



SSA Kidsafe Information

Kidsafe is a program (developed by US Youth Soccer) to foster safe circumstances for every child who participates in a USYSA affiliated club. It is a program to inform all US Youth Soccer volunteers and employees concerning the risks associated with youth programs. The essence of the program is outlined below.

To begin, we want to thank those of you who volunteer to serve the children involved in our soccer club! It is only through the hard work and dedication of people like you that we are able to provide a fun-filled, instructional, and developmental soccer program for the children of our community. And to parents reading this material, we thank you for entrusting SSA with your children.

One of our greatest concerns and highest priorities is that we provide a safe environment for all our members, but especially for the children who participate in our club. The following information highlights our club's policies as a means for making the soccer experience more "risk-free".

General Information

SSA is affiliated with the Georgia Youth Soccer Association and the U.S. Youth Soccer Association. GYSA registered players, administrators, and coaches are provided insurance coverage under an umbrella policy of GYSA. This includes liability protection for volunteers and coaches.

Kidsafe Program

- SSA endorses and abides by the USYSA's "Kidsafe" Program
- It is the intent of SSA to exclude from participation in our activities, all persons who have been convicted of crimes of violence or crimes against persons
- Reports of suspected abuse and/or inappropriate conduct will be turned over to the proper authorities for a thorough and confidential investigation
- Volunteers, coaches, and administrators are required to provide a background disclosure form to SSA and GYSA
- Each will be subject to a criminal and registered sexual offender background check. Disclosures will be renewable every two years and kept completely confidential
- Youth ages 17 to 21 may be Assistant Coaches, but must have an adult coach at all activities

Protecting Players

- Adult supervision is required at all activities. A Club recognized coach or assistant coach should be in attendance at all times. If neither is attending then the coach must "deputize" another adult to act as coach
- Players cannot play or practice with hard (non-removable) casts, even if padded
- Players must wear shin guards at all times, whether playing or practicing
- Check the goals and field before each activity for hazards, holes, sharp objects, etc. This includes the perimeter immediately outside the game or practice field



Goal Safety

- Goals must be anchored securely at all times during play. This includes games and practices
- Never allow the players to climb on, or hang from, goals
- When moving goals, great care should be used, and there must always be adult supervision and/or assistance
- Do not use a goal that is damaged, weakened, or otherwise in disrepair - report it to a club official

Inappropriate Conduct: Protect the Child and Others

- Two adults should be present during all scheduled activities
- Coaches should take care to never be alone with one player (who is not a family member) in any setting, including a car. If two adults cannot be present, then insure that there are at least three people (including yourself) present
- The use of profane, offensive, insulting, and/or abusive language or gesture on the field of play or in the field's general area is prohibited and will result in disciplinary actions against violators
- Club personnel shall never verbally demean, negatively label, or ridicule a child based on weight, gender, race, sexual orientation, or any other identifying characteristic (including a lack of soccer skill)
- Coaches shall not buy gifts or give money to players
- Coaches should avoid "over-socializing" with players outside of practice or in other "team building" settings
- All suspected abuse and/or inappropriate conduct observations shall be reported, in writing, to the SSA Board of Directors - immediately

First Aid

- Each team will have a signed and notarized medical release for each player available at all times
- Always have a phone ready for emergency calls
- Be aware of any special medical needs, allergies, asthmatic conditions, etc. of your players
- Provide ample water breaks, especially during the hotter months
- Have a well-stocked first aid kit handy at all times
- Always err on the side of caution
- Inform parents, should they not be in attendance, of player injury incurred during practice or games
- Ask for a Doctor's letter approving a child's resumption of soccer activity after any absence due to significant injury that required a Doctor's care
- Any player that is bleeding should be removed from play until bleeding has stopped and the wound covered

Inclement Weather

- Remove players from the field, and seek shelter immediately, at the first sound of thunder or first sign of lightning. Allow a minimum of fifteen minutes after the last sound of thunder or sight of lightning before resuming play or practice



- Just because the fields may not be closed does not imply that they are safe to play or practice on. Use good judgement

In conclusion, coaches and other club personnel should always keep the following things in mind:

- Provide adequate supervision
- Use sound planning of practices and skill progression
- Minimize inherent risks by warning players of dangerous techniques
- Provide a safe playing environment
- Evaluate players' injuries and physical abilities to determine limits of participation
- Be prepared to provide emergency first aid
- Enroll in GYSA coaching courses and continue your training and education
- Familiarize yourself with SSA, GYSA, and FIFA rules and regulations
- The risks of the game are tolerable as long as coaches, volunteers or administrators act sensibly and these risks are recognized, appreciated, understood and willfully accepted by the participants