



TOPSoccer

Colorado Risk Management

Region IV TOPSoccer Symposium
April 2010





Colorado Risk Management TOPSoccer

Region IV 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.

Colorado Risk Management Focus

If you work with kids, you have Risk. US Youth Soccer, Region IV and CYS have many programs to minimize these risks. It is paramount for those who work with children be sensible, rationale and continually exercise good judgment.



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Colorado Risk Management

Background Checks

Colorado TOPSoccer Programs must comply with all requirements of Colorado's KIDSafe program!

ADULTS

Background checks for **ALL** adult coaches

- ✓ National and State Wide checks required in Colorado
- ✓ Every two years to comply with KIDSafe
- ✓ When individuals change clubs a new check is required
- ✓ Requirement of the Club Risk Management Coordinator (RMC) which is monitored by the State Association RMC
- ✓ Background check requirements are audited by the State Association



Colorado Risk Management

Some Hard Facts

Data Point	%	Number
Total number of Background Checks Completed		3,934
Number of "hits" based on CYS data	45.23%	1,779
Detail of the 1,779 "hits"		
Traffic Convictions	42.01%	747
Charges Dismissed	38.83%	691
Record not validated – false "hit"	24.00%	427
DUI, DWAI, etc	5.92%	105
Fraud	0.06%	1
Theft	0.76%	13
Drug Convictions (possession, distribution, etc)	1.46%	26
Various Misdemeanor Charges	7.07%	126
Domestic Case (divorce, etc.)	10.82%	192
Criminal Convictions	1.78%	32
Felony	0.19%	3

1 convicted of drug distribution
1 convicted of threatening behavior
3 convicted sex offenders



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Background Checks, continued

Youth Volunteer Requirements

- ✓ Properly registered youth players participating as assistant coaches and team managers are NOT required to have a background check in Colorado at this time, however, an adult should be “in charge” of the team/league, be present at all team events and pass a background check
- ✓ Youth volunteers from National Honor Roll, etc. do not need background checks
- ✓ Youths under Community Service sentencing from municipal courts should not be considered for the program
- ✓ It is highly recommended that youth volunteers attend Buddy training
- ✓ Parents should receive information regarding duties and limitations of youth volunteers (see recommended handout)



Colorado Risk Management

Background Checks, continued

Buddy Requirements

- ✓ Properly registered youth players are NOT required to have a background check at this time
- ✓ Youth volunteers from National Honor Roll, etc. do NOT need a background check at this time
- ✓ Youths under Community Service sentencing from municipal courts should not be considered for the Buddy program
- ✓ College students who serve as a Buddy should have a background check even if they only participate at training and games
- ✓ Parents should receive information regarding Buddy duties and limitations (see slide 13)
- ✓ All Buddy participants should attend a Buddy training session prior to assisting



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Background Checks, continued

CONTACT YOUR LEAGUE AND/OR STATE
ASSOCIATION FOR REQUIREMENTS WITHIN YOUR
LEAGUE/STATE

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Insurance Requirements

All Colorado TOPSoccer players and coaches are to be registered with the State Association

- This ensures both supplemental medical and Director/Liability insurance
- Current registration fee is \$8.50 per player/coach and is based on the Developmental fee for other members
 - Player/Coach/Club/Directors have insurance coverage
 - Player/Coach receives State Association Newsletters
 - Player gets a Player Pass (highly recommended)
 - Great incentive to get a local business to support the team!
- Colorado TOPSoccer has grant programs to assist Clubs waive registration costs to the individual player



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Insurance Requirements, continued

CONTACT YOUR LEAGUE AND/OR STATE
ASSOCIATION FOR REQUIREMENTS WITHIN
YOUR LEAGUE/STATE



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Facility Risk Mitigation

Don't overlook risks inherent with soccer facilities

- Inspect fields and surfaces for glass, tripping hazards and holes
- Inspect goal posts to ensure they are secured from tipping over
- Inspect nets to ensure they are secured to goal posts
- Corner flags, if used, should be flexible

Ensure open streets, creeks, hills or other geographical areas are monitored during training and games

- Assign a parent to stand by and watch exits from the field
- Advise the Buddy if the player is a “runner” and consider assigning two Buddies to the player

Just A Little Common Sense is 100 Times Better than No Sense!



Colorado Risk Management

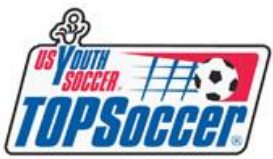
Equipment Risk Mitigation

Check both soccer and player equipment

- If using metal goals, should post protection be used
- All soccer balls used should be checked
 - It is recommended that they be under-inflated including oversized balls
 - Balls with worn or loose panels should not be used
- Parachutes, AirLites® or other Super Chutes should be routinely inspected to ensure grip holds are secure and fabric is intact
- Be aware of the player that “booms” the ball to prevent other players from being struck – Buddy assignment
- Shin guards are to be worn by all players



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Game Control Risk Mitigation

Coaches and Buddies are critical components of game control

- Be aware of each player's limitations
 - Coach should pair Buddy to player ratio based on player age and ability
 - Buddy should be briefed prior to starting training or game
 - Buddy should be sized appropriately for their player
 - 1 on 1 ratio for younger or less able players
 - 2 on 1 for if there is potential for behavioral difficulty
- **Modify the rules of the game to meet your needs**
 - Restart of play utilizing a throw-in is discouraged
 - If you use a goal keeper, it should be a Buddy, not a player
 - Ball should be kept on the ground as much as possible
 - The Buddy should stop all air balls coming towards their player



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Game Day Risk Mitigation

Parents

- Parents and/or guardians should be present at all training and games
- Suntan lotion, water for breaks and dress appropriately for weather conditions

Coaches

- Coach should have copies of medical and emergency contact forms
- Check emergency notification procedures
 - Does your cell phone work
 - The best way for responding crews to get to the scene
 - Send people to gates or entryways to direct responders to scene
 - Follow your Club's or facilities process
- Make sure fields and goals are checked for hazards

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Parent Information Sheet

Communicate Expectations to Parents

What does a Buddy Do?



- The Buddy is there to facilitate your player playing the game
- The Buddy is not expected to meet with the player or their family other than formal team training or games
- The Buddy should never be alone or out of sight with a player
- The player's information sheet will help the Coach and Buddy provide specific training ideas to match the player's need
- The Buddy should always be provided through the Team or Club



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Parent Information Sheet, continued

A copy of this sheet is included in back of this presentation



TOPSoccer Player Information Sheet

Recommended in addition to Registration Form

Players Name: _____ Age: _____

Does the Player Need a new uniform: Yes _____ No _____

What is the Player's physical medical condition: _____

If you are a returning player, are there changes from the previous condition? If yes, what:

Are there any medical restrictions? _____

My player best responds to this type of instruction: _____

Any other information we need to know: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____





Colorado Risk Management

Administrative Guidelines

11 Items to Do to Reduce the Risk of Inviting a Pedophile into your Program

1. Never fill your coach slots with a “warm body.” Check background, experience and history
2. Do not allow an adult to come, unsolicited, into your program solely to coach children of a particular gender, age or need
3. Create structure where multiple adults share responsibility for the team
4. Follow up with players who leave a team/program without explanation
5. Educate parents/players about expectations and ensure they raise issues to the coach or the club
6. Have a strong and strongly enforced rule prohibiting fraternization
7. If there is concern about a new coach or volunteer, ask an experienced coach or volunteer to work with that individual for a few sessions
8. Require all team travel to be preceded by a plan – have parents and players sign the plan
9. No adult should be alone in a vehicle with a child who is not part of their family or household.
10. Avoid being isolated with a child
11. Avoid leaving a child unsupervised



Colorado Risk Management

Risk Management Resources

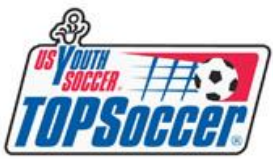
Additional Resources for KIDSafe and Risk Management articles are:

www.usyouthsoccer.org : Under risk management index, additional downloads see
Beyond KIDSafe
KIDSafe Booklet

www.regionIV.com: Under risk management handouts see
Reduce the Risk of Sexual Abuse

Under presentations see
US Soccer Risk Management Welcome
US Soccer Risk Management Word Document
Soccer in a Digital World
The Vigilant Parent

www.cpsc.gov : Complete information on how to anchor moveable goals



Colorado Risk Management

Risk Management Resources, continued

www.coyouthsoccer.org : Under programs risk management see

Risk Management Policy

What is KIDSafe?

Position on “Environmental Conditions” during youth participation

Lead Levels of Synthetic Turf not Harmful

Risk Management - Digital World

Risk Management – Tournament Safety

Risk Management – Warning Signs

Cold Weather Caution - Hypothermia



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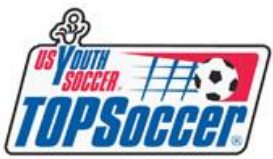
May you have food and raiment,
A soft pillow for your head.
May you be forty years in heaven
Before the devil knows you're dead.

Thank You for All You Do!

Control the Risk – Don't let the Risk Control You!



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Questions?