

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Sting New Mexico and Rio Rancho Soccer Club partner to become the NEW Sting New Mexico East and Sting New Mexico West**

*Albuquerque, NM – June 1, 2011* - The Sting Soccer Organization is pleased to announce the merger of the Sting New Mexico Division with the Rio Rancho Soccer Club. The merger will create two separate divisions within Sting New Mexico – Sting New Mexico East, with teams centered mainly on the east side of the Rio Grande River, and Sting New Mexico West, with teams centered mainly on the west side of the Rio Grande in the city of Rio Rancho.

The Rio Rancho Soccer Club has been in existence since 1978 and has the goal and mission to provide a place to play for all children ages 4 and up with the overarching goal to create lifelong active youth through the beautiful game of soccer. The Rio Rancho Soccer Club is the largest soccer solution in the Rio Rancho area and for many years they have provided quality coaching, programs, and options for all ages and skill levels while becoming an integral part of the soccer community and city as a whole. The Sting Soccer Club has been in existence since 1973 and is the largest and most successful all female soccer club in the country. The Sting Soccer organization has a similar mission to the Rio Rancho Soccer Club, with the idea of the Education of Life through Soccer and providing programs that bring success to individuals both and on and off the field while promoting a healthy long term involvement in soccer. Currently ranked as the fifth best club in the country, and with two National Championships in the past year, the Sting Organization as a whole has enjoyed tremendous success and growth over the past three years.

The focus of Rio Rancho in more recent years has been to not only continue to develop a thriving developmental program, but also provide options to compete at a higher level in a more competitive environment. The Sting Soccer Organization, with the recently announced Sting New Mexico Division is looking to bring the competitive atmosphere that has brought Sting success at the national level, locally to the teams in Sting New Mexico. With Rio Rancho having a strong base of developmental and competitive players and quality coaching across all their teams, and with the Sting Soccer Organization and Sting New Mexico Competitive and Premier program options, the merger will create a comprehensive program from ages 4-18 that provides a soccer solution for anyone interested, at any stage of development and skill level.

The Sting Soccer Organization recently hired Rick Smith as the Director of Coaching for the newly formed Sting New Mexico Division. In a short time Rick has acquired several premier and competitive teams across every age group and the Sting New Mexico division has doubled in size in the few short weeks that Rick has headed up the program. Junro Narita has headed up the Rio Rancho Soccer Club for the past several years and has been instrumental in its growth and success in every age group, at every stage of development. With the announcement of the merger with the Rio Rancho Soccer Club, and the formation of two divisions within Sting New Mexico, East and West, the club will look to go from a handful of teams to over 60 teams in the few short weeks since becoming a Division of the Sting Organization as a whole. The merger will also bring boys teams under Sting New Mexico that will play under a separate name of Titans Futbol Club.

The new structure of the Sting New Mexico Programs for each division will include three different options for families to choose from with the goal to ensure that each player has the appropriate environment to develop and grow through soccer. The Premier option will feature the most competitive program offerings with chances to compete in the best local leagues, while gaining exposure within the state, regionally and nationally. The Competitive program will have the chance to compete in the local leagues of choice, but will provide an option for those just entering the competitive ranks or wanting to understand if the premier level of soccer is the right fit. The Developmental /Recreational program will feature a soccer team and program for everyone, and will focus on developing players of all levels of skill and interest and provide them with the best fit option for their continued growth in the game.

Rick Smith will oversee Sting New Mexico and Titans New Mexico overall, but will be focused on developing the Premier and Competitive programs in both the East and West divisions. Junro Narita, the current Director of Coaching for the Rio Rancho Soccer Club will become the New Director of Coaching for the Developmental program, but will also assist in Competitive program development for both Sting New Mexico East and West, and Titans New Mexico East and West. The two Directors have worked closely together in the past year and half, and their cooperation in building parallel programs will provide local soccer players with a comprehensive method of development specifically suited to their skill level and needs at each age group level.

The Sting New Mexico East and West Divisions for girls, and Titans New Mexico East and West Divisions for boys created by the merger with the Rio Rancho Soccer Club will create a truly comprehensive soccer solution in the Albuquerque area. With two extremely qualified and talented Directors of Coaching in the Premier, Competitive, and Developmental programs, the synergies, solutions, and future for soccer for local players in Rio Rancho, and in the Albuquerque area is very promising. The Sting Soccer Organization is committed to the continual growth and success of both the Sting New Mexico and Titans New Mexico programs and aims to create an unparalleled environment for New Mexico Soccer players to continue to develop and grow.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**



**TRANSITION OVERVIEW FOR RIO RANCHO SOCCER CLUB TEAMS:**

**CLASSIC TRACK**



**DEVELOPMENTAL/RECREATIONAL TRACK**

**DEVELOPMENTAL TRACK**



**COMPETITIVE TRACK**

**CLUB TRACK**



**PREMIER TRACK**

\*\*Fees and program schedules/structure will remain as planned for 2011-2012