



INDIANA SOCCER LEAGUE

Rules, Policies and Procedures

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Section 1 LEAGUE OVERVIEW

1.1 Name

The Indiana Soccer League (ISL) is the name of the top competitive league administered by Indiana Youth Soccer for boys and girls in the U-13 through U-18 age groups.

1.2 League Office

The Indiana Soccer League (ISL) office shall be the same as Indiana Youth Soccer. The current location is:

Indiana Youth Soccer, 5440 Herbert Lord Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

1-800-347-4972

1-877-269-3150 Direct Line

317-829-0560

Fax 317-829-0555

angel@indianayouthsoccer.org

www.indianayouthsoccer.org

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this league is to provide the best possible competitive environment between the highest level teams in Indiana. The league will also increase the opportunities for the education and development of players, coaches, referees and spectators.

1.4 Goals

The Goals of the ISL are to:

- Provide a pyramid structure of competitive levels of play for Indiana Youth Soccer member clubs and teams
- Facilitate the development of a club structure
- Improve the identification, training and advancement of state, regional and national caliber players
- Provide better opportunities for player, coaching and referee development
- Strengthen the relationship between coaches and administrators
- Promote sportsmanship in a safe, healthy and fun playing environment

Section 2 GOVERNANCE

2.1 Authority

The ISL is authorized by Indiana Youth Soccer Board of Directors to operate as an official league of Indiana Youth Soccer. The ISL shall be administered by Indiana Youth Soccer through the ISL Commissioner and the Advisory Council. All policies, procedures and rules will be approved by the ISL Advisory Council and will be consistent with Indiana Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer and US Soccer.

2.2 ISL Advisory Council

The ISL Advisory Council shall include the following members:

- 3* Coaches (with regional representation)
- 3* Administrators (with regional representation)
- 1* Indiana Youth Soccer Coaching Committee
- 1 State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA) or designee
- 1 Indiana Youth Soccer Executive Director
- 1 ISL Commissioner – Chair

* These Members of the Advisory Council are appointed by the ISL Commissioner.

2.3 Term Limits

Initially, three (3) members will serve a one (1) year term and four (4) will serve a two (2) year term. After this rotation is established, each Council Advisory member appointed thereafter will serve a two (2) year term. Advisory Council members may serve more than one term.

2.4 Advisory Council Responsibilities

ISL Advisory Council will be vested with the responsibility to assist and advise the Commissioner to plan, develop, manage, regulate, supervise, administer and conduct the ISL.

2.4.1 The Advisory Council shall be responsible for formulating, proposing and enforcing league rules, policies and procedures.

2.4.2 A quorum, consisting of the majority of the Advisory Council, must be present at all times during Council meetings in order to conduct official business. The Commissioner is not considered when determining a quorum.

2.4.3 The Advisory Council will require a simple majority of the quorum to make rules, policies and procedural changes.

2.4.4 The Advisory Council shall hold regular monthly meetings. Members of the Advisory Council may attend the meetings in person, by teleconference or web conference. The Commissioner will communicate the date, time and place of these meetings. An agenda must be provided to the Advisory Council members at least three (3) days before the meeting.

2.5 Role of the Technical Committee

The ISL Advisory Council will identify a group of coaches to form a Technical Committee.

Members of the Technical Committee will be representative of age groups, gender and geography. The major role of this committee will be to recommend the teams for participation in the league and to assist in oversight of the league playing rules.

2.6 Urgent Decisions

2.6.1 Rule or policy changes requiring immediate action by the Advisory Council may be expedited via telephone or e-mail at any time. Any "out-of-meeting" rulings shall be incorporated into these rules within 24 hours, with notification provided to member clubs and teams.

2.6.2 If an emergency situation arises and a quorum of voting members will not be available for at least 24 hours, the ISL Commissioner shall have the authority to issue a temporary ruling until the matter can be resolved as provided by established policies and procedure.

2.7 Due Process

All actions of the Advisory Council may be appealed. Any challenges to the Advisory Council's decisions should be made successively to the Indiana Youth Soccer Executive Director and then the Indiana Youth Soccer Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is the final arbiter in ISL matters.

Section 3 JOB DESCRIPTIONS

3.1 Commissioner

This is a paid position. The Commissioner of the Indiana Soccer League shall be responsible for the following:

- Report to the Indiana Youth Soccer Executive Director
- Work with the Advisory Council to develop and administer the league
- Prepare any/all correspondence required by the Advisory Council
- Issue, in writing, all notices of regularly scheduled meetings to the Indiana Youth Soccer membership
- Organize and chair all Indiana Soccer League member meetings
- Participate and chair ISL Advisory Council meetings
- Participate and chair ISL Technical Committee meetings
- Attend Indiana Youth Soccer Board meetings as circumstances demand
- Coordinate league activities with the ISL staff and volunteers.

- Prepare the State League budget
- Work within the parameters of the approved State League budget
- Work with the Indiana Youth Soccer Executive Director to develop sponsorship opportunities
- Pay all fees and fines in a timely manner
- Coordinate all State League awards with Division Directors
- Assist club administrators with the registration process, as requested
- Advise clubs on registration deadlines
- Enforce registration deadlines
- Perform additional related duties assigned by the Executive Director

3.2 Boys Division Director

The Boys Division Director, which is a volunteer position, shall be directly responsible for the maintenance of the boys divisions once the final schedules have been released. The duties of the Boys Division Director shall be as follows:

- Maintain accurate and updated scores and standings on the web site
- Assist teams in the rescheduling of games
- Contact the League Assignor Administrator when games must be rescheduled
- Act as a liaison with host sites to assure field availability for all scheduled games
- Report all activity to the ISL Commissioner
- Complete additional assignments as requested by the ISL Commissioner

3.3 Girls Division Director

The Girls Division Director, which is a volunteer position, shall be directly responsible for the maintenance of the girls divisions once the final schedules have been released. The duties of the Girls Division Director shall be as follows:

- Maintain accurate and updated scores and standings on the web site
- Assist teams in the rescheduling of games
- Contact the Assignor Administrator when games must be rescheduled
- Act as a liaison with host sites to assure field availability for all scheduled games
- Report all activity to the ISL Commissioner
- Complete additional assignments as requested by the ISL Commissioner

3.4 Technical Committee

The positions are volunteer positions and the responsibilities of the Technical Committee are:

- Recommend teams for selection and division placement prior to the fall and spring seasons
- Recommend the divisional placement of all NEW teams.
- Advocate for playing and administrative rules changes to the Advisory Council
- Assist the Commissioner and Director of Coaching in building coaching development programs
- Assist the Commissioner and Director of Coaching in the advancement of state, regional, and national players through ODP
- Assist in the promotion of ethical practices throughout the league
- Perform other State League tasks, as determined necessary by the Commissioner

3.5 League Assignor Administrator

This is a paid position and the responsibilities of the League Assignor Administrator shall be as follows:

- Select (in consultation with travel leagues and SYRA) all league assignors
- Assist the travel leagues to select, implement, and maintain league assigning software to be used by all league assignors
- Oversee the league assignors to ensure all games are assigned as defined by the leagues

- Assist the SYRA to facilitate referee assignor education
- Confirm that all appointed travel league assignors are currently licensed
- Confirm referee assignments to League Commissioners/Directors no later than seven (7) days prior to all scheduled league games
- Coordinate with the travel leagues and assignors to ensure that referees are assigned to rescheduled games
- Serve as a travel league liaison for all assigning concerns
- Report assigning activities monthly directly to the League Task Force

Section 4 FINANCIAL MATTERS

4.1 Financial Policies

The Commissioner will use the ISL and Indiana Youth Soccer financial policies as a guideline in financial management.

4.2 Budget

The Commissioner will prepare the annual Indiana Soccer League budget in consultation with the Advisory Council. The proposed budget will be submitted to the Executive Director for review and then submitted to the Indiana Youth Soccer Board of Directors for final approval.

4.3 Fees

4.3.1 The Commissioner shall determine league fees and performance bonds.

4.3.2 The Commissioner shall be responsible for the collection of all league fees and fines from participating clubs or teams

4.3.3 All funds collected must be made payable to Indiana Youth Soccer and presented to the Indiana Youth Soccer state office for deposit into Indiana Youth Soccer accounts.

4.4 Marketing (non-fee based income)

The Indiana Soccer League may have a sponsor with naming rights at various levels which may include the entire league or portions of it such as a division or age group.

Section 5 TEAM APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSION

5.1 Application Deadlines

5.1.1 Any team which is registered with Indiana Youth Soccer may apply for entry to the ISL. Team applications to participate in the ISL must be completed on line using the current web-based league management software.

5.1.2 The deadline for application for the fall season will be July. The deadline for application for the spring season will be December. Dates will be set and posted each season by the ISL Advisory Commissioner.

5.1.3 All team fees and performance bonds (when required per Rule 5.2) are due at the time a team is notified of their acceptance into the ISL.

5.2 Performance Bonds

A performance bond may be required of some teams entered in the ISL. The requirement for a bond check will be determined by the ISL Advisory Board. The bond check will be cashed. The bond will be returned if a team leaves the league in good standing at the completion of a seasonal year.

5.2.1 A bond may be required if a team or club from a previous season left the league in poor standing.

5.2.2 A bond will be required for all U18 teams.

5.2.3 The bond amount is \$500.

5.2.4 Should any assessed fines reach the full bond amount, the team will be required to post a new bond to be eligible to complete the league season.

5.3 Midwest Regional League Participants

Any team that elects to play in the Midwest Regional League (MRL) will not lose their standing in the ISL. Any team returning from the MRL will assume a position in the ISL Premier Division. No team may participate in both MRL and ISL during the same season.

Section 6 ISL STRUCTURE

6.1 Divisions

- 6.1.1 The ISL will offer competition in a Premier Division, First Division and Second Division.
- 6.1.2 Each division should have a minimum of four (4) teams. (This would provide a six (6) game double round-robin season.)
- 6.1.3 Each division should have a maximum of nine (9) teams. (This would provide an eight (8) game single round-robin schedule).
- 6.1.4 Each division will play from six (6) to eight (8) games (depending on the placement and number of teams).
- 6.1.5 The ISL Technical Committee will review all applications and recommend the teams competing in each division of the league in each season. Creating a competitive environment will be the number one criteria.
- 6.1.6 A Second Division will only be added in an age group when necessary to provide the appropriate parity for the age group and with the recommendation of the ISL Technical Committee.
- 6.1.7 The maximum total number of teams admitted for any one age group with Premier and First Divisions only is not to exceed 18 teams.
- 6.1.8 The maximum total number of teams admitted for any one age group with Premier, First, and Second Divisions is not to exceed 23 teams

6.2 Fall Competition

Boys and Girls in age groups U-13 and U-14.

6.3 Spring Competition

Boys and Girls in age groups U-13 through U18

6.4 Girls with Boys

- 6.4.1 Girls may play on a boys' team.
- 6.4.2 Boys may not play on a girls' team (would become a boys' team).
- 6.4.3 Girls teams may not play in any boys' division- and visa versa

6.5 Playing Up

The ISL Technical Committee may invite teams into the next older age group if compelling evidence shows that it may be developmentally appropriate.

6.6 Promotion and Relegation

The ISL will utilize a promotion and relegation system at all levels. The number of teams relegated and promoted will be recommended by the ISL Technical Committee.

- 6.6.1 Teams may decline the option for promotion.
- 6.6.2 Teams must return a minimum of 50% of the players (round up) from their previous season's roster (otherwise such teams will be relegated to a lower division).
- 6.6.3 Promotion and relegation will be used at the end of both the fall and spring seasons.
- 6.6.4 At the U13 entry level, the Technical Committee will review all applications and recommend placement of teams in the appropriate division.

6.7 Schedule Responsibility

The ISL Commissioner and league scheduler shall be responsible for establishing the calendar parameters for the ISL seasons.

6.8 League Scheduling Timetable

- 6.8.1 On or about July 25th (fall) /February 1 (spring), a first draft of the schedule will be prepared with tentative dates noted. This draft will be forwarded to site managers who will confirm and add the field numbers.
- 6.8.2 A scheduling meeting will be held on/ about July 28th (fall) / February 5th (spring) when schedules will be presented to teams and teams will be given an opportunity at the meeting to work out mutually agreeable reschedule dates.
- 6.8.3 The ISL Commissioner or appointed league scheduler must approve all game changes requested at the scheduling meeting.
- 6.8.4 The final master schedule will be released on/ about August 1st (fall) / February 10th (spring), posted on-line and distributed via e-mail to the teams.

6.9 Blacked-out Dates

Blackout weekends will be allowed and vary in their numbers dependent upon the age of each team, the season, and how the holidays fall during the calendar year.

- 6.9.1 The number of block dates will be announced with the registration information each season.
- 6.9.2 The number of block dates will be clearly explained on the application form.
- 6.9.3 There will be no less than 4 block dates for any season.

6.10 Mandatory Play Dates

The league reserves the right to require mandatory play dates during any season. The mandatory play dates may be used in conjunction with special events. The mandatory play dates must be announced 30 days prior to opening the season registration.

6.11 Scheduling

- 6.11.1 A maximum of 8 league games per team each playing season for teams ages U13 to 16. A maximum of 6 league games per team each playing season for teams ages U17 and U18.
- 6.11.2 Neutral sites, when appropriate, will be utilized to minimize travel and provide:
 - * Better options for referee scheduling
 - * Better league management and oversight
 - * Improved observation and identification for the Indiana Olympic Development Program.
- 6.11.3 For teams in the ISL traveling more than two and one-half (2 ½) hours one way, game times should not begin before 11 am nor start after 6 pm). There should be a minimum of three (3) hours between games in any situation where a team must play two games in the same day.
- 6.11.4 All game times presented on the schedules will be listed as local time to the site.

6.12 Rescheduling of Games

- 6.12.1 Teams that fail to play a game for any reason are expected to reschedule the match within five (5) days of the original date.
- 6.12.2 When the game has been rescheduled, the coach or manager of the hosting team must provide the ISL representative with the following information within 48 hours (2 days) of rescheduling the game.
 - * The teams involved
 - * A listing of the division, age and gender.
 - * The game number.
 - * The date, time and location of the rescheduled game.
- 6.12.3 In the event the teams cannot agree to reschedule a game, the ISL Commissioner or appointed league scheduler will assign a date/ time.

- 6.12.4 ISL matches take precedence over all other youth matches except State Cup and MRL.
- 6.12.5 Fall play for U13 & U14 ISL games may begin in mid-August. The season will be completed by the last weekend in October. If weather dictates the need, games may be rescheduled into early November.
- 6.12.6 Spring play for the U13 – U18 age groups may begin the last weekend of March and end by mid June.
- 6.12.7 The ISL schedule must be completed before or in conjunction with Regional Leagues' schedules to ensure facilities are available.
- 6.12.8 The ISL will play most games on Saturdays. Sunday and weeknight games will also be scheduled as necessary.
- 6.12.9 If it is determined that a game must be rescheduled on a week night, ISL will contact the home team representative. This representative will have 48 hours to work with the opponent to find an acceptable weeknight to play the game. ISL will secure a field and referees. If an agreement cannot be reached, the game will be rescheduled by the ISL representative on the first available date and field.

6.13 Late Schedule Changes

- 6.13.1 Once the final schedule has been posted, league games may only be changed or cancelled for the following reasons:
 - Direct conflict with rescheduled State Cup games
 - No match officials are available
 - Unplayable weather conditions
 - Unplayable field related to weather conditions
 - Dangerous field conditions
 - Catastrophic circumstances
- 6.13.2 A rescheduling fee of \$150 will be assessed for any schedule changes outside of noted above. This fee is due within 5 business days of the date the request is made. The check is to be made payable to Indiana Youth Soccer and sent to the state office.

6.14 Coaching Multiple Teams

At the time of declarations, head coaches who are involved with multiple teams should indicate which teams should be scheduled together. Reasonable accommodations will be extended, but not guaranteed.

6.15 Home teams

The home team will be listed first and will be responsible for hosting their matches (unless a neutral site is arranged by the league).

6.16 Assigning of Referees

The final schedule, complete with confirmed dates, locations and game times will be sent to the League Assignor Administrator for distribution to league site assignors on or around August 5th (fall) / March 5th (spring). Neither clubs nor teams are responsible for referee assigning. All assignment for ISL games will be managed through ISL league assignors.

6.17 Dropping Out

A team that drops out of the ISL shall be fined. For teams in which a performance bond is being held, they will forfeit their bond. Dropping out may also result in the team being ineligible to participate in the league for a period of time to be determined by the Advisory Council.

6.18 Dual Use of Game Results

- 6.17.1 No ISL game can be used to fulfill the requirements of another competition unless specifically approved in writing by the ISL Commissioner and the other competition involved.
- 6.17.2 No other league or tournament game may be used to fulfill the requirements of an ISL league game unless specifically approved in writing by the ISL Commissioner.

Section 7 DETERMINING DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS

7.1 Game Points

During seasonal play, game points shall be awarded as follows:

- * Wins-Three (3) points
- * Ties-One (1) point
- * Losses-Zero (0) points

7.2 Tie-breakers

The following tie-breaking criteria will be used to determine the final standings for each Division:

- Total points
- Head to head results
- Goal differential using the sum of all league games*
- Goals scored using the sum of all league games*
- Goals allowed using the sum of all league games *

* For tiebreaker purposes, a four (4) goal maximum will be used for calculations.

7.3 Forfeits

Any team that forfeits a game shall not be eligible for a divisional championship. Three (3) points will be deducted for any forfeited game and the score shall be recorded as 0-4. A fine of \$300 will be assessed and must be paid within 7 days of reporting the forfeit. If the forfeit is reported to the ISL Commissioner with less than 48 hours to kickoff, the full amount of the referee fees will also be due. The check is to be made payable to Indiana Youth Soccer and sent to the state office.

7.4 Multiple Forfeits

- 7.4.1 Each additional forfeited game will be assessed a fine of \$300 per game. Any forfeit reported to the ISL Commissioner with less than 48 hours to kickoff will be assessed the full referee fees in addition to the fine.
- 7.4.2 If a team forfeits two (2) games in a seasonal year, the coach may be suspended. The team may also be ineligible to participate in the league the following season.

Section 8 SEEDING FOR STATE CUP

The results from the fall and spring ISL seasons will be used as criteria to help determine team selection for State Cup.

Section 9 MIDWEST REGIONAL LEAGUE

Teams finishing at the top of the ISL U13 division may be invited into the U14 MRL in the upcoming year. The ISL Technical Committee will be responsible for recommending teams for promotion to MRL. All other teams considered for recommendation by the ISL Technical Committee (if any) will be based upon application of the rules set forth in the Policy and Procedure for Promotion to ISL document posted at the ISL website.

Section 10 PLAYER REGISTRATION

10.1 Individual Player Registration

All individual player registration rules are governed by Indiana Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer. Those policies must be strictly adhered to and may be found in the Indiana Youth Soccer Registration Rules. The complete document is available at www.indianayouthsoccer.org.

10.2 Minimum Number of Players Registered to Compete

ISL Teams must register a minimum of eleven (11) active players to their roster, no later than the registration deadline for each season. The player registration process will remain open throughout the season to complete the roster.

10.3. Minimum Number of Returning Players for a U-13/18 Team

Teams must return a minimum of 50% of the players (rounded up) from the previous season to be eligible to maintain their earned position/promotion in ISL.

Section 11 INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

The ISL Commissioner, Advisory Council or the league registrar can call upon any player to prove his/her legal age. A birth certificate, driver's license, passport, board of health records, certificate of naturalization or alien registration card shall be sufficient for proof of age.

Section 12 ROSTERING

12.1 Initial Rosters

ISL Teams must establish their initial rosters per Indiana Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer rules prior to the ISL application deadline for each season.

12.2 Club Pass

Players registered for an ISL team may use their Indiana Youth Soccer player pass to play for any other age-eligible teams within their own club. (Note: A player rostered to a team in MRL or the ISL Premier Division should not play "down" for a team in a lower division or league unless the player is not receiving significant playing time.)

12.3 Secondary Rostered Players

No secondary-rostered players are permitted during league play. This does not preclude clubs from assigning players from their own club to fill game rosters, as required. See Club Pass Rule 12.2

12.4 Guest Players

Guest players (defined as "players from another club") are not allowed to participate on any ISL team. Club Pass players are not defined as "guest players."

12.5 Over Age/Trapped Players

By definition for ISL, over age or trapped players are U15 players who have not moved up to high school with their peers and U19 players who are still in high school.

12.5.1 During the fall season only, U14 teams may roster up to 3 U15 over age/ trapped players.

12.5.2 During the spring season only, U18 teams may roster up to 3 U19 over age/trapped players.

12.5.3 All over age/trapped players must use the club pass system or league only guest player passes provided for by Indiana Youth Soccer. Trapped players may not appear on state rosters, but will appear on league rosters.

12.6 Roster Additions

When a team's active roster drops below the minimum number due to illness, injury or resignation, that team shall be allowed to add players to their roster through the normal registration process until they have reached the minimum or maximum roster limits.

12.7 Playing Up

12.7.1 Players are not restricted from playing on older teams.

12.7.2 No team may play up more than one (1) age division.

12.7.3 No U12 team will be accepted into ISL.

Section 13 TRANSFERS/COMMITMENT

All player or team transfers are governed by the policies set forth by Indiana Youth Soccer. Please refer to the Indiana Youth Soccer Registration Rules document posted at www.indianayouthsoccer.org for the most current rules regarding transfer players. The same document also contains the rules for player commitment.

Section 14 INSURANCE AND INSURANCE CLAIMS

Indiana Youth Soccer insurance provides liability insurance for players, coaches, club officers and league officials as well as medical insurance for all players and coaches.

Section 15 DISCIPLINARY RULINGS

15.1 Oversight Authority of the ISL Disciplinary Panel

The ISL Advisory Council or an appointed ISL Disciplinary Panel will be responsible to review all disciplinary matters for ISL. In situations where Red Cards or ejections have been issued for serious offenses, the ISL Disciplinary Panel will have the authority to hold Disciplinary Hearings and issue fines or extend suspensions as deemed necessary.

15.2 Suspensions Pending Hearings

In accordance with US Soccer rules, all suspensions are considered to be in force from the time an infraction is reported and verified until a disciplinary hearing can be held.

15.3 Automatic Penalties

Automatic penalties are to be applied to the next played ISL game or games.

15.4 Send Offs

15.4.1 Players who are Red Carded by the referee shall receive an automatic one (1) game suspension.

15.4.2 Coaches or team officials who are sent off (ejected) by the referee shall receive an automatic one (1) game suspension.

15.4.3 A suspension is defined as not participating in the game in any manner whatsoever. Suspended team personnel (i.e. coaches, etc.) are to leave the immediate vicinity. Immediate vicinity shall be defined as sufficient distance from the playing field where the offending party cannot cause additional disruptions to the game. This is considered the "Out of Sight and Out of Sound" principle. Due to travel and carpooling, players may remain in the team technical area on the bench for safety reasons. Otherwise, players should observe the "Out of Sight and Out of Sound" rule.

15.4.4 Penalties for more serious situations are outlined below.

- 15.5 Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language**
15.5.1 Players who are Red Carded and coaches or other team officials that are sent off for using offensive, insulting or abusive language before, during or after a game may receive a two (2) game suspension. This is not an automatic suspension and may be subject to a hearing.
15.5.2 Note that the team coach is responsible for the words and actions of all persons associated with his or her team before, during and after each game.
- 15.6 Violent Conduct and Serious Foul Play**
Players who are Red Carded for violent conduct or serious foul play before, during or after a game may receive a two (2) game suspension. This is not an automatic suspension and may be subject to a hearing.
- 15.7 Pushing or Striking**
15.7.1 Players who are Red Carded for pushing or striking any player, coach, team official or match official may be suspended for up to one (1) year. An ISL Disciplinary Hearing will be required.
15.7.2 Coaches, managers or other team officials who are ejected for pushing or striking any league official, coach, manager, player or match official may be suspended for up to two (2) years. An ISL Disciplinary Hearing will be required.
15.7.3 Repeat offenders may be barred from any further participation in the ISL. An ISL Disciplinary Hearing will be required.
- 15.8 Accumulative Yellow Cards**
Any player who receives three (3) yellow cards or coach who receives three (3) documented warnings in three separate games over the course of a single playing season shall be suspended for the next played ISL game. It is primarily the responsibility of the club or team to follow ethical practices in enforcing this penalty. The respective Boys' and Girls' Division Director will track yellow cards. This is an automatic suspension and not subject to a hearing.
- 15.9 Accumulative Red Cards**
Any coach, manager, team official or player receiving two (2) ejections in a single playing season may be suspended from participating in any further ISL games during that season. An ISL Disciplinary Hearing will be required.
- 15.10 Participation by an Ineligible Player**
If a player is not properly registered or eligible to play, the offending team shall automatically forfeit that game. This is an automatic suspension and not subject to a hearing.
- 15.11 Playing a Suspended Player**
Any coach who allows a suspended player to compete in a sanctioned ISL game shall receive a minimum of a one year suspension and the game(s) in which the ineligible player participated shall be forfeited. This is an automatic suspension and not subject to a hearing.
- 15.12 Participation by a Suspended Team Official**
Any coach who allows a suspended team official (coach, assistant coach, manager, etc.) to participate in a sanctioned ISL game, shall receive a one year suspension and the game(s) shall be forfeited. This is an automatic suspension and not subject to a hearing.
- 15.13 Alteration and/or Falsification of Birth Records and/or Rosters**
Any coach, manager, team official or player who falsifies a team roster or game report, who falsifies a birth date, or who affixes an illegal photograph to a player pass may be suspended for up to seven (7) years, pending a hearing by the ISL Disciplinary Panel.

15.14 Application of Suspensions

- 15.14.1 All suspensions or sanctions imposed by the ISL Advisory Council or appointed ISL Disciplinary Panel apply to only ISL games, whether or not the game is within the same season or seasonal year.
- 15.14.2 Any forfeited game, canceled game or postponed game is not considered a played game.

15.15 Second Forfeit

Teams that forfeit two games in a season may be suspended by the League Commissioner and face expulsion from the league. This suspension may carry over to the following season and the club will be held responsible for any unpaid league fines and referee fees left by the team.

Section 16 HEARINGS AND APPEALS

16.1 Club Responsibility

- 16.1.1 All teams, players, coaches, managers, team officials, clubs and/or leagues will follow the rules of the ISL, Indiana Youth Soccer, US Youth and US Soccer. It is the responsibility of each player, coach, manager, trainer, team official and league official to know and understand the rules of the ISL.
- 16.1.2 Ignorance of these rules will not be considered an excuse for failing to follow them and will not be considered a defense in any ISL Disciplinary Hearing.

16.2 Hearings

- 16.2.1 Referee abuse and assault cases are referred to Indiana Youth Soccer.
- 16.2.2 Other infractions are referred to the ISL Advisory Council or Appointed ISL Disciplinary Panel.
- 16.2.3 If an imposed penalty is limited to ISL games, the outcome of the hearing may not be appealed.
- 16.2.4 If an imposed penalty affects all games, including league and tournament play, the outcome may be appealed to Indiana Youth Soccer.
- 16.2.5 If an imposed penalty is limited to all Indiana Youth Soccer activities, the outcome may not be appealed to the US Soccer.
- 16.2.6 If an imposed penalty extends to all soccer activities inside and beyond Indiana Youth Soccer, the outcome may be appealed to the US Soccer.

16.3 Use of the Court System

US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, Section 1 states that, "No member of US Youth Soccer, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, and as provided within US Youth Soccer."

Section 17 LAWS OF THE GAME AND PLAYING RULES

17.1 Rules of Play

The rules of play shall be the current "Laws of the Game", as published by F.I.F.A. All contests sanctioned by the ISL shall abide by the "Laws of the Game." Authorized modifications to the Laws of the Game, as permitted by FIFA, are noted below.

17.2 Modifications to the Laws of the Game

- 17.2.1 Games will employ unlimited substitution with the consent of the referee at the following times:
- Prior to a throw-in in your teams favor
 - Prior to a goal kick by either team
 - After any goal
 - At half-time

- At half-time of any overtime period, if applicable
- If a team has a substitute player ready on their own possession as described above and the opponent also has a player ready for substitution, both teams may substitute when signaled by the referee.

17.2.2 For any play-off situation (if required), the entire overtime is treated the same as 17.2.1.

17.2.3 Referees may add extra time if they feel a team has delayed the game by using substitutions excessively.

17.3 Playing Formats

The Playing Formats shall be as follows:

Age	Halves	Ball	Game Form	Roster Range
U-17/18	2x45-minutes	Size 5	11v11	11-22
U-15/16	2x40-minutes	Size 5	11v11	11-18
U-13/14	2x35-minutes	Size 5	11v11	11-18

17.4 Abandonment of Game

17.4.1 Any game that is abandoned because of inclement weather or darkness, after the completion of the first half, will be considered a completed game. If the first half has not been completed, the game will be replayed in its entirety prior to the end of the current season.

17.4.2 The ISL Commissioner shall review any game abandoned for any other reason.

17.5 Reporting of Scores

The winning team is responsible for reporting scores to ISL. Scores should be reported within 24 hours and can be submitted via the League ~~web site~~. **score phone-in system**.

17.6 Delayed Game Start

Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game by more than fifteen (15) minutes without authorization from the ISL Commissioner shall forfeit the game to their opponent and shall be responsible for full payment of the game referee fees.

17.7 Failure to Appear for a Game

In the event that both teams do not appear for a scheduled game and the match official rules the grounds playable, both teams shall be assessed with a loss and for paying the referee's fees.

17.8 Coaching from the Sidelines

17.8.1 Coaching from the sidelines is allowed in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game. Only persons with a valid pass are permitted to coach or give direction from the sidelines. Only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions. No mechanical or electrical devices are permitted.

17.8.2 The number of team officials (i.e. coach, assistant coach, DOC, team manager) in the technical area shall be limited three (3). All others must go to the spectator sideline.

17.8.3 The technical area as defined by FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply: The technical area extends 1m (1yd) on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of 1m (1yd) from the touch line. This will apply even if the technical area lines are not marked/painted at the game site.

17.8.4 The team officials must remain within the confines of the technical area except in special circumstances, for example, a team official assisting an injured player

17.8.5 The home team or, in the case of a neutral venue, the team listed first on the schedule will have their choice of preferred sideline. Spectators must take the opposite sideline to the teams.

17.9 Host/Home Team Responsibilities

The Host team is defined as the team whose home club is the site being used for the games. The Home team is defined as the team who appears first on the schedule.

17.9.1 The home team must wear a white/light color jersey and the visiting team must wear a dark color jersey. If the referee determines the uniforms are too similar and may cause confusion, the offending team must change their jersey to comply with the color requirements.

17.9.2 The host team is responsible for the condition of the field and the field markings. Goals, goal nets and corner flags are required.

17.9.2 The host team must ensure that all goals are properly secured, nets in good condition and corner flags are properly placed.

17.9.3 Where neutral venues are involved, neither team will be held responsible for the condition of the field; however, both teams will be responsible for the anchoring of the goals.

17.9.4 The home team shall be responsible for providing a game ball.

17.9.5 In the event of a referee declaring a field unplayable due to dangerous surface conditions, excluding weather-related cancellations, improper markings, missing corner flags or missing nets, the game will be rescheduled. The host team will pay the referee fees for the cancelled game(s). The referee fees for the rescheduled game will be shared by both teams. The rescheduled game will take place at the home field of the original visiting team, unless mutually agreed to by both parties.

17.10 Medical Release Forms

Notarized medical release forms must be available at all ISL games.

Section 18 SPORTSMANSHIP

18.1 Pre and Post Game Sportsmanship

18.6.1 Prior to the kick-off, both teams and the match officials should "walk on" to the field together and exchange handshakes.

18.6.2 At the conclusion of the match, opposing players and coaches should shake hands.

18.2 Policies and Rules

Coaches, players, spectators, teams and clubs will be expected to acknowledge reading and adhering to all league policies and rules regarding behavior.

18.3 Code of Conduct

Coaches, players, parents/guardians and a club representative will be required to sign a Code of Conduct document and submit to ISL prior to first game each seasonal year.

18.4 Evaluation of behavior

The behavior of all coaches, players, spectators and teams will be evaluated through game reports.

18.4.1 These game reports will be submitted electronically via a secure web site.

18.4.2 This information will be reviewed by a league disciplinary committee.

18.4.3 Game reports will also be used to recognize (and reward) those individuals, teams and clubs demonstrating exemplary sportsmanship.

18.5 Sanctioning

Individuals, teams and clubs may be sanctioned if an accumulation of incidents (from caution/ejections/forfeits/etc.) reaches an unacceptable level any season.

Section 19 REQUIREMENTS OF REFEREES

19.1 Pass Verification

The referee shall obtain an official line-up card from both teams. (Players, coaches, managers and team officials) Teams are to have their player cards, rosters, and medical releases on site in case of dispute or injury.

19.2 Equipment Verification

Prior to the start of the game the Referee shall make sure that each player's equipment is in proper order.

19.3 Field Verification

Prior to the start of the game the referee shall make sure that all goal nets and corner flags are properly installed and in proper repair, that the field has the proper markings, and that the ground is fit for play. Both goals must be securely anchored.

19.4 Referee Qualifications

All referees will be currently registered USSF Grade 8, or higher, officials. No person shall officiate as a referee or as a neutral assistant referee in any match under the sanction or jurisdiction (direct or indirect) of the USSF who is not registered with the Federation, unless both coaches agree and sign the game report stating such agreement.

19.5 Referees Assignments

19.5.1 All ISL games must be assigned by a US Soccer licensed assignor.

19.5.2 All initial ISL games assignments will be reviewed by the League Assignor Administrator and the ISL Commissioner.

19.6 Referee Conflict of Interest

Referees may not officiate a game in which a team participant is a member of his/her family, or in which there is a close relationship with one of the teams, unless both coaches agree and sign the game report stating such an agreement.

19.7 No Official Referee Available

If a registered referee is unable to officiate ISL games, club or team officials may agree upon some other person to act as the official(s).

19.7.1 Referees may not officiate games in which a team participant is a member of his/her family unless both coaches agree and sign the game report stating such agreement.

19.7.2 In the event both coaches do not agree on an alternate referee, the game will be replayed.

19.8 Ejections

If a player, coach, manager or other team official is ejected for misconduct, the Referee must complete the supplemental game report found on the ISL website..

19.8.1 Game Reports involving Red Cards or ejections must be submitted to the League Commissioner within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

19.9 Referee Fees

19.9.1 Referee compensation will be reviewed annually and determined by the Advisory Council.

19.9.2 When a full crew of officials is not available, the referee and any assistant referee should only be paid the designated fee for that position.

19.9.3 Referee Payments – Cancelled Game Policy

Weather Related Cancellations:

- If a game is cancelled by the site manager due to the weather and/or unsafe field conditions and the game has not started, the referees will not be paid. Those referees will be given the first chance to referee the rescheduled game.

- If a game has started and the site manager closes the fields, the referees may keep the payments already made. Referees will not be paid for remainder of games that day. When the cancelled game is rescheduled, the newly assigned referees will be paid.
 - If a game has started and the referee terminates the game due to severe weather or unsafe field conditions, the referees may keep the payments already made. Referees will not be paid for the remainder of the games that day. When the game is rescheduled, the newly assigned referees will be paid.
- Other Cancellations: If a game is cancelled for any other reason more than 48 hours before game time, the referees will not be paid.

19.10 Referee Game Reports

Referee Game reports will be filled via a secure web site.

19.10.1 The referee shall keep a complete record of the game and complete the online report.

19.10.2 Game Reports involving ejections or Red Cards must be submitted to the League Commissioner within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

19.10.3 The League Assignor Administrator will be advised of improperly completed Referee Game Reports

19.11 Referee Abuse and Assault

Reports of Referee Abuse or Referee Assault shall be submitted to the Indiana Youth Soccer Executive Director, Indiana Youth Soccer Disciplinary Committee, ISL Commissioner, SRA and SYRA within 48 hours of the incident.

Section 20 REQUIREMENTS OF PLAYERS

20.1 Shin Guards

All players are required to wear age-appropriate shin guards, worn within two inches of the ankle. Shin guards must be worn at all times while on the field of play. Shin Guards must be completely covered by the socks at all times.

20.2 Uniforms

All teammates must have unique numbers on their uniforms.

20.2.1 Once a team is checked in, the players are not allowed to switch numbers without first notifying the referee.

20.2.2 **The home team must wear a white/light color jersey and the visiting team must wear a dark color jersey. If the referee determines the uniforms are too similar and may cause confusion, the offending team must change their jersey to comply with the color requirements.**

20.2.3 All uniform shirts must be clearly numbered on the back.

20.2.4 Players may wear numbers on their shorts and socks that correspond to their uniform shirt numbers.

20.2.5 A number, no larger than 4" may also be displayed on the right front or center of the chest.

20.3 Sponsor Patch

A sponsor patch, no larger than 4" may be attached to the uniform shirt.

20.4 Other Uniform Markings

20.4.1 Team names may be displayed on the uniform.

20.4.2 Teams may only display a US Youth Soccer, Indiana Youth Soccer and ISL patches and logos on their uniforms. No competing youth soccer organization markers are permitted.

Section 21 REQUIREMENTS OF COACHES

21.1 Coach's Responsibilities

- 21.1.1 Coaches and managers will be required to read all league rules prior to each season.
- 21.1.2 Coaches are responsible for the conduct of his/her players, other team officials and spectators before, during and after the game, and shall instruct all of the above to behave in a proper and respectful manner.
- 21.1.3 Coaches' sportsmanship and overall behavior will be reviewed by the league Commissioner and Advisory Council.
- 21.1.4 Each coach is responsible for submitting the proper game rosters prior to each match to the other coach and to the referee.
- 21.1.5 Each coach is responsible for correctly submitting a post game report after each game via the ISL website.
- 21.1.6 In the event that a coach wishes to protest a game, he/she should inform the referee prior to the start of the match, at half-time, or within five (5) minutes of the final whistle. The referee will note the reasons for the protest on the Referee Game Report.
- 21.1.7 The coach is responsible for enforcing suspensions to players or team agents.
- 21.1.8 The host team coach is responsible for securing the goals and nets, and for assuring corner flags and proper field markings are provided.
- 21.1.9 When neutral sites are utilized, the liability for goal security is broad-based. When playing at a neutral field, both teams will be responsible for securely anchoring the goals. It is recommended that all coaches routinely bring goal anchors to all games.

21.2 Valid Pass

Each coach and team administrator must register with Indiana Youth Soccer and carry a valid Indiana Youth Soccer coaching/bench pass to matches.

21.3 KidSafe Disclosure Forms

All team coaches must have, on file with Indiana Youth Soccer, a completed and signed Indiana Youth Soccer KidSafe disclosure statement. A background check must be completed and approved prior to a coach beginning league play.

21.4 Minimum Coaching Education Standards

Indiana Youth Soccer will approve guidelines which include minimum coaching standards for coaches. Coaches participating in the ISL must adhere to these published minimum coaching education standards.

21.5 Coaching Conduct

Coaches in the ISL are expected to exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship. In the event the referee determines the conduct of the coach is detrimental to the game, the referee may ask the coach to leave the immediate vicinity. Immediate vicinity shall be defined as sufficient distance from the playing field where the offending party cannot cause additional disruptions to the game. This is considered the "Out of Sight and Out of Sound" principle.

- 22.5.1 Any coach ejected from an ISL game for serious offenses may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing. Penalties for serious offenses can include (but is not limited to) completion of referee certification, probation, and suspension.

21.6 Coaches Game Reports

Coaches' game reports will be filed via a secure web site

All game reports must be submitted within 48 hours of the game's conclusion. Red card offenses must be reported to the league within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game.

Section 22 AWARDS

The Advisory Council shall determine the league, team and individual awards to honor significant achievement. The ISL will publish the description and criteria for all awards prior to each season.

Section 23 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

The League Commissioner, Advisory Council, Indiana Youth Soccer Executive Director and the Indiana Youth Soccer Board of Directors reserve the authority to make decisions and resolve conflicts for matters not otherwise provided for in this copy of the ISL Rules, Policies, and Procedures.