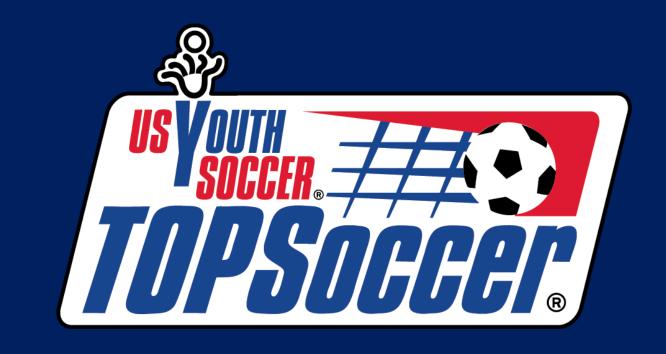


- What is TOPSoccer?
- ♦ Logistics
- ♦ Fees & Registration
- ♦ Grants
- ♦ Materials
- ♦ Insurance Coverage
- Coaches
- ♦ Buddies
- Questions/Next Steps!

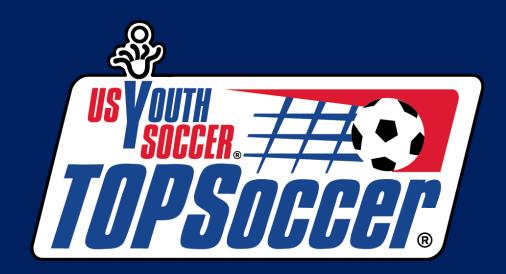


What is TOPSoccer?

- * "The US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers."
- ♦ Inclusive program designed to bring the opportunity to learn and play soccer to children who have intellectual, physical, behavioral, and emotional disabilities.
- Not connected to Special Olympics
- ♦ TOPSoccer allows organizers and administrators to make their program what they want it to be!

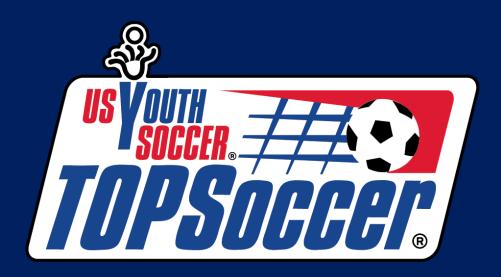
Logistics

- ♦ Timing
 - ♦ When will your TOPSoccer program run?
 - ♦ For how long?
- ♦ Location
 - ♦ Indoor or outdoor? Who will provide space?
- ♦ Fees
- Registration
- ♦ Materials
- Volunteers
 - ♦ Buddies
 - ♦ Coaches



Fees & Registration

- ♦ TOPSoccer players must register as recreational players and distinguish themselves as TOPS athletes
 - ♦ Can be done online in Stack Sports!
- ♦ \$6.50 recreational fee for rec players in Maryland
- What will the program fee be for athletes?
 - ♦ Up to the program
 - ♦ Try to keep cost as low as possible
 - ♦ Example: Vermont TOPS programs charge \$25 per season
 - ♦ Includes registration and T-shirt



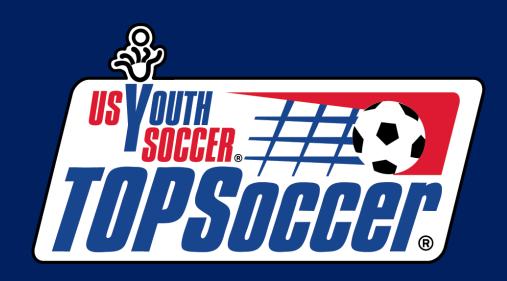
Grants

- ♦ MSYSA has funding for TOPSoccer programs who ask for it!
 - MSYSA Executive Director Flo Egan can provide more information (director@msysa.org)
- East Region TOPSoccer Chair Ed DeMulder has grant money for startup TOPSoccer programs
 - ♦ Vet the program to ensure they are US Youth Soccer members (or a new TOPSoccer program)
 - ♦ Document via email why you need the financial assistance
 - List what you plan to use the money for
 - State how much money you're looking for
 - ♦ If an award is granted, Ed will work with US Youth to issue a check!



Materials

- ♦ Balls: size 3,4,5 (the more colorful, the better!); kids can bring their own
- Pennies (colorful)
- Cones/discs, or both
- Small goals; PUG goals
- - ♦ TOPSoccer logo, "Maryland" underneath
 - ♦ Different colors-buddies v. players
 - ♦ Coaches- polo or t-shirt your preference
 - ♦ Can you get a t-shirt sponsor?
 - ♦ Players: number on the back?
 - ♦ Get shirt size during registration



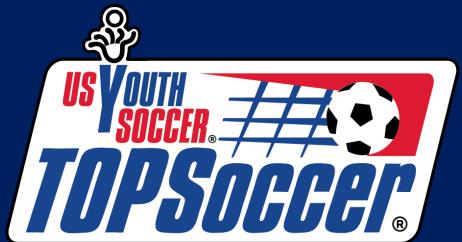
Insurance Coverage

- ♦ All TOPS athletes who are registered with MSYSA and have paid the \$6.50 recreational player fee are covered under the MSYSA K&K Insurance policy.
- ♦ Currently covers all registered players 19 & younger
 - ♦ Since the special education age-out is not until age 21 in Maryland, we are looking into a rider on our insurance policy to allow all high school-aged students to participate!



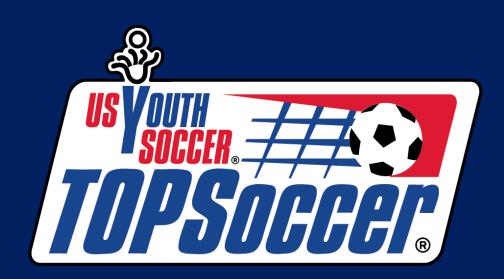
Coaches/Adults

- ♦ All adults working with the program MUST HAVE A VALID BACKGROUND CHECK!
- New coaching course
 - ♦ Can be done in 1.5-2 hours, including field session
 - ♦ Would you be interested in hosting a TOPSoccer coaching course in March?
 - Director of Coaching Alan Lydiate
- ♦ EAST REGION POLICY: Whoever starts a new program in any East Region state must be TOPSoccer certified
 - ♦ coaches & administrators
 - ♦ learn characteristics of each disability through the course



Buddies

- ♦ Recommended: 8th graders and older, who play the sport & can earn community service credit
- ♦ DO not recommend current buddy course a new one will come out this year!
 - ♦ If course does not come out soon enough, we will pull the most important slides from the coaching course for the pre-season buddy meeting
- Pre-season buddy meeting suggestions
- ♦ Commitment: make sure buddies can commit to all (or most) sessions
 - ♦ Players will look for their buddy player/buddy bonds will form!
 - ♦ Players will be disappointed if THEIR buddy is not present
 - ♦ Incredibly rewarding for BUDDY and PLAYER!
- How can you get buddies?
- US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year Award



Next Steps!

- ♦ Assign tasks
- ♦ Next meeting?
- Video: https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/programs/topsoccer/

