



**NEW NAME
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FAQs

When does this go into effect? As you can imagine, there are many moving parts to officially make the transition. Many of the back-office changes will occur over time, but for our soccer operations, the official date is May 20th.

Why the Colorado Rapids? They looked for an organization that had similar goals and values that they have in their youth programs. Yes, they are far away geographically, but what matters most is that we 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 Rapids)? Involvement with grassroots development of the sport is very important to the Rapids. The US is a vast country only covered by 16 MLS clubs so being able to provide a clear path to the top of the sport, both on the boys and girls side, for players not in an MLS market is important. They also feel that it is vital to provide 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 The Rapids? The Rapids 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. The Rapids have also contractually committed to working in the market multiple times per year. This is more than a paper relationship.

Did the Colorado Rapids “buy us”? Are they “sponsoring” us? No. The 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.

What is the adidas Alliance? The adidas Alliance 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,



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our players will have direct access to the Rapids Development Academy through visible scouting and direct coaching and curriculum ties.

Will the Colorado Rapids first team come out to NC to play? Yes. We have the option to host the first teams, both the men and women's teams. We've already initiated conversations to get this going. It's a long process and we're not sure of timing yet, but it's a big part of what we want to accomplish – bringing professional soccer to our community.

Does this agreement affect our non-profit status? It will not affect our status or the business structure of our club. We will continue to operate as a non-profit organization.

Will the Rapids be involved in our day-to-day operations? Our day-to-day operations will continue in the same way. The 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.

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

Is this the reason for the Increase in fees? No. While we have no firm commitments yet, we have reason to believe that turf will be a reality in the near future. One of the local towns has asked for a commitment from the club if they decide to move forward with construction. In anticipation of this moving forward and for other needed capital investments, the board of directors for the North Meck Soccer Club has authorized a small fee adjustment for the 2013-14 soccer season. Please check out our [recent letter from our Board President](#).

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 plenty of 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.



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Is the International trip still going to happen? Will the Colorado trips replace the chance for teams to travel internationally? As long as there is a demand for the international trip, we plan to go. With this new relationship, the locations may end up being different, but trips to Colorado won't replace trips overseas.

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 plays in the W-League and a Women's Reserve team. 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

My child is in the Recreation program. Why should I care about this? From a soccer-focused perspective, we will be reviewing our curriculum for our recreational players as well. New resources and access to best practices now available to us will enable us to continue striving to make our recreational soccer experience the best it can be. Another significant impact for the recreational families is that this agreement will decrease the costs of our uniforms and we will pass that savings on to our members.

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 2013-2014 season. We will be rolling out new uniforms on the next scheduled uniform cycle (the 2014-2015 season). In the meantime, we're working to obtain patches to add to our current jerseys to identify ourselves with our new brand. More information about this will come over the summer.

What's up with the name? We sound like a whitewater rafting team - We are very proud of the North Meck Soccer Club that we all created. Originally, our



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membership was primarily made up of Huntersville, Cornelius, and Davidson residents and the term “North Meck” made sense. As we’ve grown and evolved, our footprint has expanded beyond the north Mecklenburg area. We have members from **all parts** of Mecklenburg County. In addition, Iredell, Catawba and Cabarrus counties are also represented in our membership. The name of the club is just a name, but it represents a culture, community and philosophy. We want to be inclusive to all parts of our community that we serve.

What will our new team cheer be? We've never mandated a particular cheer for the club. Each team chooses what they wish to use! This provides some new opportunities for creativity!

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. New team names will be release in the coming days.

Will our kids still play in the NCYSA leagues or will you be moving to US Club? This new partnership won't affect the playing division of your child's team. If they are due to play NCYSA and/or US Club then they would 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 US Academy players will now be considered in this pool of players for consideration and evaluation.



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Will they be financially subsidizing the US Academy program? – No. This is not a financial agreement, it is a player development agreement centered on coaching education, competitive exchange programs, tournament, showcases and opportunities that would otherwise not be available to them.

How does it affect the US Academy since both clubs have academy programs?

As mentioned in the question above, this creates additional opportunities for those players. In addition to a potential extended path for their soccer careers, the interaction between the two programs will enhance ongoing learning and development for the staffs of both organizations. It will also provide additional showcase events and potential opportunities for our players to be selected for rosters for MLS Showcase events.

	Kings	Developmental	Rec U10 & Up	Adult League	Youth Academy	Juniors	Seniors	USDA	Tournaments	CLUB
lower cost of uniform	√	√	√							√
improved uniform package					√	√	√	√		√
exposure to organized soccer team 'tour/trip/travel' to Colorado			√			√	√	√		√
part of a bigger network of soccer and business practices	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
positive impact on tournaments						√	√	√		
direct pathway for professional training							√	√		√
professional soccer players at special events	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
direct exposure to professional soccer	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
player development curriculum	√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√
coaching education	√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√
program development	√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√
tournament impact			√		√	√	√	√	√	√
increased revenue opportunities										√
opportunity to add affiliate clubs							√	√	√	√