How to Become a PAL Soccer Coach

Thank you for your interest in coaching PAL Soccer! The information below will lead you through the process of registering to coach and completing the required steps to become an official PAL coach for the 2026 season.

It is important to note that you'll need to provide certificates when you complete the required training courses. Even though the PAL website allows certificates to be uploaded to your account, we do not want you to do this. The website does not provide an easy way to view the certificates online. Rather, we'll ask you to email your certificates to our PAL Coaching Administrators at palsoccer.coaching@gmail.com.

1. **Register as a volunteer coach on the PAL website**

   The first step to becoming a PAL Soccer coach is to register on the PAL website. You can register anytime during the registration period (May 16rd through June 30th) including when you register your children to play PAL.

   After you log into the PAL website at www.nicevillepalsoccer.org, click on the ***MY ACCOUNT*** link at the top. This will bring you to the SportsConnect registration page. In the list on the left you'll see a ***VOLUNTEER*** link. Click this link and you'll be led through the process of registering to coach.

   If you encounter issues during the registration process, contact the PAL Coaching Administrators at palsoccer.coaching@gmail.com.

2. **Complete Concussion Training**

   All coaches need to complete concussion training every year, so if you've coached for PAL before you'll need to re-complete concussion training for the 2026 season. All coaches and referees MUST complete this training course prior to participating in the any SAY Soccer (PAL's sanctioning organization) activity whether it is a practice or a game. There are two approved options for completing the necessary concussion training.

   a) The FIRST APPROVED OPTION is provided by the *National Federation of State High School Associations Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know*, which can be found at https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2 . When you visit this site, you'll either click on the CONCUSSION COURSES option and select

"Concussion in Sports" or you'll click on the "order here" button to begin the training. These options may vary depending on if you are already logged in.

b) The SECOND APPROVED OPTION is through the Center for Disease Control and their *Prevention Heads-Up Concussion in Youth Sports* online training program, which is at HEADS UP to Youth Sports Coaches: Online Concussion Training | HEADS UP | CDC. Click on the online training course button to begin your training.

When you complete your concussion training, send the certificate to the PAL Coaching Administrators at palsoccer.coaching@gmail.com.

3. Complete SafeSport Training

The U.S. Center for SafeSport produces abuse awareness and prevention courses, designed to prevent, recognize and respond to any instances of child abuse. SAY Soccer requires all administrative board members and coaches to complete Safesport training, which includes sexual misconduct awareness, emotional and physical misconduct, and mandatory reporting.

All PAL coaches must take annual SafeSport training, following a schedule as shown below. Any coach without valid SafeSport training on-file with PAL will not be able to begin coaching until the training is complete.

Year 1 – initial SafeSport training must be completed for new coaches (SafeSport Trained – U.S. Soccer Federation)
Year 2 – SafeSport Refresher 1 will be completed, if you have done initial training
Year 3 – SafeSport Refresher 2 will be completed
Year 4 – SafeSport Refresher 3 will be completed
Year 5 – coaches need to re-complete the initial SafeSport training

The following link to the PAL website contains information from SAY Soccer including the SafeSport training web address and key that allows the training to be accomplished for free.

https://dt5602vnjxv0c.cloudfront.net/portals/4467/docs/say_soccer_safesport_training_2022.pdf

When you complete SafeSport, send the certificate you receive (initial training or refresher) to the PAL Coaching Administrators at palsoccer.coaching@gmail.com.

4. **Complete Coaching Education**

All new PAL coaches need to complete the *Introduction to Grassroots Coaching* course offered by the US Soccer Learning Center. The website for this training is:

https://learning.ussoccer.com/coach/courses/available/16/details/1546

This is a free course. You'll need to register with US Soccer and take the course online. When you complete the course and receive your certificate, send it to the PAL Coaching Administrator at palsoccer.coaching@gmail.com.

In addition to the *Intro to Grassroots* module, PAL highly encourages coaches to complete additional training offered by US Soccer pertinent to the division they are coaching:

- Coaches in the U6 division are encouraged to complete the *4v4 Online Course* which can be found here: https://learning.ussoccer.com/coach/courses/available/26/details/1547
- Coaches in the U8, U10 and U12 divisions are encouraged to complete the *7v7 Online Course* which can be found here: https://learning.ussoccer.com/coach/courses/available/25/details/10385
- Coaches in the U14 or High School divisions are encouraged to complete the *11v11 Online Course* which can be found here: https://learning.ussoccer.com/coach/courses/available/23/details/10383 or the *Foundations of Coaching* training offered by United Soccer Coaches, which can be found here: https://www.pathlms.com/unitedsoccercoaches/courses/4293

These additional courses may have a $25 fee associated with them. If you decide to take one of these courses, PAL will reimburse the $25 fee. Forward your completed certificate and your receipt showing the $25 fee to the PAL Coaching Administrators at palsoccer.coaching@gmail.com and you will receive an e-check reimbursement from the PAL treasurer.

5. **Background Check**

Per Florida statutes, all PAL Coaches must now have a Level 2 background. This means you must be fingerprinted. These reports will be good for 5 years. We are scheduling a

mass fingerprinting event on July 11 at City Hall. You must have your Concussion and SafeSport and Grassroots (if new) training completed before July 11. Even if you have been fingerprinted by another organization/company, PAL does not have access to that and we need to fingerprint you through our vendor.

- We will send you the link closer to July.
- All coaches this year MUST be fingerprinted
- PAL will receive the results in a few days. If there are any issues, a PAL representative will contact you. If you do not hear from a PAL representative, your background check was clear.