

Hi, I'm Dan.
Soccer Volunteer Guy

Who Also Coaches VIP
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Why Did You Play Sports?



Did You Always Love Sport?
Ever Take a Break?

Why Soccer?

How Do You Describe Soccer?



Put the round thing in the rectangular thing...

We need a Ball, Shoes, Shin Guards, and a Goal.

Do you remember when soccer REALLY clicked for you?



What happened when it did click?



Let's Talk About AYSO

1 Everyone Plays®

AYSO's goal is for kids and adults to play soccer, so we mandate that every player on every team must play at least 50 percent of every game.

4 Positive Coaching

A coach can be one of the most influential people in a player's life, so AYSO requires they create a positive experience for every player in AYSO. Additionally, encouraging player's effort leads to greater enjoyment, improved skills and stronger motivation in players.

2 Balanced Teams

Each year we form new teams as evenly balanced as possible, providing a stronger learning experience for teams as they play teams comprised of similar ability. It also allows for each player to experience playing with a wide variety of teammates of different skill levels.

5 Good Sportsmanship

We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude, and our programs are designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.

3 Open Registration

If you want to play soccer, AYSO welcomes you and gives all youth and adults the opportunity to register and play.

6 Player Development

All players should be able to develop their soccer skills and knowledge to the best of their abilities, both individually and as members of a team, to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

<https://ayso.org/about-us/about/>

Where Does VIP Exist?

VIP is MOSTLY aligned with AYSO Core Regions.

Programs are fractionally a much smaller representation than Core.

Many Regions DO NOT offer the program currently.

VIP CAN exist separate from Core.

VIP CAN serve specific ages and demographics by design.

VIP History & Requirements

Started in 1991

Selection Criteria Initially Physical Characteristics

In 1999 Upper Age Limit Removed

No Specific Criteria or Diagnosis

Coaches & Parents Determine Fit

Create Safe Environments

20% of athletes could benefit from A&I.

1 of 12 Males experience color blindness.



Training Requirements

VIP Administrator

VIP Volunteer Training
Board Member Training
Division Administrator Training

VIP Coaches

VIP Volunteer Training
6U / 8U Coaches Training

VIP Buddy

VIP Buddy Training or VIP Volunteer Training

All Adults (18+)

AYSO's Safe Haven
Safe Sport
CDC Concussion Awareness

Style & Format

What is the style and format of your program?

Do you play fun training games?

Do you have structured training?

Do you have scrimmages?

Do you have referees?

Some Best Practices to Consider

Frequency: Establish regular and consistent programming.

Visibility: Schedule at locations where other games are played.

Celebrate: Share accomplishments as openly as you do for other programs.
Year end awards, photos, etc.

Consistency: Determine regular format in program styles and patterns.

Location: Try not to change field numbers.

Near bathrooms & parking is a huge bonus!

Program Rules

VIP Can Play Against:

- AYSO Core Teams
- AYSO Buddies
- Other VIP Teams

VIP Cannot Play Against

- Coaches
- Parents

Program Rules

Maintain a 3:1 Ratio

Parents / Guardians MUST remain onsite.

Volunteers operate in their capacity as a SOCCER COACH only, regardless of any other licensure or profession (ie: MD, RN, PTA, OTA, etc.).

Any braces, wheelchairs, walkers, etc. must be padded if they could pose a risk to others.

What Do We Seek From Athletes We Coach?

Joy and Fun

Positivity

Development and Effort

Belief in Abilities

Willingness to Improve

Comfort in Being Uncomfortable

Communicating Feelings

Receiving Feedback

Tenacity

What Makes A Good Practice Session Plan?

Fun

Age Appropriate

Defined Outcomes

Adaptable

Increase/Decrease in Challenge

Measurable

Game Like

Player Driven

Free Flowing

What Resource Do You Rely On When You're Stuck?

Hope

Trust

Intuition

Faith

Belief

Effort

Goodwill

Random Oh Gosh I Hope This Works!

Thinking Quickly and Adapting

We usually divide our program into two groups:

10 minutes together

Younger athletes in one group.

Older athletes in another group.

So, what happens if we don't have enough volunteers?

If not enough older athletes show up?

Problems, if we can't move them, can we move us?



What Should Our Athletes Accomplish?

Is it their goal to progress to competitive play?

Would they like to officiate matches?

Can we create opportunities for them to coach or mentor others?

Is there a specific mobility, activity, or cognitive goal that we can help achieve?

Do we need a formal intake form and diagnosis, or an observation?

Table Top Exercise

Are there ways we can develop our buddies during the off-season?

Can we do a better job preparing for scenarios that might occur?

Are buddies better prepared for other unexpected scenarios?

Pull scenarios from other programs, or make up your own.

Do respect player privacy and do not replay actual scenarios from your program or other local programs.

Pouting Pete

You have six players show up to your session. You are in your third round of Sharks & Minnows and Stephen (11) has won every time! You just tried to talk to Stephen about how much fun it is when someone else got to be the first shark, he just laughed and said he was going to win again and you couldn't stop him!

When Stephen said this Pete (7) turned his back and is now sitting on his ball with his back towards the field, everyone else is ready to go.

As the coach, what is your next action?

Angry Amy

Erica (14) has been a participant in our program for several years. She normally follows along with the rest of the group although is not as active as everyone else today. She is not speaking or making eye contact, which is not particularly unusual behavior for her. Today she is not participating in the activity but is smiling and walking next to coach.

Mom, Amy, is frustrated that Erica has not passed the ball with her partner. She has come onto the field and insists that Erica takes a water break and is thirsty. You can tell that Amy is telling Erica she needs to kick the soccer ball while at their car.

Erica returns to the field and holds your hand and smiles but does not want to pass the ball with you or anyone else.

As the coach, what is your next action?

Making Seasonally Fun Activities

Anna cut out orange cray paper pumpkins and various paper shapes of noses, ears, teeth, etc. Athletes would then dribble their balls around the field and pick up objects and then assemble the jack-o-lanterns.



Buddy Training Tips

Teaching the buddy to shield

How can they win the ball for their player?

How can they protect their player from having a ball stolen?

Blocking passing lanes

Can they stand in a way where they're reducing a passing option and creating a delay for a moment that might allow a team to win back a ball?

Buddy Training Tips

How to handle the buddy going too hard?

Do you have an athlete talented enough to go against them?

Is there a more experienced buddy that could take point and maybe guide?

Does the buddy understand the objective of the program?

Are we attracting the right buddy to our program?

“Be here every week.”

“We expect a commitment.”

Example, can we have five very regular buddies knowing three are there weekly?

Buddy Training Tips

How much freedom do we allow buddies to lead the athlete?

Are buddies comfortable and confident working with multiple athletes?

Pros and cons of working with only one, versus rotating regularly?

If they are a sibling of a player, do they too need respite time?

Try to allow them those breaks as much as possible, especially from siblings.

Teach them appropriate bounds of decision making and authority.

Teach them appropriate physical contact and any safety precautions.

“Mentor Parents”

Welcome new parents into our program.

Answer questions of families that are new to our program.

A friendly face and someone who can welcome.

Someone who can take photos when we do special events.

Allows the coach to concentrate on player and buddy activities.

Caring for Yourself and Volunteers

Admin + Coach + Recruiter + Trainer + Uniform Orderer + Field Scheduler +

Be comfortable asking for help.

Create low-risk points of entry for volunteers to contribute with smaller projects and become engaged slowly at first, and more so over time.

We have a lot of pride in “Our Kids” “Our Program” “Our Athletes”. It can be valuable to ensure that athletes and their families interact with multiple coaches regularly and that from time to time as coaches we rotate. If it’s seen as “our” program it may be seen as exclusive to others who want to help.



On November 15, 2013, young leukemia patient Miles Scott got his wish to become Batman when San Francisco transformed itself into Gotham City to become Miles's playground -- a singular act of charity that became an Internet sensation.

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Christopher Verdosci - Asst Costume Director - San Francisco Opera



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