



INDIANA SOCCER

REGISTRATION RULES

August 1, 2026

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CHAPTER ONE – GENERAL

RULE 1.1 PURPOSE

- A. The rules contained herein shall govern Member Organizations and all members of the Indiana Soccer Association (hereinafter "Indiana Soccer") in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with the association's constitution and bylaws. All competitions shall be governed by the rules stated herein, unless the rules of a specific competition state otherwise.
- B. These stated rules are intended to provide a uniform set of guidelines governing player eligibility, registration, team formation, player assignments, rules and standards of sportsmanship and conduct for all Member Organizations.
- C. Any issues not addressed by these rules shall be governed by the rules, policies, and procedures of the United States Youth Soccer Association ("US Youth Soccer") and the United States Soccer Federation ("USSF").

RULE 1.2 LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Indiana Soccer BYLAWS ARTICLE 6)

SECTION 1.2-1 AFFILIATED MEMBER ORGANIZATION

An Affiliated Member Organization (Club) is an organization of four (4) or more teams (unless the Executive Board approves a lesser number of teams) which is a soccer organization with its headquarters in Indiana, registered with Indiana Soccer, which supports and actively promotes the purpose and activities of Indiana Soccer by providing soccer playing and/or educational opportunities for its members.

SECTION 1.2-2 ALLIED MEMBER ORGANIZATION

Allied Member Organizations are those sports organizations which govern programs in, or allied to, soccer as a sport, do not field teams and are not qualified as Affiliated Member Organizations. Recognition of an organization by Indiana Soccer as an Allied Member Organization shall be extended to the governing body of said organization, and not to the general membership or programs of the said organization.

RULE 1.3 MEMBER ORGANIZATION RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 1.3-1 AFFILIATED MEMBER ORGANIZATION RULES

- A. An Affiliated Member Organization (Club) may elect to adopt rules to govern play within its own organization. These rules should not conflict with Indiana Soccer rules, the Bylaws of Indiana Soccer, the rules of US Youth Soccer or USSF.
- B. Organizations seeking to be an Indiana Soccer Affiliated Member must provide a copy of their current rules and bylaws for review by Indiana Soccer. If said organization does not have its own bylaws and rules of play, then they must adopt the same before Indiana Soccer will act on the application. The organization shall also provide a brief description of its purpose, the board of directors with directory information and an approximate number of teams including age groups and gender. If the organization has less than four (4) teams, then it must also submit a petition for a temporary waiver of the requirement that is good for one year. The application shall also identify the Risk Management Coordinator for the organization. Once all required documents are received, the Indiana Soccer staff will present the application to the Board of Directors for approval/rejection of the Club application. The Board of Directors vote on each application at quarterly board meetings.
- C. Once a member, written notification of subsequent changes to the organization's bylaws must be made to Indiana Soccer forty-five (45) days before the suggested changes go into effect.
- D. Indiana Soccer will notify in writing both the Affiliated Member Organization and the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors in the event an organization's rule or rules appear to be in conflict with the Indiana Soccer Bylaws, rules, or policies to the extent such changes may: "Preclude teams of the Affiliated Member Organization from participating in competitions sponsored by Indiana Soccer and/or US Youth Soccer; or "Jeopardize continued membership in Indiana Soccer. If Indiana Soccer does not notify the Affiliated Member Organization that a rule conflicts within thirty

(30) days of submission by the Affiliated Member Organization to Indiana Soccer, the rule shall be effective.

- E. A recommendation or finding by Indiana Soccer is not binding on any Affiliated Member Organization unless and until acted on and approved by the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors. The review process is intended to provide early identification, discussion, and resolution of potential rule conflicts, to the mutual benefit of Indiana Soccer and its Affiliated Member Organizations.

SECTION 1.3-2 AFFILIATED MEMBER ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Each Affiliated Member Organization shall be responsible for insuring proper registration of its players and teams, proper accounting for fiscal transactions and accurate and timely reporting as required to Indiana Soccer.
- B. Each Affiliated Member Organization will plan and conduct player registration prior to each playing seasonal year and will establish the dates for closing of registration and initiation of the team formation process for its own organization. Registration documentation is due prior to the players participation.
- C. Clubs hosting travel (competitive) teams that hold tryouts must abide by the allowable contact rules, recruiting rules, and Indiana Soccer published tryout dates. 9See Chapter Four)
- D. Fee payment is due to Indiana Soccer 30 days after invoices are posted. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in late fees being assessed to the Club and/or a hold may be placed on future registration processing and event participation until past due fees are paid current.
- E. Each Affiliated Member Organization will annually on or before August 1, provide Indiana Soccer with a listing of the officers of their Board of Directors in a format established by Indiana Soccer. In the event there is a change in such information, the organization shall provide an update to Indiana Soccer within two (2) weeks of said change.
- F. No Affiliated Member Organization may conduct or sponsor any competitive league competition for teams which are six (6) years old or younger.

SECTION 1.3-3 ALLIED MEMBER ORGANIZATION RULES FOR LEAGUES

- A. Any Indiana Soccer sanctioned league (an organizing body scheduling games between member clubs) must register with Indiana Soccer as an Allied Member Organization by payment of an allied member fee of \$100. The allied member fee shall be due and payable on August 1st of each seasonal year.
- B. With the payment of the allied member fee each league will submit to Indiana Soccer a copy of league rules, regulations, bylaws, articles of incorporation, and/or constitution if applicable.
- C. Each League will annually provide Indiana Soccer with a listing of the officers of their Board of Directors. In the event there is a change in such information, the organization shall provide an update to Indiana Soccer within two (2) weeks of said change.
- D. An Allied Member Organization (League) may adopt additional rules or modify the Indiana Soccer rules to govern play within its own organization. However, any additional or modified rules must not conflict with the Indiana Soccer rules and bylaws or the rules of US Youth Soccer or USSF. Written notification of subsequent changes to the league's rules must be made to Indiana Soccer forty-five (45) days before the suggested changes go into effect. Indiana Soccer will notify the League in writing if a league's rule or rules seem to conflict with the Indiana Soccer Bylaws or Indiana Soccer Registration Rules. If Indiana Soccer does not notify the League that a rule conflicts within thirty (30) days of submission by the League to Indiana Soccer, it shall be effective. The review process is intended to provide early identification, discussion, and resolution of potential rule conflicts, to the mutual benefit of Indiana Soccer and its Allied Member Organizations (Leagues).

SECTION 1.3-4 ALLIED MEMBER ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR LEAGUES OR TOURNAMENTS

- A. Each allied member operating an Indiana Soccer sanctioned league shall be responsible for ensuring that all registered teams/players are properly rostered with Indiana Soccer or approved US Youth Soccer Member Organizations.

- B. Each allied member operating an Indiana Soccer sanctioned tournament shall be responsible for ensuring that all sanctioning rules and policies are followed as written in the sanctioning agreement.

RULE 1.4 LEVELS OF COMPETITION

The Indiana Soccer Association sanctions play among teams at Five (5) distinct levels. Unless otherwise stated, these rules apply to all players and teams at all levels.

- A. Recreational (intra club play only, no tryouts)
- B. Recreation plus (intra and/or inter club play, no tryouts)
- C. Travel (inter club play, with tryouts)
- D. Adult (intra and inter club/league play)
- E. Olympic Development

RULE 1.5 LEGAL MATTERS – SUSPENSION

Anyone who becomes a defendant in a legal matter contrary to the good of soccer may be suspended during the pendency of that proceeding. Upon completion of the proceedings, the person may petition the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors for reinstatement. Any person who has been convicted of a crime that is of the type that must be reported under the Sex Crimes Registry is ineligible from being a coach, player, administrator, referee, officer of a club or league of Indiana Soccer or any organization under the control or authority of Indiana Soccer.

CHAPTER TWO – REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

RULE 2.1 SEASONAL PLAYING YEAR (Indiana Soccer BYLAWS - ARTICLE 5)

The seasonal playing year defined by US Youth Soccer shall begin on the first day of September in each year and end on the last day of August in the following year. The registration cycle shall begin on the first day of August in each year and ends on the last day of July the following year.

RULE 2.2 PLAYER REGISTRATION

Affiliated Member Organizations will register all soccer players, coach, team managers or any other team assistants or administrators, and soccer teams that are sponsored, financed, coached, or administered by the club, league, association, or organization whether they be male or female, members of traveling teams, competitive teams, or in-house recreation programs.

Note: Only those players and adults that are registered with Indiana Soccer will receive full Indiana Soccer membership benefits.

- A. Players must be registered with Indiana Soccer at the start of the player's participation.
- B. Required player information to be submitted for registration:
 - Full name
 - Date of birth
 - Gender
 - Address, City, State, Zip
 - Phone
 - Email address
 - Name of parent/guardian

RULE 2.3 PLAYER REGISTRATION FEES

The annual player registration fees for affiliated member organizations of Indiana Soccer shall be established by vote of the membership. As players are added, fees shall be due and payable 30 days after invoices are posted for player registration. No Affiliated Member Organization shall vote if its

membership dues and player registration fees are not paid. Late fees of \$1.00 per player may be assessed for payments not received by the published deadlines.

RULE 2.4 PLAYER TRANSFERS

- A. For players transferring intra-club during the seasonal year from recreational to recreation plus or travel, the Club will pay to Indiana Soccer the difference between the recreational player fee and the recreation plus or travel fee (Upgrade fee)
- B. A club may transfer players between teams at the same competitive level at any time.
- C. For players transferring inter club, the new Club will pay the full registration fee.
- D. See section 4.2-3 for travel player transfers

RULE 2.5 CLUB REGISTRAR

All Indiana Soccer Affiliated Member Organizations (Clubs) will appoint or elect a Club Registrar. The Club Registrar will serve as a liaison between Indiana Soccer and the Club. Responsibilities of the Club Registrar are as follows:

- A. Serve as the contact for registration purposes.
- B. Notification to their administrators of all pertinent Indiana Soccer registration deadlines, fees, and procedures.
- C. Collect registrations from all Club members and submit to Indiana Soccer using the prescribed electronic method.
- D. Process additional registration changes throughout the seasonal year.
- E. Communicate Indiana Soccer messages and requests to the Club's directors.

RULE 2.6 PLAYER, COACH, and ADMINISTRATOR PASSES

US Youth Soccer passes will be available for printing for properly registered players, coaches, and administrators. The card must have a photo and be laminated to be considered valid.

RULE 2.7 CLUB COACHING PASS

Each Affiliated Organization may have passes issued to its director of coaching or designee(s) which shall be recognized as a coach's pass for any team in that Affiliated Organization for purposes of league or tournament play in. The Club shall pay the stated fee for each coach issued a Club Coach Pass. In addition, the coach may also be listed on each Club team roster.

RULE 2.8 CLUB PASS

- A. The Club Pass process is designed for *intra*-club use only.
- B. Players may play with another age-appropriate team in the same Club. NOTE: there may be restrictions at the competition event level that prohibits certain club passing. Please check your competition event rules.
- C. Players registered on N1 (National 1) teams thru N1 may not be club passed to a USYS team or vice versa. If a player is to play on both a USYS and N1 team, that player must be dual registered.
- D. Players registered thru any other US Soccer sanctioned governing body may not be club passed to a USYS team or vice versa. If a player is to play on both a USYS and any other US Soccer sanctioned governing body team, that player must be dual registered.

RULE 2.9 INVOLUNTARY RELEASE (DROP) OF PLAYER

- A. A Club may release (drop) a recreational or recreation plus player from the club player pool or team roster without permission of the player under the following circumstances:
 - 1. The player has not paid the applicable Club fees by the published date.

2. The player cannot participate due to a physical or medical condition which prohibits the player from playing and which was not in existence or apparent at the time the player rostered with the team.
 3. The player has been suspended for the balance of the seasonal year or an indeterminate period.
 4. For any reason allowed by Indiana Soccer, USSF or US Youth Soccer rules.
 5. The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. Determination of a reasonable travel distance will be defined by Indiana Soccer.
- B. If a player is released (dropped) without the player's consent, a letter shall be sent to the player before he/she is released stating the reason or reasons for such action at least five (5) calendar days before the action. The current player's pass must be destroyed, and a copy of the said letter must be sent to Indiana Soccer. A player released (dropped) may play for a new Club during the current seasonal year.

RULE 2.10 CLUB RISK MANAGEMENT CONTACT

Refer to the Indiana Soccer Risk Management Policy.

RULE 2.11 RESIDENCY (Rule removed August 1, 2026)

RULE 2.12 OUT-OF-STATE PLAY (Rule removed August 1, 2026)

RULE 2.13 PLAYERS NOT RESIDING IN INDIANA

Non-Indiana residents are eligible to register with an Indiana Soccer club/team without requiring approval from their home State Association, provided their resident-state league permits dual participation and all registration requirements and governing rules are satisfied.

EXCEPTION: Players from Kentucky must follow the procedures outlined by that state association which still requires the out of state permission form. The KY approved form must be visible to the Indiana Soccer registrar.

RULE 2.14 FOREIGN PLAYERS REGISTERING IN INDIANA

Any player that is 12 or older that was born in a foreign country or is or has been registered in a foreign country (including Canada and Mexico) must follow the US Soccer policies for player waivers and registration. Clearance is granted through the US Soccer Federation.

RULE 2.15 TYPES OF TEAMS (US YOUTH SOCCER RULE 103)

- A. US Youth Soccer recognizes two types of teams. Teams with females only are Girls Teams. All other teams are Boys Teams.
- B. Recreational programs may register with Indiana Soccer as Coed teams (both girls and boys). Coed teams can only play in Coed divisions or boys' divisions.

RULE 2.1 FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure to comply with the "Indiana Soccer Registration Rules" may result in the offending Club, administrator, coach, assistant coach, manager/trainer and/or team representative, and players being suspended from soccer activities.

RULE 2.17 IHSAA RULE FOR TEAM SPORTS (after high school season)

- A. Clubs should refer to the IHSAA for complete policies regarding High School play outside of the school programs.
- B. As of the publication of this document, the IHSAA rules/policy states that no more than the following number of students who have participated in the previous year as a member of one of their school teams in that sport are members of the same non-school team at the same time. Soccer - 7.

RULE 2.18 INCORPORATION OF USSF REQUIREMENTS

To the extent these rules or the Bylaws of Indiana Soccer do not include all those provisions that are required by the US Soccer Federation to be included, said US Soccer requirements are hereby incorporated by reference as those requirements may be amended from time to time.

CHAPTER THREE – YOUTH RECREATIONAL AND RECREATION PLUS

Recreational and Recreation Plus soccer programs are intended to provide the opportunity for all interested children within the area served by the Member Organization (Club) to participate in and enjoy the game of soccer without regard for athletic ability or soccer skills, up to the limit of the Member Organization's ability to accommodate them. *Specific guidelines are contained herein for recreational/recreation plus team formation and player assignment.*

- A. Clubs accept as participants all eligible applicants (subject to reasonable terms and resource limitations at the club.)
- B. All forms of recruiting, invitations, and tryouts for a specific team are prohibited.
- C. The team formation process shall be random in nature.
- D. Criteria for player assignment shall include no consideration for the player's ability except to aid in balancing teams' strength.
- E. Exception: U15 and above recreational or recreation plus teams may reject players if necessary to avoid conflict with the IHSA rule limiting the number of players from the same high school participating on a single team.

RULE 3.1 AGE LIMIT DEFINITIONS AND ROSTER LIMITATIONS

SECTION 3.1-1 PROOF OF AGE

- A. Affiliated Member Organizations will require all recreational and recreation plus players to present proof of age when they register to play. Proof of age document must contain the player's legal name. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, Board of Health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, driver's license or a certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.
- B. Recreation plus players participating in Select leagues operated by Indiana Soccer must have birthdates verified and locked by the Indiana Soccer registrar or designee before completing registration and participation.

SECTION 3.1-2 TEAM AGE DIVISIONS

- A. Age divisions for recreational teams shall be comprised of players from the same birth year for teams ages 5U-19U. NOTE: Recreational age divisions may be determined by the Club to best serve their membership.
- B. Age divisions for recreation plus teams shall be comprised of players from the same birth year for teams ages 7U-19U. NOTE: No Recreation Plus teams 6U or younger may be formed without written permission granted by Indiana Soccer.

SECTION 3.1-3 GAME ROSTER SIZE AND NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD

	5U-6U	7U-8U	9U-10U	11U-12U	13U-19U
Recreational	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Recreation Plus	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES

Recommended # of players on the game roster	6	8	12	16	18
Number of players on the field not to exceed:	4v4 (3v3 is recommended)	4v4	7v7	9v9	11v11
Goalkeeper	NO	Optional, rotate each quarter	YES	YES	YES

Exceptions to the roster size and number of field players may be made at the discretion of the Affiliated Member Organization (Club) providing such exceptions are in the best interest of the development of the sport of soccer and no team is permitted to play in a game format larger than their actual age format.

SECTION 3.1-4 CLUB PLAYER POOLS (Club Pass)

Players may be registered to Club player pools by gender and age. There will be no limit to the minimum or maximum number for these player pools. (Clubs may choose to register players on specific teams.) NOTE: Competition rules may require players to be rostered to specific teams. Check the competition rules.

RULE 3.2 RECREATIONAL AND RECREATION PLUS PLAYER SPECIFIC REGISTRATION RULES

SECTION 3.2-1 ROSTER ADDITIONS

Players may be added to recreational or recreation plus programs/teams at any time during the seasonal year. Appropriate information and fees for all new members shall be submitted to Indiana Soccer.

SECTION 3.2-2 DOUBLE ROSTERING (Secondary)

- A. Recreational and recreation plus players may register on up to two teams in the same club or with one team each in two clubs simultaneously.
- B. Registered recreational and recreation plus players may simultaneously play recreational and recreation plus or travel. (Event rules may prohibit travel players from playing in recreational or recreation plus events. Check the event specific rules.)
- C. Players must indicate at registration their primary Club if the competitive level is the same for both registrations at each club. Otherwise, the higher level of the two registrations will carry the primary registration designation. The lower level of the two will carry a secondary registration designation.

SECTION 3.2-3 VOLUNTARY RELEASE (DROP) OF PLAYER

A registered recreational or recreation plus player may sever their active registration and register with another member club between playing sessions (fall/spring). The club registrar must use the current notification system to request the release (drop) of a player if the release is approved during the playing sessions (fall/spring). The player's player pass must be destroyed after Indiana Soccer authorizes the player's release. The player is eligible to play for a new club during the current seasonal year.

RULE 3.3 TRAVEL AND TOURNAMENTS FOR RECREATION

Recreational and recreation plus teams may participate in USYS sanctioned tournaments providing these divisions. Participation in district area Club sponsored recreational tournaments is encouraged.

CHAPTER FOUR – YOUTH TRAVEL SOCCER

Travel soccer programs are intended to provide players with advanced skills and an expressed desire to experience a level of competition beyond that afforded by a recreational program. Clubs may establish their own criteria for player selection and team assignment provided there is no conflict with the Indiana Soccer Bylaws, this rule document, US Youth Soccer Rules, or USSF

RULE 4.1 AGE LIMIT DEFINITIONS AND ROSTER LIMITATIONS

SECTION 4.1-1 PROOF OF AGE

- A. Affiliated member organizations will require all travel players to present proof of age when they register to play in Indiana Soccer. Proof of age document must contain the player's legal name. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, Board of Health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United State government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, or certification of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. A state Driver's License will be acceptable. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.
- B. All travel level players must have birthdates verified and locked by the Indiana Soccer registrar or designee before completing registration and participation.

SECTION 4.1-2 TEAM AGE DIVISIONS

- A. Age divisions for travel teams shall be comprised of players from the same birth year for teams ages 7U to 19U.
- B. Clubs may register a maximum of 4 individual small-sided players ages 8U, 10U, and 12U up a single year across a game format change. (I.E., 8U to 9U, 10U to 11U, and 12U to 13U).
- C. Clubs must use the player exception form process to request small-sided players to play up 2 or more years.

SECTION 4.1-3 MINIMUM/MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS FOR EVENT ROSTERS

Event rosters are a list of players identified to play for a specified team for an event. Event rules are specific on the number of players permitted to be rostered and participate in each event/game. Event rules for roster sizes must be followed.

SECTION 4.1-4 CLUB PLAYER POOLS (Club Pass)

Players may be registered to Club player pools by gender and age. There will be no limit to the minimum or maximum number for these player pools. (Clubs may choose to register players on specific teams.) NOTE: Competition rules may require players to be rostered to specific teams. Check the competition rules.

RULE 4.2 TRAVEL PLAYER SPECIFIC REGISTRATION RULES

SECTION 4.2-1 ROSTER ADDITIONS/TRANSFERRED PLAYERS

Players may be added at any time during the seasonal year provided:

- A. Player is not rostered as a travel player during the current seasonal year to another club.
- B. Player was previously rostered during the current seasonal year to another club and that club has released the player to play at a different club. This will be recorded as a transferred player.

SECTION 4.2-2 VOLUNTARY RELEASE (DROP) OF PLAYER

A registered travel 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. The club administrator or club president must use the current notification system (a support ticket through Gotsoccer) to request the release (drop) of a player. The player's pass must be destroyed after Indiana Soccer authorizes the player's release.

SECTION 4.2-3 TRAVEL PLAYER TRANSFERS

A transfer is the movement during a seasonal year of a currently or previously registered player from one Club to another.

Additional Information: A player who transfers from and to different Clubs is counted as a single transfer and is counted towards the "to" Club and the maximum of five (5) transfers allowed for A US Youth Soccer National Championship Series team (state cup team).

- A. A recreational or recreational plus player added to a travel team during the seasonal year will not be considered a transfer to the new team.
- B. INTER CLUB Player Transfer Procedure/Clarification:
 - 1. Permitted only upon written release from the Club president or designee of the current Club.
 - 2. Accepting Club will owe the appropriate fee (see fee schedule)
 - 3. Player pass must be destroyed and request for release must be submitted through current approved electronic format to the state office from the releasing club (As of January 1, 2019, that electronic format is Gotsoccer support ticket).
 - 4. If the current Club denies the request for player release, the player may petition Indiana Soccer in writing for such release.
 - 5. The petition will be reviewed and if approved the transfer will occur and the accepting Club will owe the transfer fee.
 - 6. If the petition is denied, the player cannot transfer to the new team. See Appendix I for appeals process.

SECTION 4.2-4 INTER-CLUB TRANSFER OF TEAM

It is the policy of Indiana Soccer that by registering with or through a Club, a team has made a commitment to that Club for one seasonal year. However, a travel team may transfer its registration between Affiliated Member Organizations (Clubs) using the following procedure:

- A. A signed letter from the president of the initial Club, releasing the team from the initial Club must be delivered to the Indiana Soccer State Registrar.
- B. A signed letter from the president of the receiving Club accepting such transfer must be delivered to the Indiana State Soccer Registrar.
- C. The original roster and all player passes associated with the initial team must be destroyed.
- D. A team transfer fee of \$100 may be assessed and paid by the receiving Club, after which a new roster and player passes will be issued.

If a team does not obtain a release from the initial Club, the team may petition for said release to Indiana Soccer.

SECTION 4.2-5 TOURNAMENT AND/OR LEAGUE ONLY PLAYERS

- A. Notify Indiana Soccer through electronic means the need for a Tournament/League Only Player Pass. All registration information is required (See Rule 2.2)
- B. Player pass is created and sent digitally to requestor after payment is received from player or posted in Club account.
- C. The player is eligible to participate with any club in a guest player capacity only when allowed per event rules and only in USYS sanctioned activity.

RULE 4.3 TRAVEL PLAYER/TEAM TRYOUTS

SECTION 4.3-1 ADVERTISING

- A. Advertising by any Club or other entity for recruiting or try-out attendance will not be allowed at any Indiana Soccer-sponsored event. Materials like this being displayed at the site of any Indiana Soccer event must be removed before and during the staging. Any offending party is subject to disciplinary action by Indiana Soccer.
- B. A Club may display its tryout dates on its website at any time. A Club or team may advertise tryouts in newspapers or by public notice at any time.

SECTION 4.3-2 ALLOWABLE CONTACT

- A. 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. Player commitment is defined in section 4.3-5.
- B. 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. Any communication encouraging the player to attend the training, tryouts, camps or any other individual, team, or club activity by a club agent will be considered a violation of these rules and regulations. (See Section 4.3-3)
 - C. For the purposes of these rules and regulations, "contact" will include but is not limited to contact in person, phone, text, email, Facebook, all other social media, US Mail, etc.

SECTION 4.3-3 RULES REGARDING PLAYER CONTACT AND INDUCEMENT

- A. Except as specifically allowed by these rules, no club agent shall contact a registered player to guest-play or tryout for a team/club without first contacting the player's current seasonal year Club President (or person(s) who have been designated in writing) and obtaining written permission to speak to the player or the player's representative, i.e., parent, guardian, etc. No contact with the player or a representative of the player, i.e., parent, guardian, etc. is allowed until written permission to speak with them has been obtained from the player's current seasonal year Club President. Violation of this provision shall be considered a contact violation.
- B. No club agent or advertisement may offer any kind of inducement - i.e., to a player(s) to play on his/her respective team/club. Clubs are responsible for the actions of all the people who can be considered as club agents involved with their team/club. Forms of inducement include, but are not limited to free T-shirts, free uniforms, free camps, college scholarships, free or discounted travel costs, etc. Any statement, positive, negative, or otherwise regarding any team or club which could affect the decision of a player(s) regarding choice of teams/clubs shall constitute improper contact. This rule applies to verbal discussions, letters, brochures, and radio and television advertisements.
- C. Unless otherwise set forth herein, no club agent may conduct any soccer related activity with any Indiana Soccer registered player who is registered on another team/club except during tryouts or if the player is a guest player with the written permission of the player's current seasonal year Club President or designee.
- D. Should a complaint of player contact be of an inter-association matter, then the complainant shall file his/her written complaint directly with Indiana Soccer, who shall, if there is sufficient evidence provided by the complainant in their written complaint, investigate, conduct a hearing, and render a decision. Sufficient evidence would include written corroboration from those with first-hand knowledge of what is being alleged. Either party may then file an appeal with Indiana Soccer's Board of Directors.
- E. Prohibited contact is considered a significant offense by Indiana Soccer's membership. Any club and/or club agent found to have committed a contact violation shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$2,500; additional club sanctions, loss of club agent privileges (i.e. coach, manager, etc.) for an amount of time not to exceed 5 years, club and/or team exclusion from as many as all Indiana Soccer sanctioned activities and/or events including US Youth Soccer NCS and Presidents Cup events, and/or other penalties that may be imposed by Indiana Soccer. Allegations against registered players are subject to review before sanctions are considered and sanction periods are at the discretion of Indiana Soccer. Either party, after a decision has been rendered, may file an appeal of the decision with Indiana Soccer's Board of Directors. The paying of all imposed fines is the timely responsibility of the club to which the coach, manager, or agent to which the fine is levied is associated at the time the violation occurred.
- F. If a coach leaves a member club to take a coaching position at another member club, that coach is prohibited from coaching or training any player(s) that were registered and that he/she 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 obtains a written release from this restriction by the previous member's club 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 under the following:

1. The member club for whom the coach served, is dissolved.
 2. The aforementioned prohibition does not apply to the child of the relocating coach; i.e., the coach may immediately coach their own child when the coach relocates. Note - This prohibition exception is not applicable if the parent of a child who played for Club A becomes a coach at another club unless relief from the prohibition is requested in writing from Indiana Soccer and Indiana Soccer provides written relief.
- G. 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.
1. The club agents are prohibited from encouraging camp participants (players) and/or their parent(s), or guardian(s) from transferring their registration.
 2. Should personal training be provided by a club agent, it is the responsibility of said agent and or the club to which the agent is associated to communicate with the registered player(s) member club. This courtesy of communication is *strongly* recommended.
- H. These rules apply to any Club or club agent that has any portion of their members receiving benefits from Indiana Soccer.
- I. See Appendix II for Frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers.

SECTION 4.3-4 TRYOUT DATE RESTRICTIONS

- A. Players will not be allowed to tryout, practice, work out or register with a coach, team, or Club for an upcoming seasonal year until on or after the published date for travel tryouts for the upcoming seasonal year. This rule does not preclude a player from practicing with a team as an authorized guest player.
- B. Any player determined to have been affected or impacted by a violation of Rule 4.3 is ineligible to play for the violating club the seasonal year following the violation.
- C. Clubs cannot conduct open meetings, camps, trainings, games etc. of any kind for any non-Club members before the first (1st) day of allowable tryouts.

SECTION 4.3-5 PLAYER COMMITMENT

- A. According to US Youth Soccer Policy Rule 201 Section 3: 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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 are required to note they acknowledge the one seasonal-year informative language.
- D. A signed Club scholarship application will NOT satisfy the payment fee language noted in section B above.

Note that anyone accused of violating any of these rules will be afforded due process as stated by US Soccer. See Appendix I for appeals process.

CHAPTER FIVE – ADULT PLAYER REGISTRATION

Adult soccer programs are hosted by Indiana Soccer member organizations for adults (players aged 18 and older) to participate in and enjoy the game of soccer. Most leagues are considered to be recreational in nature. Some leagues are categorized as competitive, and players are selected to form competitive teams.

RULE 5.1 SEASONAL PLAYING YEAR

The Adult player year is defined as a calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31). The registration cycle begins on January 1 each year.

RULE 5.2 AGE LIMIT DEFINITIONS AND ROSTER LIMITS

- A. Adult competitions consist of players aged 18 years old and older. If an adult competition (league or tournament) chooses to allow players under the age of 18 to participate, the competition will have to abide by the mandatory US Safesport Laws to protect minors. This includes requiring all participants to take the education course offered by the US Center for Safesport.
- B. Any event competition authority may define the divisions of play by age and/or gender. There are no specific rules pertaining to limiting age groups, however, divisions generally consist of Open age, U23, Over 30, Over 40, etc. Female teams consist of female players. Male teams generally consist of male players, but female players may join male teams. Co-ed teams are permitted and will be defined by the specific competition authority.
- C. There is no limit to the roster pool size for registration purposes. The competition authority for any event may limit the number of players permitted to participate. Please check the competition rules.

RULE 5.3 REGISTRATION TYPES

- A. Full Sided Players registered to participate in 11v11 competitions/events will pay the full prescribed registration fee.
- B. Small Sided Player registered to participate in competitions/event with fewer than 11v11 players on the field will pay a reduced registration fee.
- C. Weekend Only Passes can be issued for players either full or small-sided to participate at a reduced rate. This pass will be marked and is only valid for the stated three-day period.

GLOSSARY

ABUSE

Abuse is a verbal statement or physical act that implies or threatens physical, emotional, or psychological harm.

ADD (PLAYER)

Addition of a player who has not been rostered to a team during the current seasonal year.

AFFILIATE MEMBER (CLUB)

An Affiliated Member Organization is an organization of four (4) or more teams (of any type) which is a soccer organization with its headquarters in Indiana, and registered with Indiana Soccer, which supports and actively promotes the purpose and activities of Indiana Soccer by having soccer-playing and/or educational opportunities for its members and has been approved as an affiliated member by the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors. Subject to adherence to all other Indiana Soccer guidelines.

ALLIED MEMBERS

Allied Member Organizations are those sports organizations which govern programs in, or allied to, soccer as a sport, do not field teams and are not qualified as Affiliated Member Organizations.

CLUB AGENT

Any person connected to a specific club or team including the board of directors, any paid or volunteer administrative staff, coaches, managers, players, trainers, parent/guardians, etc.

CLUB PASS

A system that provides for players from the same Club to participate in league and cup games with another team in their Club – providing the players are age appropriate for the team and meet player level restrictions. See event rules which may contain event specific club passing rules/limitation.

CLUB REGISTRAR

A person who is identified and responsible to the Club and to Indiana Soccer to transmit and receive rosters, player passes and other such documentation as to players, teams, and Clubs for the benefit of said Club.

DROP

Release (drop) means to remove a player from a roster by filing an appropriate release (drop) form and receiving Indiana Soccer approval to drop a player(s).

ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY

Eligible to play means registered and not under suspension.

EVENT ROSTER

A list of players eligible to participate in a single event like a league game, tournament, or cup play.

FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS (FIFA)

The world governing body of the sport of soccer.

FRIENDLY GAME

A match played between any two Indiana Soccer/US Youth Soccer sanctioned member teams that is outside of league or tournament play.

GAME ROSTER

A list of players who will participate in a particular competition or game.

GUEST PLAYER

A registered player competing for a club to which they are not rostered.

INDIVIDUAL PLAYER

An individual player is a player registered with Indiana Soccer but not with a specific team. Individual players will receive a generic card stamped "tournament play only" or "League Play Only."

MEDICAL RELEASE

A form whereby the parent or other legal guardian of a player consents in advance to allow medical treatment of the player without said parent or another legal guardian being present. Said form shall also include information regarding who is financially responsible for said treatment, the medical insurance information, any allergies the player may have and the name and other directory information of the player's physician. (This form does not require have to be notarized).

NATIONAL STATE ASSOCIATION (NSA)

An affiliated member association of US Soccer representing all leagues, Affiliate Members, teams, and players within the territory assigned to the NSA by the USSF National Council.

PRIMARY PLAYER

When a player is rostered to two teams, the team with the highest player level will be considered their primary team unless they declare it differently at the time of registration and report it to the state association.

RECREATIONAL CLUB

Recreational soccer programs are intended to provide the opportunity for all interested person(s) within the area served by the Affiliated Member Organization (Club) to participate in and enjoy the game of soccer without regard for athletic ability or soccer skills, up to the limit of the Member Organization's ability to accommodate said person(s).

RECREATION PLUS LEAGUE

A structured group which collects fees from, and schedules inter-club games between recreation plus teams from Affiliated Member Organizations. Recreation plus member leagues are Allied Member Organizations of Indiana Soccer.

TRAVEL LEAGUE

A travel league collects fees from, and schedules inter-club games between travel teams from Affiliated Member Organizations or approved US Youth Soccer affiliates.

REGION

One of four geographical subdivisions of the territory of US Youth Soccer. Indiana is one of fourteen (14) member state organizations in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Region.

REGISTRATION

Players are registered by an Affiliate Member Organization with Indiana Soccer for the seasonal year by submitting the required information and fee.

ROSTER

A list of registered players available to participate in a match.

SEASONAL YEAR

Seasonal year is September 1st to August 31st per US Youth Soccer. The seasonal year includes fall, spring, and summer seasons.

SECONDARY PLAYER

Players can have a secondary registration with recreational and recreation plus level teams intra or inter club.

SUSPENSION

Suspension means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges such as, but not limited to, the right to play, coach or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of affiliated soccer. Any person or group (team, Club, league, board, etc.) that has been suspended shall be in less than good standing for the entire term of suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

TEAM

A recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.

TEAM ROSTER

A list of registered players eligible to play for a team in the seasonal year or a particular event.

TOURNAMENT TEAM

A team comprised of players who may or may not be registered to more than one team who are rostered on the tournament team, only for the purpose of attending:

- (1) A tournament sanctioned by another National State Association or
- (2) International tournaments sanctioned by Indiana Soccer

A Tournament Team is not eligible to play in any of the Indiana Soccer Cups competitions.

TRANSFER

The movement of a currently or previously rostered player onto another team roster or a player who returns to the same roster within the current seasonal year.

UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF)

The United States Soccer Federation, the national governing body of soccer in the United States and recognized by FIFA and the United States Olympic Committee.

US YOUTH SOCCER

The United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer), a division of US Soccer.

YOUTH PLAYER

A youth player is one who has not reached the age of nineteen (19) years prior to January 1 of the current seasonal year.

Appendix I

APPEALS PROCESS

Indiana Soccer utilizes US Youth Soccer's Grievances, Deputes and Appeals process and complies with US Soccer's policy(s) addressing the same. All members of Indiana Soccer, coaches, players, administrators, and parents can appeal a decision, unless the activity, event, or competition rules for which the appeal is being sought, limits an appeal to the activity, event or competition administrators or their assigns. Adjudications that are not appeal's limited, must be delivered in writing, to the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors, at the current address of the Indiana Soccer office. The appeal must be sent registered mail; marked to the attention of the Executive Director and be accompanied by an appeals fee of \$2,500– [twenty-five hundred dollars], not later than 10 days after the date of the decision. The appeals fee will be returned should the decision for which the appeal is filed be overturned.

Appendix II

IMPROPER CONTACT FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions):

Question: 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?

Answer:

- a. When asked about playing for you, the answer is *we can't address that at this time*. Only during the 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 until after the season and that is not always known (team 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 that parent/guardian/player about their child's position in your club until after the allowable contact period begins.

Question: Coach Q coached at Club A in the Spring of 2017 moves to Club B in the Fall of 2017 or Spring of 2018. Can a player who played for Coach Q in Club A move to Club B in the Fall of 2017 or Spring of 2018, play for Coach Q at Club B?

Answer: No, see Section C above