



VIP Buddy



Purpose

The AYSO volunteer position of VIP (Very Important Player) Buddy is a non-disabled person intended to guide the VIP player on the field of play and, when, if no longer needed to assist physically, continues to be part of the player support system from the sideline.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

The VIP buddy is expected to:

1. Treat all VIP players with respect;
2. Guide the VIP player physically, if necessary, on the field;
3. Encourage the VIP player verbally, may “guide” the ball but do not “play” the ball;
4. Work with the VIP coach to determine the use of the buddy on the field for a particular individual or situation;
5. Understand involvement of the buddy could start with full-time on the field, progress to fewer than four quarters and then progress to cheerleading from the sidelines;
6. Decrease his/her role, except for consistent cheerleader, throughout the season as dictated by the player’s progress; and;
7. Work toward the goal of player independence;
8. Have FUN!

Qualifications and Desired Skills

To be considered for the position of VIP buddy, the applicant must:

1. Annually submit an AYSO Youth Volunteer Application form or AYSO Volunteer Application;
2. If over 18 years of age, successfully pass the AYSO screening including a background check;
3. Be annually approved and duly appointed as a VIP Buddy by the Region;
4. Be open-minded, friendly and reliable;
5. Demonstrate willingness to learn about and assist players with disabilities as needed;
6. Have a basic knowledge of soccer; and
7. Attend VIP Volunteer Training or Buddy Training before the season begins.

Supervision Protocols

While performing as the Buddy, the volunteer is:

1. Subject to the bylaws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures and guidelines of AYSO;
2. Under the overall authority of and directly supervised by the VIP Administrator, and supervised indirectly by the VIP Coach;
3. To maintain the required VIP adult to player supervision ratio of 1:1 or less; that is one adult for every VIP player (one of whom may be the coach and one of whom should be of the same gender as the group) present at all times. For the protection of both the player and the volunteer, no volunteer should permit himself or herself to be alone with any player or group of players (except his or her own) during AYSO-sponsored activities; and

Time Commitment

The anticipated time commitment for a VIP buddy is a full year. The estimated hours to fulfill duties are approximately two hours per week during the season.

Orientation, Training, Certification, and Continued Education Provided

To prepare a volunteer for the position of VIP buddy, AYSO will offer the following educational opportunities which volunteer coaches are expected to take advantage of and participate in, as appropriate.

1. Orientation by the VIP Administrator or designated Regional staff member or the VIP coach;
2. AYSO's Safe Haven Certification;
3. VIP Buddy Training; or
4. VIP Volunteer Training.

Activity Locations

While performing the duties of buddy, the volunteer is limited to the following locations, unless expressly authorized in writing by the Regional Commissioner to hold activities in another location.

1. Assigned field locations;
2. Assigned classroom locations;
3. Regional sponsored events.