



What is Soccer Start?

Soccer Start is designed to introduce the sport of soccer to youngsters living in communities not yet served by existing clubs and leagues. Soccer Start focuses on making soccer available to lower-income children in underserved communities, and provides guidance to players and organizations who might otherwise not be exposed to the sport.

Why do we need a Soccer Start program?

Soccer is the fastest growing sport in the United States. It has reached into communities from coast to coast. Yet, soccer has not always served inner city and rural communities and all economic and ethnic groups. In order to insure that every child has the opportunity to play the game, US Youth Soccer founded the Soccer Start program.

Goals of Soccer Start

- To increase self-esteem through participation in an organized and supportive program of team activities.
- To build positive social and life skills.
- To provide important exercise and increase awareness of one's own health through sports.
- To provide the players with positive, cooperative and enjoyable after school and spare time activities.

How do I create my own program?

Soccer Start programs can be developed by anyone: existing clubs and leagues, by Boys and Girls Clubs and by Parks and Recreation Departments. There is no "one size fits all" model for Soccer Start.

Each program starts differently and is created locally to meet the needs and capabilities of the organization and of the players. Programs may last as little as a few weeks in the fall to as much as a full season in more than one part of the year.

Some programs adopt traditional soccer rules with full-sized fields and full-length games while others choose Small-Sided Games on smaller fields. The choices about how to begin are as varied as the places in which they start. Soccer Start can help your community decide on how to get started by providing written information and hands-on technical assistance.

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***Making soccer
available to every
child in every community.***



Where to Start

What are the costs?

The cost of participation varies depending on your registration fees, insurance premiums and uniform and equipment costs. At all times, cost should be kept to a minimum for all possible participants.

Grants are available through US Youth Soccer, the US Soccer Federation Foundation and other philanthropic entities, such as the Shriners. Research other avenues of funding such as local, state and federal government grants and community groups (Lions Club, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, etc.).

When should I start?

Now! Soccer Start programs can begin at anytime and allow everyone the opportunity to participate in The Game For All Kids!

You can get further information about Soccer Start by calling US Youth Soccer at 800.4.SOCCKER or visiting us at USYouthSoccer.org.

Simple steps to get started

- Talk to US Youth Soccer and your State Association for written and programmatic support.
- Learn from others: seek out other Soccer Start programs near you and try to learn what worked for them.
- Recruit a visible role model from your community (professional player, college coach, older high school or college players).



- Find a coaching resource (instructor, website, library).
- Identify administrative functions and determine volunteer needs.
- Seek community leadership support first from existing soccer organizations and programs, and then from groups such as Boys and Girls Clubs, Police Athletic Leagues and Park and Recreation Departments.
- Identify your equipment and supply needs (look for sources to get them donated).
- Develop instruction agendas and plans of action for administrators, coaches and referees.

Where can I find support?

- Local leadership, organizers and soccer clubs and leagues.

- State Association Soccer Start Committee Representative or coordinator.
- US Youth Soccer Soccer Start Committee, Regional Representatives and National Office Staff.
- Visit USYouthSoccer.org or call 800.4.SOCCKER.

