

# RICHMOND UNITED FC



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1. What age groups does Richmond United FC engage with?**



RUFC programs start as young as U4 (Mini-Kickers) and run through to U18. We offer academies, finishing school, adapted kicks, spring and summer camps, and more. Younger players begin in small-sided games before progressing to full-sized teams. From there, players can choose:

- **Open Development (ODP):** Recreational house leagues.
- **Advanced Development (ADP):** More competitive placement opportunities.

**2. My child has never played soccer before. Can they join?**



Absolutely. As a grassroots soccer provider, RUFC welcomes all children regardless of skill, experience, physicality, or gender. New players usually start in the **Open Development pathway**. If your child shows skill and wants more challenge, they can be evaluated for the **Advanced pathway**.

**3. My child is new to the country and doesn't speak much English. Are they welcome?**



Yes. RUFC has many coaches who speak Chinese, South Asian, and Middle Eastern languages. If your child is navigating school, they'll feel comfortable at RUFC too.

**4. What are the field names at Hugh Boyd Field?**



- **Boyd White:** NW corner of the all-weather fields (Francis & No. 1 Rd).
- **Boyd Yellow:** NE corner of the all-weather fields (off Francis Rd).
- **Boyd Blue:** SE corner near the pitch-and-putt range.
- **Boyd Red:** SW corner north of the south parking lot.
- **Boyd Oval:** Grassed field to the west, along No. 1 Rd.
- **Boyd South:** Grassed field on the far south side, along No. 1 Rd.

**5. What is Richmond United FC's program philosophy?**



RUFC is guided by the "**Soccer for Life**" principle, focusing on player growth through the **Four Corner Development Model**:

- **Technical:** Skill mastery.
- **Tactical:** Understanding the game.
- **Physical:** Speed, strength, agility, stamina.
- **Emotional:** Leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship.

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**6. Does RUFC use professional coaches or volunteers?**



Both. RUFC values the expertise of professional coaches while recognizing the vital role of certified parent-coaches and coaches-in-training from our senior players.

- Our coaching program is supported by development experts **David Thorburn, Scott Guy, and Jane Graham**.
- We provide clinics and certification courses for parents.
- RUFC also runs referee training and coach mentorship programs, making us one of Richmond's largest youth employers.

**7. What is RUFC doing to improve the Girls Program?**



We've launched our first **All-Girls Academy** in partnership with Coerver Coaching and hired **Jane Graham**, a player-development specialist with deep Richmond roots and broad provincial experience.

**8. How does the club assess a player's level?**



Development coaches observe players continuously and promote them as they grow in skill, fitness, and commitment. We also hold evaluation sessions for newcomers and players seeking advancement.

**9. Can my child make a career out of football?**



While only a small percentage of players reach professional levels, RUFC helps identify and train high-potential players and guide them toward university and college opportunities.

The key is keeping the game fun. Too much pressure or rushing development can cause kids to lose interest. RUFC supports not just future players, but also future **coaches and referees**, offering programs in both.

**10. What can a player do to move up?**



- **Commit:** Attend training consistently.
- **Engage:** Take advantage of extra academies.
- **Perform:** Play hard, fair, and as a supportive teammate.
- **Communicate:** Ask coaches where to improve.
- **Work:** Train outside of practice—running, gym, or backyard sessions.

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**12. Will there be a fieldhouse at Hugh Boyd Fields?**



Yes! After 15 years of planning, the **West Richmond Pavilion** is scheduled to break ground in 2026, with a proposed opening in 2027.

The 11,000 sq ft, two-storey facility will feature:

- Restrooms and showered changing rooms
- Program rooms and office space
- Concession stand and storage
- AV-equipped community spaces
- Elevated viewing deck

RUFC has contributed funds and worked closely with the city and architects to ensure it meets community needs.

**13. Are there programs for low-income families?**



Yes. **KidSport Richmond** provides funding for families under a certain income threshold.

**14. Do players have to pay for uniforms?**



No. Membership fees cover fields, coaches, referees, and full kits (home/away jerseys, shorts, socks). Families only need to provide cleats, shin guards, and a water bottle.

We also run “**boot rooms**” where players donate used cleats for others to use. Club-branded gear like jackets and caps is available through our store.

**15. How can I get more involved?**



- **Coaching:** No experience needed—we’ll train and certify you.
- **Managing:** Help with team scheduling and logistics.
- **Volunteering:** Support tournaments, jamborees, and fundraisers.
- **Board of Directors:** Join our leadership team to help shape the club’s future.

**16. How can my company sponsor RUFC?**



We offer sponsorship opportunities ranging from jersey placements and banners to tournament packages. For details, contact [chrisp@rufc.ca](mailto:chrisp@rufc.ca).