



# Program Overview

# What is SWANS

- SWANS program Students with Additional Needs created by Gordon Hill, is a community based program, for athletes with disabilities.
- The Swans program will work with any group, no matter how large or small, to bring the opportunity of learning to play soccer and other sports to any person, who has a learning or physical challenge.

# Is there a need for such programs in Collin county...

Age of Child	With one disability	With multiple disabilities
3-5	597,000	75,000
6-14	2,062,000	412,000
15-17	933,000	309,000
18-24	2,537,000	n/a

# McKinney

- The local ISD currently has 24,414 students
- At this time 2209 students are being served by the special education department in McKinney .
- About 2% of the entire community in the county area are considered to have special challenges

# Who can participate ...

- Any child/young adult with a learning or Physical challenge.
- Challenges might include:
  - Autism/Asperger's
  - Down Syndrome
  - Muscular Dystrophy
  - Cerebral Palsy
  - Sight or Hearing Impaired
  - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

# What will the parents expect ...

- That it will be a fun and meaningful experience for their child.
- That the games and activities will be adapted to ensure every child's participation takes place in a safe and healthy environment.
- Will bring together parents and families that share the same challenges to build a stronger community.

# What are the benefits to the SWANS athlete ...

- The SWANS athlete will develop a sense of belonging to a community.
- They will learn the value of being part of a team and will experience improved self – esteem, fitness and social skills

# What are the benefits of SWANS to the Community

- SWANS will encourage volunteering in the community from student to adults.
- Teaching the community that we are all different and if we work together we can succeed in anything we try.



# How are teams formed ...

- Athletes are placed according to ability not by age.
- there are ways to facilitate the needs of small groups
  - Use volunteers from the community and/or soccer teams from your league to form unified teams. These teams should include similar ratios of disabled and non-disabled participants.
  - Play small-sided games. For some children as many as 1 vs 1 is perfectly appropriate.

# What about practices and games ...

- Practices will meet once a week.
- Schedule one 1 to 1.5 hour (depending on age) games time per week.

# Center Of Excellence

- The facility will be provide programs for all ages encouraging families to learn and play together while achieving physical fitness.
- It will be inviting and encourage a positive atmosphere ad sportsmanship behavior.