

INDIANA SOCCER
Minimum Coaching Standards
Revised December 2011

On June 1st, 2007 Indiana Soccer’s Board of Directors amended the minimum coaching standards. The minimum coaching standards for recreation and recreation-plus coaches was suspended. Even though the minimum standards have been suspended for the recreation and recreation-plus coaches there is no substitute for an educated coach. All recreation and recreation-plus coaches are encouraged to continue their growth and should take full advantage of **FREE** coaching education that Indiana Soccer provides. Note: The minimum coaching standards for clubs that have a director of coaching has not been revised or suspended.

The table below is the minimum standard for all TRAVEL (head and assistant) coaches. It is recommended that each coach attempts to exceed these minimum standards.

Revised Minimum Coaching Standards for Indiana Soccer

Age(s)	USSF	NSCAA Equivalent	AYSO Equivalent
*Club Directors of Coaching	Travel USSF C License Recreation/Rec-Plus National Youth License	NSCAA Travel National Diploma Recreation/Rec-Plus National Youth Diploma	None
U15 and up	Travel (MRL & ISL) USSF D Certificate Travel (All other travel leagues) USSF E Beginning Fall of 2013 ALL MRL MUST have a “C” license or equivalent.	Travel None	NA
U13/14	Travel (MRL & ISL) USSF E Travel (All other travel leagues) USSF “F” or Indiana Youth Soccer Youth Technical Course Beginning Fall of 2013 ALL MRL MUST have a “C” license or equivalent.	Travel NSCAA Regional Diploma	Travel, AYSO Advanced
U11/12	Travel Indiana Youth Soccer Youth Technical Course	Travel NSCAA Regional Diploma	Travel AYSO Advanced
U 9/10	Travel Indiana Youth Soccer Youth Technical Course	Travel NSCAA State Diploma	

* Club Director of Coaching - A club director of coaching is defined as an individual coach who is directly involved with the hiring and/or releasing of coaches for the club, A club director of coaching

is also in charge of the education of coaches, players, and parents. A club director of coaching is an individual who writes policies and/or manuals for the club in relation to coach, player, and team development.

Below is the **recommendation** for Recreation and Recreation-Plus coaches:

- U6 and U8 Recreation Youth Module 1
- U10 and U12 Recreation Youth Module 2
- U13 and up Recreation and Recreation Plus USSF “F” or Indiana Youth Technical Certificate

Below is what is **recommended** for each coach to try and obtain **after the minimum** is reached:

- Recreation/Travel Coaches U9-U12-Recommended E Certificate
- Recreation Coaches U13-U14-Recommended D License
- Travel Coaches U13-U14-Recommended D, C License
- Recreation Coaches U15 and up-Recommended D License
- Travel Coaches U15 and up-Recommended D, C, B, or A License

The purposes for requiring coaches to become educated are many. Here are some of the reasons why coaching education is important for coaches of all ages and how it helps to create a better playing environment.

- To increase your effectiveness as a coach by enhancing your knowledge of fundamental concepts such as:
 - Philosophy of coaching
 - Age appropriate training of children
 - Prevention of injuries
 - Care of injuries
 - Team management
 - Risk management issues
- To protect you from civil lawsuits. If you are ever sued for an injury to one of your athletes (although rare), you can present a much better legal defense as a result of being educated and trained.
- To increase your knowledge on how to properly teach technique and tactics.
- To ease the worry of volunteer coaches who have never played or have limited experience in the game.
- To arm coaches with activities (not drills) that will provide for a safe and fun learning environment.
- “There’s no substitute for an educated coach”

To end, ask yourself the question “What are your expectations of your child’s coach?”

Deferment

Any coach who cannot meet the licensing requirement is required to apply for a deferment. A deferment is an approval to coach until the licensing requirement can be satisfied. A deferment is granted for one year only. All requests for a deferment must be submitted to the INDIANA SOCCER Director of Coaching as part of the team registration process. A potential coach would complete a deferment request. The Club Coach (or their designee) would review essential information (including, but not limited to, sportsmanship, risk management and age- appropriate concerns) deemed essential by the Club with the candidate coach and sign the deferment request prior to the coach commencing with the players. The club would then submit the deferment request to Indiana Soccer within seven (7) days of the candidate coach having his/her first session with players. Indiana Soccer would formally respond to the deferment request within thirty (30) days of receipt. However, If no response is received within seven (7) days the deferment is considered approved for one year.

Waiting Period

There is no waiting period between the Youth Module 1, Youth Module 2, F/Youth Technical Certificate, and E certificates. It is recommended that you apply what you have learned in your coaching education experience to the age group that you are coaching for at least one season.

There is a 6 month waiting period for those who have obtained an E Certificate and desire to pursue a D License. The waiting period is so coaches have a better opportunity to apply what they have learned.

There is a one year waiting period for those who have obtained a National D License and desire to pursue a C License. The waiting period is enforced by the USSF.

License Conversion

A coach who has completed the equivalent to the minimum coaching standard from a foreign country can request to have their license converted over to a Youth Module 1, Youth Module 2, or USSF E Certificate. In order to do this, the following must be submitted to the INDIANA SOCCER Director of Coaching and Player Development:

- Completed License Conversion Application
- Proof of completion of an equivalent course (copy of certificate/license)
- A conversion may take up to 3-6 weeks to process.

There are no license conversions for the USSF D or USSF C.

Waiver

Waivers are possible to get into the D License Course. A waiver is not the same as a certificate, license, or license conversion. A waiver allows a coach the opportunity to take the D License Course. Waivers are granted at the sole discretion of the INDIANA SOCCER Director of Coaching and Player Development. All candidates seeking a waiver must fill out the Coaching Course waiver application and submit it to the INDIANA SOCCER Director of Coaching Education at least 4 weeks prior to the start of a scheduled D course.

Waivers will be evaluated in accordance to the Region II standards:

1. License level with an outside organization

2. Coaching Experience
3. Playing Experience
4. Submit a sample lesson plan
5. Submit E Methods Exam and Laws of The Game Examination

Any candidate who receives an E course waiver and fails the D License will have to attend an E course, wait the 6 month period before attempting the D License again.

There are no waivers for the Youth Modules.

Upgrading D Licenses

Candidates that wish to upgrade from a State D to a National D, must wait a period of 3 months. Candidates then must repeat and retest the entire second weekend of the D course. Cost: Free

Course Descriptions

"D" License Course Length: 36 hours Prerequisites: Candidates must hold "E" Certificate for at least 6 months and be a minimum of 18 years of age or have the approval of the State Director of Coaching to attend. **Curriculum**

Emphasis of the "D" Course:

To prepare coaches to further develop the player's technical abilities and their application within the game. Increase the understanding of the Principles of Play and how they are applied in the game. Expand the coaches understanding of 11 a-side soccer and the importance of developing a team system that is based on the player's abilities.

"E" Certificate Course Length: 18 hours Prerequisites: None
Curriculum Emphasis of the "E" Certificate:

The curriculum focuses on the development of the player, both individually and as part of the team. The emphasis will be to build on the players' technical development by applying tactical concepts within game situations.

Youth Technical Certificate (or USSF F) Length: 6 hours Prerequisites: None
Curriculum Emphasis of the "Youth Technical Certificate/USSF F"

The Youth Technical Course/USSF F is designed for that coach who may or may not be coaching for the first time and may or may not have any playing background. The course focuses on activities that will identify the proper techniques necessary to play soccer at any level and give the participants ideas on how to successfully plan and conduct training sessions. While technically geared towards enhancing individual's performance, training activities will be presented that will assist in the development of the team.

Youth Modules - Level I & II Length: 2 ½-3 hours Prerequisites: None Level I - U-6 & U-8 age groups Level II - U-10& U-12 age groups Curriculum Emphasis of the Youth Modules:

The content of Youth Modules is the same as the National Youth License Course and is age specific. The Youth Module 1 (5-8 year olds) and Youth Module 2 (9-12 year olds) course will focus on the characteristics of these ages plus show age appropriate activities to use in practice. The idea that the game is within the child is emphasized in this course.

Prerequisites

There are no pre-requisites for the Youth Module 1, Youth Module 2, F/Youth Technical Certificate, and E Certificate.

D License-Candidates must be at least 18 years of age. Must have had held an E Certificate or equivalent for at least 6 months or have the INDIANA SOCCER Director of Coaching approval.

State Hosted C Course-Candidates must be at least 18 years of age. Must have had held a D License for at least one year or have the following equivalent:

1. Applicant received the NSCAA National Diploma and has held it for a minimum of 12 months.
2. Applicant has three (3) years coaching experience **AND** three years playing experience with U.S. National Teams or three (3) years professional playing experience.

National Youth License-Candidates must be at least 18 years of age.

Goalkeeper Certificate-Candidates must be at least 18 years of age.

Open Policy

All INDIANA SOCCER coaching courses are open to any coach from any club or association that is registered with the INDIANA SOCCER.