



TOPSoccer – What is a Buddy?

What is a TOPSoccer Buddy?

TOPSoccer Buddies are enablers. They are volunteers who participate with TOPSoccer players to enable player participation.

- Buddies should be teenagers (age 13+) or adults
- Soccer experience is not necessary, the only requirement is a strong desire to enable TOPSoccer players to be successful and to have FUN!

What does a buddy do?

A buddy monitors and interacts with coaches and parents for the players safety.

- Aware of player noises, likes/dislikes
- Aware of Safety zones around the player (Walkers, wheelchairs, crutches)
- Adjusts level of attention in order for the player to be successful
- Never be alone or out of sight with a player

Continuously monitors the player for:

- Fatigue
- Water Breaks
- Melt-downs

Assists/Creates/Directs/Guides in a FUN but learning environment

- Ball retrieval/control
- Balance
- Assists player to get into position to play
- Allows the player to do as much for themselves as possible
- A buddy does NOT score goals but creates opportunities for the player to score
- If the buddy is having fun, the player will too!

Role of Buddies and Coaches

- You are a team that works together for the sake of the player
- The Coach directs the exercises and games, the buddy participates with the players
- You are the eyes and ears for the coach, especially concerning safety
- Provide assistance as needed
- Assist player to get into position to play
- Assist player to focus on the activity
- Direct the ball to the player for touches and contact