



## BSA Club Announcement

**To:** BSA Members, Coaches, and Staff  
**From:** Howard Engle, President  
**cc:** BSA Board of Directors  
**Date:** March 16, 2017  
**Re:** Brevard Soccer Alliance and South Brevard FC Merger

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As the BSA Board of Directors, our guiding principle is to stay abreast of the needs of our club to keep it on a course that will best serve its members - players, parents, coaches, and staff. Ancillary to this guiding principle is also staying abreast of the needs of youth soccer in Brevard County and the surrounding areas. We do that by looking at what is in the best long-term interests of both current and future players. Having served as Board President for the past year I can say that is what the Board of Directors has done and will continue to do.

This guiding principle has resulted in the Board discussing and debating the merits of potential mergers with other local soccer clubs, though not due to some weakness or concern. In fact, BSA has been a strong club, but the Board believed that we could increase our strengths and build upon them if we could identify the right merger partner. One of the clubs with whom we have discussed merging is South Brevard FC (SBFC). Based on observations and multiple discussions with SBFC leadership, the BSA Board believes that BSA's philosophy and vision aligns very well with the philosophy and vision of SBFC.

This week, both BSA and SBFC boards met individually to vote on approval of the merger. I am pleased to announce that both boards approved the merger. BSA and SBFC leadership are extremely confident that this merger is best for both clubs, as well as, youth soccer in Brevard County. BSA and SBFC leadership are confident that this merger will result in a stronger and more successful club, not only locally, but within Florida.

The combined club will result in the following:

- Between 1500 and 1700 combined members.
- Facilities located at:

- Dick Blake Park (1 full sized field and 2 smaller fields)
- McKnight Sports Complex (1 full sized field)
- Flutie Athletic Complex (2 full sized fields and 3 smaller fields)
- Palm Bay Regional Park (8 full sized fields)
- Max Rodes Park (6 full sized fields)
- Southwest Park (3 full sized fields)
- Administrative staff comprised of existing BSA staff and SBFC staff
- A Board of Directors comprised of existing BSA members and several SBFC members
- A single recreational program operated at:
  - Dick Blake Park
  - Flutie Athletic Complex
  - Palm Bay Regional Park
  - Max Rodes Park
  - Southwest Park
- A single competitive program operated at:
  - Dick Blake Park
  - Flutie Athletic Complex
  - Palm Bay Regional Park
  - Max Rodes Park
  - Southwest Park

To complete the merger in a timely manner, a Merger Working Group (MWG) is being created. The MWG will consist of 4 members (2 from BSA and 2 from SBFC). The MWG will be responsible for coordinating all activities associated with completing the merger. One of these activities will be to hold informational sessions with the BSA and SBFC membership. As the MWG progresses through the activities, we will provide updates to our members. The immediate impact on the current recreational and competitive programs will be as follows:

- BSA and SBFC will operate separate recreational and competitive programs for the remainder of the 2016/17 season.
- 2017/18 competitive season tryouts will be operated by BSA in accordance with announcements that have already been provided to the Brevard County community, as well as, additional announcements that follow over the next few weeks.

In summary, there will be no impact to current BSA and SBFC recreation or competitive players for the 2016/17 season.

On a personal note, I am a former member of SBFC, Melbourne Beach Soccer Club, Melbourne United Soccer Club, and now BSA since it's founding. I have deep historical roots in BSA. I would not be supporting this merger of two very good clubs if I did not know it would result in a single great club that provides youth in Brevard County with the best possible soccer experience, and the best opportunity to reach their soccer potential and desire. I look forward to discussing the merger with you at the upcoming information sessions.