



**Policies and Procedures for Retention in
the Midwest Regional League (MRL)
(Updated 7/26/2018)**

Indiana Soccer applies the following criteria when considering an application for team retention (returning) in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional League (MRL):

- 1. Teams who competed in the Premier I, Premier II or PQ Divisions of MRL** the immediate prior season are approved to return to MRL even though their previous performance may cause relegation to MRL 1st Division. They must also meet the roster continuity policy.
- 2. Teams who competed in the 1st Division of MRL** the immediate prior season and finished in the bottom of their play group (see table below), will be relegated to ISL Premier, as long as they meet the roster continuity policy.

Number of teams in their play group	Finish in play group	Automatic relegation
7, 8 or 9 teams	Last two places	Yes
10, 11 or 12 teams	Last three places	Yes

- 3. Teams finishing above the places identified in the chart** will retain their recommendation to play in MRL as long as they meet the roster continuity policy.
- 4. Performance and Placement in the Indiana State Cup.** Teams that win the State Cup or play in the State Cup finals are not automatically recommended for retention in MRL.
- 5. Roster Continuity:** Indiana Soccer reviews the rosters of all MRL applicants. Even though MRL does not have the same requirements for player continuity as Indiana Soccer (60%), Indiana Soccer expects that teams returning to the MRL are the same team. Teams with less than 60% of the players returning will not be recommended to participate in MRL play that season.
- 6. Addition** of new players will not be considered for recommendation to MRL.
- 7. League Standings in the Indiana State League's (ISL) Premier Division**
 - a. Teams must participate in the ISL Premier Division during the most recent available season of ISL competition to be eligible to be promoted into MRL.
 - b. Teams that finish in 1st place or tied with points for 1st place in the previous season are recommended for promotion into the MRL unless criteria number one is not met.
 - c. If a team applies to MRL that did not participate in ISL's Premier Division (but played in a US Youth League), will not be considered for MRL. They will need to play at least one season in ISL.

8. Minimum Coaching Standards

- a. 2017-18: All coaches on the team bench coaching in an MRL game must have at the minimum a US Soccer “D” Coaching License or equivalent earned prior to the 2017-18 season as determined by MRL (i.e. minimum NSCAA Advanced National Diploma).
- b. Proof of a current license must be submitted to the State Director of Coaching.
- c. Proof consists of a copy of the license and/or license number (in case a copy can not be located).

ISL Commissioner will submit to the MRL Technical Committee and MRL Commissioner for final approval.

The ISL Commissioner will decide all matters not provided for in these policies and procedures.