

## ECSA/KASA MERGER FAQs

### **Q – What are the Benefits of this Merger?**

With this union, the new club will provide an environment of competitive excellence and life learning through soccer to positively influence the youth of our combined community for decades to come. Our shared philosophical views on youth soccer place great emphasis on developing our youth members at every age and level of play, not just as youth soccer players but also as good sports men and women. Having this core value and the feedback we received from the respective club surveys is how we arrived at this union and how we will conduct player development moving forward. Ultimately, the goal of this union is to create the BEST environment for youth soccer in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Additionally, combining forces will increase our pool of resources to use, better utilize field space, improve operational efficiency, and increase opportunities to form teams and play at appropriate skill/age levels (less switching between ECSA and KASA, which happened a lot)

### **Q – When will the merger be completed?**

The new club is effective August 1, 2023. The club's programs and fiscal year runs August 1st through July 31st.

### **Q – How will this affect my current Spring 2023 team?**

Current ECSA and KASA teams for the Spring 2023 season are not affected.

### **Q – How was the new club name decided?**

After a careful review of several options, we selected a name that reflects both the River our clubs surround as well as the energy our teams bring to each game. Learn more on our websites.

### **Q – Is the new club a Kimberly club or a Kaukauna club?**

This is a merger of equals, with the highest level of cooperation and support from both boards. We will be one unified club, one community with a shared vision and mission, dedicated to serving our players and families throughout our combined coaching talent, facilities and affiliations.

### **Q – Why is the established date listed as 1978?**

Between our two clubs we have been in existence since 1978 and are proud of our longevity.

### **Q – How is this different than other mergers that have happened recently (i.e., Menasha/Wisconsin United)**

Recently there have been true mergers like ours, however, recently Wisconsin United absorbed Menasha and Menasha took on the mission and vision of the larger club. We see this as a merger of equals in which both clubs come together because of their similarities to create something new and better than before. This merger is also based on geography. The communities in the Fox Cities are very close together. We already are sharing fields and a merger of clubs located a few miles apart makes sense.

### **Q – What trends in youth sports/youth soccer are motivating this merger? How will this benefit the kids in the Kimberly/Kaukauna school districts?**

By coming together, our new club will have greater membership stability across all age levels and programs, including Recreational, Academy and Classic. The increased membership allows our new club to create more complete rosters and the possibility of multiple teams at many age levels, combined training opportunities for

greater match simulation, and much more. We believe the increased opportunities will prove very valuable for players from both Kimberly and Kaukauna school districts.

**Q – What geographic areas will the new club serve?**

We will continue to serve the Fox Cities and surrounding communities.

**Q – How is the combined club going to be managed?**

KASA and Electric City have been working closely together for many years, particularly when forming teams and sharing fields. One of the silver linings of COVID was that we were drawn together even more with the mutual mission to “keep kids playing”. We found out that our board structure, philosophy, and operations are not that much different. The Board Structure and board roles will be shared on the new website when available.

**Q – Is there anything I need to do to sign up with the new club? How do I register my child?**

We will continue to use Demosphere as our registration system. When we are ready for signups a registration link will be provided.

**Q – What kinds of programs are available for various skill levels?**

By joining our forces, we will be able to offer the same programs we offered before but now with a variety of skill levels. Being able to offer various skill levels of play is one of the main reasons for the merger. We will offer programs for kids as young as 4 years old to adult. Specific Program information will be available on the new website – coming soon!

**Q – How will club fees change?**

Club registration fees will be based on each individual program and competitive level of play. Competitive team fees will be based on the level of play (East Central, State League, Midwest Conference) and the varying expenses associated with each level. Fees that were previously collected as team fees, with the exception of tournaments, for KASA competitive teams will now be included in club registration fees. We will offer avenues for individual teams to raise funds to cover tournament expenses at the club level.

**Q – How will financial assistance/scholarships be determined?**

Financial assistance will be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with our policies. Those needing assistance can make this selection at the time of registration. The Treasurer manages a Financial Aid committee to disposition requests. This is very similar to how both clubs had operated.

**Q – Will we still be fundraising? How will that change?**

We will still offer club wide fundraising options in the fall and spring to meet the club’s desire to keep overall fees accessible. Successful fundraising at the club level benefits all our programs and helps support our players through funding equipment, training and field expenses. We will offer fundraising options for the teams to participate in to fund team tournaments. All fundraising dollars will be managed and tracked centrally at the club level. Examples of team fundraisers may include brat fry's, KWIK Trip gas card sales, candy bar sales, etc.

**Q – How will tryouts be conducted for the 2023-2024 season?**

KASA and EC hold competitive team tryouts in a similar fashion. Depending on tryout numbers we may elect to have one or two times for players to tryout. Both clubs have similar philosophies when it comes to playing up. Tryouts will occur in June and registration details will be available soon.

**Q – How have the community schools been engaged?**

Over the last several years, both KASA and Electric City have had strong partnerships with their local school districts. We have been in contact with the athletic directors and the high school coaches throughout the process to make sure we are in alignment with them about the benefits of this merger. We both have benefitted from the support of the schools and the use of facilities for practice and training and in return have worked hard to train athletes who would be not only good soccer players but good students and citizens as well. We are proud of the players who have gone on to play for their respective high schools and have represented both our community and our club with excellence.

**Q – Are we keeping our teams together?**

The recreational teams will remain mostly unchanged. Combined competitive tryouts are planned for the upcoming 2023-2024 season. As always, decisions on competitive team formation will take into consideration what is best for the individual player, the team and the club. More information will be shared with families as details are worked out.

**Q – Will all the coaches be retained with the new club?**

The new club will continue to need high quality, dedicated coaches at all age levels. We always are in need of coaches and trainers. We will continue to offer coach training opportunities sponsored by the club.

**Q – What communication platform do I need to use? How will I know which team my child is on, who will be their coach?**

We are in the process of consolidating our technology platforms to ensure we provide a single, effective approach for our members to manage their experience. We will let everyone know what platform to use as soon as we can.

**Q – Which facilities will be used? Where will my child practice and play?**

The complete facilities and field plan will be shared once the 2023-2024 teams are formed. In general, the intent is to have recreational and academy programs continuing to make use of fields closest to the enrolled families, wherever possible. The competitive programs will select fields based on team makeup and availability.

**Q – Does my child need to purchase a new uniform?**

The competitive program will need to purchase new uniforms for the 2023-24 season through Stefans. The club will provide a one-time \$50 credit towards the purchase of the new competitive uniforms from Stefans. Uniform orders will be placed by mid-July. Academy players will receive practice and game day shirts with their registration. Academy players will have the option to purchase shorts and socks through Stefans or purchase the appropriate color shorts and game day socks on their own. Recreational players will be given game day shirts with their registration.

**Q – How can I purchase new club apparel?**

We will announce when new club apparel can be purchased through an online apparel store.

**Q – I currently volunteer as a team parent/manager. Will I be able to continue to volunteer?**

We will continue to be a non-profit organization with a heavy reliance on volunteers to make the club run.

**Q – How will team accounts be managed?**

Team accounts will be wound down by the end of the 2023-24 league year in conjunction with the KASA Treasurer. In the future, team fundraisers will be solely for paying tournament fees and will be only usable in the season they are raised.

**Q – Are you connected to a Major League Soccer (MLS) team?**

No, the club is instead part of US Youth Soccer.

**Q – Are our Sponsors Aware of the Merger?**

We are excited that a local business, Nestle, is supporting this merger as a sponsor on the new competitive/classic program uniforms for the 2023-2025 cycle. This is the first time in a long while that the combined club will have a sponsor for the competitive program uniforms!

Our community businesses have long been great supporters of soccer in Kaukauna & Kimberly. We will be making them aware of the new River Surge FC organization in May '23 and engaging on the usual timelines to secure their support for the 2023-2024 season.

**Q – Who do I contact if I have more questions?**

Please reach out to [mergerinfo@riversurgefc.org](mailto:mergerinfo@riversurgefc.org). If they don't have an answer for you, they can connect you to the right person.