

Colorado Youth Soccer

Risk Management

“PARENTS” ARE YOU PROTECTING YOUR PLAYER FROM THE PEDOPHILE?



Colorado Youth Soccer (CYS) is the recognized State Association that represents 65 Colorado youth soccer Clubs and their players. CYS is a member of U.S. Youth Soccer and the U.S. Soccer Federation. Members of U.S. Youth Soccer shall take reasonable efforts 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 program participants.

Every person wishing to apply at Colorado Youth Soccer or one of its 65 member youth clubs, either paid or volunteer, for a position of Coach (recreational or advanced), program administrator, Club Staff and Club Board of Directors, must complete an Employment/Volunteer Disclosure Statement and successfully pass a Background Check process prior to being entrusted with the supervision, guidance and care of players.

Educational material is shared with all organizational members (coaches, parents, players and Clubs) regarding risks soccer players have on and off the field of play, training or games and traveling to tournaments. This material covers goal posts, concussion, hotel safety, heat exhaustion and other medical concerns that are inherent within all youth sports. An annual Risk Management workshop is held each year where member clubs are updated on recent activities, improvements, best practices and general discussion.

Education, although important, is not the significant element in stopping the pedophile: **YOU, THE PARENT, ARE!** Helping parents understand how to identify sex offenders and pedophiles is vital in raising awareness and prevention but the parents’ communicating with their player is critical as the player is the first line of defense when approached by a molester. Background checks only catch those who have been convicted within a legal framework. They do nothing to identify the person who is using someone else’s identity or who hasn’t been caught.

Parents – Listen and be open with your player. Talk to your player; ask them how training is going. Be aware of suspect behaviors of adults who prey on children. Be aware of the following suspected behaviors as you and/or your player might be being “groomed” by a predator. The adult:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often has a “special” player, may be different from season to season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages silence and secrets with your player
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shares personal or private information or activities with your player 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insists on or manages to spend uninterrupted time alone with your player
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spends excessive time emailing, text messaging or calling your player 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has secret interactions with specific players
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seems “too good to be true”, i.e. takes players(s) on “special” outings without other adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spends most of his/her time with player(s) and shows little interest in spending time with someone their own age

Visit www.coyouthsoccer.org for more risk management articles. Look under the Resources tab, Risk Management