

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS TOPSoccer? The Outreach Program for Soccer is a community based soccer program for young athletes with disabilities. It is a US Youth Soccer program that is sponsored by Naples Youth Soccer Club and run entirely by volunteers. It is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl with disabilities.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PLAY TOPSoccer? Any boy or girl between the ages of 4 and 19 who has a physical or cognitive/intellectual disability that inhibits their ability to perform is welcome to play.

HAVE ANY TOPSoccer PLAYERS GONE ON TO OTHER TEAMS? Yes, NYSC TOPSoccer has had players that have moved on to play on Optimist recreational teams. For some families, TOPSoccer provides an opportunity to see if their child could listen meaningfully to a coach and work with other children. If so, they are ready to move to a recreational team. If not, TOPSoccer provides a safe environment and plenty of encouragement for these children to play soccer.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD DO DURING TOPSoccer? When your child arrives, he or she will be met by a coach. This coach will then “buddy” your child up with a volunteer. These are volunteers or members of NYSC travel teams and their coaches.

The TOPSoccer player will do some warm up exercises then progress to drills such as dribbling, passing, shooting on goal etc. The final half hour is spent playing a unified soccer game. Some of our children are not yet ready to play and remain with their buddies continuing to practice or play with the giant soccer ball that will be on the field. The option to play is always available to our TOPSoccer players, and is entirely their decision. We will always encourage participation, but will not obligate it in a game.

WHAT IS A UNIFIED SOCCER GAME? A unified soccer game is one in which players may or may not be disabled. The volunteers play in the game next to their TOPSoccer buddies. They are there to encourage play and feed the ball to the TOPSoccer player. The families are sitting on the sidelines, cheering on their child. As goals are scored, the excitement and feeling of accomplishment is obvious to all spectators.

WHO CAN VOLUNTEER FOR TOPSoccer? Although experience working with people with disabilities is helpful, it is not a requirement. A love of the game of soccer, willingness to set your pace to the TOPSoccer players', and patience is all a volunteer needs to bring to the field. Any and all volunteers are welcomed!

WHERE IS TOPSoccer LOCATED? TOPSoccer is co-sponsored by Collier County Parks and Recreation and played on the soccer fields at North Collier Regional Park at 15000 Livingston Rd., Naples, FL 34109 behind SunNFun Lagoon Water Park.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BRING TO THE FIELD? On session days, your child needs to bring a water bottle or two. They will be moving around the field and will get thirsty! They must also wear shin guards. Cleats are optional, sneakers are fine. Please dress appropriately for soccer and the weather.

HOW DO I SIGN MY CHILD UP FOR TOPSoccer? Please fill out the registration form which can be found under the downloads on the Naples Youth Soccer Club web site www.naplessoccer.com and mail to: Naples Youth Soccer Club P.O. Box 110354 Naples, FL 34108. You may also bring the form with you on the first session date. We want everyone to have the opportunity to play!

WHAT DOES TOPSoccer COST? The cost of TOPSoccer is \$10.00. Checks should be made payable to "Naples Youth Soccer Club." Your child will receive a TOPSoccer t-shirt to wear at each session. There is also a party and trophy presentation during our final session.