



AYSO REGION 186

Very Important Player (VIP) Soccer Program

Building Teams for Players with Special Needs

VIP Program-- Vision & Mission, Goals & Objectives

VIP Soccer is all about enjoyment through personal growth in both skill development and participation with others. VIP is a perfect blend of individual successes and teamwork.

What is AYSO VIP's Vision?

The **Vision** is to provide quality soccer experience for individuals whose physical or mental disabilities make it difficult for them to successfully participate on mainstream soccer teams. Successful participation is defined by the player's enjoyment and the safety of all team members.

What is AYSO VIP's Mission?

The **Mission** is to develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on **AYSO's Six Philosophies**:

1. **Everyone Plays®** -- Our program's goal is for kids to play soccer-so we must play at least half of every game. In AYSO, it is recognized that children learn skills, teamwork and sportsmanship and develop confidence by playing, not by watching. This is nowhere more true than with individuals with disabilities, who are more often spectators than players. Thus, with VIP soccer, the philosophy yields added meaning to Everyone Plays®!

2. **Balanced Teams** -- Each year we form new teams as evenly balanced as possible-because it is fair and more fun when teams of equal ability play. Balancing VIP teams can be a bit more complicated, given the likelihood of great variety in age, size and ability levels on one team. Whenever possible, we will take this into consideration when forming teams.

3. **Open Registration** -- Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria for playing. There are no elimination try-outs and nobody gets cut. In VIP there is no upper age limit- who want to register and play soccer. Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria for playing.

4. **Positive Coaching** -- AYSO requires our coaches to create a positive experience for every player. This is very important when working with VIP players. They may not understand all that a coach says, but a positive attitude and a smiling face is read loud and clear.

5. **Good Sportsmanship** -- We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude. VIP games exemplify sporting behavior in action, where joy is derived from participation.

6. **Player Development** -- We believe that 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, in order to maximize their enjoyment of the game.

Is AYSO Soccer safe?

Yes! AYSO puts your child's safety above all else. AYSO's Safe Haven program is designed to address the need for child and volunteer protection by:

- *Screening and registering all AYSO volunteers
- *Requiring training and certification
- *Providing specific child and volunteer protection policies and guidelines
- *Promoting safety and injury prevention

Our volunteers are also asked to complete Safe Haven courses and job-specific training in order to become certified. AYSO in-person and online training focuses on the best ways to work with children and important safety protocols.

Kids Zone® is a dynamic program designed to eliminate negative sideline behavior. Kids Zone buttons and signs are distributed via your Region and displayed at games and practices. Parents asked to sign the Kids Zone Pledge, promising to behave within the guidelines of the program.

What are AYSO's VIP Goals & Objectives?

Goal: Players will have fun playing soccer

Objectives:

- *To introduce all skills by using games
- *To allow players to set the pace
- *To relax and be flexible
- *To keep everything positive

Goal: Players will understand the fundamentals of the game

Objectives:

- *To give each player plenty of opportunities to play the ball
- *To build skills on the success of previously learned skills
- *To involve family members in learning soccer fundamentals

Goals: Players will learn teamwork and fair play

Objectives:

- *To build teamwork and fair play into practice sessions
- *To encourage team identity by wearing uniforms and participating in team get-togethers
- *To reward positive effort when teamwork and fair play are observed

Goal: Players will increase their self-esteem

Objectives:

- *To establish individual, realistic goals with players
- *To encourage effort toward goals, no matter how small
- *To recognize player effort and achievement

Goal: Players will become more physically fit

Objectives:

- *To encourage maximum participation in physical movement for each player at his/her level
- *To facilitate player participation in off-season physical activities or sports

Goal: Players will meet and be comfortable with new people

Objectives:

- *To encourage parents to play a supportive, not active, role during games
- *To facilitate the development of positive player relationships with buddies & other volunteers
- *To utilize community helpers

What is AYSO's minimum "everyone plays" rule?

All players are guaranteed a minimum one-half of every game playing time.

Does AYSO provide any extra insurance for accidents/ injuries to players?

Yes, players are insured through AYSO's Soccer Accident Insurance program, which acts as a supplemental insurance to cover excess medical costs your primary medical insurance doesn't, up to \$50,000. The insurance applies to injuries sustained during sanctioned soccer activities (practices, clinics or games). This insurance is included in the registration fee.

AYSO reserves the right to change or modify information on this page.