

2011-2012 Member Services Department – Sarah Cantwell, Director

Player Registration

- Indiana Youth Soccer welcomed four (8) new clubs during the time period ending 12-15-2012
 - Baptist Soccer Club of Ft. Wayne District 20
 - Tri State Futbol Club District 18
 - Evansville Youth Soccer Club District 19
 - Revolution FC District 1
 - Southern Alliance of Indiana District 19
 - Schererville Soccer Club District 1
 - Score, Inc District 9
 - Power Soccer, Inc District 11

- Total youth Player Registration Numbers for the year were up slightly from the 2010-11 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 2011-12 (16,793) increased from the prior year by about 23 players. However, the number of Recreational Plus players (5104) reflects an increase over the previous year of more than 600 players. Recreational player registrations also increased from 2010-11 numbers to 35,670 reflecting an increase of 1600 players.

- For 2011-12 Indiana Soccer used Gotsoccer for the registration of all players and coaches
 - All Indiana Soccer Competitive Leagues were already using the program for league play scheduling and game reports and now had better 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 process easier as well as the scheduling process.
 - GotSoccer 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, Lexis Nexis. 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. This year, 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 Play made the availability of 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 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;
- “Tournament Cancellation Insurance” – Indiana Soccer has encouraged all sanctioned tournaments to investigate the merits of this product. Many clubs reported purchasing this policy however; the rates have been rising steadily and may reach a point where this insurance is not worth the risk.
- 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;
- 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.

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 4,507 background checks were performed in 2011-12.
- Background checks were also performed for referees aged 18 and older.
- 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.

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. All claims are immediately reviewed and validated by staff upon receipt and sent to Pullen Insurance for processing, review and payment. Rising insurance cost 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 fact.
- The new Adult 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.

Meetings and Events

Annual General Meeting and Workshops

- The 2012 Membership Workshops and Annual General Meeting were held at the Carmel Renaissance North Hotel February 25-26, 2012.
- On the evening of Saturday, February 25th, Indiana Soccer hosted the Annual Awards Dinner which coincided with the Indiana Soccer Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. This event sold out with over 400 people attending this night of celebration. Four new candidates were inducted into the Indiana Soccer Hall of Fame.
- The third annual “Coaches Legends Tournament” was held on Friday night, February 24th with 8 teams in the competition. Westside United was again crowned the champions. That makes them three time champions! A social event followed the games at the Renaissance.
- Club Presidents and Directors of Coaching were treated to the “President’s Breakfast” on Sunday morning and Indiana Soccer President Murray Clark also spoke during this gathering.
- The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday February 26th and attended by 36 member organizations.
- Two individuals were re-elected to serve on the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors – Anthony Zirille and Larry Rowland. One new board member was elected to serve a 3 year term – David Sherman.

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 2012 Awards Dinner at the Renaissance North Hotel where the winner for each category was announced and presented with an award. The 2012 winners are listed separately in this report.
- Indiana Soccer players Abebech Tekle-Wold and Isaac Toms were presented with 2012 Spirit Awards by Joy Carter, Indiana Soccer ODP Administrator.
- President's Awards were presented to the following:
 - Matthew Paul - For his dedication a boy scout Eagle Scout project converting an old crime and drug riddled patch of land in southern Indiana into a beautiful parcel of land where small sided soccer is now played. He created the "Field of Dreams" with help from the community, but did much of the planning himself.
 - Anne Holmes – a recreational and travel coach from the Ben Davis soccer club who succumbed to cancer after a long battle with the disease. She was so greatly loved and respected by the community around her for what she had given to her teams that a President's Award was presented in her honor to her family.