

Disney Soccer Showcase



ESPN Wide World of Sports

Event:

The Disney Soccer Showcase

Date:

December 27–30, 2010 (boys);
December 31, 2010–
January 3, 2011 (girls)

Location:

Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Venue:

ESPN Wide World of Sports
Complex

Event History:

The tournament made its debut in 2000 with 64 boys' and girls' teams competing against one another. It has grown to include more than 500 teams playing on pro-quality fields, under lights and in front of television cameras. The event puts top talent in front of top coaches, and has become the pre-eminent college soccer recruiting tournament in the country. In 2005, the event was split into separate boys' and girls' competitions to better handle the number of participants and spectators. Last year more than 500 women's college soccer coaches and 400 men's college coaches

attended. Showcase players have gone on to play with national teams and professional leagues. The event is one of the largest held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

Number of Participants:

More than 10,000 coaches and players.

Qualifying/Selection:

Teams that include players in age groups from under-15 to under-18 are selected for the Soccer Showcase based on factors including team rankings, records against other elite teams and performance in key tournaments. Because the tournament has become so popular, a Junior Soccer Showcase, for teams with younger players, is being held in late November.

What's New:

The Chelsea Football Club from the United Kingdom is expected to enter its academy team, which regularly develops players who go on to compete on its first team for the English Premier League. Adidas will make the Women's

World Cup ball available for tournament play this year.

Attendance:

Between 18,000 and 20,000.

Tickets:

Length-of-event tournament passes are sold for \$30 for ages 3 through 9 and \$40.50 for those 10 and older.

Sponsorship:

The presenting sponsor is the Chelsea Football Club, the defending English Premier League champion; Adidas is the official apparel, ball and equipment supplier (last year, Adidas provided a FIFA World Cup ball for the tournament); and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and Anthony Travel are partners.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteers from Osceola and Polk counties, Florida Rush Club and Lake Soccer Club help with field marshalling (keeping order with fans and collecting game reports), parking and directing traffic, and manning the water crew.

Media Coverage:

For the first time, the boys' and girls' championship games will be shown live on ESPN3, the network's broadband channel. A live preview show will be streamed on ESPN.com.

Hospitality:

The NSCAA sponsors a coaches' hospitality tent, and college coaches can use the media tower to watch games.

Ancillary Events:

At the Hilton/Bonnet Creek Resort at Disney, coaches enjoy entertainment all week, including a reception where college and club coaches can mingle, and there are two awards ceremonies. ■

— Jamie Stringfellow

**"THE KIDS LOVE
PLAYING HERE;
THE FACILITIES ARE
SOME OF THE BEST
THEY WILL EVER
PLAY ON."**

—Gerry Armitage,
club administrator for
Lakeland (Florida)
Football Club