



VIP Soccer Note to Families, September 2008

Welcome to the Fall 2008 and Spring 2008 VIP Soccer seasons!! Our VIP leadership has been active over the summer and is excited to share news of upcoming events and new Player and Buddy participants. We have new VIP Players on every field and at least a dozen new volunteers. The strength of our program rests with our returning VIP families who support the program, and seasoned youth who have given their time and care on the fields for years.

Thank you to all who made their way to the pre-season pickups, volunteer trainings and picture day! We will have additional opportunities for photos on the fields, noted on the calendar.

The VIP GAMES BEGIN THIS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, along with the rest of the AYSO teams.

GAME PLANS

Game Days

The Coaches and Referees meet for updates and field set-up each Saturday by 8:30am. Buddies arrive at 8:45 to help with setup, check in with coaches and prepare for their players. Players arrive by 9am and are greeted by their Buddies. The Buddies and Players begin with individual teaching, skill-building and practice working in pairs. Then the teams do group non-competitive stretching and warm-up activities. After a water break, the games begin, played in 2 10-minute halves, given flexibility. We will be teaching the players at their developmental levels, through communication among parents, players, coaches, referees and buddies. The players do a 'good sports' line-up and hand shake at the end of the game, and enjoy a snack with the other VIP teams. We adjust this Plan as needed, based on Player needs, weather, support needs, etc. *Our volunteer motto is 'Friendly, Flexible and Fun.'*

All VIP games are played at the upper fields at Mundelein Community Park. Please do your best to arrive on time so the Players and Buddies can have a full soccer experience. We will have visiting players from other VIP programs and from our U10 and older AYSO teams. In sum, the VIP program begins at 8:30 am for coaches and referees, 8:45 for Buddies, 9 for Players, and we wrap up about 10. Smiles, timeliness and preparation (sunscreen for now, layers for later) will help us achieve the greatest benefit for all our participants.

Players & Buddies

All VIP participants will receive field assignments for the coaches, Players and Buddies. Please contact your field coaches at any time with questions, feedback, or scheduling issues. We are willing to do whatever we can to ensure a positive, growthful VIP soccer experience for the children.

Calendar and Snack calendar

Snacks are offered after the games. This is a team-building and enjoyable time for the players and buddies. Three families bring the snacks each week. There are 25+ players, so prepare for 15 servings to give players choices. Snacks in individual servings work best. Healthy snack options are fruit, cheese, simple crackers, snack bars. Please avoid nuts and candied foods. Several of our Players have allergies so simple foods are best. If you are unable to bring snack on a given weekend, please trade with another family. All Players need to have water bottles.

Snacks are laid out near the bleachers/canopy area between the fields. If you choose to offer your child a different snack, please bring it separately. Buddies do not need to be included in the snacks, but they are always willing to eat them.

SNACK CALENDAR – by VIP Player’s First Name

September	Giselle, Alex A., Jenny C.
September 13	Lanie, Matt, Antonio (Photos taken of teams and pairs)
September 20	Charles, Alex D., Jake S. (Photos)
September 27	Joel, Amanda, Jacob M.
October 4	Jenna, Rachel, Gavin (No Games October 11 th)
October 18	Steven, Michael, Danny
October 25	Joshua, Anthony, Nicholas
November 1	Paul, Coaches

Safety and Communication

Buddies are matched 2:1 with each Player, and coaches are equipped with player information and knowledge of interventions should additional support needs arise. Communication between coaches, referees and VIP parents is open and ongoing, to ensure a positive soccer experience for all participants.

Safety, learning and fun are our focus areas. Please leave jewelry and any metal accessories at home, tuck in hoods unless they are on your head, and wear shinguards under soccer socks! Buddies need to wear sports clothing (sweats or shorts and sneakers, no jeans) and shinguards, and please leave cellphones off the fields. Although prevention (shinguards, sun lotion, water!) is our strategy, First Aid-trained volunteers and supplies are on the fields at all times.

COMMUNICATION is delivered to VIP families via email, handouts, website posting, and phone calls when useful. Please contact your field coaches at any time with questions, feedback, or scheduling issues. If the Player or Buddy will be absent, please communicate directly with the field coaches.

If weather is questionable (rain, storms), please wait for a call from a coach or youth leader with cancellation information. Coaches will be informed with a phone call if there are cancellations, and updates will be posted on the AYSO website.

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Email communication will be used for general items and reminders. You may also refer to the AYSO Hotline, #847/949-6320, or website: www.ayso372.org, click on 'VIP'. If you have any general VIP Program or AYSO questions, feel free to talk with Valerie.

Programs

Please refer to our VIP Program Update handout, which is available in an attachment or on our website.

VIP Soccer Program Leadership

Valerie Walker, VIP Program Director, cell 847/721-9246, email vip@ayso372.org
Trudy Balogh, Field A Head Coach, 847/949-0457, email bobbalogh@sbcglobal.net
Lisa Coder, Field B Head Coach and Sign Language Liaison, 847/219-1123, lpocoder@sbcglobal.net
Ginny Elliott, Field C Head Coach, 847/477-0606, fpextreme@yahoo.com
Dave Zeiger, Referee & Field Oversight
Del Parra, Referee Extraordinaire
Nina Koruna, Jody Shuhart and Lorie Zeiger, Coaches
Mark Sheffer, Coach Trainer/Consultant

Youth Leadership

Jennifer Balogh, Youth Leader/Coach
Chris Best, Youth Leader/Buddy
Bailey Cordes, Youth Leader/Coach/Referee
Blanca Parra, Referee
Ken Pechtl, Youth Leader/Coach/Referee
Megan Wilgus, Youth Leader/Buddy/Trainer

RESOURCES: www.ayso372.org, then 'VIP', email: vip@ayso372.org, phone 847/721-9246

DATES: September 6th First Games – November 1st; no Games October 11th

Thank you for trusting our VIP program to provide a fun, safe, developmental soccer experience for your children! See you soon!

Valerie Walker, LCSW
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