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