

National Games Soccerfest - Run, Sun and Fun in Florida!

Unique 'Street Soccer' Event Open To All Players

On Wednesday morning of AYSO National Games week – building on the excitement and celebration of the Opening Ceremonies the night before – the Games begin with a one-day Soccerfest on Wednesday, July 7, 2010.

Soccerfest is one of the the most significant events in the National Games as it sets the tone for the week and embodies the philosophies of the National Games and of AYSO – the focus is on sportsmanship, team spirit and making new friends.

In Soccerfest, players from every team in each age division U-10 through U-19 congregate at their appointed fields and through a process designed to maximize the mixing of players from different parts of the country, are divided into random teams. Now players from Arizona and Chicago and from New York and Hawaii are teammates.

Soccerfest Open To All Players

"The best soccer players are creative," said one coach who had never participated in a Soccerfest before. "They try new moves and tactics on their own, without the help of a coach. These 'pickup games' are usually a mixed bag of abilities. Consequently, players learn from each other and the players have a chance to experiment. Great soccer training needs to include this 'street soccer' - Soccerfest is just that - a ball and a bunch of kids, having fun!"

The National Games 2010 Soccerfest is open to all players, AYSO-registered or not, born between August 1, 1990 and July 31, 2001. Registration Forms will be available at ayso.org/NationalGames2010 in September. Be sure to check back.

Soccerfest players hang out together all day, getting to know each other and something about their differences. More importantly, by playing two soccer games together as a team, with coaches they have never seen before, they discover their commonality and start to develop friendships through their common bonds of passion for soccer, for AYSO and for fun.

Great Fun, Great Soccer Learning

"It was great! We got to meet and play soccer with kids from all over the place," enthused a player from the 2008 National Games held in Hawaii. "It was not about winning, but about having fun, playing with other kids who I just met. I still keep in touch with some of my Soccerfest teammates."

Ask almost anyone who has participated in the National Games what they liked best about the Games experience and the most frequent answer is "the Soccerfest!"

"Soccerfest was the best part of the Games for all of us," said one referee. "This is the one part of the Games that the players, coaches and referees can truly be 'family'. Anyone who comes to the National Games and misses this event is missing the point of coming! "