



## Club Passing – Indiana Soccer League (ISL)

The club pass concept is when a club uses a player from within their own club to play for another team for a league match. It is not the same as secondary rostering or guest players. Players are put on a roster, but the club is allowed to use other players from within their own club for a league match. ISL rules do not allow two teams that play in the same play group to club pass between themselves unless the placement is done by ISL and not the request of the club.

### Purpose:

- Allow coaches more freedom to move players within their own club.
- Eliminate administrative paperwork for member clubs who wish to move players internally.
- To create a “club” mentality over a “team”. Players will hopefully take more pride in playing for a club which will reduce the temptation to move to another club.
- To provide developmental opportunities for players by being allowed to experience “playing up”.

### When to club pass a player:

- One of your teams is short players and there are not enough remaining players on the team in need to put a fair representation on the field.
- Reward a player for the production and effort by club passing them to a “higher” team in your club.
- A player on a “higher” team is not getting sufficient playing time and you have the opportunity to club pass that player to a lower division team in their age group.
- **Players should not be club passed “down” to help gain a result.**

### Moving a Player “Up” (when changing formats: i.e. 10U player joining an 11U/12U team)

- A maximum of four players may club pass up in play format. These players are still to be rostered to the younger team/pool. Complete and submit their ISL Application for Player Exception Form and submit to George Perry, [george@soccerindiana.org](mailto:george@soccerindiana.org). Upon review, the player(s) will be club passed to the requested team by ISL.

### Moving a Player “Up” (when not changing formats: i.e. 11u to 12U, 13U to 14U...)

- An unlimited number of players may move “up” in competitive divisions (i.e. from 2<sup>nd</sup> Division to 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Premier or GLC/MWC).

### Moving a Player “Down” (ages 13U – 19/20U)

- Players may only move “down” one Division (i.e. from GLC/MWC to Premier, 1<sup>st</sup> Division to 2<sup>nd</sup> Division)
  - Players who are club passed “down” should come from the bottom ¼ of the higher team’s roster and not be starters on the “higher” team.
  - **Players should not be club passed “down” to help gain a result.**
- Exception: If a club does not have a team directly below one of their teams (i.e. a club has a Premier Division team and their next lowest team is in 2<sup>nd</sup> Division), the club pay list a maximum of four (4) players from their higher team who would be eligible to club pass “down” to the lower division team.
  - Those players listed should come from the bottom ¼ of the “higher” team’s roster and may not be starters on the “higher” team.

- This list needs to be submitted to the ISL Commissioner prior to the game they are to play.
- If a club chooses to roster a player on an older team, that player may not pass a division in their playing year or their birth year when club passing “down”.
  - Example: A 15U player is rostered to a 16U ISL Premier team. The club has a 15U wnd Division team and a 16U 1<sup>st</sup> division team. This player may not club pass to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division team even though it is in the player’s age group since the player has the opportunity to get playing time on the 1<sup>st</sup> Division team.
- **Players should not be club passed “down” to help gain a result.**

### **Moving a Player “Down” (ages 11U & 12U)**

- Players playing 11U & 12U can move “down” unlimited divisions unless they are a starter on the “higher” division team. Starters are no allowed to club pass “down”. Example: a non-starter on a 2<sup>nd</sup> Division team may club pass to a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Division team within the club.
- **Players should not be club passed “down” to help gain a result.**

### **Club Passing when a Club has Two Teams in the Same Play Group Because of the Grouping by ISL**

- This is a situation created by the number of teams applying to ISL in a particular age group or Division (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>) within a specific geographic area. This does not pertain to the situation when a club may have two teams participating in ISL Premier or 1<sup>st</sup> Divisions.
  - Example 1: Club A has Team A apply to 14U 2<sup>nd</sup> Division and Team B apply to 14U 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. Because of the lack of numbers of teams applying to those divisions within the geographic area, the two teams are placed in the same play group, 14U 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Division by ISL.
  - Example 2: Club B has Team A apply to 15U 2<sup>nd</sup> Division and Team B apply to 16U 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. Because of the lack of numbers of teams applying to those divisions within the geographic area, the two teams are placed in the same play group, 15/16U 2<sup>nd</sup> Division by ISL.
- In cases like these examples, Team A and Team B should each have a distinct roster with designated rostered players. From there the club may club pass players from Team A to Team B and players from Team B to Team A to help make the play date reasonable with substitutions, somewhere between two and four substitutes. The players who are club passed should be from the bottom of their primary roster, should not be starters on their primary team and should not exceed four players. Exceptions would need to be approved by the ISL Commissioner.
- When teams turn in their game card to the referee and their opponent, names of players not participating in that game should be crossed off the game card. Jersey numbers should be accurate to the players participating in that game and must be unique from each of their teammates (tape is allowed). A player is not allowed to participate in a game if their name is not typed on the game card by getsoccer.

### **Logistics:**

- Clubs will still roster players with Indiana Soccer
- All players registered to teams within the same club are club pass eligible (with exceptions listed in this document).
- There will be no secondary rostering when using club passing.
- When a team needs player(s) for a match, they use players within their own club.
- The number of players on the sideline, however, may not exceed the maximum players per game.

**How to Club Pass a Player:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBKUvi9GgUk>

### **Game Day Procedure: 11U through 19/20U**

Prior to ISL matches, each team must provide the following:

- Two (2) copies of their OFFICIAL ISL GAME CARD printed from your GOTSOCCKER team account.
  - One copy for the referee and one copy for your opponent
  - A player's name **MUST** be on the game card (typed by Gotsoccer) or the player **MAY NOT** play.
  - The reason why both teams bring the game cards is the one that printed their cards closest to the game will have the most accurate one.
- Player passes will be checked at the start of each game by the referee.
  - Player passes, hard copies or virtual (a combination of the two may be used), must be shown. They are to verify the name on the game card and the face on the player card matches.
  - After the players have been check in, the passes are to be returned to the team.
- Player cards alone are not enough. The player's name MUST be on the game card.
- The only exception to any of the above would be if a letter/email was presented from the ISL Commissioner or Administrator.

### **Game Day Procedure: 8U thru 10U**

Prior to ISL matches, each team must provide one of the following to the referee:

- A State Roster Pool list with the players participating that day highlighted or checked.
- A copy of the game card with the players' names typed on the card.
- A player pass, either hard copy or virtual.

### **Consequences for Abuse:**

- If a player is club passed down contrary to the policy, the coach of the team playing may be suspended one game for the first incident and the game will be recorded as a forfeit.
- Repeat offenses will be addressed by the ISL Commissioner and not limited to season suspension.

### **Recommendations:**

- Please take into account the age and developmental appropriateness of club passing.
- Use club passing as a reward for player(s) who have shown improvement throughout the season.
- Communicate clearly to all of your parents and players the purpose of club passing.

**Club passing should not take place unless the Director of Coaching for the Club is aware and approves.**