share the same values, goals and philosophies on youth soccer development. The two organizations were a natural fit when you look at them matched up with our focus on competition, character, community and commitment.

What's in it for them (The Rio Rapids)? Involvement with grassroots development of the sport is very important to the Rio Rapids SC. Through the Rio Rapids SC partnership with the Colorado Rapids we will be able to provide a clear path for the player to the top of the sport, both on the boys and girls side even though we are not in an MLS market. The Rio Rapids SC is equally committed to providing an equally valuable platform where less committed players can still play and enjoy the game at a level appropriate to their abilities.

Is this really just a marketing exercise for Rio Rapids? Rio Rapids SC bring experience in this type of partnership. We already have access to curriculum, player tracking and evaluation forms as well as other resources already in use throughout their player development system. Other resources such as coach and parent education materials and presentations are also already in use. Rio Rapids have also contractually committed to working in the market multiple times per year. This is more than a paper relationship.

Did Rio Rapids “buy us”? Are they “sponsoring” us? No. Rio Rapids did not purchase us. The agreement we have reached is a long-term strategic partnership to work together to better develop soccer players in our area. We will continue to operate as a separate entity with our own bylaws, articles of incorporation and Board of Directors.



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What is the Adidas Alliance? The Rio Rapids SC is a member of the Adidas Alliance that was established to create a working relationship between existing youth soccer clubs that will benefit soccer development through shared resources. As a member of the Adidas Alliance, Rio Rapids Northern SC players will have direct access to the Rapids Development Academy through visible scouting, coaching and curriculum ties.

Will Rio Rapids be involved in our day-to-day operations? Our day-to-day operations will continue in the same way. Rio Rapids administrative staff will not actively be involved in our customer service or business processes. We do look forward to sharing best practices in back-office operations and parent education and hope to learn from them as we move forward. The most obvious involvement will be in the coaching and game analysis of our Select teams in Duke City.

Does it affect the jobs of any of our staff members? There are no impacts to current roles at the club.

Is there an increase in fees? There will be a minimal increase in cost to our membership and will utilize any additional revenue generated through the partnership to keep fee impact to a minimum. The small increase in fees will be more than offset by the resources available to us.

Will my team get a chance to go to Colorado to train? It is our intention to identify appropriate age groups, based on developmental purposes for training/soccer trips to Colorado to experience professional soccer in our own country. There are still logistics to work out, but our hope is to expand the volume of teams that have an opportunity to travel for this unique experience. We look to incorporate opportunities for our recreational players to travel as well.

This sounds great for the Boys program, but what about the Girls program? What's in it for them? We see this agreement as being equally beneficial for all areas of the club. In addition to the Colorado Rapids men's team, they also have a Women's team that will play in the W-League in 2015. They have showcases that spotlight elite players – both genders – that extend the geographic reach of their opportunities to be seen by college coaches.

This sounds great for the “elite” player, but what about the rest of our players?

In short, when our coaching staff improves through additional professional development opportunities, the experience for all of our players improves. Our competitive team coaches will have resources and training opportunities available to them through this agreement that will enhance the experience for all of our players. Plus we will see some involvement with Rio Rapids coaches in our Developmental program – through the coach training session at the start of each season, and with their work with the Academy Program.



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My child is in the Development program. Why should I care about this? From a soccer-focused perspective, we will be utilizing the Rio Rapids coaching curriculum and session guides for our development players as well. New resources and access to best practices now available to us will enable us to continue striving to make our development soccer experience the best it can be. Rio coaches will be involved with our Development coaches in their pre-season meeting and coaching sessions.

Will we need to purchase new uniforms this year? In an effort to be sensitive to the expenses associated with uniform purchases for our members, we will be continuing in our current kits for the 2014-2015 season as our contract with Nike expires at the end of this year. We will be rolling out new uniforms on the next scheduled uniform cycle (the 2015-2016 season). We anticipate that the U11 boys and girls for fall 2015 will use the new uniforms. We have the new Rio Rapids Northern logo and will look to integrate this into our development uniforms for 2015.

How it will impact the club name? We are very proud of the Northern Soccer Club name that we all created. The name of the club however is just a name that represents a culture, community and philosophy. We are proud and excited to become the Rio Rapids Northern SC and extend our community. The process of sharing and evolving our culture/philosophy will be an exciting process for coaches, players and parents.

What do we do with our old gear? Until the next uniform cycle, you'll need to continue wearing it! Once we replace our kits, you may want to keep pieces for nostalgic purposes. However, we have been long-supporters of gear donation to folks who are in need of uniforms, shin guards, cleats and balls. We will continue to support these efforts and we look forward to providing many opportunities in the coming years to give all of your gear a new life with kids and communities that need it!

What are our new colors? What will our team names be? The primary colors of the new logo are burgundy, blue and grey. Our home jerseys will be burgundy and away jerseys will be white.

Will our kids still play in the current leagues or will you be moving into a new league? This new partnership won't affect the playing division of your child's team. If they are playing in Development or Select in Duke City then they will stay on that course.

What is a "Homegrown player"? Are our US Academy players considered Homegrown Players for the Colorado Rapids? Major League Soccer has created the homegrown player rule to create a clear path from amateur soccer to the professional league while retaining the rights to the players they help develop. The Colorado Rapids identifies their Academy's top players in each age group as Homegrown Players after spending 12 months following specific curriculum. A Homegrown Player who is talented enough to play in MLS will now have the ability to sign a Generation Adidas



contract for his hometown club and not be placed in the MLS SuperDraft. Our players will now be considered in this pool of players for consideration and evaluation.