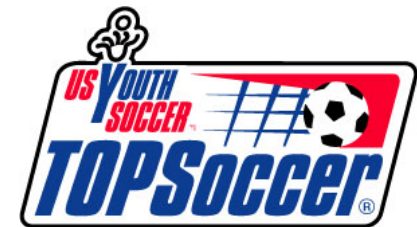


# US Youth Soccer Region IV

## SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT



# MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the growth of TOPSoccer by providing educational and practical support to Region IV members and encourage local affiliates to start and/or grow TOPSoccer programs in their communities.

# TOPSoccer Safety and Risk Management

## ***Abuse...***

- Children with disabilities are more likely to be abused
- May not understand sexual abuse
- Behavior may reflect abuse
- May be vulnerable to bullying
- May receive intimate personal care

# TOPSoccer Safety and Risk Management

## *Tips...*

- Work with the player 1 on 1
- Speak to the player regarding his/her behavior
- Use behavior modification
- Gear practices to the players' abilities

# TOPSoccer Safety and Risk Management

## *Tips...*

- Ensure manual and/or physical support is provided only when necessary
- Many players bond with an individual buddy or volunteer
- Educate your volunteers, etc
- The players' comfort

# TOPSoccer Safety and Risk Management

## *Tips...*

- Use alternate, safe actions
- Gender appropriate activities
- Players with disabilities' lack of fitness and possible obesity are exacerbated
- Take as many breaks as needed

# TOPSoccer Safety and Risk Management

## *Tips...*

- Provide a safe environment
- Runners; volunteer at exits
- Stay in groups and within sight
- Background checks for all volunteers

# TOPSoccer Safety and Risk Management

## *Educating the...*

### Volunteers

- Parents (they are your eyes and ears)
- Teaching where to touch, hold onto or give physical support
- Buddies can redirect unacceptable behaviors
- Education at ALL administrative level



# TOPSoccer Safety and Risk Management

## *Educating the...*

### Parents

- Players can say no
- Players must listen to their feelings
- Parents should discuss these feelings
- Pedophiles can be older players

**SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN IS  
OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY**

# For More Information:

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- US Youth Soccer Region IV – [www.regioniv.com](http://www.regioniv.com)
- US Youth Soccer Website – [www.usyouthsoccer.org](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org)

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