



Rush Soccer has a new partner in Africa! The Congo Rush Academy becomes Rush Soccer's 18th international partner. The Club is located in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the central part of Africa. The DRC is a soccer-loving country like so many others on the continent.

According to Jean-Maurice Mbasi-Belekwa, the founder of the new Club, the DRC is "the Brazil of Africa", with tremendous soccer talent that he hopes to develop through the Academy. The Congo Rush Academy is a start-up club that has begun recruiting boys (ages 12 to 16) to participate in the program. The founder of the club is Jean-Maurice Mbasi-Belekwa, whose son currently plays for Colorado Rush in Denver. Jean-Maurice has seen the "Rush Way" firsthand and hopes to apply the coaching philosophies and principles to youth in the Congo. He said, "I am very, very excited about this partnership and hope to learn a lot from the experiences of Rush staff."

Jean-Maurice has identified some creative strategies for funding his program, including the publication of a children's book – an African tale for three to eight year olds of all cultures . Proceeds from sales of the book, which will soon be available on Amazon.com, will support the members of the club in Kinshasa.

Says Tim Schulz, President & CEO of Rush Soccer, "The Democratic Republic of Congo traditionally produces first class players. Their country is engulfed in the sport, so needless to say we are thrilled to have Congo as part of the Rush Corporation...Welcome!"