

Honolulu or Alaska...

U6 or U19...

Paid professional or volunteer...



WE ARE ALL



WORKING TOGETHER...

**We want to create
the safest place
for
every youth Player!**





**We can only
accomplish this goal
when
coaches, administrators,
players and parents are...
WORKING TOGETHER!**



**The Risk Management Committee
has prepared an electronic welcome for
you to use that will reach our members
with a message of
what is safe, what is unsafe,
what is acceptable and
what should be avoided.**



GOAL SAFETY

- Each year players are seriously injured or killed by falling goals. Goals are part of our landscape. We “forget” the danger they pose. Goal accidents are preventable. Education and a strong program of goal inspection before every game or practice will help prevent goal accidents.



GOAL SAFETY

- **FOR EVERYONE**

- **Recognize the danger – falling goals can kill**
- **Goals are not playground equipment – no one should climb, swing or play on them**
- **Goals should only be moved by trained adults**



GOAL SAFETY

- **FOR COACHES**
 - Never ask a player to help move a goal
 - Inspect goals prior to every practice/game
- **FOR ADMINISTRATORS**
 - When possible do not own goals; give them to the municipality who owns the field
 - Put warning labels on goals - educate!



GOAL SAFETY

- **FOR PARENTS**
 - Be our eyes – help keep children off goals
 - Tell your player to never help move a goal
- **FOR PLAYERS**
 - Don't hang or climb goals or nets
- **Say NO if asked to move a goal**



FINANCIAL SAFETY

- Financial crimes can be well-planned and executed when a person volunteers or takes a position that makes stealing possible, crimes of convenience that occur when it is easy to steal or crimes of need brought on by personal/financial problems. Embezzlement is the most common financial crime.



FINANCIAL SAFETY

- **FOR COACHES**

- **Make sure funds at team fund-raising are collected, verified by two unrelated adults**
- **If possible keep your team account under the umbrella of your club or league**

- **FOR ADMINISTRATORS**

- **Divide responsibilities – check writing, receiving funds, making deposits, signing checks and reconciliation should be done by more than one person**
- **Verify. Reconcile bank statements; look at checks**



FINANCIAL SAFETY

- **FOR PARENTS**
 - **Know what you've paid and what it covers**
 - **Don't assume sole responsibility for team monies or team checking account**
- **FOR PLAYERS**
 - **Don't tempt fate – or your teammates. Keep valuable locked in a car or safe place, not on the sidelines**



PERSONAL SAFETY

- One out of every 4 girls and one out of every 6 boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18. Pedophiles are drawn to places where they can interact with youth. All youth sports are such places. Coaches are also vulnerable. It is vital that no coach, trainer or adult puts themselves in a position that jeopardize their good name.



PERSONAL SAFETY

- **FOR EVERYONE**

- **Know the types of predators:**

- **The pedophile creates opportunities for access to children. He or she may form relationships with both the child and the family.**
 - **The seducer, sexual harasser or exploiter preys on older adolescents and young adults. Sexual behavior may be part of the team's environment.**
 - **The molester is the person who may abduct a child and may become fixated on a child from a distance.**



PERSONAL SAFETY

- **FOR EVERYONE**
 - **Watch for red flags:**
 - **Be wary of a coach with rigid age preferences.**
 - **Be aware of a coach/adult who “courts” a player or responds in kind to flirting or seductive behavior or makes physical contact excessively or disproportionately with one player**
 - **Coaches should keep barriers in place and keep relationships with players on a professional level, not personal**



PERSONAL SAFETY

- **FOR COACHES**

- Avoid being alone with a player.
- Keep barriers in place – don't be Facebook friends, use group emails and texts

- **FOR ADMINISTRATORS**

- Ask for and check references.
- Set guidelines. Monitor coaches, websites and communication methods.



PERSONAL SAFETY

- **FOR PARENTS**

- Question expansion of coaching relationship into other areas, such as social interaction
- Never leave your child alone at a park or field.
- Be alert to both the way your child is treated by a coach/trainer and to strangers at practices/events

- **FOR PLAYERS**

- It is your right to be treated with Demand it!



TOURNAMENTS & TRAVEL

- Tournaments and tournament travel are part of the fun and competition of youth soccer. Of course, they open the door to risk. Good planning and communication can help minimize these risks.



TOURNAMENTS & TRAVEL

- Remember, most youth sports insurance policies do not provide additional liability insurance for drivers. If you are transporting players in your own vehicle, you may not have additional liability other than your personal coverage.



TOURNAMENTS & TRAVEL

- **FOR EVERYONE**

- **Make sure all proper paperwork is in order, including signed, original emergency release forms. Know if area hospitals required a notarized form.**
- **Have a good contact list so that parents can get in touch with coaches and coaches can contact parents.**
- **All adults who will transport, supervise or work with players should have met your State's Risk Management policies.**
- **Know the dangers of using 15-passenger vans**



TOURNAMENTS & TRAVEL

- **FOR COACHES**

- **Make sure there are enough adults to supervise your players. Rule of thumb – are there enough adults to get players out of a hotel in an emergency?**
- **Plan in advance. Make sure everyone knows where to be and how to get there.**

- **FOR ADMINISTRATORS**

- **Remember, playing on mixed cards (i.e., combining players on US Youth cards and US Club cards) may create insurance problems.**



TOURNAMENTS & TRAVEL

- **FOR PARENTS**

- Double check all arrangements. Make sure your player has necessary gear and funds.
- Know who is going to be responsible for your child.

- **FOR PLAYERS**

- Respect the rules of your team, your coach and the person supervising you.



HOTEL SAFETY

- **FOR COACHES**

- **Set team rules and monitor that they are being kept**
- **Instruct players on basic hotel safety – rooms locked, buddy system**
- **Never be alone with a player in a hotel room**

- **FOR ADMINISTRATORS**

- **Consider use of a hotel booking service to reduce liability**



HOTEL SAFETY

- **FOR PARENTS**
 - If you are traveling with your player, know who is in supervising your child at all times
 - If you are not traveling, be certain you are comfortable with planned travel/supervision
- **FOR PLAYERS**
 - Keep your room number private and door locked. Don't allow anyone in your room.
 - Always be with a buddy. Don't roam the hotel alone.



The information you've seen is just part of what is available in the full

Welcome to US Youth Soccer written pamphlet. It is available to you at www.RegionIV.com. A short version will be available on the US Youth website soon. Please distribute it to your Leagues, Clubs & Teams.



WORKING TOGETHER...

**We CAN create
the safest place
for
every youth Player!**

