

WHAT HAPPENED THIS SUMMER AND WHY IT MATTERS

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Do you really know our club and what it has planned for your child as he/she grows and develops within our sport? We all live very busy lives that often prevent us from seeing beyond our own myopic world. So for the first article of the new soccer year, I wanted to use the time to explain what our club offers and how it fits within the overall goals for the club and for your child.

As we all know, if there is no plan in place and no goal or vision to lead us, we may meander through life raising and sinking with the next wave that comes our way. The Roadrunners SC has a plan for your child's development and it is not a 'make it up as it comes along' path. So what is it?

First are some attached documents that will provide you with a clear understanding of our goals and expectations. As you see, each year builds upon the next with the ultimate goal of exposing your child to appropriate level of competition while allowing him/her to showcase their talents to potential college coaches and programs. It is our clubs intention that players leaving our club after the completion of their youth soccer career's will have the opportunity, and be equipped to play, at the next level.

This past summer provided a good picture of our clubs goals and expectations in real time. We had a team qualify and compete in the National Premier League (NPL) National Championship. The NPL is the top national league outside of the US Developmental Academy (USDA). For us, this is the highest level of play in the NISL Premiership. We also had a team compete in the US Club National Championship (we had five teams compete in the US Club Regional Championship, too). This event is arguably the third top national championship. Again, we had a team play in a very well recognized College showcase that attracts college coaches from throughout the Midwest and U.S. Finally, we had a team play in the Surf Cup in San Diego, CA. The Surf Cup is one of the top three youth soccer tournaments in the United States. Along with all of these youth teams participating in these very prestigious events, we had our Men's U23 team playing this summer for our 7th season. The U23's is an opportunity for current and upcoming college athletes, to continue to play and develop over the summer months as they ready for their college fall seasons. Current and former Roadrunner players are members of this roster.

The aforementioned highlights are all part of our plans for all of our teams to varying degrees. While realizing that not all of our teams are going to qualify for these specific events, it does provide our players with a path to success. This brings up our other summer offers to all players in our club, namely our open training nights and our summer camp. These are additional ways our coaches and club attempts to engage players in creating opportunities for them to take greater responsibility for their development. Players engaged at early ages create more options for themselves and their team later, like those above mentioned events.

Finally, while our players are being provided opportunities to grow and develop, so are our coaches. Besides the invaluable experience the coaches that are directly involved in these events garnered, we had many of our coaches attend coaching courses to attain higher licenses and insights into our game that will help them grow and develop as coaches for the betterment of our players, teams and club.

THANK YOU for choosing the Roadrunners SC as your home and for trusting your child's soccer development to us. It is an honor and responsibility that we take very seriously and one that has a plan and 'road map' to success.