

The 2024-2025 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 2023-24. 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

The In-School Initiative

Last year, I reported that Indiana Soccer received an *Innovate to Grow* grant from U.S. Soccer to pursue the In-School Initiative in partnership with Indiana Soccer's membership. The goal of this initiative is to introduce the game of futsal to as many as 600,000 of Indiana's 1.2 million school-age children by the end of fiscal year 2026, primarily through partnerships with schools and, in particular, physical education teachers.

To date, with the support of our member clubs and through a partnership with the Indiana Society for Health and Physical Educators (IN-Shape), this initiative has reached 553 schools. Approximately 340,000 Indiana students have been introduced to futsal and are actively participating in the game through physical education classes and school-based futsal leagues. By the time of our Annual General Meeting, that number is expected to approach 350,000 students.

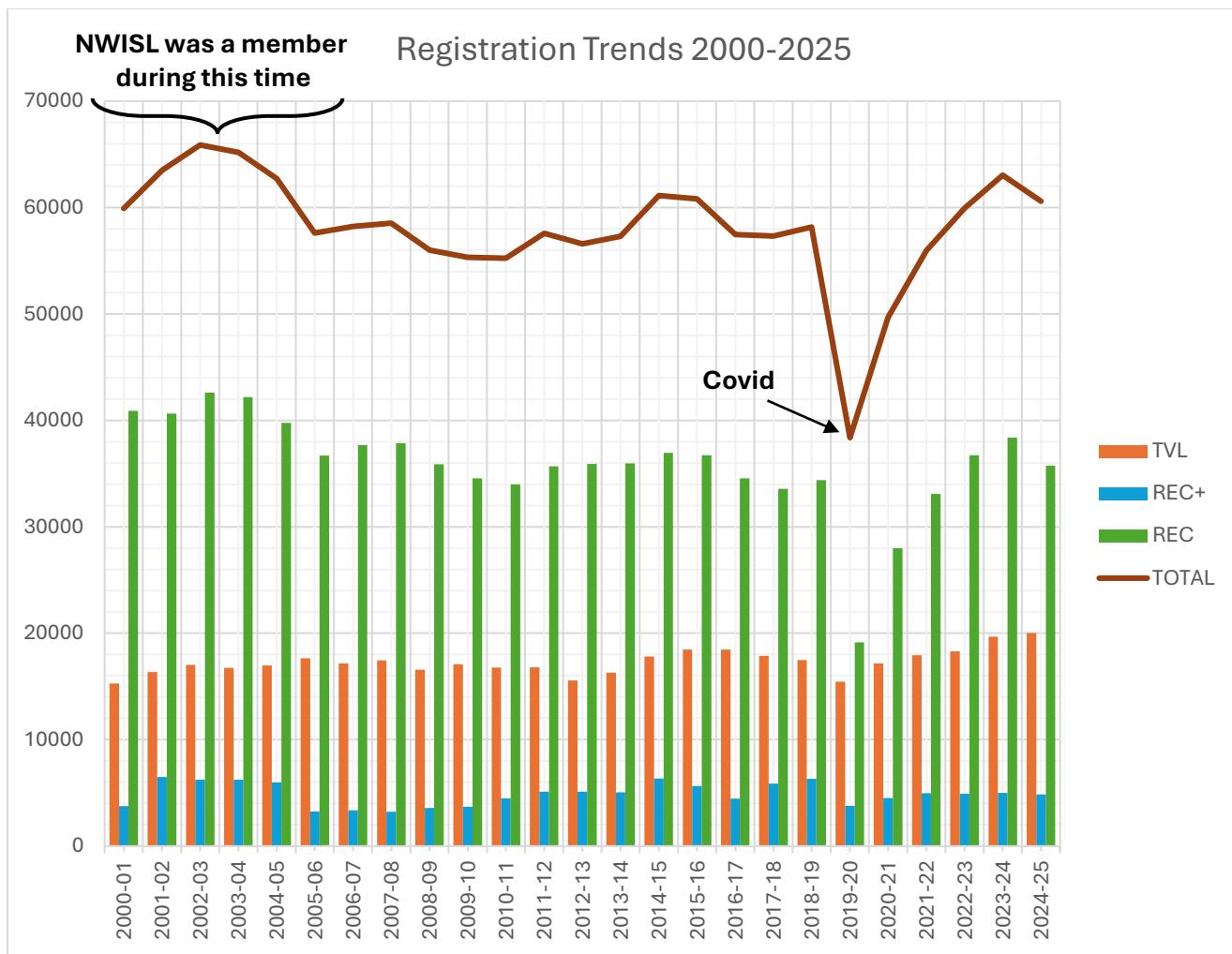
I strongly encourage you to contact Justin Becht at justin@soccerindiana.org. Justin serves as Indiana Soccer's Director of Futsal and leads our outreach initiatives. He would welcome the opportunity to work with you to introduce futsal into schools within your community.

As a reminder, participating physical education teachers earn three *Professional Growth Points (PGPs)*, which are required by the State of Indiana to maintain an Indiana teaching license—making this a valuable and in-demand professional development opportunity. Participating schools receive a pair of portable futsal goals and up to ten futsal balls for each gymnasium. This initiative is offered at no cost to participating school corporations.

The In-School Initiative is also partnered with TOPSoccer, ensuring that the training provided to physical education teachers is comprehensive and inclusive of all students. Our ultimate goal is to put a ball at the feet of every student in the State of Indiana—and with your continued support, we are confident that goal is achievable.

Registration

Youth registration has remained consistent over the past several decades, excluding the temporary disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as illustrated in the chart below. It will be interesting to observe the impact hosting the FIFA World Cup may have on registration numbers during the Fall and Spring seasons of the 2026–27 seasonal year.



New Members:

Unity Strikers – Evansville Club

Greater Lafayette Regional Soccer Association (GLRSA) – reinstated lapsed membership

Adult Soccer

Mark Webber serves as your Adult Commissioner. Mark has been involved in adult soccer for most of his adult life and brings both experience and enthusiasm to the role. He is eager to work with all members to increase adult participation across all formats of play. If your club has an interest in developing or expanding adult soccer offerings, please reach out to Mark at mark@soccerindiana.org.

TOPSoccer

TOPSoccer is now an integrated component of the in-school initiative. For those unfamiliar with the program, TOPSoccer is designed to serve athletes with special needs, including youth and adults who are ambulatory as well as those who use

wheelchairs. This growing program is led by Mary Schalliol, whose passion and expertise have been instrumental to its expansion. Mary would welcome the opportunity to assist your club in establishing a TOPSoccer program. She can be reached at topsoccer@soccerindiana.org.

Referee Development

The Indiana State Referee Association is led by Tony Crush, Indiana's State Referee Administrator (SRA), and Tom Berger, Indiana's State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA). Indiana Soccer is fortunate to benefit from their leadership and dedication. Together, they have assembled a strong team of volunteer leaders who support referee licensing, development, assignment, and oversight across the state.

Indiana Soccer and the Indiana State Referee Association continue to collaborate closely to expand and elevate the state's referee pool. This comprehensive initiative intentionally includes member clubs as key partners in referee recruitment, retention, and development. After reviewing the expanded initiative, I encourage you to reach out to Tony at tonyc@soccerindiana.org or Tom at tom@soccerindiana.org with any questions or feedback.

Collaborative Referee Development Initiative; "The ultimate goal is to enhance the overall experience for all stakeholders, with the expectation that referee retention will significantly improve as a result."

The collaborative effort is designed to:

- **Develop and implement tiered referee training** tailored to the player's age and level of play.
- **Decentralize referee development** by encouraging and supporting member-club involvement. (like the way clubs develop players – clubs will develop referees)
- **Establish a licensed, club-based Referee Assignor-Mentor (RAM)** at each participating club (see Appendix A – *Referee Assignor-Mentor Role Description*).
- **Introduce three Levels of Achievement/Authorization (LOA)** for referees: New Referee, Referee Rising & Referee

Levels of Achievement/Authorization (LOA) are determined based on the following criteria:

- Years of experience
- Number of games officiated
- Level of games officiated
- Referee performance (demonstration of proficiency)
- Age (if under 18)

Referee Level Breakdown:

- **New Referee** – Approved and authorized to officiate Recreational and Recreational Plus games. (will in most cases, be limited to officiating at their “home club”)
- **Referee Rising**– Approved/promoted and authorized to officiate Level 1 games, small-sided games, and serve as an assistant referee for travel games.
- **Referee** – Approved/promoted to officiate all youth games. Assignments will be based on age, on-field experience, and demonstrated proficiency. **Referees**) will be offered adult officiating opportunities after demonstrating proficiency officiating youth games

(Digital) Referees:

New Referees aged 14 to 17 will be licensed as **U.S. Soccer Digital Referees** during their first year and will be designated as **New Referees**. To be eligible for assignment, these referees must attend an in-person training session which will be managed by the State Referee Association in conjunction with and supported by the State Soccer Association.

While it is expected that the club’s Referee Assignor-Mentor (RAM) will conduct this in-person session, the State Referee Association will provide the training curriculum and may, at its discretion, deliver the in-person training directly.

Referee Rising:

Referee Rising officials must attend a **Referee Rising, on-field training session**.

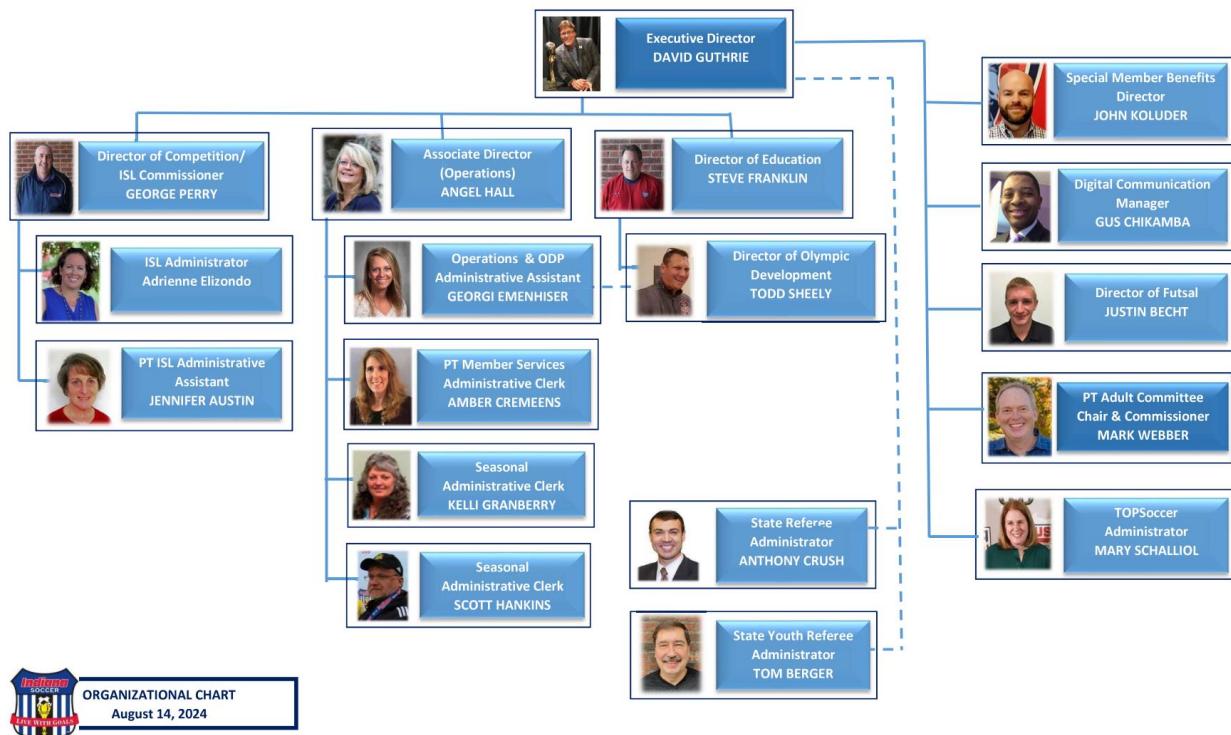
- **New Referees** (ages 14–17) seeking to upgrade from **New Referee** to **Referee Rising** must:
 - Have officiated at least **20 Level 1 games**.
 - Attend a **Level 2 on-field session**.
- **New Referees** (18 and older) will begin as **Referee Rising** officials. They must:
 - Complete a **U.S. Soccer Referee course** (non-digital).
 - Attend a **Referee Rising on-field session**.
- **Referees Rising** officials:
Referee Rising officials seeking to upgrade to **Referee** must:
 - Have officiated a minimum of **30 Referee Rising** level games.
 - Attend and successfully complete a district **Referee** on-field session.

Your Indiana State Soccer Office Staff

Below is the current organizational chart for your Indiana Soccer staff. Complete staff contact information is available on the website at soccerindiana.org.

Your staff takes great pride in being accessible and responsive, whether through face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings, phone calls, email, or text communication. As the soccer landscape continues to evolve—and at an increasingly rapid pace—we recognize that navigating these changes can at times feel overwhelming.

The Indiana Soccer staff is committed to supporting you and is always available to answer questions, regardless of size or scope. Please do not hesitate to reach out and allow us the opportunity to serve your needs.



Respectfully submitted by your Executive Director



Dave Guthrie