

What is the need for Recreational Soccer?

- Making this truly a 'game for all kids'
- Simple economics – recreational players greatly outnumber travel players and provide a strong revenue stream for all associations.
- Creates a love of the game, and not just playing the game, the eventual adult involvement in the game will not grow. Without this growth, there is not a sufficient fan base for national teams and professional teams
- A starting place for all young players
- Initial development of the future elite players
- Young people you have constructive and useful activities are less likely to have social problems.
- Young women who participate in sports and much less likely to have to face teenage pregnancy or abuse.
- Building the player though soccer has always been a component of this organization

What are the Benefits?

Recreational programming for the younger players is the very life blood of the sport. The youngest players all enter as recreational players.

Recreational soccer provides a rich and enjoyable environment where children can be introduced to the sport in a nurturing and supportive way that allows them to learn the game, experience the game and grow to love the game. Low pressure, fun filled activities are essential to the development of basic skills and tactical awareness and recreational provides just that.

Without a vibrant and growing base, travel programs cannot not grow and thrive. Recreational soccer is the base of the whole soccer pyramid in the United States. The broader the base is, the greater the number of potential elite players to be identified, the greater the number of fans for the national teams and the greater the success of the United States in world competition.

Finally it is part of our mission at US Youth Soccer.

"US Youth Soccer is non-profit and educational organization whose mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition."

US Youth Soccer Player Participation Objectives

- **Fun!** It is critical that players involved in youth soccer enjoy the game in which they are playing. If the organization is able to instill a passion and enjoyment in the game then half the battle is already won. This also relates very closely to how players perceive their coach(es) and their interaction with them. One of the main reasons players under 12 decide not to continue is that they no longer are enjoying the game, it has become work.
- **Development:** A necessary element to support fun, without it training and games get stale because there is no improvement.
- **Life skills:** In our case through the sport of soccer (Mission)

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