

# RECREATION TEAM NEWS



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## DISTRICT VIII SOCCER

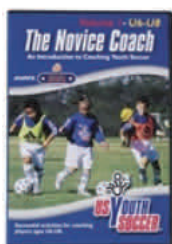
### USYS Provides Training Tools For Coaches

#### *Did You Know?*

USYS can provide you with tools to help you coach your team, at a very modest cost? The following items are examples of what the USYS, online store has to offer:



US Youth Soccer Skills School  
**\$3.99**



US Youth Soccer The Novice  
Coach Vol 1-Under 6-8 years  
**\$3.99**



US Youth Soccer The Novice  
Coach Vol 2-Under 10-12  
years  
**\$3.99**

These may be found on the USYS online store—[here](#)

### USYS Marketplace

US Youth Soccer recently launched Marketplace, which offers teams, coaches and players the ability to shop for all things soccer in one location. The website features a national marketplace where members of the soccer community can search for companies across the nation that offer the product or service they are looking to purchase. You can check out Marketplace by going to [marketplace.usyouthsoccer.org](http://marketplace.usyouthsoccer.org).

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## Clubhouse

The US Youth Soccer Clubhouse kid's website is now live! Would you like to learn more about this simple, innovative fundraising opportunity? For more information on how the Clubhouse could help your club, or to attend a free informational webinar, contact Jennifer Rodriguez at [jrodriguez@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:jrodriguez@usyouthsoccer.org).

For more information check the clubhouse site [here](#)

**“The U10-U12 course takes the successful U6-U8 course and adapts it for coaches with older players.”**

## Online Coach Education Module

U10-U12 module joins U6-U8 module, Concussion course and Intro to Youth Soccer course on the US Youth Soccer Education Platform.

The first courses available via the online education platform included an introductory course to concussions, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a course for parents getting into youth soccer for the first time and the Under-6/Under-8 Youth Module coaching course. Now available is the addition of the Under-10/Under-12 Youth Module coaching course.

The U10-U12 course takes the successful U6-U8 course and adapts it for coaches with older players.

The platform features read-at-your-own-pace pages, video and document downloads. Additional curriculum will be added as the platform expands to further meet the educational needs of all members of the youth soccer community. To learn more about the US Youth Soccer Education Platform visit <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/online-education/>.



## Kohl's Scholarship Program

### Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program

Nominate a young volunteer for up to \$10,000 in scholarships. Go to [kohlskids.com](http://kohlskids.com) and nominate a young volunteer aged 6 to 18 who has made a difference in your community. Top winners each receive \$10,000 for higher education. Nominations accepted February 1 – March 15, 2013. [Check it out!](#)

## Selecting An Assistant Coach

# Coaches Blog



Sam's Blog is a bi-weekly addition to the US Youth Soccer Blog. Sam Snow is the Coaching Director for US Youth Soccer.

## Assistant Coach

Monday, February 04, 2013

Sam Snow

*I recently started a position with a soccer travel club. I have run different clinics, assisted teams in the past and have been certified as a soccer coach for 4-years but this is my first time as head coach. I am having a hard time finding an assistant coach and I really do not want to have a parent assist me. I am worried that they will overrun me since I am new to the position and am fairly young (I am only six years older than some of the players on the team). I worry that these players will not respect me and will be more willing to listen to a parent over me. Should I ask if a parent wants to step up and help me or should I just do this on my own? If I do this on my own, how should I get started?*

- An aspiring soccer coach

If you can get an assistant coach then by all means do so. You don't want to carry the load all season alone and having someone with whom you can kick around ideas is useful.

Choosing an assistant coach is an important step for a coach. Ideally none of the coaches should be related to the players. Nevertheless, the reality in youth soccer is that many coaches are related to one or more of the players on the team.

The head coach being potentially younger than an assistant coach should not be a concern. A quality head coach will be respected by the majority of the parents of the players. When you are looking to tab someone as your assistant coach, look for personal qualities over soccer knowledge in the person regardless of their age.

Your assistant coach plays many vital roles. He or she can assess the quality of your team, help you to decide player development issues, attend parents-coach meetings for you (I wouldn't recommend this though, always try to handle these yourself) and help you to choose game day team formation and tactics.

## Selecting An Assistant Coach

### Assistant Coach (cont.)

Begin the process of choosing an assistant by considering your own strengths and weaknesses and then look for someone who can balance them out. First and foremost look at the character of the person. The knowledge of soccer and how to coach the game can be learned; the right personality for coaching children cannot. Your assistant coach should enjoy interacting with soccer players. So, look for someone who can be motivating with the players. An adult they will see as a role model, as well as a coach. You don't want an assistant who just lets the players get on with training or in a match, you want your assistant to help inspire or motivate them.

Secondly, can the person judge player potential. Your assistant needs to be able to aid you in determining a player's strengths and weaknesses so that the two of you can make a plan for each player's improvement.

Next, we come to tactical knowledge. He or she has to know their stuff and should be good at arranging set pieces, formations etc.

Lastly, we come to Judging Player Potential. Here are the types of assistant coaches that do the best job:

- Open minded, did not have a set idea on systems of play or formations
- Do not care what their role is
- Ask a lot of questions, they wanted to improve as a soccer coach
- Detail oriented
- Are out to improve the lives of the kids, not build themselves up as a coach
- Are great listeners and observers
- Take whatever task they were given and excelled at that task
- Volunteer to help at nearly every turn
- Ask underlying 'whys' without being abrasive
- Once a decision is made do not question anything and implement the decision
- Are calm non rah-rah types that had the game in perspective (watch them coach other sports or as a fan)
- Are not complainers or excuse makers, they are doers
- Admit their lack of knowledge and admit mistakes freely
- Want to get all the kids into games
- People that have had success in other parts of their lives
- Coach (or have coached) other sports or have worked with youth