

## The History of TOPSoccer

TOPSoccer began in 1991, designed and administered by US Youth Soccer the nations largest youth sports organization and its volunteer TOPSoccer Committee, to provide meaningful learning, development and physical participation opportunities to these young athletes through the game of soccer. There are thousands of children with disabilities who need, and can be provided the opportunity to play soccer through TOPSoccer. That opportunity exists for these athletes to achieve, develop and compete according to their individual abilities. A whole new world awaits these children by the efforts of people like you, reaching out to bring them into the soccer family.



## Parents Guide

**There are thousands of young athletes with disabilities throughout the nation who are looking for an opportunity to play. Give them a chance.**

**To learn more about participation or to start your own TOPSoccer program contact:**

**US Youth Soccer**  
1717 Firman Dr., Suite 900  
Richardson, Texas 75081

T: 800.4SOCCER  
F: 972.235.4480  
[usyouthsoccer.org](http://usyouthsoccer.org)

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The Parents Guide to US Youth Soccer's program for enriching the lives of young athletes with disabilities through the game of soccer.

## What is TOPSoccer?

TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community based soccer program that is designed to meet the needs of children aged 4-19 years with physical and/or mental disabilities. The program is geared toward player development rather than to competition. Athletes are placed on teams according to ability NOT by age.

## Why TOPSoccer?

TOPSoccer furthers US Youth Soccer's mission of fostering the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels. In short, TOPSoccer takes kids from the sidelines to participating in the game. Ask the parents or participants of TOPSoccer and you'll understand why TOPSoccer?

## How do I Register?

Procedures vary from state to state but costs are kept to a minimum so that they are affordable to all. Registration fees include insurance and in some cases uniforms and equipment costs. TOPSoccer is open to any child with a disability including but not limited to: A.D.D., Autism, Hearing Impaired, Sight Impaired, Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Cystic Fibrosis, Down's Syndrome, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Seizure Disorder and Spinal Bifida. It may be necessary to provide a doctor's permission slip in order for your child to participate.



## What is the TOPSoccer parent's role?

You will need to provide transportation to and from all practices and games ensuring that the player is prompt not only in arriving but also in departure. Please also stay and watch practices and games and lend your support in a positive manner. Always ensure that your child is dressed and brings appropriate equipment to all games and practices. Parent's should also provide necessary information to program administrator's and coaches that will enhance your child's experience and progression in the program.

## What a parent should expect from the program

- ① It will be a fun and meaningful experience for you and your child.
- ② The game and activities shall be adapted in ways that will ensure your child learns at his/her own pace.
- ③ Practices and games will be organized.
- ④ TOPSoccer will improve the overall fitness, self-esteem and social skills of your child.

## What are the benefits of TOPSoccer for my child?

- ① Your child will develop a sense of belonging to a community and will learn the value of being part of a team
- ② Improvement in self-esteem, fitness and social skills.
- ③ Success based on ability.
- ④ FUN!

## TOPSoccer Players Rights

- ① The right to decide when to participate in soccer.
- ② The right to participate in every game and to play at least 50% of each game.
- ③ The right to participate at a level that corresponds to each child's ability.
- ④ The right to participate in a safe and healthy environment.
- ⑤ The right to play as a child and enjoy participation in the sport.

