

The Carolina Reporter

USC SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

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Athletic Club Gives Home Schooled Students a Chance at Sports.

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Competitive soccer is one of the four main sport teams Providence Athletic Club has to offer.

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By Katrina Gary

Unlike most students, when Matthew Aurednik finishes his breakfast at the kitchen table, he pulls out his notebook and begins his daily school work. That's because he has been home schooled all of his life by his mother.

The only thing home school has not offered him is the chance to play high school sports. Aurednik has been playing soccer all of his life, and can't imagine it without soccer.

"I like the competition you know, and I love just playing it," he says.

[South Carolina's High School League](#) rules say to play on a sports team, "A student must be enrolled in the school at which he participates."

Matthew's mother Jennifer Aurednik decided to take action. She created a sports program called [Providence Athletic Club](#).

"The whole idea of starting a home schooled athletic program, started about a year ago when i realised that my son was not going to be able to play in the spring time. And at his age level, they do not offer club athletics. So, i decided if something was going to happen, I would need to make it happen," she says.

Aurednik created a letter of interest mainly for competeive soccer and distributed it to home school parents all around South Carolina.

There was a huge response, not only for boys soccer but for girls soccer as well. Around 50 home schooled students are now playing.

Steve Hursey, head coach of the club's girls varsity soccer team, feels that the girls teams are just as important as the boys teams.

" I think were going to turn some heads. I think were going to make alot of people realise that these girls deserve the same chances that everybody else does. Just because we choose to home school them, it

shouldn't be any different," he says.

"Our goal is to play public schools, private schools and other teams as well," Aurednik says.

Baseball has just been added to the list of sports which include basketball, cross country and soccer.

In the future, [Providence Athletic Club](#) hopes to add track to their list.

Practice makes perfect for this team, and they hope to show the same schools who wouldn't let them play, what they're all about.



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