



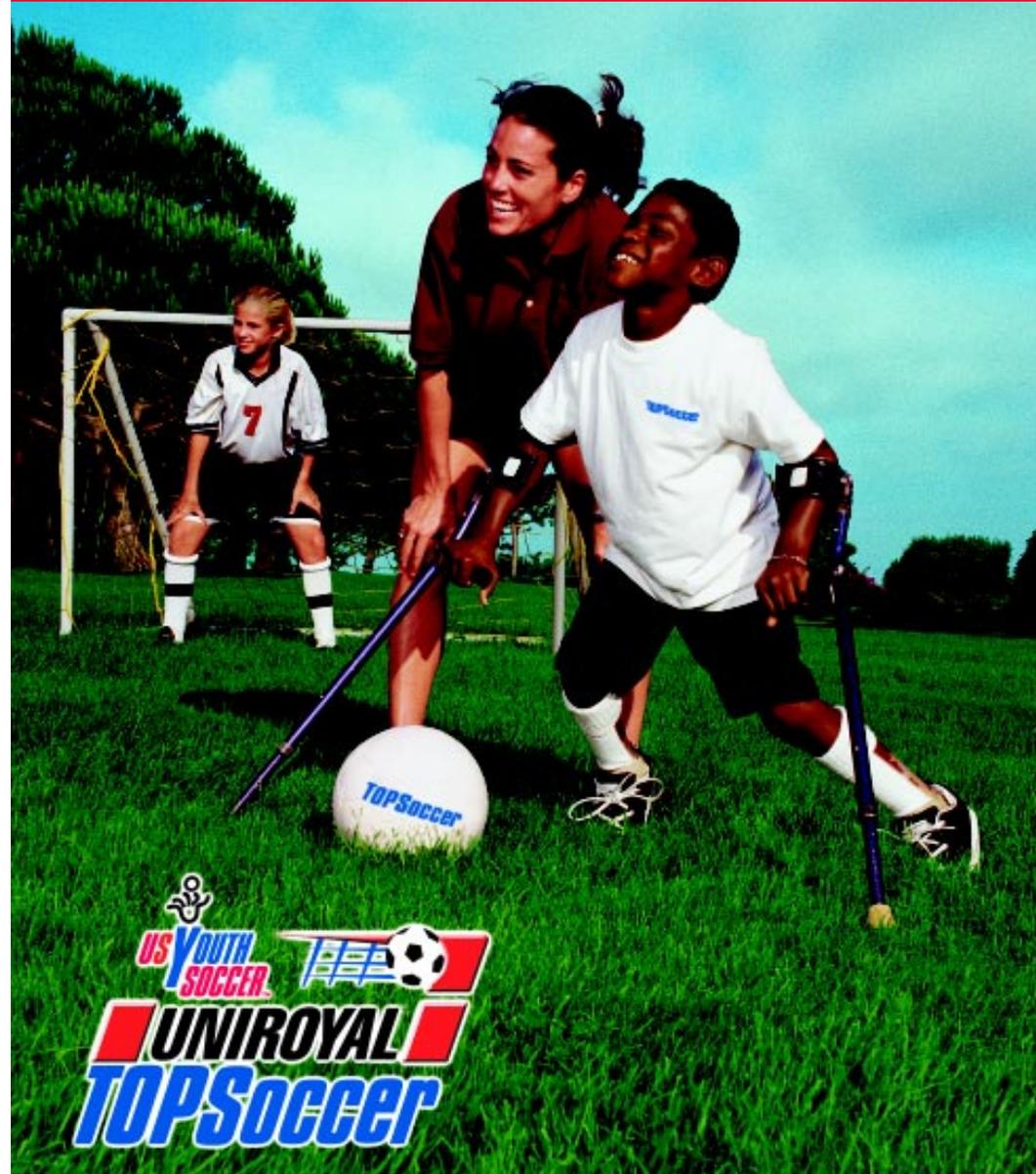
For more information about TOPSoccer:

**1-800-4-SOCCER**

[youthsoccer.org](http://youthsoccer.org)  
[uniroyal.com](http://uniroyal.com)

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The Outreach Program for Soccer  
**TOPSoccer**<sup>SM</sup>



An official US Youth Soccer program enriching the lives of young athletes with disabilities through the game of soccer.



"TOPSoccer is an opportunity for all of us to give back to the game and make a tremendously positive impact on athletes, their families and the soccer community."

*Jim Cosgrove, Executive Director, US Youth Soccer*

"To a kid who's never played, it's like a dream..."

*Joe Herget, Brand Manager, Uniroyal Tire*

## The Game for All Kids

TOPSoccer is an amazing program! It opens up the game of soccer to any boy or girl, who has a mental or physical disability. It started small, as a grassroots effort by parents with a wonderful vision. Then US Youth Soccer nurtured it. Now, with the generous backing of Uniroyal Tire, it's fast becoming one of the most widely praised youth sports programs in America—while keeping true to its grassroots approach. It goes right along with US Youth Soccer's mission "to foster the physical, mental, and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels."

Why do we need TOPSoccer? So that every kid can know the rewards of playing on a team, of trying to score—of being in the game! It brings a sense of accomplishment and sheer joy to kids who otherwise would have to sit on the sidelines. Parents can't praise it enough, the siblings enjoy helping and cheering, the kids' laughter and enthusiasm are infectious—In this program, everyone comes away a winner. I hope you'll get involved in TOPSoccer in your community.

Julie Foudy  
Olympic Gold and Silver Medalist  
World Cup Soccer Champion



Uniroyal Tire is joining with US Youth Soccer to get more of the nation's 4.5 million children with disabilities into the game.



## Getting Started

1. Identify the need in your area.
  - a. For what type of disabilities do you need to plan?
  - b. Are you able to fulfill these needs?
2. Check for any restrictions placed on the facility(ies) you plan to use.
  - a. Are they equipped to handle athletes with physical disabilities?
3. Check with your soccer insurance carrier.
4. Contact established programs for information.
  - a. US Youth Soccer—National online directory for local programs
  - b. Special Olympics
  - c. United Cerebral Palsy
  - d. Shriners
5. Contact your local school districts and universities.
6. Create a list of people who are able to assist you.
7. Plan your advertisements.
8. Get the support of your State Association and Regional TOPSoccer Representative, and use them as resources.

## Creating Your Program

1. The unique thing about TOPSoccer is that each program is different and is created around the needs of the participants. Additionally, TOPSoccer athletes are placed on teams according to ability, not age.
2. Length of program is determined by organizer (6-8 weeks).
3. Playing rules.
  - a. Create rules to fit specific needs.
  - b. Use the US Youth Soccer Under 6, Under 8 or Under 10 guidelines.

4. TOPSoccer programs can have very modest beginnings.
5. For those athletes not able to participate due to medical reasons, design a skills program that is rewarding, challenging and fun.
6. Variety of choices.
  - a. Small-sided games (3 v 3, 4 v 4, 8 v 8, etc.)
  - b. Full-sided games (11 v 11)
  - c. Unified teams (ratio of challenged athletes to non-challenged athletes)
  - d. Indoor programs
  - e. Outdoor program
  - f. Camps
  - g. Skills only
7. Above all...keep it simple...KEEP IT FUN!

## Placement and Registration of Athletes

1. Registration procedures should be the same as those used for regular league teams.
  - a. Registration form should include a section for medical history.
  - b. Athletes with Down's syndrome should be required to have a current x-ray. If the x-ray is positive for Alanto-Axial instability (a condition of Down Syndrome), for their safety it should be strongly recommended that they do not take part in team play.
  - c. In some cases medical waivers may be required.
2. Placement is made by ability not age.
3. Assessment test should be made available upon request.
4. Ensure that the experience is meaningful for the participating athletes, and one in which they feel they have made a contribution.



US Youth Soccer thanks Uniroyal Tire and Julie Foudy for their support. With their help, our grant fund is growing. Give us a call to find out more.



## Recruiting Coaches

1. Contact local universities, schools and soccer clubs for volunteers. Your State Associations' Director of Coaching is also a good source for coaches. No special training is required, however it is available.
  - a. Through US Youth Soccer and state association sponsored coaching courses
  - b. Through Special Olympics

## Costs Involved

1. Costs vary by state and cover your registration fees, insurance fees, uniform and equipment costs.
2. Costs should be kept low and affordable to all possible participants.
3. Grants are available through US Youth Soccer.
4. A Uniroyal Tire dealer can be a great ally in providing local support. Email [uniroyal.soccer@trone.com](mailto:uniroyal.soccer@trone.com) to find the best match for your program.
5. There are philanthropic entities, such as the Shriners, which offer assistance. Research others in the local community (Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, etc.).

## Helpful Hints

1. Use color coded goals or nets (e.g., red goals/yellow nets).
2. Have scrimmage vests available.
3. Have a ball for each athlete.
4. HAVE FUN!

## National Office

899 Presidential Drive  
Suite #117  
Richardson, Texas 75081  
1-800-4SOCCER  
[youthsoccer.org](http://youthsoccer.org)  
[nationaloffice@youthsoccer.org](mailto:nationaloffice@youthsoccer.org)

## Other Materials Available From The National Office

### Brochures

Welcome to *US YOUTH SOCCER*  
(English and Spanish)  
*Parents Guide to US YOUTH SOCCER*  
(English and Spanish)  
*Olympic Development Program*  
*Official 3x3 Program for Under 6*  
*Official 4x4 Program for Under 8*  
*Official 8x8 Program for Under 10*  
*Official's Guide to Under 6/Under 8 Soccer*  
TOPSoccer  
Principles of Conduct  
Postcard *The Game for All Kids!*  
American Cup Program Guide  
KIDSAFE A Risk Management Program  
Living through a Lawsuit  
Guidelines for Handling Bloodborne Pathogens  
Guidelines for Financial Management  
10 Pts for Managing a Youth Soccer Team  
Referees, Coaches, Parents-Role Models for Life  
Operation Get Real  
For the Good of the Game

### Books

*Youth Soccer Parent/Coach Primer*  
*Assistant Coach Series: U6/U8 Activity Aid*  
*Assistant Coach Series: U10 Activity Aid*  
*Assistant Coach Series: U12 Activity Aid*  
*Coaching the U12 Player: Years of Refinement*  
*The Peak Performance*, Dr. Ron Quinn  
*The Official US Youth Soccer Coaching Manual*, presented by Snickers™

### Videos

*Welcome to US Youth Soccer* (46 Minutes)  
*Coaching Youth Soccer* (49 Minutes)  
*Understanding the Youth Soccer Player*  
*Ages 6 to 12* (20 Minutes)  
*Ready, Set, Play* (20 Minutes)

### Other

CanCoach Boys and Girls Soccer CD rom, ages 6-8  
CanCoach Boys and Girls Soccer CD rom, ages 10-12

## Don't forget these special kids!

There are thousands of young athletes with disabilities in your states who are looking for the opportunity to play soccer. It is up to YOU to give them a chance.

## Start a TOPSoccer program today!

For more information about Uniroyal Tire TOPSoccer, including a local program directory and downloadable grant application, log on to [youthsoccer.org](http://youthsoccer.org).

