

President's Report - Seasonal Year 2024/2025

It is an honor to present the Association's year-end results for the 2024/2025 seasonal year.

Annual Audit

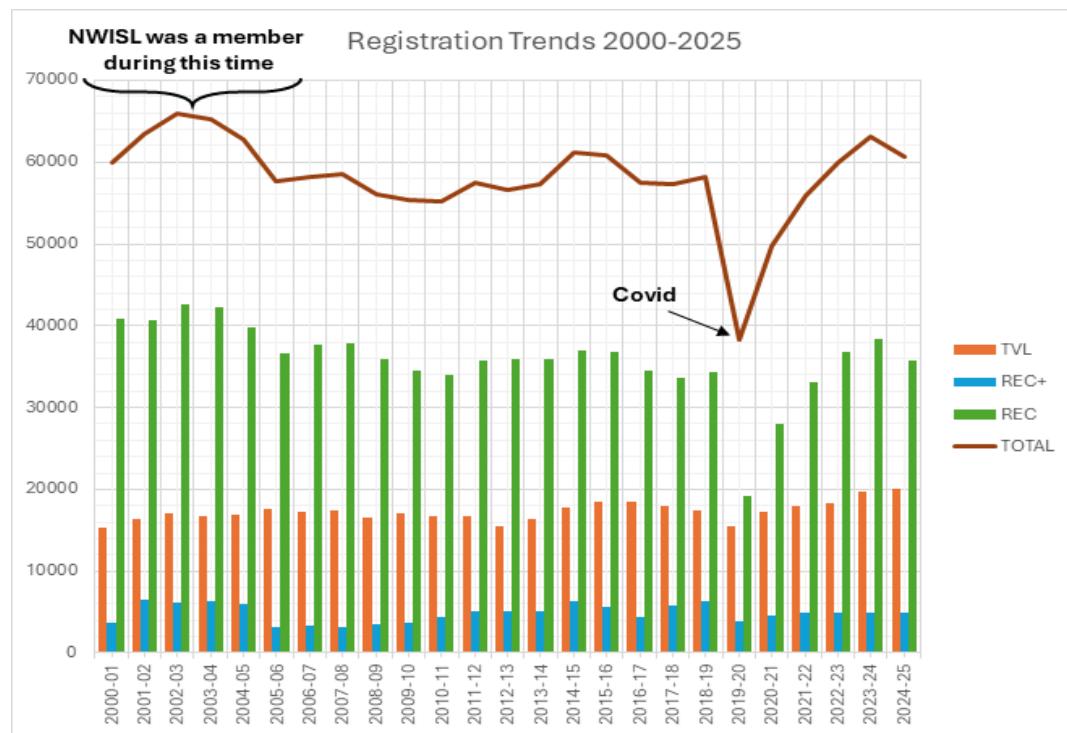
Each year, your Association conducts a full, independent audit of its financial activities. As I was pleased to report last year—and again this year—your state association received an **unmodified audit opinion**, the most favorable report issued under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

In addition, the auditor complimented the organization on its strong financial position and on the staff's responsiveness and cooperation throughout the audit process. A copy of the audit report is available on Indiana Soccer's website under "**Important Documents**."

Registration

Overall registration levels remain stable, with **travel soccer registrations continuing to demonstrate consistent year-over-year growth**.

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As we look ahead, we should all prepare to capitalize on the increased participation opportunities presented by the United States hosting the **2026 FIFA World Cup**.

Age Group Change:

I shared the following information last year, and because implementation is scheduled for this fall, I believe it is appropriate to include it again in this year's report.

Several years ago, U.S. Soccer mandated that all players be registered based on the calendar year. This unilateral decision, imposed on more than four million youth players nationwide—created significant and unnecessary challenges for teams, clubs, and families and has been widely debated ever since.

More recently, U.S. Soccer, working in collaboration with U.S. Youth Soccer, state associations, and other organizational members, sought feedback through national surveys. The results favored a return to **seasonal-year registration** rather than calendar-year registration. While the U.S. Soccer Board indicated it would address this issue at its December 2024 meeting, no definitive decision was reached at that time. Instead, U.S. Soccer determined that its members may choose their preferred registration model.

I anticipated that the U.S. Soccer Youth Council—of which U.S. Youth Soccer is the largest member—would ultimately determine the registration structure. **That decision has now been made.**

Result: The U.S. Soccer Youth Council elected to return to **seasonal-year registration**. Your staff has already communicated this change to the membership and will continue to assist clubs and families during the transition. A new age-group chart to assist with team formation can be found at:

<https://www.soccerindiana.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/173/2025/10/School-Year-Age-Chart-10-1-2025.pdf>

Outreach and Grant Funds

Justin Becht continues to make significant progress introducing students across Indiana to the game of futsal, with the goal of guiding participants into Indiana Soccer member clubs. Two members of your Board—**Alan Brown and Jim Nickens**—lead the Outreach Committee supporting Justin's efforts, along with **Mary Schalliol, John Koluder, Yanic McDowell, Melissa Thomas**, and others.

The outreach initiative has expanded to include **TOPSoccer**, resulting in a more comprehensive and inclusive community outreach program.

As reported last year, Indiana Soccer received a **\$200,000 outreach grant commitment from U.S. Soccer**. As of this report, **\$134,000 remains available** to support ongoing and future outreach efforts.

To date, the in-school initiative has been delivered in **553 schools** and has reached approximately **340,000 students** statewide.

I encourage you to contact Justin at **justin@soccerindiana.org** to explore opportunities to introduce futsal within your school district.

Registration Fees

Two years ago, the membership wisely adopted an inflation-adjusting escalator for travel registration fees. Last year, your Board—after conferring with the Finance Committee—waived the automatic fee increase.

This year, after reviewing the performance of the Association's investments, I am pleased to announce that **the automatic escalator will again be waived for the 2026–27 seasonal year.**

My sincere thanks to the Finance Committee—**A.L. Smith, Jim Nickens, Brooke May, and Jeff Belskus**—for their prudent oversight and effective management of the Association's investment portfolio.

Board of Directors

This year, I have some bittersweet news to share. **Mo Merhoff, Jeff Belskus, and Alan Brown** tendered their resignations from the Board of Directors. Each of these exceptionally talented and dedicated individuals made meaningful and lasting contributions to Indiana Soccer. Please join me in thanking them for their extraordinary service to the Indiana Soccer family.

I am pleased to report that Mo and Alan have agreed to continue serving the Association in other capacities. Alan will continue as **CO-Chair of the Outreach Committee**, and both Mo and Alan will continue to serve—along with **CO-Chair Jeremi Slivinski**—on the Governance Committee.

The Governance Committee is charged with assessing the makeup of the Board of Directors and identifying highly qualified individuals who can best complement the board with their individual talent and experience(s). When a mid-term vacancy occurs, it is the President's responsibility to appoint a replacement Board member, and the Governance Committee plays a critical role in supporting that responsibility.

I am grateful for the diligence and effectiveness of the Governance Committee in identifying outstanding candidates. **Carolyn Biggs, Brooke May, and Lindsey Blom** were appointed this past year to fill Board vacancies. I invite you to review their biographies at:
<https://www.soccerindiana.org/board-of-directors/>

I am confident that you will be as impressed as I am with their individual skills, experience, and accomplishments—and with how they contribute to an exceptionally strong and capable Board serving the Indiana Soccer community.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Rowland
President
Indiana Soccer Association
Board of Directors