

## **2013-2014 Tournament & Cup Report – Angel Hall, Chairman**

The Tournament and Cup Committee is responsible for managing and/or assisting with the following events:

- The US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Indiana State Cup
- The US Youth Soccer Indiana Presidents Cup
- The Indiana Soccer Challenge Cup
- The US Youth Soccer Kohl's American Cup
- Sanctioned Tournaments

2014 Cup Committee members were:

- Angel Hall, Chairman – Warsaw
- Sarah Cantwell, Staff Liaison – Indianapolis
- Jennifer Austin, Staff Support – Fort Wayne
- George Perry, ISL Commissioner - Zionsville
- Thom Parks, Member – Zionsville
- Mike Williams, Member - Evansville
- Samir Yasa, SRA – Noblesville
- Ann Cline, SRC - Noblesville

### **Indiana State Cup, Presidents Cup and Challenge Cup**

The Indiana State Cup has a defined number of brackets offered with a maximum of 12 teams in each age group U13 to U17, and 16 teams for U18 for both genders. Teams that did not qualify for the Indiana State Cup became eligible to enter into the Presidents Cup. The Presidents Cup has a defined number of brackets offered with a maximum of 16 teams in each age group U11 to U17. Teams that did not qualify for the Presidents Cup became eligible for the Challenge Cup. A combined total of 540 teams participated in the cup events.

### **Indiana State Cup, Presidents Cup and Challenge Cup Scheduling & Games**

There were a total of 849 games played for the 2014 Indiana Cup games. Scheduling such a huge event throughout the state requires a tremendous understanding of logistics and knowledge of bracket complexities. The schedule was adjusted to limit travel, minimize team expenses and to accommodate school activities such as prom and graduation for U17 and U18 teams. Another component of the schedule involves the challenge of accommodating coaches who coach multiple teams in different brackets.

By petition from the Clubs and approval of the Cup Committee, State Cup teams were bracketed in groups of 3 teams with 4 brackets per age division/gender for the preliminary round games. This eliminated the need for Wildcards in State Cup. Three (3) team brackets, however, created a scheduling challenge. Due to the need to comply with US Soccer Best Practices, and create fair game schedules, the State Cup teams were permitted to self-schedule all their preliminary round games.

Many of the State Cup games were still played on the prescribed preliminary weekend even though teams had the opportunity to schedule sooner.

To continue to comply with US Soccer's Best Practices, the Tournament and Cup Committee made provisions for the U15-U17 Presidents Cup teams to hold one of their preliminary round games as a self-scheduled game on a different date chosen by the teams. By doing this, the teams played each of their remaining two games in a "one game a day format" on the cup preliminary round weekend. This provided better and safer competition for the teams and players and continues to be well received by the Clubs and coaches.

### **Hoosier Cup**

The Hoosier Cup (rec plus tournament) was removed from the list of offered events in 2014 due to lack of participation by the rec plus teams in Indiana.

### **Cup Host Sites**

In 2014, the Indiana Cup events were hosted as combined events for the preliminary rounds and finals. The following clubs hosted games for the 2014 cup events:

- Preliminary Rounds - Fort Wayne – Hefner Complex hosted by Fort Wayne United.
- Preliminary Rounds – Terre Haute – Springhill Soccer Complex, hosted by Vigo County Youth Soccer
- Preliminary Rounds – Westfield– Grand Park Sports Campus, hosted by Westfield Youth Soccer.
- Preliminary Rounds - Columbus - Richard Wigh Soccer Complex, hosted by Columbus Express Soccer Club
- Finals – Westfield – Grand Park Sports Campus, hosted by Westfield Youth Soccer.

Additional activities were also added at the finals event including TOPSoccer games, and other festival activities for the participants to enjoy.

### **2014 US Youth Soccer Region II Championships and National Finals**

The Region II Championships were played in Ohio. Indiana sent champion teams in every age division to the event. No team from Indiana advanced from Regionals to Nationals.

### **2014 US Youth Soccer Region II Presidents Cup and National Finals**

The Region II Presidents Cup games were played in Kansas. Indiana sent champion teams in every age division to the event. Two Indiana team were successful in capturing the regional titles:

U17 Girls      FC Evansville Shooting Stars

The US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup finals were held in Greenville, South Carolina. Indiana Soccer sent one regional champion. FC Evansville Shooting Stars were not successful in winning a national title, but did receive the Fair Play Award as voted on by their peers, referees, and event staff.

### **2014 Regional Referee Selections**

The SRA/SYRA, with the assistance of the State Referee Committee (SRC), selected the top referees who participated in the preliminary and final rounds of the Indiana State Cup and Presidents Cup to participate in the Region II Championship games.

### **2014 Indiana Youth Soccer Sanctioned Tournaments**

During 2014, 31 club tournaments were sanctioned by Indiana Soccer. Post tournament reports are filed by the tournament host; these reports are reviewed and copies are maintained at the state office. The Zionsville Socctoberfest Tournament has been awarded Tournament of the Year for 2013-2014 for their outstanding attention to customer service and the professional manner in which they operate their tournament.

### **Future:**

The 2015 cup play dates will be as follows:

- All preliminary round games played as self-scheduled games will be completed by May 17, 2015.
- All regularly scheduled preliminary round games will be played on May 15-17, 2015 at one of the four (4) sites chosen to host the preliminary round events.
  - Elkhart – NIBCO Soccer Complex – Elkhart Flames Soccer Club
  - Evansville – Goebel Soccer Complex – SWISA
  - Westfield – Grand Park – Indiana Fire Juniors
  - Columbus – Richard Wigh Soccer Complex – Columbus Express Soccer Club
- The finals will be played on May 30-31, 2015 and held at Grand Park, Westfield.