



## Tournament Policy for 2017 and Beyond

Due to the US Soccer Mandates for small sided play and age group changes, Indiana Soccer has set new requirements for any sanctioned event in Indiana beginning with play in the fall of 2016. Please note the following requirements that must be upheld for your tournaments that will be sanctioned for 2017 and beyond. Please note, that there are no exceptions to these policies.

- Age Groups will use the newly established birth year format. Age groups should be listed accordingly. Example: Players born in 2000 will be 17U (seventeen and under) in the fall of 2016.
- Teams must play in the format for their age groups.
  - **8U teams MUST play 4 v 4. They may not play up to 9 or 10 age 7 v 7 formats**
  - **9-10U teams MUST play 7 v 7. They may not play up to 11U formats of 9 v 9**
  - **11-12U teams MUST play 9 v 9 and may not play up to the full sided game format.**
  - **Teams from other state associations that enter your event must follow these formats.**
- Field Sizes – while US Soccer has adopted new field sizes for 8-12 play, Indiana Soccer recognizes that many complexes simply cannot change to the new field sizes easily. Thus Indiana soccer is not mandating the new field sizes at this time. Indiana Soccer strongly recommends that the field and goal sizes used for the tournament be placed in the tournament rules so that coaches and managers are aware before the event begins.
- Heading the ball for players 12 and under. US Soccer has mandated that heading be disallowed for these age groups. Thus your rules should indicate this policy and state that if a player in these age groups heads the ball, a foul will be called and an indirect kick awarded. To satisfy this requirement, Indiana Soccer requires that this rule be in place for the 12U age group teams and under.
- Starting at the U-9 level, games will use build-out lines. A horizontal line drawn from sideline to sideline 14-yards in front of each goal
- A player may be allowed to “play up” out of their age group format, but a team may not.

In addition, finals may not be held for 10U age groups and under and first and second place awards may not be given. This policy is not new but bears repeating.

Your tournament rules must contain language that states all of the above policies or it will not be approved.