



## **PRS TOPSoccer Parent Manual**

### **Welcome to TOPSoccer!**

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, the program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl with a mental or physical disability. Our goal is to enable the thousands of young athletes with disabilities to become valued and successful members of the US Youth Soccer family.

There are thousands of children with disabilities who need, and can be provided with, the opportunity to play soccer through the TOPSoccer program.

The program is intended for kids aged 5-19 who have mental and/or physical disabilities. We use different kinds of equipment to accommodate various forms of disabilities so everyone who wants to play can play. Each training session will consist of technical exercises to learn different aspects of soccer, followed by games between the participants. We hope to offer four seasons (Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall) each year.

### What you can expect from us:

- Safety is our main consideration. All adult volunteers will have a thorough background check before being allowed to work with your child.
- Enthusiastic coaches and buddies who have received training on working with players with disabilities.
- Fun, appropriate, lesson plans and modified games geared toward the majority of children involved.
- Any changes to dates, times and locations emailed to you ahead of time and updated on our website [www.prsoccer.com](http://www.prsoccer.com)
- Your child will be treated with respect by everyone involved in PRS TOPSoccer

### What is expected of our parents:

- **You must stay for the entire practice. Feel free to bring a lawn chair.**
- Be an extra set of eyes and ears for the coaches and buddies. If you see something, say something.
- Be sure to fill out our registration documents completely and make the coaches and buddies aware of anything that you feel they should know.
- Help assist if we are short on the number of Buddies needed.
- If your child requires medication (e.g. for bee stings), please bring it with you.
- Children should be dressed appropriately for weather conditions.
- Sunblock should be worn when playing outside in the warmer months.
- Children must wear shin guards and bring a water bottle to every practice.
- Children will not be allowed to participate without shin guards.
- Children should be cleared to play by their primary physician before their first practice.
- Children with Downs Syndrome must have a recent radiological exam with a negative result for Atlanto-Axial Instability.
- Most importantly, have fun watching your child have fun.
- Games are not intended to be ultra-competitive.
- Celebrate every success by every child.