

# Colorado Youth Soccer Risk Management Parent and Player Responsibility



Colorado Youth Soccer is committed to the safety and well-being of every player within its membership. Our **KIDSAFE PROGRAM** is a reasonable effort to exclude from program responsibility any person with a legally documented history of child molestation or other record that would bring an unnecessary risk to the health and safety of the player. The program’s character and intent is set forth in the use of Employment/Volunteer Disclosure Statements and subsequent Background Checks. However, the background check process is not “failsafe!” The process only identifies those persons who have been convicted: it does not identify a person who submits falsified information for the check, has eluded arrest or those that haven’t been charged as an allegation hasn’t been filed.

**PLAYERS:**

Keep your boundaries! If a coach, teacher, neighbor or family member makes you uncomfortable, talk to your parents, minister, teacher, school counselor or a police officer. **DO NOT TOLERATE** minor boundary violations. You are on a team to learn and play soccer. Life lessons follow what is learned on the field, not from a one on one session with an adult. If a coach, trainer, manager, chaperone or other adult wants to meet with you in private, tell your parents and ask one of them to remain with you. Always remember, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY NO!**

**PARENTS:**

There is no such thing as a “typical” sex offender. However, they all tend to be manipulative, deceptive and secretive. Most pedophiles groom their victims in a series of predictable stages which includes building a relationship with the player AND the parents to lower concern and build trust. Be aware of the following suspected adult behaviors; you and/or your player might be being “groomed.” The adult:

Often has a “special” player, maybe different from season to season	Spends most of his/her spare time with player(s) and shows little interest in spending time with someone their own age
Encourages silence and secrets with your player	Shares personal or private information or activities with your player
Has secret interactions with specific players	Spends excessive time emailing, text messaging or calling your player
Insists on or manages to spend uninterrupted time alone with your player	Seems “too good to be true”, i.e. takes player(s) on “special” outings without other adults

Soccer is a great sport driven by passion and dedication of those who administrate, coach, volunteer and play. Be alert and close the door on a small minority of society who could utilize the sport for possible risk of sexual abuse to the player.