

2014-2015 Member Services Department – Sarah Cantwell, Director

Player Registration

- Total youth Player Registration Numbers for the year were significantly higher than the 2013-14 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 2014-15(17,820) increased from the prior year by about 1950 players. The number of Recreational Plus players (6,345) reflects a dramatic increase of players over the previous year (1500). Recreational player registrations increased from 2013-14 numbers to 36,948 reflecting an increase of approximately 750 players.
- A new SCORE program joined Indiana Soccer in 2015. Based in southern Indianapolis, the Near East Soccer Program is excited to join the organization and benefit from the many services that SCORE can offer the players, coaches and administrators.
- For 2014-15, Indiana Soccer used Gotsoccer for the registration of all players and coaches
 - More and more club registrars are taking advantage of the program that allows the club 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, saves teams time in the long run as the birthdate never has to be validated again. 26 member clubs took advantage of this program during the year.
 - Referee administrators use the program to assign referees for all league games
 - 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, First Advantage.
- 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 4,657 background checks were performed in 2014-15.
- 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.
- 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.
- Indiana Soccer is also looking into base line testing of all athletes and other options to limit the exposure of a concussed player.

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 has remained level since.
- 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 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. I would guess that the 990 EZ or the post card option would be applicable to your program. The 990EZ is a simple form and not extremely challenging to complete.
- Currently 16 Indiana Soccer Member clubs are have petitioned the Board of Directors of Indiana Soccer and received inclusion in this group ruling.

Meetings and Events

Annual General Meeting and Workshops

- The 2015 Membership Annual General Meeting was held January 31, 2015 at the Renaissance North Hotel in Carmel Indiana.
- On the evening of Saturday, January 31st, 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 395 people attending this night of celebration. Three new candidates were inducted into the Indiana Soccer Hall of Fame.
- Workshops were not held this year, as attendance by our membership the previous year was extremely poor.

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 2015 Awards Dinner at the Renaissance North Hotel where the winner for each category was announced and presented with an award. The 2015 winners are listed separately in this report.
- Indiana Soccer players Cameron Northern from Martinsville and Ryan Hague from Granger were presented with 2015 Spirit Awards by Joy Carter, Indiana Soccer ODP Administrator.
- President's Awards were presented to the following:
 - Jenny Stites
 - Kristin Pickett McMullan