

# Jim Antonakas

Entrepreneur	Owned numerous sports and food venture startups
Education	University of Massachusetts, Boston 1991 Business Administration / Finance
Currently, Owner	Northeast Rush - With affiliates in 32 U.S. states along with branches in Africa, Asia, Europe and across North, Central and South America, Rush Soccer's growth into the world's largest youth soccer club has been nothing short of astonishing.
Consultant	Numerous global sports/soccer entities



Jim is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts in Boston where he earned his Bachelor's Degree with a major in Business Administration and a minor in Finance. He has owned and operated several small businesses over the last 30 years. Currently Jim owns several Sports Businesses and does Sports and Business Consulting work for many companies and individuals around the world, including the United Premier Soccer League (UPSL) the largest amateur soccer league in the world, Northeast Rush and Rush Greece a youth soccer organization with over 3000 players. In addition to operating four successful Soccer Clubs in the US and in Europe, Jim's full-time focus is now his passion for Player Development through his soccer directing, coaching and management skills.

Jim has over 35 years of soccer and business experience and is currently the President of Aiolikos FC, the owner of Global Pro Soccer Exposure (GPSE), New England Pro Soccer (NEPS) and Soccer Xtreme (NEPDP) which operate Mass United FC (2009), NH Bobcats FC (2015), and several other affiliate clubs. Jim is also the Co-Chair on the Northeast Rush Advisory Board, one of the largest Rush Youth Clubs in the world. The organizations have operated many adult teams in the region as well as their first teams which have played in the National Premier Soccer League (NPSL), American Soccer League (ASL), United Premier Soccer League (UPSL) and most recently in the National Division of Greece. Jim was a co-founder of the American Soccer League in 2014. In 2009, he founded the New England Champions League (NECL), which still operates today under Massachusetts Adult State Soccer Association and proudly affiliated with USASA, US Soccer, USSF and FIFA and is a great platform for younger players to continue their game playing development. Jim recently founded and launched the Northeast Premier League in 2020 which will serve as an elite club and player development platform in Region 1. In 2018, Jim led his MUFC (2009) as head coach to the UPSL National Finals in Colorado, USA after being crowned the 2018

Patriot Division Champions and 2018 Northeast Conference Pro Premier Champions (UPSL) as well as the 2018 NECL Champions of New England.

MUFC most recently in 2019 earned 2X UPSL Northeast Conference Pro Premier Champion and a back-to-back appearance in the UPSL National Finals, as well as 3X top eight finishes in the National UPSL, United States. Mass United FC (2009) was ranked number six in the country in the UPSL during 2019 and over the past decade has been consistently a top 3 contender club in Massachusetts behind the New England Revolution.

In 2016, GPSE elite players visited France on their first international tour where they played matches against the likes of Stade Rennais FC and En Avant de Guingamp of the French Premier League 1. In 2017 GPSE elite players represented the organization in Spain while most recently in 2019 the club went on a successful preseason tour to Albania where they finished up with an impressive 1-1-1 record against several top pro clubs like Flamurtari FC,, KF. Lushnja and Shkumbini.

Prior to 2009, Jim served as Head Coach of the Massachusetts Men's State Select Team Program as well as the Mass U23 Men's State Select Team for a period of 10 years. Jim was also Chairman of the George F. Donnelly Cup (USASA), and Coach of the Region 1 USASA All-Stars. Jim has tirelessly promoted and developed the elite player program for Massachusetts Soccer, as well as USASA Region 1 and across the country for many years. In 2009, Jim decided to continue his efforts by launching his own club and academy programs in addition to many other affiliated programs and most recently their Global Pro Soccer Exposure (GPSE) program which creates a unique platform for elite players to showcase their talents around the world on a global stage. In 2019, Jim's Aiolikos FC in Europe had a remarkable run in the National Greek Cup having defeated two Super League 2 Pro Clubs in reaching the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the National Greek Cup where they were finally stopped by Super League 1 powerhouse PAS Lamia 1964 in a home and home series covered on National TV.

Since August 2019 to present Jim is honored to work directly with the UEFA Foundation for Children in a special partnership to provide much needed relief through sport to thousands of refugee minors in Lesvos, Greece.

Jim has been playing organized soccer for over 40 years. He has received individual honors as a player such as E.M.S.C.A. all-star and G.B.L. all-star in 1986 & 87. In college he played for the University of Massachusetts Boston. In 2010, Jim was part of the 2010 US VC Men's O-40 National Championship Team. He has been coaching for over 30 years on different levels between youth and adult club teams. As a coach and player, Jim has been on many championship teams.

Jim is proud to have first been selected as 2009 USASA Region 1 Coach of the Year where he then went on to become the 2009 USASA National Coach of the Year.