

## Presidents Report for the 2013-2014 Book of Reports – Murray Clark

It is my pleasure once again to provide a report on some of the highlights of Indiana Soccer in 2014. Your state association continues to expand services and offer solid programming while remaining fiscally responsible.

Many of you are aware of a number of highlights that occurred on the Indiana soccer landscape this past year. Here are a few of them:

**Indiana Sports Properties LLC [ISP]**, a single member LLC, established in January of 2014 and wholly owned by the Indiana Soccer Association, was engaged by the City of Westfield to manage the thirty-one (31) field sports fields at Grand Park. Don Rawson [former executive director of Indiana Soccer] serves as the President and CEO of ISP. Angel Hall [former Indiana Soccer League commissioner] accepted the position of Director of Facilities Management and John Mitchell [former Indiana Soccer President] serves as Senior Event Manager. The ISP board members are: Larry Rowland [President], Alan Brown [Secretary] and Ted Sommer [Treasurer].

**Investment [headquarters]:** In the late 1990's the Indiana Soccer membership voted to build a new headquarters building in Lawrence. The then existing HQ office building in Broad Ripple was sold and approximately \$400,000 was invested to secure the one acre building by Fort Ben in Lawrence and to build a new office building there. The building was completed and occupied in June, 2000. The Indiana Soccer Board of Directors invested an additional \$13,000 to purchase two contiguous acres in September, 2010. A cash buyer offered \$670,000 to purchase these three acres and office building in February of 2014. Your Board of Directors elected to accept the offer; realizing a significant return on the membership's investment. The sale closed in June, 2014 and subsequently the office staff relocated to a functional office space at 9333 North Meridian Street - Suite 225, on the north side of Indianapolis. This location is located conveniently near easy interstate access and closer to Grand Park.

**Indoor Facility/new office location:** The City of Westfield has formally engaged Indiana Sports Properties to manage the proposed 371,643 square foot indoor sports facility currently scheduled to open in early 2016. This facility is designed to offer three, full-sized multi-use fields under a single roof and offer a number of other amenities, i.e., a family-friendly restaurant, an adult lounge overlooking the center field, elevated observation concourses for all three fields, locker rooms, etc. The City of Westfield allocated space in the proposed indoor facility's flex center for the purpose of relocating the association's office.

**Membership:** The number of registered players continues to increase with last year's membership increasing over the previous year by 1%. The 2014 fall season registration reflected a 6.7% increase over the fall of 2013. Indiana Soccer also added several new clubs to the membership this past year. Please join me in welcoming;

Frankfort Champions – district 6  
Montgomery County United – District 8  
Decatur County Soccer Club – District 18  
Sunman Area Soccer Club – District 18  
Batesville Soccer Club (rec) – district 18  
Soccer Association of South Spencer – District 19  
Southside Thunder (home schooled program approved 12-13-14) – District 13

Indiana Soccer, your board and staff appreciate the opportunity serve the new member clubs, as well as the long-time member clubs of Indiana Soccer.

**Indiana Soccer's 2014 State Cup, Presidents Cup, Challenge Cup and Adult State Cup** were all hosted at Grand Park – the inaugural year for the park. By all accounts the playing surfaces and amenities received raving reviews by all attendees. Five hundred forty (540) teams (nearly half of the registered travel teams in Indiana) entered these events and 849 games were played to determine the champions.

### **Indiana Soccer League [ISL]**

The ISL continued during seasonal years 2013/2014 to expand its service. Additional expansion was experience the fall of 2014 as follows:

- U10 ISL expanded from 208 teams to 297 teams; a 42% increase
- U11-U14 ISL expanded from 449 teams to 506 teams; a 12% increase
- U11-U18 ISL Premier, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> division teams increased from 428 teams to 463 teams; an 8% increase
- U13-14 MRL recommendations increased from 12 to 24 teams; a 200% increase
- U13-18 MRL recommendations for Spring 2015 increased from 70 teams to 87 teams; a 24% increase

ISL experienced some growing pains as a result of the inordinate increase in participation. George Perry, Indiana Soccer's ISL commissioner, in order to maintain a high-level of customer service, re-organized ISL and increased staffing.

**TOPSoccer** recently received financial support from Meijer/Mondelez. This program benefits children with special needs but also benefits the buddies who receive the

benefit of working with these exceptional athletes. This program continues to grow in participation, not only in players but also buddies and volunteers. Each child in Indiana with special needs should have a TOPSoccer opportunity and with your help, this statement can come to fruition. If your club does not offer a TOPSoccer program, please contact Joy Carter [joy@soccerindiana.org](mailto:joy@soccerindiana.org). Joy would love to help you start a viable, sustainable TOPSoccer program.

**Coaching Education** experienced a number of changes this past year. US Soccer is committed to elevating all of their licensing standards. Last year the demands of the E were significantly increased. The Federation developed a new F license, (which was spearheaded by Indiana's Vince Ganzberg) that precedes the revised E license. US Soccer's recognized instructors are currently receiving additional coaching education in order to position them to deliver each of the enhanced licensing courses.

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America [NSCAA] is the largest coaching association in the world. They offer a broad continuum of coaching education, a large portion of which will be available through an e-learning platform to all ISL participants as early as January of 2015. Please contact Steve Franklin for up to date information.

**US Youth Soccer**, the largest youth sports organization in the world, of which each registered Indiana Soccer player is a member, adopted a new set of bylaws in July of 2014. These new governance documents provide for a much more professionally managed national organization. The implementation of the new structure began in the September of 2014, with completion scheduled for the end of 2015.

**US Soccer Federation** recently announced that they will implement mandatory small-sided play for U6 through and including U12 players in 2015. Indiana, as many will remember, moved to small-sided play a fourteen (14) years ago! However, US Soccer, in an effort to standardize play across the country is currently determining the number of players and field sizes. They have committed to publish their mandate sometime in 2015.

**Indy Eleven** was launched, and was able to sell out for every home game of their inaugural season. That is a remarkable accomplishment that no other professional soccer team can boast. The team concluded its inaugural year with a five game undefeated streak. The spring 2015 schedule was announced and the Men in Blue will be playing Tampa Bay at home on State Cup weekend. If you have not had an opportunity to see a game in person, this might be a good weekend to secure seats.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray Clark,

President , Indiana Soccer Association