

2017-2018 Member Services Department – Sarah Cantwell, Director

Player Registration

- Total youth player registration for the year increased from the previous year's registration numbers. Most of the increase can be found in the rec+ registered players. 2017-18 figures can be found in the Club Vote Count document within the Book of Reports in the first section – Annual General Meeting. In general, the number of travel players that registered during the seasonal year 2017-2018 was 17,872 which is similar to the previous year. The number of Recreational Plus players was (5, 870) and Recreational player registrations in 2017-2018 were 33,571.
- For 2017-2018, Indiana Soccer used Gotsoccer for the registration of all players and coaches
 - More club registrars are taking advantage of the program that allows the club to print their team's player passes. All players are required to have head shot photos and have their date of birth validated prior to allowing a club to print their own passes using the Gotsoccer System. Birth certificates can be uploaded into the player profile and the state office registrar can validate them and lock their dates of birth in the system. Once that is complete, the birth date cannot be change, and the pass can be generated with a valid state registrar signature on the bottom. This process, that requires a little time in the beginning, saves significant time in the long-run as the birthdate never has to be validated again.
 - GotSoccer still provides the state association with the registration and tournament applications at no cost. (a \$30,000/year savings)
 - Risk Management background checks are completed through Gotsoccer's platform as well. Each adult is given a profile in the system and completes a disclosure which is automatically submitted to Indiana Soccer's background check provider. In the summer of 2018, Indiana Soccer switched background check providers. Backgroundchecks.com is the current preferred background check provider. Indiana Soccer incurred a slight fee increase by making the change to backgroundchecks.com, however, the background check is a more robust check than that which was conducted previously. Indiana Soccer initiated 3,750 adult and referee background checks during the 17-18 seasonal year.
- Invoicing continues to be done in each club account in the Indiana Gotsoccer System. Clubs can and should view and print their registration invoices directly from the club account. Timely payments are appreciated. Unfortunately, late fees are assessed after deadlines are exhausted. If you have questions about how to respond timely to registration fees etc. Please don't hesitate to contact Amber Cremeens at Amber@soccerindiana.org.

Risk Management

Risk Management encompasses much more than a background check.

- **Safe Sports Act** – A federal was passed in February 2018 that holds adults criminally liable for not reporting suspected child abuse. The law requires that the associations provide education to all adult that are anyway associated with organization activities. This includes parents, coaches, and all administrators. **Ministry Safe** is the partner that Indiana Soccer has engaged to provide the educational compliance component of the law and the cost of this tool is already

included in your member benefits. You should have receive information on how your organization can engage with Ministry Safe. If not, please contact Angel at angel@soccerindiana.org or 317-975-2022. The implementation of Ministry Safe is part of the Five Star Program that Indiana Soccer is promoting for club development.

- Goal Safety – making sure goals are secure, safe and kept free of “horseplay” by children. Coaches, managers and club officials are encouraged to develop a system where all the goals are routinely checked and anchored safely. The development of a “Risk Manager” position in each club is strongly suggested;
- Severe Weather Plans – this includes plans for play during extreme temperatures and lightning; Clubs should develop a plan BEFORE it is needed. All clubs should have an air horn or loud speaker that can be used to clear the fields should that be necessary.
- Field Safety - keeping the playing fields clear of debris, sharp objects and other items that could result in injury to the players, referees and spectators. Holes in the field should be filled.
- Parking lot safety – signage should be placed along the entrance and exits of soccer complexes warning of “darting children”. Speed limits should be at maximum lows. Clubs are encouraged to constantly remind drivers to watch for children in parking lots as well.
- Player Safety - teaching coaches how to recognize and treat heat-related illnesses and how to adhere to extreme weather guidelines. Concussion awareness remains an important component of player, coach manager, parent and administrator education. Indiana Soccer is partnered with SportGait to provide a digital tool to help identify potential concussions. This tool also assists an injured party find the appropriate medical provider to fully diagnose and if necessary, treat the injured player. The tool also retains a digital record of the initial assessment and provides for a digital record of treatment and the release of a player to return to play. This digital record is important to each member organization and we strongly suggest that you implement the use of SportGait though out your organization.

Background Checks

- All adults having significant contact with club players or club funds are required by Indiana Soccer to have a background check performed every two years. This includes all members of a club’s Board of Directors. The cost for these National Criminal Background checks is included in your member benefits. Each adult can access their own personal account in Gotsoccer to fill out their disclosure. Approval appears in th adult’s account once the background check has been processed successfully. If a background check produces questionable information that could disqualified an adult from participating in the organizations, the organization’s risk management coordinator will be informed.
- Approximately 3,750 background checks were performed in 2017-18.
- Background checks were also performed for all referees aged 18 and older.
- Referees and coaches under the age of 18 are not required to submit a disclosure. However, those under 18 years of age must complete the Age Verification process in their profile before being approved.
- A background check on an individual is good for two years.
- Clubs can be held liable for any proven claims against adults in their membership if a background check was not performed. It is imperative that each participating adult be vetted by submitting to a background check.

Concussion Awareness and Education

- Concussion awareness is a very new and important focus by all state soccer associations as well as state legislatures.
- Concussion protocol is being developed and enforced in all sports – soccer is no different
- Indiana Soccer worked with Gotsoccer to link a concussion education program with the Gotsoccer registration program. A coach or manager is encouraged to log into their own profile account in Gotsoccer, to access the CDC's (Center for Disease Control) concussion education. One can complete the course on line in under an hour and successfully completing the course allows a small CDC reference to appear on the coaching or manager pass indicating that the course has been successfully completed. This is mandatory for coaches in Indiana Soccer.

Insurance

- The state office oversees the liability and secondary medical insurance coverage for the membership. Insurance claims are processed through the state office with Pullen Insurance Services. All claims are immediately reviewed and validated by staff upon receipt and sent to Pullen Insurance for processing, review and settlement. Rising insurance costs and a rising number of claims submitted by players without primary insurance have resulted in higher costs to the state association for this valuable service and benefit. Player fees were increased at the Annual General Meeting to help offset these costs. Adult player memberships also provide for medical and liability insurance.
- Clubs are encouraged to communicate with their members that secondary medical insurance coverage exists and how to use it. Any questions about insurance coverage should be directed to the state office.
- Monetary theft by volunteers or paid club personnel is a real threat or possibility within youth soccer organizations. Historically, this type of theft is reported to the state office by at least one member club each year. Indiana Soccer and Pullen Insurance offer a policy for affordable insurance coverage (Fidelity Bond) for club purchase and thus lessen the risk of severe monetary loss by theft. Consideration of the purchase of a Fidelity Bond (insurance) is strongly encouraged by Indiana Soccer. An application for this policy can be found on the Indiana Soccer website including coverage information.
- Insurance providers are increasingly becoming wary of concussion exposure. Please be aware that the industry could alter how brain injuries are insured in the future.

Inclusion in Indiana Soccer's Group Ruling

- Indiana Soccer, several years ago, solicited and received from the IRS, a 501-c-3 group ruling election. This was done to create a way for member clubs to enjoy 501-c-3 benefits without investing the time and money associated with applying for the ruling on your own. This process requires some written exchange between Indiana Soccer and the member club/league.
- The member agrees to conduct itself as a 501-c-3 and timely file annual documents as required of a 501-c-3 organization i.e. filing a 990 or 990 EZ depending upon the amount of annual revenue. The 990EZ is a simple form and not extremely challenging to complete.
- Currently 16 Indiana Soccer Affiliated and Allied Members receive inclusion in this group ruling.
- Komets Soccer Club and Rachael's First Week, Inc. were recently approved to fall under this umbrella by the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors.

Meetings and Events

Annual General Meeting and Workshops

- The 2018 Membership Annual General Meeting was held March 3, 2018 at the Renaissance North Hotel in Carmel, IN
- On the evening of Saturday, March 3rd, Indiana Soccer hosted the Annual Awards Gala which coincided with the Indiana Soccer Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. This event, also held at the Renaissance, sold out again this year. Three new candidates were inducted into the Indiana Soccer Hall of Fame.
- Attendees to the workshops were offered a continental breakfast, light lunch and free beverages during the day.
- The theme of this year's AGM workshops was the introduction of Indiana Soccer's new FIVE STAR PROGRAM.

Service Awards

- Each year, Indiana Soccer offers the membership an opportunity to recognize people in thirteen categories for outstanding achievement or service. The categories include:
 - Administrator of the Year
 - Good of Soccer
 - Parent of the Year
 - Recreation Coach of the Year
 - Boys Coach of the Year
 - Girls Coach of the Year
 - Young Male Referee of the Year
 - Young Female Referee of the Year
 - Referee of the Year
 - James Carson Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award
 - Tournament of the Year
 - Team Manager of the Year
 - Club Director of Coaching of the Year
- The top four candidates for each award were invited to the 2018 Awards Dinner where the winner for each category was announced and presented with an award. The winners are listed separately in this report.
- Indiana Soccer players Anna Rosato from South Bend and Ian Knight from Franklin were presented with 2018 Spirit Awards by Joy Carter, Indiana Soccer ODP Administrator.
- The President's Award this year was presented to S. Rocco Zirrile (17 yr. old) from Ft. Wayne for his work to provide a Futsal court for the children in Ft Wayne.