

2013-2014 Member Services Department – Sarah Cantwell, Director

Player Registration

- Indiana Youth Soccer welcomed six (6) new clubs during the time period ending 12-31-2014
 - Frankfort Champions – District 6
 - Decatur County Soccer Club – District 18
 - Sunman Area Soccer Club – District 18
 - Batesville Soccer Club (rec) – district 18
 - Soccer Association of S. Spencer – District 19
 - Southside Thunder (home schooled program)– District 13

- Total youth Player Registration Numbers for the year were up from the 2012-13 figures and 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 2013-14 (16,292) increased from the prior year by about 700 players. The number of Recreational Plus players (5045) reflects a decrease from the previous year of 55 players. Recreational player registrations increased from 2012-13 numbers to 35,971 reflecting an increase of 75 players.

- For 2013-14, Indiana Soccer used Gotsoccer for the registration of all players and coaches
 - New for 2013-14 seasonal year was the ability of club registrars to print their team’s player passes. All players must have head shot photos and have their date of birth validated before a team can be allowed to print their own passes in the Gotsoccer System. Birth Certificates can be uploaded into the player profile and the state office registrar can then see them and lock their dates of birth in the system. Once that is done, the date cannot change, and the pass can be generated with a valid registrar signature on the bottom. This process, while time consuming in the beginning will save teams time in the long run as the birthdate never has to be validated again. About 10 member clubs took advantage of this program during the year. More will do it in the future and it will become the norm in Indiana within the next few years.
 - All Indiana Soccer Competitive Leagues are using the program for league play scheduling and game reports and have access to player information for their league.
 - Referee administrators use the program to assign referees for all league games
 - The Indiana State Cup, Presidents Cup and Challenge Cup Tournaments used the program for the application, scheduling and game reporting process. Using Gotsoccer made the roster freeze and club pass approval process easier as well as scheduling.
 - GotSoccer still provides the state association with the registration and tournament applications for no cost. (a \$20,000/year savings)
 - Risk Management background checks are completed through Gotsoccer as well. Each adult is given a profile in the system and completes a disclosure which is automatically submitted to our background check provider, Choice Point. These background checks are good for two (2) years. The adults in the state using the system are becoming much more familiar with the process. A background check can be linked to multiple accounts for a single adult (such as coach, manager and referee) and that person is able to “surf”

- from one account to another without having to log out and log back in because of this change.
- The use of the Club Pass System for League and Cup Play made the availability of a club/team roster to league administrators a necessity. Gotsoccer developed a process whereby a club administrator can assign club pass players to a team and thus have these club pass players show up on a team's game card.
 - Many recreational clubs did not use Gotsoccer for their registration of players, and were able to send an excel file to the office for importation. This was done for a great number of clubs by the office staff with very little issues.
- Team approved rosters as well as team travel permits, now performed solely through the Gotsoccer System, and can be held in each team account are available for printing at any time.
 - Club 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. Payments for player registration still lag behind player registrations and clubs are being assessed late fees at the end of each season if the club was not given an extension for payment by the state office.

Risk Management

Risk Management encompasses much more than a background check. Emphasis on safety at the soccer fields is a top priority, and the state office is working to provide information on the following topics to help club officials keep all members safe:

- Goal Safety – making sure goals are secure, safe and kept free of “horseplay” by children. Coaches, managers and club officials have been 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. The AGM Workshops in 2011 held a seminar from SAFETY FIRST concerning on site defibrillators and the need for these devices at each club. New this year is an increased awareness of concussions. Coaches and Parents are encouraged to learn the symptoms of a concussion and to get a base line check of their child prior to play.

Other neighboring states have adopted laws which make it mandatory for any adult on the sidelines to have passed a concussion awareness program offered by the CDC. Teams playing in these states must follow that state's law. Plans have been developed in the fall of 2013 for Indiana Soccer to mandate concussion education for all coaches and managers for Spring 2014.

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 free of charge to the membership as part of their member benefits. Each adult must now access their own personal account in Gotsoccer to fill out their disclosure. The approval appears in this account once the background check has been run successfully. If a background check produces documentation of an individual with a criminal history that results in the adult being disqualified to coach within Indiana Soccer, the club risk management coordinator will be informed.
- Approximately 4,526 background checks were performed in 2013-14.
- Background checks were also performed for referees aged 18 and older.
- Referees and coaches under the age of 18 are not required to submit a disclosure, but must complete the Age Verification process in their profile before being approved.
- A background check on an individual is good for two years.
- Clubs will be held liable for any claims against adults in their membership if background checks are not performed.

Concussion Awareness and Education

- Concussion awareness is a very new and important focus by all state soccer associations as well as state legislatures. Indiana is no different.
- 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. Now a coach or manager can log into their own profile account and have access to CDC (Center for Disease Control) concussion education. They can actually complete the course on line in under an hour and a small CDC now appears on their coaching or manager pass indicating the course has been completed. This is mandatory in many states now, however, the Indiana Legislature has not mandated it.
- For the future, Indiana Soccer is also looking into base line testing of all athletes.

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 payment. 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. The deductible charged for each claim for the 2011-12 seasonal year was raised due to this but remained level in 2012-13.

- Adult player memberships also carry medical and liability insurance, although this insurance is provided by a different insurance company than the youth clubs. K & K Insurance handles the adult claims.
- 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 programs in general are increasingly wary of covering concussions, thus our insurance offerings could change

Meetings and Events

Annual General Meeting and Workshops

- The 2014 Membership Annual General Meeting was held February 7-9, 2014 at the Renaissance North Hotel in Carmel Indiana.
- On the evening of Saturday, February 8th, 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 North Hotel, sold out with over 410 people attending this night of celebration. Three new candidates were inducted into the Indiana Soccer Hall of Fame.
- Workshops were held this year, but attendance by our membership was extremely poor.
- Club Presidents and Directors of Coaching were treated to the “President’s Lunch” on Saturday and a program highlighting the Jordanian Exchange Program, Grand Park and Indy Eleven was presented. There were about 85 people in attendance for lunch.
- Alan Brown, Joe Fistrovich and Maureen Merhoff were reelected to the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting.

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
 - 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 2014 Awards Dinner at the Renaissance North Hotel where the winner for each category was announced and presented with an award. The 2014 winners are listed separately in this report.
 - Indiana Soccer players Collin Copelan and Julianna Stureman both from Fort Wayne, IN were presented with 2014 Spirit Awards by Joy Carter, Indiana Soccer ODP Administrator.
 - President's Awards were presented to the following:
 - Matthew Burkart
 - Ersal Ozdemir
 - Mark Spiegel
 - Andy Cook
 - Rob Smith