



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VALLEY FC TO MERGE WITH HUNTSVILLE FC

Exciting news! Both Huntsville FC and Valley FC have reached an agreement to merge their operations prior to upcoming tryouts in June. The merger combines two youth soccer clubs, both of which have similar philosophies focused upon player centric, skill development programs and offering all levels of play. By expanding the reach of Huntsville FC into the Madison community, we will be better positioned to develop more of North Alabama and help to grow youth soccer talent in our relative communities.

Merging these clubs will enable Huntsville FC to continue to be the largest and most successful 501C-3 nonprofit soccer club in North Alabama. The club will continue to be led by a professionally licensed staff with over 20 years of experience, a proven track record of success, an organized infrastructure and a solid volunteer base. Huntsville FC will be conducting training and games out of the Merrimack facility in Huntsville as well as the Palmer Park and Dublin facilities in Madison.

The mission statement will continue to be built around providing the best development opportunities available within North Alabama for every player's "Total Soccer Development". Marty Clark will continue to serve as General Manager and Director of Coaching for Huntsville FC. Nathan Carlisle will join the staff as the Madison Director of Coaching.

Town hall meetings will be scheduled shortly in Madison for parents and players in order to provide information and answer questions. Tryouts will be conducted in both Madison and Huntsville based upon the age and division of each team.

About Huntsville Futbol Club

The HFC Total Soccer Development program is both a Curriculum and a Philosophy. The primary goal of HFC is to provide development and competitive opportunities for all ages and all ability levels. To accomplish this goal we have implemented a "Total Soccer Development" system of training. HFC currently offers playing opportunities from Division IV (Recreational) through Premier League (Regional Champions League). The Coaching staff is unparalleled in Alabama and one of the most experienced in the south. Among our staff, we have several coaches with National Coaching Licenses; many former college players; former college All-Americans; former National team players; former professional players, coaches with additional Brazilian, Dutch and German Coaching Licenses; current and former high school and college coaches; and playing experience from the United States, England, Trinidad, Finland, Germany, Uganda and other. Foremost in the mind of each coach is the desire to share with every HFC player a genuine love for the world's beautiful game. For more information, please visit www.HuntsvilleFC.org.



FAQ's

Frequently asked questions regarding the merging of Valley FC with Huntsville FC

Why merge clubs?

The landscape for youth soccer is changing rapidly and mergers are happening across the United States. Coaches, players, and parents are coming together in order to leverage the strengths of each other. Madison is a growth market and with the help of Huntsville FC, we will be able to employ the same curriculums and systems of excellence that have helped us to become the most successful soccer club in North Alabama. When Valley FC approached Huntsville FC about the potential of merging, Huntsville FC was very open to learning of the interest to merge and immediately put together a plan that would satisfy both leadership groups and put a program in place that would allow players to enjoy playing the beautiful game of soccer.

How is this good for me?

This merger means the opportunity for players to benefit from the breadth, depth, and quality of coaching currently enjoyed by Huntsville FC members. With the commitment, desire and ability to play at the highest level, higher standards of development, additional leadership, access to college coaches, premier leagues, national leagues, ability to train close to home in most cases, and participating in the overall development plan that is already in place for your child. For players not seeking the highest levels of play, Huntsville FC will still provide top level coaching, leadership and various programs/leagues to benefit the players and still be able to provide these services in Madison for most players.

What will our name be?

Valley FC will dissolve as an organization and shift to the umbrella of Huntsville FC. Teams will be named with the traditional naming conventions of HUNTSVILLE FC teams (blue, maroon, white, etc.).

Who will be my coach?

Coaching assignments will be made public prior to tryouts. We will be blending current Valley and Huntsville coaches to put together the best possible coaching coverage. We will also be announcing highly qualified age group skills coaches to supervise/conduct various groups as well as mentor current staff.

Where will I have practice?

Our objective is to grow soccer in the Madison area and that means practicing close to home. Current Valley U12 and below age groups will continue to train in Madison. Valley U13 – 18 Division II teams will stay in Madison. Only the players transitioning to the top HUNTSVILLE FC Division I teams will train in the Huntsville area (Merrimack Park). Current HUNTSVILLE FC teams will continue to train at Merrimack.

Will the club merge players from both areas to help make a team if the numbers are problematic from both areas?

YES – in older age groups with Division II teams, it is common to have problematic numbers. By coming together, we now have a better venue to bring players together to form teams and get more players playing. If this happens, we will communicate with parents and take a reasonable and logical approach to forming, staffing, and determining the practice location. Flexibility is the name of the game here.

Will my fees go up?

Fees are already similar in nature between the clubs and in some cases the HUNTSVILLE FC program costs less. Our higher level teams do have additional costs involved and it all comes down to the preseason camps we provide as part of our programming. For example – we conduct a 5 day, 15 hour, preseason camp hosted by college coaches and supported by our Division I coaches and/or Directors of Coaching. For that – there is an increase in programming fee equal to the differential in Valley and HUNTSVILLE FC Division I fees. These camps are critical to our overall programming and all Division I – III teams have camps. Actual costs for programs will be made available prior to tryouts.

Where do I tryout?

There will be two venues for tryouts. Huntsville will host a tryout and Madison will do the same. Most current Valley players will tryout in Madison. Only players wishing to join a Huntsville based team will come to the Huntsville tryout. Current Huntsville players will stay in Huntsville unless they wish to join a Madison based team. All Division I hopefuls will report to the Huntsville tryout.

Are tryouts open?

Yes – tryouts are open. That means players can choose which team(s) they want to try out for.

Can I tryout in both locations?

Yes, if you want to be considered for teams based in both locations. Example – if you are a 14 year old player and you are currently on a Division II team at Valley but want to try out for the HUNTSVILLE FC Division I team. You should attend the Division I tryout in Huntsville and you should attend the Madison tryout as well. That way the coaches know you are trying out for both teams and will offer the slot that best fits you.

If you only want to play on a particular team, then only attend that tryout.

Will I get a new uniform?

Yes – all current Valley players will enjoy new HUNTSVILLE FC uniforms and training shirts. Current Valley players will pay \$25 for these new uniforms, which consist of two jerseys, shorts, and socks. This is a one-time offer to help with the transition and the club will be subsidizing the balance of the cost.

When will I have to purchase a new uniform on my own?

The current HUNTSVILLE FC Nike uniform is being discontinued. ALL Huntsville FC players will be purchasing new uniforms from Nike for the fall 2014 season (one year away). At that time, everyone will be paying for their own uniform. We have also combined a purchasing agreement with other clubs so we will enjoy deep discounts for the 2014 purchase.

Who will lead the Madison location?

Nathan Carlisle will continue in his leadership role. Nathan will now become part of the HUNTSVILLE FC leadership team and report to Marty Clark, General Manager and Director of Coaching for HUNTSVILLE FC. Huntsville based DOC's will have a presence at the Madison location and be available to mentor and grow the current leadership as well as staff. We will also be adding administrative staff to help further develop the Madison community.

How do I get more information about Huntsville FC?

For additional information about Huntsville FC, please visit www.huntsvillefc.org. Please select the HUNTSVILLE FC tryout link on the Upcoming Events for General and Tryout FAQ's.

Make sure to visit the programs page to learn more about our team opportunities and curriculum.