



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Why do the two clubs want to merge?

With both clubs working toward the same goal it made sense that creating a single club could offer a much higher level of service to the youth soccer community. By pooling resources together a greater opportunity exists for players in our select programs all the way through the highest levels of competition (e.g., Premier, Midwest Regional League and National League) to ensure our athletes have the opportunity to play at an appropriate level.

2. What is the name of the new organization?

The new organization will operated under the name Grand Rapids Crew Juniors (GRCJ).

3. When will the merge take place?

The combined entity will begin operations on June 15, 2012. This date coincides with tryouts for the 2012-2013 season.

4. What will be the structure of the new club?

The club will have a combined (GRCJ and Kentwood) leadership structure ensuring all communities are represented.

Soccer development will have the leadership of Josh Sheldon as General Manager, John Conlon as Director of Coaching (formally Kentwood Falcons) and a combined coaching staff from both clubs.

5. What impact will this merger have on the respective communities?

In most cases there will be little change. The communities will still have representation to ensure their needs are being met. There will be some great opportunities for the Kentwood based goal keepers that we'll be announcing very soon.

6. Which facilities will be used?

Each community will continue to use the same facilities (Kentwood – Brewer Park, etc. and GRCJ - MVP Fieldhouse, Sport Spot, etc.) and have access to each others.

7. Where will my child play?

It depends. For Select U8-U11 and U13-19 athletes, teams located both in Kentwood and at the MVP locations. U12 Select or pre-premier along with U13-18 Premier teams will located at the MVP facilities.

8. Will it cost more for my child to play?

Our goal is to make soccer affordable for every child. We will be working to develop a financial structure comparable to the ones already in place at Kentwood and MVP. You can review our fee schedule in early May on the GRCJ website.

9. Will we be merging teams?

See question 8 above. Again select teams will be formed through tryouts as is traditionally done. Premier teams will be located at the MVP facilities.

10. How will tryouts be handled?

For Select U8-11 and Select U13-18 tryouts will be held at both the Kentwood and MVP facilities. For Select U12 and U13-18 Premier, tryouts will be held at the MVP facilities.

11. What is the status of our uniforms?

Kentwood will continue to honor their relation with Peppino's through the 2012-2013 season. In the case where a current Kentwood player moves to a Crew team, or vice versa, new uniforms will need to be purchased. The club is looking at providing some financial assistance in these circumstances, for the upcoming season only.

12. Will there still be a role for volunteers in the new organization?

Absolutely. The combined organization will always involve volunteers. In fact, there will be several committees developed to help guide the various soccer programs, website, fundraising, marketing, etc. Each of these committees will work with our executive staff to make the Grand Rapids Crew Juniors one of the premier clubs in the country.

13. Just what do both clubs bring to the table?

- A long-term vision and plan to promote the sport of soccer.
- Premier soccer facilities through a strong relationship with Brewer Park and MVP Fieldhouse
- A first-hand business start-up expertise in club development.
- Corporate business experience.
- A consistent leadership and reliable staff, skilled coaches with international accolades

14. How do you plan to communicate with the membership?

We will use this website and the new integrated database to send out important e-mails. Specific team information will flow through our coaches and team managers. Our plans in the near future include a periodic newsletter with topical articles and information about our programs.