

TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a

community-based program designed to meet the needs of athletes ages four and older with physical, developmental and/or intellectual disabilities in Lexington and its surrounding communities. The LYSA TOPSoccer program was started in August, 2009. From our coaches to our administrators, we're all volunteers passionate about helping our athletes reap the benefits of being part of a soccer team.

The **TOPSoccer** program is supported by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association and is part of the Lexington Youth Soccer Association (LYSA). We also receive financial assistance from the Children's Charity Fund of the Bluegrass, the Jerome S. and Grace H. Murray Foundation, Rod Hatfield Chevrolet and the Chevy Youth Soccer Program, as well as numerous businesses and individuals in the community.



Testimonials

"Being a volunteer has given me and my family an opportunity to see participants through their abilities and not through their disabilities. Witnessing these athletes show courage and determination has taught my family many positive lessons about character and the human spirit."

"The one-on-one attention has allowed him to fully participate."

"We love TOPSoccer. It's fantastic. It provides my daughter with new experiences and great exercise."

"TOPSoccer has been an excellent way for players, volunteers, and coaches to participate and enjoy the game of soccer. It has developed wonderful friendships, while providing inclusive exercise and fun."



To learn more about becoming part of the TOPSoccer program as an athlete or volunteer, please go to www.lysa.org/tops or call 859-223-5632

Photos courtesy of Doug Boyd, Cheryl Elam and Yung Soo Kim.



LYSA TOPSoccer

A Soccer Program
for Athletes with
Special Needs



LYSA TOPSoccer emphasizes participation above competition and promotes physical well-being

in an inclusive environment that fosters positive self-esteem, social interaction with peers, and improves overall skills of the athletes. Our mission is to provide a caring and safe environment, where all athletes with special needs can experience and benefit from participation in sports through the game of soccer. Most importantly, **TOPSoccer** is fun and takes individuals from the sidelines to being part of a soccer team.

In addition to practices and games, the **TOPSoccer** program organizes extracurricular events for the athletes and their families throughout the season. Those events include attending college soccer games, potlucks, theme parties, team bowling parties and a fall end of the season event. We also participate in the Fall Ball Soccer Tournament in Mason, Ohio and eligible athletes, 9 and older, compete in the Kentucky Special Olympics tournaments.

TOPSoccer has both a spring and a fall season. The spring season generally lasts six weeks and is held indoors. The fall season lasts 10-12 weeks and is held outdoors at Masterson Station Park. Practices are held once a week on Sunday afternoons for one hour. The **TOPSoccer** program consists of three teams divided by age and ability of the athletes. One unique part of the **TOPSoccer** program is the use of volunteers as "Buddies." Volunteer Buddies work generally one-on-one or with a small group of athletes within the team context.



The athlete registration fee for each season is currently \$25.00. The registration fee covers all KYSA and LYSA registration fees and insurance. Athletes receive soccer shorts, soccer socks and a team t-shirt. Athletes are

asked to provide their own shin guards and cleats. Balls are provided during practice. Scholarships are available upon request.



"The biggest thing is TOPSoccer has brought my child out of his shell and has built his self-esteem."