TOPSoccer (For Children With Special Needs)

The ***Parkland Area Soccer Club*** is proud to announce that we will be continuing to offer our **TOPSoccer** program that we introduced in the Fall of 2006 to the Lehigh Valley!

TOPSoccer *(The Outreach Program for Soccer)* is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to boys and girls who have a mental or physical disability. The goal is to enable the thousands of young athletes with disabilities to become valued and successful members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer (EPYSA) and US Youth Soccer families.

After three seasons when **TOPSocce**r was offered only to children who have **Autism Spectrum Disorder**, ***PASC*** is proud to extend **TOPSoccer** to include children with **Down Syndrome** and **Cerebral Palsy**. As the program grows, so will the opportunities for athletes with other disabilities. The emphasis of this program is on development, training and meaningful participation rather than on competition.

Key Elements for Successful **TOPSoccer:**

- **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**
- Community support - monetary and non-monetary
- Volunteers willing to work with children
- 'Buddy' system - some players paired with a buddy
- Placement of players primarily by ability, not age
- **Emphasize ability, not disability**
- Involve players and provide meaningful experience
- Dependability of coaches
- **Fun! Fun! Fun!**

This is the first soccer program of its kind in the Lehigh Valley!

TOPSoccer (For Children With Special Needs)

What is it?

TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with special needs. It provides meaningful learning, development and physical participation opportunities to young athletes through the game of soccer. The emphasis is on development, training and meaningful participation rather than on competition.

Who can Enroll?

TOPSoccer is open to **all children in the Lehigh** Valley (Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon County) with **Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome or Cerebral Palsy.**

When is it?

Duration of the session will be similar to the regular soccer program offered by ***PASC***. **TOPSoccer** will run in spring and fall soccer seasons following our regular soccer season schedules.

Where and when is TOPSoccer played?

Currently, the session is scheduled for **Sunday afternoon's from 3:30 – 5:00pm** at the **Lehigh County Soccer Fields** in South Whitehall Township**.**

How can I help?

The **TOPSoccer** program exists for athletes to achieve, develop and compete according to their abilities. **Volunteers** are needed to make this a reality.

How do I learn more about TOPSoccer?

For more information on, please email **TOPSoccer@ParklandSoccer.org**

How do I register?

You can register online at **www.ParklandSoccer.org,** click on the "Registration" link on the left side menu.