



Rochester Thunder
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About the Rochester Thunder

The Rochester Thunder is the newest soccer team in the United Soccer Leagues' (USL) Premier Development League (PDL). The team is collaboration between the Minnesota Thunder professional soccer club, which will hold majority ownership, and Rochester-area businessman Dan Penz, who will hold a minority ownership stake. The Rochester Youth Soccer Association will provide promotional support and assist with the team in other capacities, as able, but is not in any way financially responsible for the team.

The Rochester Thunder will begin play in May 2009. The season will consist of 16 league games, with eight being played at home and eight being played away. The Rochester Thunder is also planning to host 2-3 exhibition games during the season. The team plans to play its home games at the new field at Rochester Community and Technical College.

The Rochester Thunder will play in the Premier Development League's Central Conference, in the Heartland Division. Division foes will include 2008 PDL Champions Thunder Bay Chill and 2005 PDL Champions Des Moines Menace, as well as teams from St. Louis and Kansas City.

The team's head coach will be Neil Cassidy and the front office will be run by Todd Penz, Director of PDL Operations. The Rochester Thunder office will be located at 1530 Greenview Drive, Suite 208, Rochester, MN 55902. The phone number is 507-993-4513 and e-mail inquiries can be sent to todd@mnthunder.com. Online information will be available on the Minnesota Thunder website at www.mnthunder.com.

Single-game tickets will cost \$7 for adults and \$4 for youth (4-18) and seniors (65+). Children 3 and under will be admitted for free. Season tickets will be \$49 for adults and \$25 for youth (4-18) and seniors (65+). In addition, the Thunder will offer RYSA youth a special "Gold Card" for \$25. This card will get RYSA youth into all the Rochester Thunder's regular season home games, as well as the regular season home games for the Minnesota Thunder and Minnesota Lightning in the Twin Cities. "Gold Card" members will also enjoy other benefits which will be explained in more detail at a later date. Single-game tickets will go on sale as soon as the final schedule is released, but people who are interested in season tickets can order starting today!