

The National Sports Center for the Disabled Needs Your Help

Soccer Development League

The National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD), a leading adaptive sports and therapeutic recreation agency based in Colorado, is initiating a soccer league for physically challenged kids in the Denver area. With the support of Colorado Youth Soccer and US Paralympics, The NSCD and four local clubs hope to establish an infrastructure for Paralympic Soccer as well as create a competitive soccer environment for eligible athletes.

We know that there may be siblings, cousins, friends, neighbors of our existing club members, so we are making this plea to you to share this information with families you know.

The NSCD's soccer development program aims to provide competitive soccer opportunities for athletes ages 10-18 that are physically challenged by Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury or stroke. These ambulatory children are slightly impaired physically; however the majority are cognitively unaffected. This program will provide a place for these kids to play and opportunities for them to improve their competitive skills, endurance and coordination, as well as their self-esteem and confidence.

The NSCD is providing this opportunity to give youth, who otherwise would have no other competitive sports alternative, a place to play competitive soccer as well as to help them develop socially and physically. It is common for kids with disabilities to drop out of (or never try) most organized team sports as they tend to arrive at a point in their development where they no longer can physically keep up with their peers.

The NSCD hopes to identify enough participants to form at least four teams around the Denver area. These teams will compete with each other in league play that will parallel the schedules of able-body club soccer. The program aims also to be a model that can be followed and duplicated in other communities to provide these opportunities to athletes throughout the country.

If you know of anyone that has the drive and determination to be a participant in this unique program, or would like more information, please contact Dana Schoenwetter, National Programs Supervisor of the NSCD at (303) 293-5318 or dschoenwetter@nscd.org.