

## The 2013-2014 Executive Director's annual report – Dave Guthrie

It is my pleasure to report on the condition and developments of 2013/14 of Indiana Soccer.

**Club Development:** The soccer landscape continues to change. The most notable aspect of this change is the speed with which change is occurring. The demands on the community-based soccer clubs have intensified and it does not appear that these demands will lessen any time in the near future. Finding the right balance between volunteers, which are becoming more difficult to recruit, and professional staff is complicated. Collecting and maintaining timely, accurate, auditable financial data has become more complex and demanding. Technology is ever changing and the families who participate in club programming are requesting that the club implement and make use of new technology in order to help families cope with their complicated and demanding schedules. Your state association stands ready to help and encourages you to take advantage of this member benefit.

**State Office Staff- distinguished endeavors:** Steve Franklin hosted a dozen coaches from the country of Tajikistan as part of a US State Department funded initiative. Dr. Lindsey Blom, an Associate Professor of Sport and Exercise Psychology at Ball State University, was awarded the State Department grant. Lindsey was an Olympic Development player for Indiana Soccer not that long ago.

The first part of the grant initiative involved being host to these coaches; exposing them to coaching methods implemented in the US along with providing some hands on experience with US players and coaches. Steve arranged for these folks to visit Soccer House in Chicago, and to experience a Chicago Fire game. He arranged for them to watch an Indy Eleven game, watch and experience the Pacer's home opener, and visit Grand Park just to mention a few of the activities Steve provided for these State Department guests. Steve will complete the State Departments initiative when he visits these same coaches in their environment of Tajikistan next year.

George Perry concluded his tenure as the president of the NSCAA on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Under George's direction, the NSCAA [the largest coaches association in the world] transformed their governance structure to a much more-high performing governance model, and expanded their membership considerably. A few of George's final acts as president caused him to share the platform with the likes of Sir Alex Ferguson (former manager of Manchester United), Pele' - Edson Arantes do Nascimento – (arguably the best soccer player ever), Don Garber (Commissioner of the MRL) and Landon Donavon (considered by many to be the best soccer player to come out of the United States). Indiana Soccer is fortunate to have George Perry lending his time and talent to serve as Indiana Soccer's league commissioner.

**Member Services:** Sarah Cantwell continues to develop methods to increase customer service. One such initiative is to expand her efforts to work with member clubs to help them learn how to enjoy the benefits of virtual playing cards. She remains available to assist in the process of using this most valuable tool. Sarah can be reached at [sarah@soccerindiana.org](mailto:sarah@soccerindiana.org).

**Adult Soccer:** There are a number of adults playing 11 v 11. However, there is a growing number of players looking to play small-sided. Please allow me to encourage you to consider offering small-sided adult play at you club. It is a wonderful way to involve more local soccer enthusiasts; to build relationships with potential volunteer coaches, and to provide a healthy activity for adults in your community. George Perry is always available to discuss adult playing format and or programming. George can be reached at [george@soccerindiana.org](mailto:george@soccerindiana.org).

**Membership:** Indiana Soccer added member clubs this past year. Please join me in welcoming the clubs into the Indiana Soccer family:

- Frankfort Champions – district 6
- Montgomery County United – District 8
- Decatur County Soccer Club – District 18
- Sunman Area Soccer Club – District 18
- Batesville Soccer Club – district 18
- Soccer Association of S. Spencer – District 19
- Southside Thunder (home schooled program) – District 13

**The Indiana Soccer League [ISL]** ISL expanded considerably this past year. George Perry addressed this expansion in the younger ages by creating conferences for the spring of 2015 that group teams by geography and within the conference, group by levels of play. The purpose for creating these conferences is multifold. Some of the drivers that underpin the development of conferences these are:

- Limit travel distances
- Manage overall costs
- Enhance customer service
- Provide for additional flexibility of scheduling and ease of making scheduling adjustments

**Tournament and Cup Director:** Angel Hall, Indiana Soccer's director of Cups and George Perry, ISL's commissioner, continue to streamline and integrate league and cup play. This continued effort resulted in cup play results last year that produced a large number of very close matches and a record number of overtime matches. The record number of overtime matches produced an added level of cup director/administrative demand. However, the added excitement these close matches add to the tournament is well worth the additional administrative demand.

**TOPSoccer** continues to grow and thrive under TOPSoccer's Joy Carters guidance and contribution of the many wonderful buddies, coaches and clubs that have embraced this initiative. If you do not offer a TOPSoccer program in your club, please allow me to invite you contact Joe Carter at [joy@soccerindiana.org](mailto:joy@soccerindiana.org). Joy is knowledgeable, capable and extremely passionate about kids with special needs. She will do all she can to help you develop a successful TOPSoccer offering.

**Indiana Soccer** continues to explore ways of extending playing opportunities to those who are not currently part of the Indiana Soccer family. One such outreach effort, led by Paco Espinosa, Indiana Soccer's Director of Marketing & Public Relations, is through a program entitled SCORE. Through this program, unserved and under-served populations are provided education and playing opportunities in an effort to elevate the quality of life through sport participation. Another such initiative involving SCORE is a collaborative effort by SCORE, the Indianapolis Parks Department, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, SportCourt, Indiana Soccer Foundation, and the Indiana Soccer Association. This initiative seeks to transform underutilized tennis courts into Futsal courts. If you are interested in expanding this concept to your community, please contact Paco Espinosa at [paco@soccerindiana.org](mailto:paco@soccerindiana.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Guthrie, Executive Director, Indiana Soccer Association