



TRYOUTS – BEST PRACTICES & RULES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 12:30 PM ET

PRESENTED BY:



ANGEL HALL
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



GEORGI EMENHISER
OPERATIONS & ODP
ADMINISTRATOR



AMBER CREMEENS
REGISTRAR &
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

WHAT ARE TRYOUTS?



A tryout is a competitive, organized test or audition designed to evaluate a person's skills, fitness, or suitability for a specific role, team, or position.

Rec and Rec+ soccer teams do not hold tryouts. All recreational teams are formed by random assignment. Teams are not formed by skill or ability.

TRYOUTS is the definition of the difference between TRAVEL and RECREATIONAL soccer teams.



BEST PRACTICES FOR HOSTING TRYOUTS?



CLUB PREPARATION: Be setup/prepared for the arrival of the participants. If you ask them to arrive early to sign in, you must be ready and waiting for them to arrive early.

PLAYER PREPARATION: Be sure communicate clearly what the participants are to bring to tryouts including water bottles/hydration if you are not providing hydration.

FACILITY SAFETY: It is likely you will have participants/visitors not familiar with your facility, traffic patterns, etc. Plan to have help to direct traffic (vehicle and pedestrian). Be sure to check the fields/facility for safety hazards including properly anchored goals.

PLAYER SAFETY: If you are hosting tryouts and parents are not allowed to watch, ensure you have monitors/helpers to keep the children safe. Ensure the parents understand your plans.

CLARITY: Ensure players and parents understand the evaluation process – including notification/commitment timing.



**MAKE IT
CLEAR**



TRYOUT DATES FOR TRAVEL PLAYERS



TRYOUT DATES FOR 2026-2027 PLAYING SEASON:

June 2, 2026 (Tuesday): Tryouts may begin for all teams/players 10U and younger.

June 8, 2026 (Monday): Tryouts may begin for all teams/players 11U and older.

NOTE: Indiana Soccer tryout dates always follow the Cup finals. As early as the Tuesday after Sunday finals, clubs may hold the 10U and younger tryouts. The following Monday after that, clubs may begin tryouts for the 11U and older Players/teams.



TRYOUT CONTACT PERIOD



Prohibited Contact

A player(s) may not be contacted by a club agent (defined as: any person connected to a specific club or team including but not limited to the board of directors, any paid or volunteer administrative staff, coaches, managers, players, trainers, parent/guardians, etc.) for the purpose of recruiting until the first Monday following the conclusion of the Indiana Cups programs or until such player(s) has committed to another Club for the upcoming seasonal year. Such contacts may not violate 4.3-3.



June 1, 2026 (Monday): Allowable Contact Period Begins for 2026-2027 Season – Club Agents may begin contacting players from other clubs.



LEGAL AND ILLEGAL CONTACT



What type of contact is considered "illegal" prior to Monday, June 1?

Including, but not limited to: phone calls, text messaging, emails, US mail, in-person contact (ex: sideline conversation or handing out flyers) by any club agent directly with players/player agents currently registered with another club.



What is "legal" to do prior to Monday, June 1?

Billboards, radio ads, newspaper advertisements, website posting, social media posts, podcasts, etc. Direct mail (any form) to your currently registered (2025-2026) members.

NOTE: be very careful to not include past members in any direct mail contact as they may be current members at a different club.



REVIEW OF EARLY COMMITMENT FOR TRAVEL PLAYERS



- Any club offering the "early commitment" option may advertise the option when they advertise tryouts. (NOTE: it is not mandatory that clubs offer early commitment)
- The early commitment can only be offered to current year registered players.
- Early commitments can be signed beginning May 1 of each year for the next playing season.
- The complete early commitment language in the policy MUST appear in any/all documentation referring to the early commitment including the registration form the player/family signs.
- The early commitment information must include the language that explains the process to be released from an early commitment.
- Collect signature on registration form and a minimum deposit of \$25.00
- Be able to produce that signed document if requested.

[LINK TO RECORDING of Feb 18 Early Commitment topic meeting](#)



WHEN IS A TRAVEL PLAYER CONSIDERED COMMITTED TO A CLUB?



According to US Youth Soccer Policy Rule 201: A player is registered for a seasonal year from the moment the player or the player's representative executes the registration form and pays the appropriate fees.



Indiana Soccer considers a player committed to a member Club for one seasonal year once the registration form is executed and the fee or a portion of said fee equal to or over twenty-five (\$25.00) is paid to the Club.



The Club's Registration form offered to the player or parent for execution must include clear and legible language that informs the signee of the one seasonal-year commitment the player is making to the Club. Indiana Soccer recommends that each person executing the registration form be required to note they acknowledge the one seasonal-year informative language.

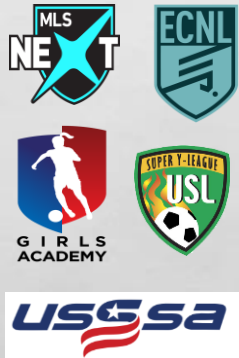


WHAT ABOUT TRYOUTS FOR N1 TEAMS?



US Youth Soccer entered into an agreement with US Soccer/US Club Soccer to merge the national leagues. All tryout rules, policies, and dates apply to clubs holding tryouts for N1 teams as they are part of the merger agreement and still part of that programming.

WHAT ABOUT TRYOUTS FOR OTHER LEAGUES OR ORGANIZATIONS?



The expectation is that ALL Indiana Soccer member clubs will respect the tryout policy for all their travel teams regardless of the organization affiliation. If a club chooses to hold these non-USYS tryouts prior to the allowable date, any player who is not currently a member of that club attending those tryouts will not be eligible to participate on any USYS/Indiana Soccer sanctioned team with that club for the following seasonal year.



THIS WEEK'S
GOAL GETTER
MINDFUL
MINUTE:

