

## **President's Report – Alan Brown, President**

It is my pleasure to provide some highlights and notable events/activities of the past year.

### **Futsal**

Indiana Futsal continues to assist communities that elect to provide futsal playing opportunities to children and adults who otherwise would not have access to the beautiful game. This Spring, Indiana Soccer/Indiana Futsal, is collaborating with several partners in Fort Wayne to convert two tennis courts into pristine futsal courts. The new futsal courts are located in an area where more than 90% of the kids are on free or reduced lunch. Pictures of the before and after of this court will be available late Spring. Indiana Soccer/Indiana Futsal, collaborating with a number of partners completed a new futsal court at Arsenal Technical High School in inner city Indianapolis. You can view a time lapse video of the construction of that court at <http://www.indianafutsal.org/> . If you want to discuss a project in your community, please contact Justin Becht at [justin@soccerindiana.org](mailto:justin@soccerindiana.org)

### **Mayor's International Futsal Cup**

Steve Franklin, ISA's Director of Education, served as the tournament director for the 2017 Mayor's International Futsal Cup held in Indianapolis. The event was played on the parking lot just north of Indiana's State Capital building. The weather was accommodating; and a very competitive tournament concluded with Bahrain prevailing over Mexico on the men's side and Chile over Mexico in the women's final. A short video of the event can be found at: <http://www.indianafutsal.org/>

### **Membership**

The number of registered youth players continues to be stable as last year's total registrations were 57,457. The number of adult players for the past year was 2,927. The number of players registering for Futsal last year was approximately 2,400. We invite you to explore the opportunities and benefits offered by Indiana Futsal.

Your association also added several new member clubs this past year. We welcomed the following clubs to the ISA family:

- Illiana Futbol Club – Cedar Lake IN District 1
- Franklin County YS – Brookville IN District 14
- TempesT FC – Lawrenceburg, IN District 18
- Tudela FC – Evansville IN District 19

## ISA Cup Competitions

ISA Cup participation promises to be robust as can be seen by the comparative data listed below. Deadlines have not passed for some of the 2017 events. It appears that cup participation will exceed last year.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
State Cup	159 teams	132 - 136 is capacity
President's Cup	199 teams	228 teams
Challenge Cup	270 teams	223 – to date – expect 280 +-)
Memorial Cup	<u>130 teams</u>	109 to date – expect 150 +-)
	<b>758 teams total</b>	<b>790 +- teams expected)</b>

## Indiana Soccer League (ISL)

The ISL experienced another highly successful year. Below is an overview of ISL participation.

### Number of Teams

Fall 2016      Total Teams = 842

Spring 2017    Total Teams = 1254

### MRL Teams

Fall 2016 = 22

Spring 2016 = 106

### Number of Games

Fall 2016      Total Games = 5,360

Spring 2017    Total Games = 5,424

**Grand Total = 10,784**

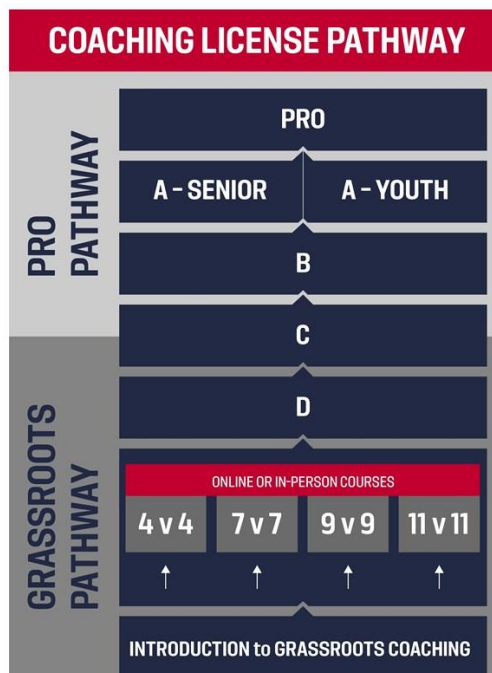
## Coaching Education

Indiana Soccer will be introducing minimum coaching standards for membership coaches beginning with the fall play in 2018. [Minimum Standards \(revised as of 1/24/18\)](#). Us Soccer has also introduced a new Grassroots Pathway which is meant to empower grassroots coaches to access education – relevant to their needs and specific coaching environment – immediately through the new low barrier courses.

The Introduction to Grassroots Coaching Module serves as the first step in obtaining any one of the eight new Grassroots Licenses: four in-person courses and four online courses across the four grassroots levels: 4v4, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11. The eight course options relate directly to small-sided games and the respective age-groups outlined in the U.S. Soccer [Player Development Initiatives](#).

After completing the Introduction to Grassroots Coaching Module, candidates can progress to any of the eight grassroots license course opportunities through the [U.S. Soccer Digital Coaching Center](#). This unlocked approach to the foundation of the pathway allows coaches to seek out education related to the environment that they are coaching in.

Indiana Soccer Coaching Education will also continue to offer resources, including complete season [training sessions](#) for the 4v4, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 play groups; online Learning webinars; and other valuable coaching resources.



[http://www.soccerindiana.org/education/coaching\\_resources/](http://www.soccerindiana.org/education/coaching_resources/)

## **Girls Developmental Academy**

As of this writing, the United States Soccer Federation remains committed to fully launch the Developmental Academy for girls. US Soccer's Developmental Academy Program was a controversial topic during the presidential campaign. How Carlos Cordeiro, US Soccer's new president, will respond to the substantial criticism surrounding the Developmental Academy remains unknown. It is anticipated that a decision will be offered later this year.

## **Indy Eleven**

Indy Eleven's owner, Ersal Ozdemir, moved the Eleven from the North American Soccer League (NASL) to the fast-growing, more successful United Soccer League (USL). This move positions the Eleven to develop regional rivalries with strong USL franchises in Cincinnati and Louisville. The NASL continues to battle US Soccer over financial issues and the league's demotion to third tier professional status, putting the league on the brink of extinction. The Eleven will be playing games in Lucas Oil Stadium in 2018. The pitch/seating layout will put fans at a remarkably close range. ISA asks that you lend your full support to the Eleven and its efforts to bring the highest possible level of soccer to Indiana.

## **US Youth Soccer**

US Youth Soccer took a bold step this past year when the organization elected to change the way the organization operates. The change was predicated by a substantial change in the organization's bylaws. Prior to the bylaw change, US Youth soccer operated as five organizations; Region I, Region II, Region III, Region IV and US Youth Soccer. The change in the governance structure resulted in a more streamline and effectively operated organization. Six months after the adjustment, we are seeing noticeable improvements.

## **US Soccer**

A spirited and interesting election campaign to replace Sunil Gulati as president of US Soccer concluded February 10, 2018. The race included 8 candidates including Carlos Cordeiro, the incumbent V.P. who ultimately prevailed after three rounds of voting. The activity and results are explained in the following article by Soccer America writer Paul Kennedy:

Here are a few things to take away from this election.

The decision of the Athlete Council to vote as a bloc -- and to vote for Carlos Cordeiro -- decided the 2018 U.S. Soccer presidential election. There was a lot of push-back from talk about industry pressure being placed on athletes to support Kathy Carter, but the members of the Athlete Council clearly understood that to vote as a bloc was the only way it could decide the outcome of the election.

The Athlete Council's 20 percent share was a counterweight to the bloc vote of MLS and NWSL -- 19.6 percent -- that allowed Cordeiro to pull ahead of Carter just so slightly on the first ballot and then gain momentum to win on the third ballot. If the athletes had gone for Carter as a bloc, she would have won easily on the first ballot.

The path to victory for Kyle Martino or Steve Gans -- the other two candidates the players are reported to have seriously considered -- wouldn't have been easy even with Athlete Council's bloc vote but it would have left Carter where she was -- stuck in the mid-30s -- and dropped Cordeiro back into the pack.

The reality is that the Athlete Council's vote -- plus the bloc votes of MLS, the NWSL, U.S. Club Soccer and AYSO -- accounted for more than 50 percent of the vote, and when the big five all went to Cordeiro or Carter, as they likely did, that effectively blocked one of the outsider candidates from sweeping to victory. One of the gang of six could have gotten every vote in the U.S. Youth Soccer and U.S. Adult Soccer ranks and he or she would have still not reached 50 percent.

One of the only groups to publicly take a position in the election was U.S. Youth Soccer, which endorsed Cordeiro late on Friday night. It's been suggested that it was a signal to the Athlete Council, still deliberating about its decision, that it, too, should come out in favor of Cordeiro.

The vote in U.S. Youth Soccer was likely split rather evenly among five candidates: Cordeiro, Carter, Martino, Gans and Eric Wynalda. Even pushing a few states in Cordeiro's favor would have moved her ahead of Carter. But the bigger point is that the U.S. Youth leadership was under pressure to come out with a statement -- do something -- as it was otherwise powerless to have an influence on the election because of the split of its membership, in contrast to the the bloc votes of its youth rivals, U.S. Club Soccer and AYSO.

Because of weighted voting, blocs usually decide U.S. Soccer elections. In 1990, the indoor Major Soccer League -- with its chairman Earl ("We don't give two s\*\*\*\* about outdoor soccer") Foreman -- [voted as a bloc](#) -- one-third of the vote -- and swept Alan Rothenberg into power. Four years later, the USISL voted as a bloc for Rothenberg, instead of splitting its vote between Richard Groff and Rothenberg, as Groff suggested, and that was the difference between Rothenberg beating and losing to Groff.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Brown

President, Indiana Soccer Association, Inc.