

AYSO Program: Special Programs

Instructor requirements: VIP Instructor  
OR Advanced Management or Coach  
Instructor with years of VIP  
experience

## More Opportunities for VIP Players

SPGR EXPO 407  
Length: 1.25 hours  
Effective Date: January 2015  
Page: 1 of 11



Change History	
November 2014	Lesson Plan First Developed
December 2014	Finalized and Posted

# More Opportunities for VIP Players

## 1. DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to show the many opportunities that our Regions should make available for our VIP players.

- There is less descriptive words on slides and more pictures
- More interaction is desired in smaller group size

## 2. GOALS

To give our Regions and Areas the tools to be successful in sharing and giving more opportunities to our VIP players and their families.

## 3. PREREQUISITES

- None

## 4. STUDENT MATERIALS

- None

## 5. INSTRUCTOR EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Flip chart and markers
- Computer/LCD projector
- Screen
- Power Point Presentation

## 6. INSTRUCTOR NOTES

**Note:** As this is a new course with minimal written descriptions on the slides; please review and practice. Use this lesson plan and notes written on slides for cues of what is to be said. Use your own personal experiences or call your Section VIP Administrator or National Office for clarification or examples.

**Lesson Plan Key:** words on PPT slide – bolded; numbers indicate click of mouse for the animation; italicized words are cues for you to say; words, non-bolded, non-italicized are commentary of other information or where picture was taken.

## LESSON PLAN

### Slide 1

#### More Opportunities for VIP Players

Welcome all the attendees to the class

Introduce Instructors

Have fun and encourage sharing of ideas but do keep an eye on the time as you want to complete the entire presentation.

### Slide 2

#### It's a Program...It's a Division

**VIP is a Program and a Division so you can and should do so much more with it!!**

*If you are in this course you probably know that VIP is our Very Important Player Program that provides a quality soccer experience for children and adults whose physical and/or mental disabilities make it difficult to successfully participate on mainstream teams. The program started in 1991 when a coach with two children decided it wasn't right only one of his kids got to play the beautiful game of soccer. He contacted the National Office because he wanted his other son who had Down syndrome to play too. So, almost 25 years ago the VIP Program started and now there are VIP players in every Section with more joining every year!*

*VIP is both a Program and a Division depending on how you are using it in a sentence. "Our Region offers a wonderful VIP Program so everyone can play." "Your son/daughter can play in our VIP Division." So we have it covered on both ends so...let's do more with it! The goal of this course is to share many ideas that offer more opportunities for our VIP player and we would like to hear about your ideas too – what has worked and what has not.*

### Slide 3

#### Who are our Players?

**Our VIP players are just like any U6 or U19 players.....they want to play soccer and have fun!**

### Slide 4

#### (Just pictures)

Stress that the player gets up early, eats breakfast, puts on their uniform, grabs the ball and water bottle and heads off to the field to meet up with their friends and play some soccer! And afterwards...rests on the couch, still in uniform, and dreams about the wonderful day!

### Slide 5

#### VIP Vision Statement

**The vision of the AYSO VIP Program is to create VIP teams in every AYSO Region wherever possible and to maximize opportunities for VIP player participation where VIP teams are not available.**

## More Opportunities for VIP Players

**“To maximize opportunities” is part of our VIP Vision Statement so... lets’ do it!!**

*We all know our VIP players and their families want and deserve more so...let’s do it! Through this course you will be asked to think outside of the box and be willing to try some new opportunities for our VIP players.*

### Slide 6

**So many ways...There are so many ways to involve our VIP players and so many opportunities....let’s take a look... pre-season, during-season, post – season...ANYTIME!**

Explain that we will share some ideas of how to provide more opportunities for our VIP players but, as mentioned, we definitely want to hear the attendees thoughts, comments – what worked and what didn’t work. The opportunities will include the VIP player, VIP team, VIP division, the Region, the Area as a whole and the community!

Stress any of the ideas presented can be used ANYTIME – pre-season, during-season and post-season. What works for one Region pre-season will work better for another Region post-season. There are ideas and everyone should work together to make it the BEST for our VIP players and their families.

### Slide 7

#### Pre-season

**Offer a FunFest or a Festival** leave this slide as is while explaining; towards end of description ...

1) Full picture will appear

*Offer a FunFest or a Festival and invite all the local VIP teams in your Area as well as students from the local schools. Offer the FunFest at the end of the school year, during summer months or at the beginning of the year. But remember to invite the local school students so you can register some new players. Also, invite the buddies to come help the players/students during the FunFest; you will need coaches and all the volunteers. There is a special one-day pass for non-AYSO registered players; it is available through the Supply Center.*

### Slide 8

#### Pre-season - FunFest

Pictures will automatically arrive

*What exactly is a FunFest? A FunFest is a wonderful half day for our VIP players and buddies. Your own volunteers can plan the event or invite AYSO Soccer Camps to take the lead and your volunteers can provide assistance. The VIP FunFest plan is posted on the National website under VIP Resources or as always, contact the National Office and they can send you a hard copy or email you the info. Make it your own but typically a FunFest has the players rotating through stations of fun drills and skills using more than a typical soccer ball. The half-day of the fun activities may include a parachute, extra-large soccer ball and croquet hoops – lots of fun activities! And of course, everyone LOVES to play an actual game so end the day with dividing up the players into equal teams and play some small sided games. Bring shin guards to share with the “guest” players.*

## More Opportunities for VIP Players

### Slide 9

#### Pre-season – Festival

Pictures will automatically arrive

*What exactly is a festival? A festival is a wonderful half day, full day or weekend of fun for our VIP players and buddies. And, again, make it your own. A festival can be two teams playing against each other, round-robin play with 20 teams or something in between. Make it fun and have a theme – Halloween, Thanks to our Families, Summer Time, Spring Forward, etc. Make it as involved as you want or go casual – your volunteers and Regional finances should factor into that decision. Plan with food, or not. Plan with giveaways, or not. Plan with medals, or not. Plan with team photos, or not. Again, the way to be successful is...what works best for your VIP families and Region/Area.*

### Slide 10

#### Let's grow our VIP Program and give our VIP player more teammates and more opportunities for soccer fun!

1) Pictures will automatically arrive

*Within the VIP Program we have a few "musts" but many "please tries". We are encouraged to be flexible and told to think outside of the box for the fun, safety and fairness of our VIP players. So, next season try some of the suggestions listed here or ones that you have thought of and please remember to share your successes and failures so we can all learn. Within your FunFest or mainstream/VIP Festival or Tournament offer a bit more for the players and families to enjoy while they are not playing...*

*Games, ventriloquist, face painting, mascots, community services or even a learning opportunity mixed with fun – a K-9 demonstration.*

### Slide 11

#### Pre-season Travel

*AND – to spread the word about our wonderful VIP Program ... hit the road!! Take our VIP FunFest, Festival or any VIP event on the road to visit one of your neighboring communities. Find a "coordinating buddy" in a neighboring Region to promote YOUR program to THEIR population. It could be a stepping stone for them to get more closely involved with your program and thereby see that they can do it themselves too, or at least that they have interested players; it could also help break down an assumption that many families have, that they are limited to programs in their own town. Lots of parents know of regional/residency requirements for community programs and assume it applies to AYSO, when it doesn't; let them know their kids can play anywhere. For one Regional VIP Program - 1/3 or so of the team roster travels to their Region from neighboring Regions where there is no VIP. And, at least one new VIP Region began because of the "traveling and spreading" the VIP news to others!!*

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### Slide 12

#### Pre-Season Doubling Up

**Have the FunFest or Festival double up with...**

**Registration Day Training Day Field Maintenance Day Any Day!**

*The reason to have the FunFest or Festival event “double” with something is to share our VIP world with mainstream volunteers and parents. They might not know about our VIP division and this will be a wonderful way to showcase the program. Odds are the parent coming to register their child or the volunteer coming for training has a neighbor who would be perfect for our VIP Program. Word of mouth is what grows AYSO and especially our VIP Program! And seeing our Program in action is a wonderful advertisement.*

### Slide 13

#### Pre-Season Doubling Up

**Pre-Season FunFest Registration Day**

Pictures will automatically appear

*When doubling up with a registration day make it a party! Send reminder post cards and/or emails to all past players (mainstream and VIP) who haven't played in the last couple of years, reminding them of the fun and inviting them to the registration! Have the field and registration area decorated. Sent up extra EZ-Ups and offer some games or activities (face-painting, balloon-making etc.) for post FunFest fun. Add a DJ to make it a real party. Timing is everything so plan the day to end at the same time and have “thank you” food for the Registration volunteers, the FunFest volunteers and the VIP players and families (and buddies and coaches – of course!)*

### Slide 14

#### Pre-Season FunFest Training

Pictures will automatically appear

*Share the field and the day with the coaches and referees as they are being trained. The coaches can have some hands-on experience and help with a drill or two and the referees can assist for the end of FunFest small sided games. It is a win-win situation! And, offer training to your buddies on that day. Have the VIP Buddy Training (just an hour!) earlier in the day, offer the FunFest and end with a real get-to-know you pot luck or pizza party!*

### Slide 15

#### Pre-Season FunFest Maintenance Day

*Why have a maintenance day share the day? Again, just to share our VIP world with mainstream volunteers. Make sure the field is safe and the area for maintenance is not where the VIP players are having their fun!*

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### Slide 16

#### **Pre-Season Funfest or, any pre-season event**

*Combine any “work” day such as preparing coach’s bags, sorting player uniforms, cleaning and stocking the concession stand, etc.*

*Ask the attendees....what other preseason events their Region does and what might work with a FunFest?*

### Slide 17

#### **Pre-Season Offer a camp through AYSO Soccer Camps**

*Pictures will automatically appear*

*All AYSO Soccer Camps coaches are VIP trained so offer a camp with confidence! The month leading up to the start of the season would be a wonderful opportunity to have the players come together for more fun times! Offer what works best for the families and the Region needs in regards to field use when not in maintenance. Offer a weekly camp, a week-long camp or a one day special event for a couple of hours. Again, our AYSO Soccer Camps coaches are the best and can help our VIP players learn new skills and the coaches can work with 3 players or over 50! Remember, all parents or parent designee needs to be at every VIP event.*

### Slide 18

#### **Pre-Season Have a fund-raising event!**

*Every VIP program can use some extra money so have fun while earning it. Have a fund-raising party! There are so many options... In addition to the ice cream scoop and the comedy store maybe celebrate your Region’s anniversary or the VIP Program’s anniversary as a fundraiser.*

*Or, make it non-soccer contest related and offer a bake sale, food trucks, garage sale, “all proceeds” night at a local restaurant, etc.)*

*Or, combine several ideas and offer things to sell – t-shirts, drinks, food, etc which equals more money for the VIP Program! Have a food truck come and have the owner donate 10 – 25% of the proceeds.*

*Or, offer a fun contest to VIP and mainstream players alike and have the players come with “bids” or “pledges” from their neighbors (25¢/mph or foot); give out medals to the “winners” and participation certificates to all.*

- ✓ *Set up a speed gun and see who can kick the ball the fastest*
- ✓ *See who can kick the ball the farthest*
- ✓ *Who can throw the ball the farthest*
- ✓ *Score the most goals in a minute*

*BUT, of course, all the proceeds go to the VIP Program (see RC & Treasurer for the “Chart of Accounts” which is the proper coding of monies).*

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### Slide 19

#### **During Season Opening Day, Picture Day, Closing Day**

*So, similar to how we offered a FunFest or Festival during Registration, Training Day, etc., offer a FunFest or fundraising opportunities during Opening Day, Picture Day, Closing Day or any special day your Region celebrates.*

*Ask the attendees for additional ideas.*

### Slide 20

#### **During Season Play against a mainstream team Play against another Region's VIP team**

*Odds are there is going to be a U10, U12 or U14 team that has a bye some time during the season. Contact the division coordinators before the season and make the necessary arrangements to have their bye be a scheduled game against your VIP team; contact the coach the week before the game to confirm and then the week of...have fun. Does the mainstream need to let the VIP team win, no. Should the mainstream team come out ready to win, no. It should be a win-win situation where all involved has a wonderful time sharing and playing soccer. Your mainstream team will learn acceptance and your VIP players will have new "competition" and make new friends. The VIP team might even surprise some mainstream teams and keep them running - trying to catch up!*

*Why only meet other VIP teams at Section Tournaments/Festivals...contact the VIP Administrator in the neighboring Region and set up a day or two to play against each other now! Have fun!! (Please remember to be courteous and share the traveling - play once there and once at your field!)*

### Slide 21

#### **During Season Invite mainstream teams to watch Invite mainstream coaches and referees**

*Add to the fun and excitement of a regular season game by inviting a mainstream team or two to come watch the VIP fun! Perhaps you will gain a few volunteers.... a buddy, a referee or someone who just wants to be part of the program!*

*As a follow-up to the mainstream coming to play against your VIP team – have the same team come watch and cheer on their "new" friends the week after they play the VIP team. They know each other now so they should come cheer them on. Or, have the mainstream team come "scout" the team the week before they are to play the VIP team – to see the player personalities and to help the mainstream team be more comfortable with the situation.*

*And, just invite a complete mainstream team to come watch or try a turn as a volunteer buddy. It is easier to volunteer with a friend than solo. So, if a whole team comes to volunteer together, some might actually stay on through the season (and next!)*

*Also, invite some coaches and referees to come join the fun too. The coaches might learn a new training session and the refs will enjoy refereeing a game!*

*Again.....who should you invite? Anyone and everyone! Why should you invite? To make sure everyone know about your VIP Program!*

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### Slide 22

#### During Season

#### Attend local Section/Area VIP Festivals, Tournaments or FunFests

- 1) Attend local walks or EXPOs
- 2) Or a community event such as a parade

*Schedule a game "bye" and redirect the player and the family to attend to attend any Section/Area VIP Festival, Tournament, FunFest, any community walks, expos or events that your VIP families would benefit from. AYSO-VIP is a proud sponsor of the Abilities EXPO and we have participated for the past four years in various locations including: Los Angeles, CA, San Jose, CA, Chicago, IL and New York Metro area. Many Regions/Areas and Sections are sponsors of their local events too – please look into it today, they are a lot of fun!*

*If your Section or Area does not offer a VIP Festival – help them start one! Contact the National Office and they will give you ideas and help you plan the event. The event can start small (4 teams) and grow each year!*

*Make a theme out of the event – Trick or Kick, Thanksgiving, Spring Time, Summer Hot Days, etc.*

*Have your team attend a walk or EXPO with support to any of your VIP players – Down syndrome and their Buddy Walk in October, Autism Speaks and their Walk Now events, etc. Be a vendor (offer information, registration) or attend a walk with all the players in uniform and the families wearing VIP t-shirts or Regional t-shirts.*

*Also, attend any community event such as parades, clean-up days, etc and always wear your AYSO gear!*

### Slide 23

#### During Season

#### Attend a local high school or college soccer match as a team

- 1) Attend a MLS game and join in all the activities

*Contact your local high school, college or MLS team and schedule a time for your team to go to a game.*

*Ask if your team can walk the players in, be part of the mid-game festivities, etc. Make sure you wear your uniform and bring your VIP banners and of course, all the parents should bring their cameras and be on the field to take the pictures. After the event send the pictures and an article to your local newspaper for them to print. And, the National Office always loves to hear what is happening so please send a copy there too and as space permits it can be printed in the National newsletters (Insider, Hey Coach, Whistlestop). If you need some contact info or assistance with your local MLS team please contact the National Office and the Marketing Department will be able to assist you.*

### Slide 24

#### During Season

#### Smile and invite the press

*All news and radio stations and newspapers LOVE to do "feel good" stories and what gets better than a story about our VIP players and their families! Invite the press anytime but opening day makes great sense so the viewers can see or hear the*

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*excitement and join in! Your FunFest, camp event or Festivals/Tournaments are always a great time to invite the press. Feel-good stories are good anytime!*

### Slide 25

#### Post Season

#### Have a year-end party

*Many kinds of parties! Ask attendees to name a few.*

*Offer registration for next season (primary or secondary) at this time.*

*Of course all the families, buddies, referees and other volunteers who have helped you throughout the year should be invited.*

### Slide 26

#### Post Season

#### Offer a secondary season

#### Regional or Area wide

#### Offer a camp – weekly or monthly

- 1) Pictures appear automatically

*Why does there need to be an end to the season? The National Office heard from a Region who just completed their first season of VIP and the VIP Administrator and the VIP Coach were reading the thank you notes from the players and the parents and the question was always the same – “when do we start again?” One quick call later to the RC and it was decided – there would be a spring season! So...offer a complete secondary season or offer a camp or FunFest anytime – spring break, summer time, pre-season, ANYTIME! It is in the volunteer’s hands to help the players and their families find more opportunities and EVERYONE will be so happy.*

### Slide 27

#### Everyone Plays® at the National Games!!

- 1) Pictures appear automatically

*From opening to closing ceremonies – a GREAT time will be had by all!*

*The Games will be July 3, 2016 through July 10, 2016 in West Palm Beach, Florida!*

*Details are still being discussed but do know your team is invited as is each and every individual player (even a guest VIP player!) So if a mainstream player will be at the Games and he/she has a VIP sibling, the VIP player should come and play too! Look at the National newsletters The Insider, Whistle Stop, Hey Coach and especially the tournament newsletter for more details. The national Games is a time for sharing and for families. As always, contact the National Office too for details.*

### Slide 28

#### VIP and the National Games

#### Teams from Coast to Coast

*The Games in 2014 were incredible.*

*Teams came from New York, Arizona and all up and down California and all had a wonderful time. The players and coaches took advantage of the special time and connected – arranging play dates and discussing best practices.*

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*There was an incredible first -- there were over 40 VIP games and each game had a complete crew of referees and the referees were "fighting" over the opportunity to ref the games. The National Games 2014 brought a new understanding and a closer bond between the referees and the VIP players. So many referees came off the pitch and thanked the staff for allowing them the opportunity of refereeing the game. (There is even a new VIP Program opening because of one the refs!!)  
If you have not attended a National Games – try to do it in 2016!*

### Slide 29

#### Goals for any VIP Event

**The goals for any AYSO-VIP event are to provide a SAFE and FUN venue which helps to create and solidify friendships among players, buddies, coaches, families and volunteers.**

### Slide 30

#### Something Now! Enter EZRA'S PHOTO CONTEST today!

*By now if you read any of the eNewsletters sent by the National Office you will know that there is a VIP photo contest that is called EZRA'S PHOTO CONTEST. The contest got it's name because a coach's son, Ezra, set up the water bottles to spell out VIP. The bottles were for the players and buddies to enjoy after the game. The coach thought the National Office would like to see the picture and he was right! The picture represents how one person sees VIP. How do you see VIP? We all have different views and we would like to see them. Please send your pictures to [vip.photos@ayso.org](mailto:vip.photos@ayso.org) today! The deadline is May 10, 2015. The slideshow will be shown at the NAGM and posted on-line. A flyer with complete contest details can be found in your goodie bag.*

### Slide 31

#### Thank you

***In 2016 VIP will celebrate 25 years of making sure Everyone Plays® and Everyone Wins with AYSO!***

***Be part of the celebration!***

- 1) Pictures appear automatically

*Thank you for all you do with our VIP Program. We are at an exciting time because in 2016 AYSO – VIP will celebrate 25 years of helping our VIP families*

### Slide 32

#### Thank you for all you do!

**Contact your Section, Area or Region VIP Administrator for more information**

**Or**

**Contact the National Office at**

**National website: [www.AYSO.org/VIP](http://www.AYSO.org/VIP)**

**National email: [vip@ayso.org](mailto:vip@ayso.org)**

**National PHOTO email: [vip.photos@ayso.org](mailto:vip.photos@ayso.org)**

**National phone: (800) 872-2976**

*Contact the National Office – they would like to help you start or grow your VIP Program.*