



June 18, 2009

Dear Presidents, Directors of Coaching and Coaches:

Over the past few months many of the adult caretakers of youth soccer in Indiana have held discussions about the format for U-9 and U-10 travel soccer. These discussions gave Club Directors of Coaching, Club Presidents, Travel Leagues and Indiana Youth Soccer the opportunity to offer opinion and insight from a variety of perspectives. The format for U9/U10 travel soccer in other states has been researched- and the US Youth Soccer and US Soccer Best Practices have also been taken into consideration.

With tryouts quickly approaching, it is now time to move forward.

Below, please find several important items outlining the plan for U8/U9/U10 travel soccer beginning with the fall 2009 season. Although considerably later than desired, the plan for U9 and U10 travel soccer in 2009-2010 has required significant dialogue, input and consideration. Hopefully, the information below will help you communicate this plan to current and potential members of your club.

- Academy or Teams?
 - Clubs may offer both Academy and Team formats.
 - Clubs may participate in either an “Academy” format or a “Team” format for U9 and U10 travel soccer.
 - Expanded registrations will be allowed for both formats
 - Academy format will have flexible scheduling for matches created by Academy Directors/Academy coaches.
 - Academy clubs will have the flexibility to determine the number of games in one day, number of mini-matches, etc.
 - Strong recommendation that an Academy player plays no more than 60 minutes in a day (knowing that travel/ expenses may dictate otherwise)
 - Team format will have schedules created by Indiana Youth Soccer affiliated travel leagues

- U8's
 - Clubs will be allowed to register an unlimited number of U8 players. Each Club/ Club Director of Coaching will make this determination.
 - It is recommended that U8 players are accepted on a case-by-case basis and placed with U9/U10 players only when it is the best interest of that child's individual development (see US Soccer Best Practices Document)
 - It is recommended that clubs should have a game day roster that includes at least 50% U9/U10 age players. Example: Game day roster has 12 players. At least six of the players should be U9 or U10.
 - U8's will be allowed to play within the U9 or U10 Academy or Team format, using the club pass system if applicable.
 - It is recommended that U8 players play up only one age group.
 - U/8 only teams will not be permitted for regular league play.

- Club Pass
 - In the U8-U10 level of travel soccer, the Club Pass options will not be limited to four club pass players per team. Therefore, a club may select any number of players to utilize the club pass.

As discussion and planning with the regional travel leagues is finalized, the regional travel leagues and Indiana Youth Soccer will be working together to provide more detailed information prior to the beginning of tryouts on June 26th.

Thank you for your patience as we all work together to provide formats and options which benefit the many different desires and needs of the Indiana Youth Soccer member clubs.

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