

RUSH MAP STAFF

Lee Hancock



My name is Lee Hancock I am the Director of the Rush MentalSkills Acquisition Program – M.A.P. You can click on the links below to get a sense of what the program is about. But before we get to that let me give you a sense of who I am and why Tim Schulz, President and CEO of Rush, asked me to get involved.

I suppose I wear many hats – I am a parent, coach, University professor and consultant. First and foremost I am a husband and father of 3 little boys – 5, 5, and 8. We live in Redondo Beach California and yes they play soccer. I consider this to be my most important role.

I have been involved in competitive soccer for many years. I played both college and semi-professional soccer. In addition, I have coached competitive youth soccer for almost twenty years and have a USSF 'A' license. During this time I have worked with every age group (including my twins team this year u6!), with both boys and girls, and of course won and lost many games!!

I am a Professor in the Division of Kinesiology at California State University Dominguez Hills. The courses I teach include motor development, teacher preparation, and sport psychology. I thoroughly enjoy teaching and consider myself lucky to work with the students at CSUDH.

As a consultant, I have worked to improve performance in students, athletes, coaches, parents and organizations at every level including youth, college and professional. My goal is always to educate the people I am involved with to empower them in order that they make quality choices, at critical times, that lead to improved performances - both in

sports and in life.

Now to the reason I am involved with the Rush – Tim Schulz. I have known Tim for about 15 years. I worked as one of his staff coaches for Region IV when he was the Director. Over the years we kept in touch and as I completed my schooling and began to consult we spoke from time to time about sport psychology related topics. I have long been an admirer of the vision and direction of Rush Soccer. So, when Tim approached me in January 2013 about spear heading a ground breaking sport psychology program for Rush soccer I was elated. So here I am.

I am thrilled to be involved with Rush soccer as the Director of the MentalSkills Acquisition Program (M.A.P.). I hope to create and implement some truly unique and effective programs that are aimed to help you - a parent, coach, or player – be great. If you ever have any questions or want to know more about the program please do not hesitate to email me at Lchancock@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from and meeting you. In the meantime – click below to learn more about our M.A.P and how we are “*charting a path to success in soccer and in life*”

David Platt



My name is David Platt and I am the Assistant Director of the Rush MentalSkills Acquisition Program – M.A.P. I would also like to give you a sense of who I am and how I came to become involved with Rush Soccer and M.A.P.

Currently residing in Wirral, England (very close to Liverpool), I am a husband to Catherine and father to my little girl, Holly (2) and little boy, James (9 months), who generally have me wrapped around their little fingers!

Soccer has been a great passion of mine and a central part of my life ever since I can remember. I played for a professional English team (Plymouth Argyle) at youth level before starting my professional soccer coaching career aged 16. I have since gone on to gain my UEFA ‘A’ License and work with many levels of soccer player, from

amateur to English Premier League professional, including many coaching visits to the US. Alongside my coaching roles and qualifications, I also pursued an education in the science of soccer, gaining a BSc degree in Sports Science, a postgraduate Advanced Certificate in Science and Soccer, and an MSc in Sport Psychology, whilst also going on to be a University teacher in the field of Science and Soccer at Liverpool John Moores University.

My most notable professional experience in youth soccer was my 6 years working at The Academy at Liverpool Football Club, where I was a coach of the Under 11 to Under 14 age groups, and where I worked with all age groups at The Academy (with a core focus on the Under 18 squad) in the area of education, personal / performance development and psychology, developing programs similar to M.A.P. Hence my interest and involvement with this program.

I then moved on to work with the Great Britain Olympic senior squads as a Performance Lifestyle Advisor, which focuses on 'developing people to deliver performance' in the build up to the London Olympics, and still hold this role after nearly 4 years. Alongside this, I also still work in English professional soccer part-time.

I am involved with the Rush as firstly, I am very passionate about helping / supporting the development of young soccer players, both as people and players, and helping them to achieve their goals and dreams. Secondly, my communications with Rush led me to believe that they are an organization who want to do things 'the right way', by being player centered, passionate about soccer, and realizing the need to develop their players as people as well as soccer players, whilst being a morally sound organization. After presenting at the NSCAA Convention in Indianapolis in January 2013, a meeting with Tim Schulz and Matt Mittelstaedt confirmed my positive feelings towards the Rush, and I agreed to help with the development and application of M.A.P.

I am very much looking forward to my involvement with M.A.P., and to supporting your development. In my mind and experience 'the person is the player' (what you get off the field is what you get on the field), and so my hope is that we can accelerate your progress as people and players through M.A.P, whilst also providing ideas to coaches and parents on how to facilitate this process also.

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