Team Management for the Youth Club Coach

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Don’t Wing It!

• Awareness of medical alerts, special needs, pre-existing injuries
• Epi-pens and inhalers at distinct location
• AED Unit location clearly designated and certified staff present at all times
• First Aid Kit and Ice
• Inclement weather / Lightning – area of safe refuge might be parent / guardian vehicles – adults must plan ahead
Prepare a Course of Action

• EMS accessibility to the facility or field – area clearly posted and staff designated to guide
• Medical Release Forms and Emergency Contact Information - on hand at all times
• Medical Transport with no parent guardian present – coach remains with the team, assistant coach accompanies child
• Hospital identified by name and address
• Prompt reporting of suspicious individuals, occurrences
• Cell phone accessibility and direct dial to local police department
Safety

• Vulnerable times – early arrivals, late departures, interruptions, water breaks
• Drop-off and pick-up location – vehicular traffic?
• Inspect field surface and conditions and equipment including that of players
• Proper warm-up and cool-down
• Hydration
• Gather in shade
• Anchored or weighted goals – moved by adults only
Soccer Goal Dangers

1979 – 2016

39 Deaths

58 Injuries

A gust of wind...a young player...an uneven playing field...In their current design, only 22 pounds of force can bring a 400-pound goal crashing down, injuring – even killing – a player.

Prevent a Tragedy!
Liability and Risk Management

• Supervision, responsibility
• First to show - Last to go
• 2 - Adult Rule
• Appropriate activities, equipment, and oversight
• Immediate care and prompt reporting of injuries to include follow-up and monitor
• Concussion Awareness training and protocol
• Background checks
• Requirements for field permits and insurance
Communication and Administration

• E-mail, phone, group text, and message apps with parents only
• Weekly themes, match times and directions, reminders – show-up time, uniforms and equipment, schedule changes, special announcements
• Coordination of details for matches with opposing team coaches, field scheduler, league officials, and referee assignor
• Documents, player passes, referee fees
• Available to address questions or concerns
• 24-hour cool-down after matches
• No other children discussed with a parent
• Remain on-topic - soccer
Topics

• Coaching Philosophy and Objectives include - safety, fun, inclusion, engagement, and skills development over need to win
• Overview of curriculum content for that age
• Playing time and positions
• Expectations clarified
• 2-Adult Rule
• Touchline Behavior
• Schedule next meeting
• Continued Soccer Education / Engagement – US Youth Soccer, US Soccer, and respective state association
Engaging Parents in the Process of Understanding Best Practices

• **Player-Centered** not Coach-Centered
• Facilitator Role
• Game as the Teacher
• Uninterrupted Free Play - Are they learning to play soccer by playing soccer?
• Decision-Making by Players
• Players free to experiment without fear of mistakes
• **No Lines, Laps, or Lectures**
• Style of Play – Building from the back, Possession-Based attacking
• Rules and Modifications
Please Remember

WARNING

 ALWAYS ANCHOR GOAL.
Unsecured goal can fall over causing serious injury or death.
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