

The 2021-2022 Executive Director's Annual Report – Dave Guthrie

It is my pleasure to report on the condition and developments of Indiana Soccer for the fiscal year 2021-22. Dave Guthrie, Executive Director – the Indiana Soccer Association.



Purpose: Improve Lives Through Soccer

Vision: Where Soccer is Accessible to All

Mission: To remain a premier service organization by providing leadership, organizing play, educating community stakeholders and developing youth and adults through soccer.

Core Values:

- Diversity & Inclusion
- Integrity & Respect
- Fair & Safe Play
- Leadership & Service

This year's AGM:

Your patience and willingness to participate remotely over the past two years is greatly appreciated, however, it is wonderful to be able to host an in-person AGM this year. Below are some of the notable points that make up this year's Executive Director's report.

The in-school initiative: Last year I reported that only 5% of school-aged, Hoosier children are registered with a member club. That means about 60,000 school-aged children are registered to play with a member club. That also means there are over 1 million school-age children we are not serving. Many of these children do not have access to our sport because of logistics, finances, or other obstacles. That begs the question.....How do we generate an interest and provide access to the one million children that are not playing with us? To that end, the Indiana Soccer's board of Directors agreed to invest a significant amount of money with the goal of providing a futsal experience to every child in Indiana.

Almost all these one million children are attending school somewhere. Indiana Soccer developed an initiative that involves providing licensed physical education teachers with formal futsal training, portable futsal goals and futsal balls. Participating teachers can earn a US Futsal certificate while satisfying their teaching license requirement to obtain continuing education in the form of "Professional Growth Points (PGPs)" This initiative allows Indiana Soccer and its member clubs to potentially introduce our sport to every school-aged child that is attending a public, charter, private school, or community center with the hope that a portion of those children will develop a love for the game and opt to pursue playing opportunities with a member club. This initiative is being offered at no charge to participating school corporations. Each member club is asked to help with this initiative by identifying the decision-maker(s) in your school corporation and then helping to introduce it to those decision-makers. Justin Becht stands ready and willing to bring this initiative to your community. Please contact Justin at Justin@soccerindiana.org to learn more about how you can involve your community.

Registration Platform Upgrade "GotSport"

Please let me thank you for your patience as we transitioned from GotSoccer to GotSport. The recent improvements to the platform will result in an effective registration and club management tool when it is fully learned and implemented. If you are not yet leveraging the many benefits of this platform, please allow me to invite you to schedule time with either Amber Cremeens amber@soccerindiana.org or Angel Hall angel@soccerindiana.org at your earliest opportunity to explore how this product can benefit your club.

Membership: As you will note below, member clubs have, as an aggregate, returned to near pre-pandemic numbers. The fiscal year 2022-23 is recording very strong registration numbers. As of the end of November 2022, the total registrations are about 40,000 compared to pre-pandemic registrations of 30,000 at the same time. If this trend holds, the number of registrants will most likely exceed pre-pandemic registration numbers. We will not know for certain until June of 2023.

	TVL	REC+	REC	Adults	TOTALS
2021-22	17932	4964	33080	2203	58,179
2020-21	17167	4519	27993	2308	51,987
2019-20	15447	3765	19134	1764	40,110
2018-19	17478	6310	34376	3043	61,207
2017-18	17,872	5,870	33,571	2,680	59,993
2016-17	18,456	4,448	34,553	2,729	60,186

New Members: This past year, the association extended membership to two clubs.

- Muddy River FC and
- Mudsock Youth Soccer

Adult participation: It is my desire to see each member club add an adult component to their programming. Whether it be a social soccer experience such as walking soccer, 3v3, 5v5, 7v7, 9v9, coed, or other; or whether the club desires to add an adult full-sided component. Adding an adult component helps member clubs be more complete, and more relevant to their respective communities. John Mitchell, john@soccerindiana.org has been working in the adult space for over 5 decades. He has a wealth of knowledge and is committed to assisting member clubs in expanding their offering to include an adult component regardless of the form(s) of soccer selected.

TOPSoccer: TopSoccer is an offering already provided by several member clubs. Those who provide this opportunity to children and adults with special needs report that it is their most rewarding effort. I want to thank Jasper Youth Soccer, Cutters Soccer Club, Indiana Fire Academy South, Vigo County Youth Soccer Association, Indy Premier, Dynamo F.C., Zionsville Youth Soccer Association, Columbus Express Soccer Club, Fort Wayne Sport Club, Michiana Echo Soccer Club, South Central Select Association, and Jr. Irish for their continued support of our special needs community. I also want to encourage all member clubs to initiate a TopSoccer program in your community. I realize that the fear of the unknown inhibits us at times. However, you can remove that fear by learning more about the TOPSoccer program and learning what participating clubs or doing by visiting [TOPSoccer Clubs | Indiana \(soccerindiana.org\)](https://www.soccerindiana.org/topsoccer-clubs/)

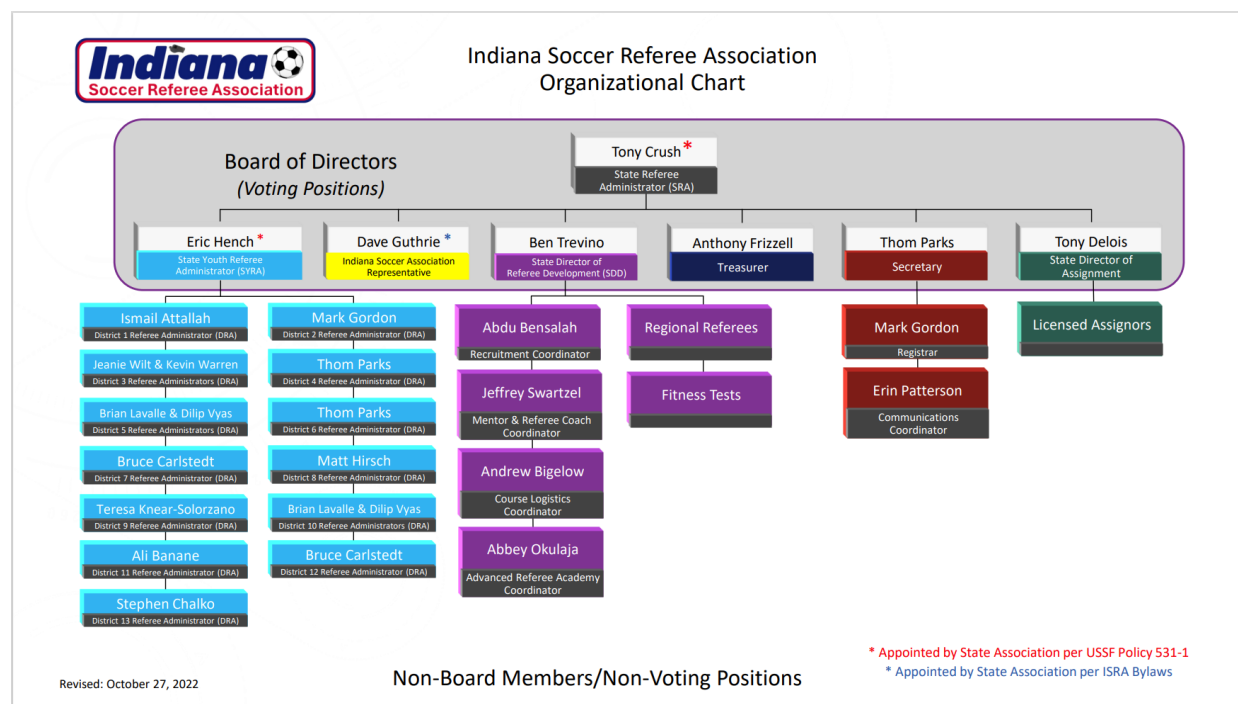
Joy Carter and Sean Addison are ready to assist you in developing a way to serve this special population. They can be reached at joy@soccerindiana.org and sean@soccerindiana.org respectively.

Referee Development:

I am excited about the future of the Indiana referee community. We are blessed to have Tony Crush as Indiana Soccer's State Referee Administrator (SRA). As previously announced, Tony is an accomplished referee who is a National Coach with the U.S. Soccer Referee Program and an Assistant Referee Administrator with the USYS Midwest Region. He has refereed since 1988 and earned his way beyond a National Referee to a Professional Referee with U.S. Soccer. At 45 years young, Tony is now a regional referee who still enjoys officiating when he is not watching his 8-year-old son (Eric) play. Tony previously worked in law enforcement and currently owns and operates a construction company.

Indiana is also blessed that Eric Hench recently agreed to serve as Indiana's State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA). Eric is also an accomplished referee who is a Regional Referee in the U.S. Soccer Referee Program. He served as Indiana's State Director of Instruction for the last two years. He played the game for 45 years and returned to refereeing 9 years ago after having refereed in his youth. He recently celebrated his 26th anniversary with his wife Kathy and is the proud father of two, Alycia (24) and Brendan (21). Eric currently serves in law enforcement.

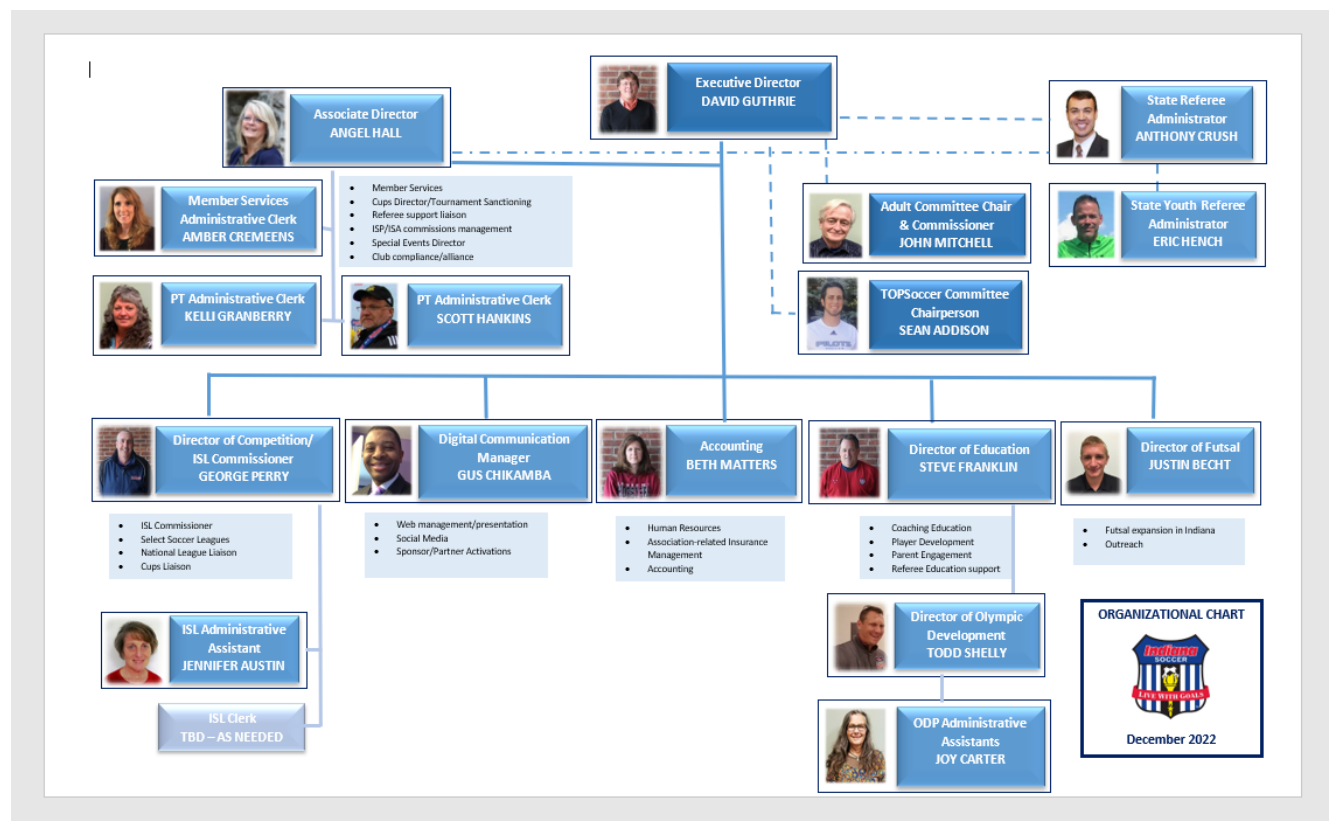
As a result of these gentlemen's leadership and the team they assembled, the Indiana Soccer Referee Association developed and implemented new governance documents as well as a more inclusive governance structure. You will note below the current organizational chart that reflects these changes.



Ball State University's Playing Environment Study:

Indiana Soccer, during fiscal year 2021-22 engaged Dr. Jerry Reynolds, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work at Ball State University, to research our sports' game environment. Professor Reynolds conducted a pilot study a year ago, and recently expanded the pilot to include all member clubs of Indiana Soccer. Some of the goals of Dr. Reynolds' research were to learn how all stakeholders view the decorum surrounding the game; understand their experience, and if their experience is diminished, identify that which diminished the experience and develop mitigation strategies to remove the undesirable elements. The initial phase of the study is complete. I look forward to working with member clubs, and Dr. Reynolds, and his team to develop a comprehensive understanding of his findings, and to subsequently develop, and implement ways to enhance the experience of all stakeholders. Indiana Soccer is looking for volunteers from member clubs to develop next steps related to this project. If you are interested, please contact Dave Guthrie at, dave@soccerindiana.org.

Your State Office Staff: I am proud of the team that exists to serve the Indiana Soccer membership. They invest countless hours and passion to ensure that each member receives the best service possible. Please know that they are ready and willing to serve your needs. Below is a current organization chart of your association:



Respectfully submitted by your Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Guthrie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a stylized "G".

Dave Guthrie