



INDIANA SOCCER PROHIBITIVE CONTACT AND COACHING RELOCATION

A player, once registered with a member club, in the absence of provable, significant, mitigating circumstances that prove the current environment is harmful to the player, shall remain registered with the member club for the remainder of the same seasonal year.

Any attempt to induce a player to register with an alternate club, for either the current or the subsequent seasonal year prior to the official contact period start date and time, shall be considered prohibited contact and is a violation of these Rules and Regulations (see Poaching Rules and Fines Section).

For this document, a "club agent" is defined as: administrator(s), DOC, coach, trainer, manager, player, parent, or any person having an association with the club.

PROHIBITED CONTACT RULES AND FINES

Prohibited contact is considered a significant offense by this Association. Any club agent found to have committed a contact violation shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$2,500; sanction and loss of coaching privileges for a determined amount of time, not to exceed 5 years; exclusion from as many as all Indiana Soccer sanctioned activities and/or events; and/or other penalties that may be imposed by Indiana Soccer.

- A. Any club agent that induces or attempts to induce by any means, a player currently registered by a member club, to register with another soccer entity, prior to the end of the seasonal year and/or prior to the allowable contact period for the next seasonal year, shall be considered a contact violation.
- B. A registered player may sever their active registration and register with another member club during the current seasonal year, **ONLY** with written permission signed by the president or a majority of the board members of the club from which the player is seeking to be released, unless the registered player can produce compelling evidence that the current environment is significantly harmful to the player.
- C. If a coach leaves a member club to take a coaching position at another club, the coach is prohibited from coaching or training any players that were registered and that they coached at the previous member club during the current or previous season, for any balance of the current seasonal year and the subsequent seasonal year, unless the coach is released from this restriction by the previous member club's president or majority of the previous club's board members. For example, if an 11U coach from Club A moves to Club B, the coach is prohibited from coaching and/or training, any of the players from Club A's 11U team that move to Club B the following seasonal year. This prohibition shall remain for the entire, subsequent seasonal year. This prohibition does not apply to under the following:
 - The member club for whom the coach served, is dissolved.
 - The coach relocates a minimum of 75 miles from the club's training fields, making the commute for the player(s) impractical.
 - The prohibition does not apply to the child of the relocating coach. The coach may immediately coach their own child following the coach's relocation.

- D. Contact with a registered player, player's parent(s) or guardian(s) of a player registered with another member club during the non-contact period for the purpose of immediate or future transfer of the player's registration, initiated by a club agent, will be considered illegal contact. For this rule, contact is not limited to personal contact, but will include contact by phone, text, emails, Facebook, and all other social media. Any communication encouraging the player to attend training, tryouts, camps, or any other individual, team, or club soccer activity by the club agent, would be inappropriate and considered an attempt to induce a player to leave their present soccer organization.
- E. A club agent may conduct open camps and/or personal training at any time of the year, except during the two-week window (14 days) prior to the start of the announced tryout period for the age group for which the camp or training is being provided.
- The club agents are prohibited from encouraging camp participants (players) and/or their parent(s)/guardian(s) from transferring their registration.
 - Communication with the registered player(s) member club is strongly recommended.
- F. Member clubs may advertise club tryouts using print, radio, television, and on the club's website at any time.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

- What if a parent from Club A contacts a coach from Club B during the season and specifically states they would like the coach from Club B to coach their child and would like more information about your team and other questions?

Allowable responses:

- a) When asked about playing for you, respond with "We cannot address that at this time. Only during the allowable contact period and tryouts can that be discussed."
 - b) You should not respond about the team's needs at this time.
 - c) You can share your club's philosophy and what levels the teams are currently playing. No one knows for sure a team's level for the next season until the current season ends and that is not always known (i.e., teams on the bubble between two levels).
 - d) You can share tryout dates, but it is best to direct them to your Club's website for that information.
 - e) After sharing the website information, you should **NOT** continue talking with the parent(s) about their child's position in your club until after the allowable contact period begins.
- In the Spring 2023, Coach Q coached at Club A, then the coach joins Club B for the Fall 2023 season. Can a player who played for Coach Q at Club A move to Club B and immediately play for Coach Q at Club B for the Fall 2023 and/or Spring 2024 season?

Answer:

- No. Refer to Section C above.