



***Coaching Special  
Needs Children***

# Knowing Your Audience

- Parents
  - Denial
  - Fight the Systems
  - Over Protective
  - Willing to Help
  - Little League Mentality
  - Competitive

# Knowing Your Audience

- Players
  - No Two Will be the Same
  - Some Will Need 1 on 1
  - Some Will Have Multiple Disabilities
  - Some Will be Mentally but not Physically Capable and vice versa

Continued...

# Knowing Your Audience

- Players
  - Some Needs Will be Physical
  - Some Needs Will be Mental
  - Some Want to Play. Others don't.
  - Most Will Give You 100%

# Knowing Your Audience

- Volunteers
  - Most Really Want to Help
  - Need to Specify Their Role
  - Recommended 1- 4, Except for Those Needing 1 on 1 Training

# Training the Coach

- Responsibility
  - Be Knowledgeable
    - About the Game
    - About Your Players
  - Be Punctual
  - Be a Role Model
  - Be Organized
    - There is no Down-Time.

*Continued...*

# Training the Coach

- Responsibility
  - Have Excellent Communication Skills
    - Inclement Weather Policy
    - Specified Practice and Game Times
    - Locations of Practice and Games
    - Changes to Posted Schedules
    - Include All Personnel

*Continued...*

# Training The Coach

- Responsibility
  - Safety
    - Players
    - Field
    - Equipment
  - Keep Things Simple - K.I.S.S

# Training The Coach

- Helpful Tips
  - Basic First-Aid Training
  - Common Sense
  - Knowledge of Learning and Physical Disabilities
  - Knowledge of Each Player's Medical History
  - Demonstration of Skills to be Taught
  - Keeping Confidentiality

*Continued...*

# Training The Coach

- Helpful Tips
  - Appropriate Touching
    - Never Secretive
    - Personal Space - 18”
    - Areas Covered by Swimwear
    - “High Five”
    - Side Hugs

*Continued...*

# Training The Coach

- Helpful Tips
  - Clean up Area
    - “Backyard” Game
  - Trained Staff and/or Volunteers

# Training The Coach

- Coaching Tips
  - Name Tags - Front & Back
  - Spread Equipment Out
  - Colored Stickers
  - Numbers on Jerseys
  - Everyone Coaching in Same Language
  - Volunteer Shirts Different Color
  - Be Part of the Circle

*Continued...*

# Training The Coach

- Coaching Tips
  - Face Sun
  - Big Muscles First
  - Index Cards
  - Sharing Field
  - Instructions - 3 “C’s”
    - Clear
    - Concise
    - Consistent

*Continued...*

# Training The Coach

- Coaching Tips
  - Games
    - Tunnel
    - Simon Says
    - Red Light, Green Light
    - Backyard

Continued...

Training The Coach

**Congratulate Yourself !**

# Training Volunteers

- Soccer Buddies
  - Explain Importance of Their Role
  - What Is Expected of Them?
    - Disclosure Form
    - Commitment
  - What Can They Expect From You?
    - Information
    - Input

# Training The Parents

- What Parents Can Expect
  - Child Will Have Fun
  - Activities Geared to Child's Ability
  - 1 on 1 Training If Needed
  - Safe Environment
  - Information on all Activities
  - Building of Child's Self Esteem, Physical Fitness, and Socialization Skills

Continued...

# Training The Parents

- What Parents Can Expect
  - Opportunities Provided
    - Individual Skills
    - Small Group Training
    - Large Group Training
    - Unified Soccer
    - Mainstream
    - Camps

# Training The Parents

- What is Expected of the Parents?
  - Be Present at All Games and Practices
  - Mark Equipment
  - Provide Adequate Information
  - Get Involved
  - Be Positive
  - Make Equipment Safe
  - Prepare Your Child