



# **INDIANA SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **Rules, Policies and Procedures**

## **INDEX**

<b>SECTION 1</b>	<b>LEAGUE OVERVIEW</b>
<b>SECTION 2</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE</b>
<b>SECTION 3</b>	<b>JOB DESCRIPTIONS</b>
<b>SECTION 4</b>	<b>FINANCIAL MATTERS</b>
<b>SECTION 5</b>	<b>TEAM APPLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP</b>
<b>SECTION 6</b>	<b>LEAGUE STRUCTURE</b>
<b>SECTION 7</b>	<b>DETERMINING DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS</b>
<b>SECTION 8</b>	<b>SEEDING FOR STATE CUP</b>
<b>SECTION 9</b>	<b>MIDWEST REGIONAL LEAGUE</b>
<b>SECTION 10</b>	<b>PLAYER REGISTRATION</b>
<b>SECTION 11</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY</b>
<b>SECTION 12</b>	<b>ROSTERING</b>
<b>SECTION 13</b>	<b>TRANSFERS/COMMITMENT</b>
<b>SECTION 14</b>	<b>INSURANCE AND INSURANCE CLAIMS</b>
<b>SECTION 15</b>	<b>DISCIPLINARY RULINGS</b>
<b>SECTION 16</b>	<b>HEARINGS AND APPEALS</b>
<b>SECTION 17</b>	<b>LAWS OF THE GAME</b>
<b>SECTION 18</b>	<b>SPORTSMANSHIP</b>
<b>SECTION 19</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS OF REFREES</b>
<b>SECTION 20</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS OF PLAYERS</b>
<b>SECTION 21</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS OF COACHES</b>
<b>SECTION 22</b>	<b>AWARDS</b>
<b>SECTION 23</b>	<b>MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR</b>

## **Section 1 LEAGUE OVERVIEW**

### **1.1 Name**

The Indiana Soccer League (ISL) is the name of the competitive travel league administered by Indiana Soccer for boys and girls teams ages U9 through U19 and Adult Men's and Women's divisions.

### **1.2 League Office**

The Indiana Soccer League (ISL) office shall be the same as Indiana Soccer. The current location is: 5440 Herbert Lord Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

### **1.3 Purpose**

The purpose of this league is to provide the best possible competitive environment for all level travel teams in Indiana. The league will also increase the opportunities for the education and development of players, coaches, referees and spectators.

### **1.4 Goals**

The Goals of the ISL are to:

- Provide a pyramid structure of competitive levels of play for Indiana Soccer member clubs and teams
- Facilitate the development of a club structure
- Improve the identification, training and advancement of state, regional and national caliber players
- Provide better opportunities for player, coaching and referee development
- Strengthen the relationship between coaches, administrators and referees
- Promote sportsmanship in a safe, healthy and fun playing environment

## **Section 2 GOVERNANCE**

### **2.1 Authority**

The ISL is authorized by Indiana Soccer Board of Directors to operate as an official league of Indiana Soccer. The ISL shall be administered by Indiana Soccer through the ISL Commissioner. All policies, procedures and rules will be approved by the ISL DOC Council and will be consistent with Indiana Soccer, US Youth Soccer and US Soccer.

### **2.2 ISL DOC Council**

The ISL DOC Council shall include the following members:

DOC/Coaches (number TBD)

ISL Commissioner – Chair

### **2.3 Term Limits**

Initially, half of the members will serve a one (1) year term and half will serve a two (2) year term. After this rotation is established, each Council member appointed thereafter will serve a two (2) year term. DOC Council members may serve more than one term.

### **2.4 ISL DOC Council Responsibilities**

ISL DOC Council will be vested with the responsibility to assist and advise the Commissioner to plan, develop, manage, regulate, supervise, administer and conduct the ISL.

2.4.1 The DOC Council shall be responsible for formulating, proposing and enforcing league rules, policies and procedures.

2.4.2 A quorum, consisting of the majority of the DOC Council, must be present at all times during Council meetings in order to conduct official business. The Commissioner is not considered when determining a quorum.

2.4.3 The DOC Council will require a simple majority of the quorum to make rules, policies and procedural changes.

2.4.4 The DOC Council shall hold regular monthly meetings. Members of the DOC Council may attend the meetings in person, by teleconference or web conference. The Commissioner will

communicate the date, time and place of these meetings. An agenda must be provided to the DOC Council members at least three (3) days before the meeting.

## **2.5 Role of the Advisory Groups**

The ISL Commissioner will identify three (3) Advisory Groups that will make recommendations to the DOC Council and ISL Commissioner about best practice recommendations and team placement within the ISL. The three Advisory Groups will cover: U9 & U10; U11, U12 & U13; U14, U15, U16, U17 & U18. Members of the Advisory Groups will be representative of age groups, gender and geography. There is no limit to the size or term of the Advisory Groups.

## **2.6 Urgent Decisions**

2.6.1 Rule or policy changes requiring immediate action by the DOC Council may be expedited via telephone or e-mail at any time. Any “out-of-meeting” rulings shall be incorporated into these rules within 24 hours, with notification provided to member clubs and teams.

2.6.2 If an emergency situation arises and a quorum of voting members will not be available for at least 24 hours, the ISL Commissioner shall have the authority to issue a temporary ruling until the matter can be resolved as provided by established policies and procedure.

## **2.7 Due Process**

All actions of the DOC Council and ISL Commissioner may be appealed. Any challenges to the DOC Council’s decisions should be made successively to the Indiana Soccer Executive Director and then the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is the final arbiter in ISL matters.

# **Section 3 JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

## **3.1 ISL Commissioner**

This is a paid position. The Commissioner of the Indiana Soccer League shall be responsible for the following:

- Report to the Indiana Soccer Executive Director
- Work with the DOC Council to develop and administer the league
- Prepare any/all correspondence required by the DOC Council
- Issue, in writing, all notices of regularly scheduled meetings to the Indiana Soccer membership
- Organize and chair all Indiana Soccer League member meetings
- Participate and chair ISL DOC Council meetings
- Participate and chair ISL Technical Committee meetings
- Attend Indiana Soccer Board meetings as circumstances demand
- Coordinate league activities with the ISL staff and volunteers.
- Work with ISL Administrator to prepare the State League budget
- Work within the parameters of the approved State League budget
- Work with the Indiana Soccer Executive Director to develop sponsorship opportunities
- Coordinate all State League awards Assist club administrators with the registration process, as requested
- Advise clubs on registration deadlines
- Enforce registration deadlines
- Perform additional related duties assigned by the Executive Director
- The commissioner has the authority to add paid staff as necessary as approved by the Executive Director Indiana Soccer Board of Directors

## **3.2 ISL Administrator**

This is a paid position. The Administrator of the Indiana Soccer League shall be responsible for the following:

- Assist the ISL Commissioner in developing league calendars
- Coordinate league activities with ISL Commissioner and the ISL staff and volunteers.
- Work with ISL Commissioner to prepare the State League budget
- Work within the parameters of the approved State League budget
- Maintain the league administration software and keep current on it's use and updates.
- Train paid and volunteer staff on administration software use.
- Train paid and volunteer on game scheduling procedures.
- Oversee all league game scheduling
- Oversee the league assignors to ensure all games are assigned as defined by the league
- Confirm referee assignments to League Commissioners/Directors no later than seven (7) days prior to all scheduled league games
- Coordinate with the league and assignors to ensure that referees are assigned to rescheduled games
- Main communication link between league and individual teams
- Assist with day to day operations of the league
- Complete additional assignments as requested by the ISL Commissioner

### **3.3 Competition Assistants**

The Competition Assistants (2, north/south), shall be directly responsible for the maintenance of the schedules for the teams in their area once the final schedules have been released. The duties of each Assistant shall be as follows:

- Maintain accurate and updated scores and standings on the web site
- Assist teams in the rescheduling of games
- Contact the League Assignors when games must be rescheduled
- Act as a liaison with host sites to assure field availability for all scheduled games
- Work with District Managers and be prepared to assist them with their duties
- Report all activity to the ISL Commissioner
- Attend monthly or bi-monthly telephone conference meetings
- Complete additional assignments as requested by the ISL Commissioner and ISL Administrator

### **3.4 League Volunteers**

League volunteers (12 volunteers) will be responsible to work directly with the clubs in their district to assist them in managing their league play.

- Serve and assist the clubs in their assigned district pertaining to league play
- Report to the Director of Competition
- Trained by the Director of Competition & ISL Commissioner
- Work closely with Competition Assistants to accomplish tasks
- Assist with schedule preparations
- Assist with schedule changes
- Assist clubs with maintaining accurate league rosters
- Read all game reports for teams in your district and prepare written weekly report for ISL Commissioner
- Use the GotSoccer Support ticket system as main communication tool
- Monitor referee assignments (completeness and timeliness) – report weaknesses to Director of Competition
- Attend monthly or bi-monthly telephone conference meetings
- Monitor league activity and communications daily

### **3.5 DOC Technical Committee**

The positions are volunteer positions and the responsibilities of the Technical Committee are:

- Recommend teams for selection and division placement prior to the fall and spring seasons
- Recommend the divisional placement of all NEW teams.
- Advocate for playing and administrative rules changes to the DOC Council
- Assist the Commissioner and Director of Education in building coaching development programs
- Assist the Commissioner, the ODP Director, and Director of Education in the advancement of state, regional, and national players through ODP
- Assist in the promotion of ethical practices throughout the league
- Perform other State League tasks, as determined necessary by the Commissioner

## **Section 4 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **4.1 Financial Policies**

The Commissioner will use the ISL and Indiana Soccer financial policies as a guideline in financial management.

### **4.2 Budget**

The Commissioner will prepare the annual Indiana Soccer League budget. The proposed budget will be submitted to the Executive Director for review and then submitted to the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors for final approval.

### **4.3 Fees**

- 4.3.1 The ISL Commissioner shall determine league fees and performance bonds when required.
- 4.3.2 The ISL Commissioner shall be responsible for the collection of all league fees and fines from participating clubs or teams
- 4.3.3 All funds collected must be made payable to Indiana Soccer and presented to the Indiana Soccer state office for deposit into Indiana Soccer accounts.

### **4.4 Marketing (non-fee based income)**

The Indiana Soccer League may have a sponsor with naming rights at various levels which may include the entire league or portions of it such as a division or age group.

## **Section 5 TEAM APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSION**

### **5.1 Application Deadlines**

- 5.1.1 Any team which is registered with Indiana Soccer may apply for entry to the ISL. Team applications to participate in the ISL must be completed on line using the current web-based league management software.
- 5.1.2 The deadline for application will be based on the league level the team is entering. In general, the fall season deadlines will be in July and August. The spring season deadlines will start in November and extend through February. Dates will be set and posted each season by the ISL Commissioner.
- 5.1.3 All team fees and performance bonds (when required per Rule 5.2) are due by the posted deadline for each season.

### **5.2 Performance Bonds**

A performance bond may be required of some teams entered in the ISL. The requirement for a bond check will be determined by the ISL Commissioner. The bond check will be cashed. The bond will be returned if a team leaves the league in good standing at the completion of a seasonal year.

- 5.2.1 A bond may be required if a team or club from a previous season left the league in poor standing.
- 5.2.2 A bond will be required for all U18 teams participating in the Premier and 1<sup>st</sup> Divisions.
- 5.2.3 The bond amount is \$500.
- 5.2.4 Should any assessed fines reach the full bond amount, the team will be required to post a new bond to be eligible to complete the league season.

### **5.3 Midwest Regional League Participants**

Any team that elects to play in the Midwest Regional League (MRL) will not lose their standing in the ISL. Any team returning from the MRL will assume a position in the ISL Premier Division. No team may participate in both MRL and ISL during the same season.

## **Section 6 ISL STRUCTURE**

### **6.1 Divisions**

- 6.1.1 The ISL will offer competition divisions from Premier through 5th division (or more if needed). Premier and 1st Divisions will be state wide divisions. 2nd division through 5<sup>th</sup> division and the U9 and U10 Academies will be played within regions (or similar) breakdown to minimize travel.
- 6.1.2 Each division should have a minimum of four (4) teams. (This would provide a six (6) game double round-robin season.)
- 6.1.3 There will not be a maximum number of teams per division. The DOC (or the individual identified) of each club will place their teams in the division they feel most appropriate. After a season of play, DOCs may request to move a team to a different division. This request will be brought to the DOC Council and ISL Commissioner.
- 6.1.4 Each division will play from six (6) to eight (8) games (depending on the placement and number of teams). If a division is larger than 9 teams, the division may be divided in half (north/south, east/west).
- 6.1.5 The ISL DOC Council will review all applications and make recommendation as to the proper placement of teams in each division of the league in each season. Creating a competitive environment will be the number one criteria.

### **6.2 Format**

- 6.2.1 Traditional Format: Round robin/double round robin league schedule where each team plays every other team once or twice (depending on the number of teams in the division) with equal number of home/away games. Some games may be scheduled for a neutral site to minimize travel.
- 6.2.2 Academy Format: Teams from the same club are scheduled to the same site on a predetermined day to provide for maximum oversight by Club DOCs. Teams may not receive an equal number of home/away games.
- 6.2.3 Cross Over Games: Teams participating in either format may be scheduled cross over games with teams from the other format with the approval of the DOCs from both clubs.

### **6.3 Competition Seasons**

Fall	Both genders, U9 to U14 teams, adult teams
Winter	Both genders, U13 to U19
Winter/Spring	Both genders, U09 to U19, adult teams
Spring	Both genders, U09 to U19, adult teams
Summer	Both genders, adult teams

#### **6.4 Gender Consideration**

6.4.1 Girls may play on a boys' team.

6.4.2 Boys may not play on a girls' team (would become a boys' team).

#### **6.5 Playing Up**

The ISL DOC Council may invite teams into the next older age group if compelling evidence shows that it may be developmentally appropriate.

#### **6.6 Promotion and Relegation**

The ISL will utilize a promotion and relegation system. The number of teams relegated and promoted will be recommended by the ISL Advisory Groups and ISL DOC Council.

6.6.1 Teams may decline the option for promotion.

6.6.2 Teams must return a minimum of 50% of the players (round up) from their previous season's roster to maintain their position or promotion.

6.6.3 Promotion and relegation will be used at the end of each season.

6.6.4 The Advisory Groups and ISL DOC Council Technical Committee will review all applications and recommend placement of teams in the appropriate division.

#### **6.7 Schedule Responsibility**

The ISL Commissioner and league scheduler shall be responsible for establishing the calendar parameters for the ISL seasons.

#### **6.8 League Scheduling Timetable**

6.8.1 The ISL Commissioner will determine the league playing calendar 6 months to one year in advance.

#### **6.9 Blacked-out Dates**

Blackout weekends will be allowed and vary in their numbers dependent upon the age of each team, the season, and how the holidays fall during the calendar year.

6.9.1 The number of block dates will be announced with the registration information each season.

6.9.2 The number of block dates will be clearly explained on the application form.

6.9.3 There will be no less than 4 block dates for any season.

#### **6.10 ODP ID Play Dates**

The league may schedule ODP ID dates during any season. These play dates may not be made mandatory but will be used in conjunction with special events. The ODP ID play dates must be announced 30 days prior to opening the season registration.

#### **6.11 Scheduling**

6.11.1 League game count per division will be dependent upon the number of entries in each division and requests by teams for additional or crossover games. Teams will not be limited to participation in a single division. Teams may choose to participate in multiple scheduling format divisions.

6.11.2 Neutral sites, when appropriate, will be utilized to minimize travel and provide:

- \* Better options for referee scheduling

- \* Better league management and oversight

- \* Improved observation and identification for the Indiana Olympic Development Program.

6.11.3 Schedules will be written to follow US Soccer Best Practices (one game a day). In the event that a team has elected to play two (2) games in a one day, there should be a minimum of three (3) hours between games.

6.11.4 All game times presented on the schedules will be listed as local time to the site.



## **6.12 Rescheduling of Games**

- 6.12.1 Teams that fail to play a game for any reason are expected to reschedule the match within five (5) days of the original date.
- 6.12.2 When the game has been rescheduled, the coach or manager of the hosting team must provide the league with the following information within 48 hours (2 days) of rescheduling the game.
- \* The teams involved
  - \* A listing of the division, age and gender.
  - \* The game number.
  - \* The date, time and location of the rescheduled game.
- 6.12.3 In the event the teams cannot agree to reschedule a game, the ISL Commissioner or appointed league scheduler will assign a date/ time.
- 6.12.4 ISL matches take precedence over all other youth matches except State Cup, Presidents Cup, Challenge Cup, and MRL.
- 6.12.5 Fall play will generally begin in mid-August. The season will be completed by the last weekend in October. If weather dictates the need, games may be scheduled/rescheduled into early November.
- 6.12.6 Spring play generally will begin the last weekend of March and end by mid June.
- 6.12.7 The ISL schedule must be completed before or in conjunction with the MRL schedules to ensure facilities are available.
- 6.12.8 The ISL will schedule most games on Saturdays. Sunday and weeknight games will also be scheduled as necessary.
- 6.12.9 If it is determined that a game must be rescheduled on a week night, ISL will contact the home team representative. This representative will have 48 hours to work with the opponent to find an acceptable weeknight to play the game. ISL will secure a field and referees. If an agreement cannot be reached, the game will be rescheduled by the ISL representative on the first available date and field.
- 6.12.10 Teams in the Premier and 1<sup>st</sup> Divisions are asked not to reschedule games on ODP dates.

## **6.13 Late Schedule Changes**

- 6.13.1 Once the final schedule has been posted, league games may only be changed or cancelled at no cost for the following reasons:
- Direct conflict with rescheduled State Cup games
  - No match officials are available
  - Unplayable weather conditions
  - Unplayable field related to weather conditions
  - Dangerous field conditions
  - Catastrophic circumstances
- 6.13.2 A rescheduling fee of \$100 will be assessed for any schedule changes outside of noted above. This fee is due within 5 business days of the date the request is made. The check is to be made payable to Indiana Soccer and sent to the state office.

## **6.14 Coaching Multiple Teams**

At the time of declarations, head coaches who are involved with multiple teams should indicate which teams should be scheduled together. Reasonable accommodations will be extended, but not guaranteed.

## **6.15 Home teams**

The home team will be listed first and will be responsible for hosting their matches (unless a neutral site is arranged by the league).

#### **6.16 Assigning of Referees**

The final schedule, complete with confirmed dates, locations and game times will be sent to the league site assignors. Neither clubs nor teams are responsible for referee assigning. All assignment for ISL games will be managed through ISL league assignors.

#### **6.17 Dropping Out**

A team that drops out of the ISL shall be fined. For teams in which a performance bond is being held, they will forfeit their bond. Dropping out may also result in the team being ineligible to participate in the league for a period of time to be determined by the DOC Council.

#### **6.18 Dual Use of Game Results**

6.18.1 No ISL game can be used to fulfill the requirements of another competition unless specifically approved in writing by the ISL Commissioner and the other competition involved.

6.18.2 No other league or tournament game may be used to fulfill the requirements of an ISL league game unless specifically approved in writing by the ISL Commissioner.

### **Section 7 DETERMINING DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS**

#### **7.1 Game Points**

During seasonal play, game points shall be awarded as follows:

- \* Wins-Three (3) points
- \* Ties-One (1) point
- \* Losses-Zero (0) points

#### **7.2 Tie-breakers**

The following tie-breaking criteria will be used to determine the final standings for each Division:

- Total points
- Head to head results
- Goal differential using the sum of all league games\*
- Goals scored using the sum of all league games\*
- Goals allowed using the sum of all league games \*

\* For tiebreaker purposes, a four (4) goal maximum will be used for calculations.

7.2.1 Divisions with more than 9 teams that are divided into geographic schedules, there may be a "play off" between the two sub-regions.

#### **7.3 Forfeits**

Any team that forfeits a game shall not be eligible for a divisional championship. Three (3) points will be deducted for any forfeited game and the score shall be recorded as 0-4. A fine of \$300 will be assessed and must be paid within 7 days of reporting the forfeit. If the forfeit is reported to the ISL Commissioner with less than 48 hours to kickoff, the full amount of the referee fees will also be due. The check is to be made payable to Indiana Soccer and sent to the state office.

#### **7.4 Multiple Forfeits**

7.4.1 Each additional forfeited game will be assessed a fine of \$300 per game. Any forfeit reported to the ISL Commissioner with less than 48 hours to kickoff will be assessed the full referee fees in addition to the fine.

7.4.2 If a team forfeits two (2) games in a seasonal year, the coach may be suspended. The team may also be ineligible to participate in the league the following season.

## **Section 8 SEEDING FOR STATE CUP AND PRESIDENTS CUP**

ISL results may be used as criteria to help determine team selection for State Cup and Presidents Cup.

## **Section 9 MIDWEST REGIONAL LEAGUE**

The ISL DOC Committee will be responsible for recommending teams for promotion to MRL. All other teams considered for recommendation by the ISL Technical Committee (if any) will be based upon application of the rules set forth in the Policy and Procedure for Promotion to MRL document posted at the ISL website.

## **Section 10 PLAYER REGISTRATION**

### **10.1 Individual Player Registration**

All individual player registration rules are governed by Indiana Soccer and US Youth Soccer. Those policies must be strictly adhered to and may be found in the Indiana Soccer Registration Rules. The complete document is available at [www.soccerindiana.org](http://www.soccerindiana.org).

### **10.2 Minimum Number of Players Registered to Compete**

ISL Teams must register a minimum of eleven (11) active players to their event roster, no later than the registration deadline for each season. The player registration process will remain open throughout the season to complete the roster.

### **10.3. Minimum Number of Returning Players for a U-13/18 Premier and 1<sup>st</sup> Division Teams**

Teams must return a minimum of 50% of the players (rounded up) from the previous season to be eligible to maintain their earned position/promotion in ISL.

## **Section 11 INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY**

The ISL Commissioner, DOC Council or the state registrar can call upon any player to prove his/her legal age. A birth certificate, driver's license, passport, board of health records, certificate of naturalization or alien registration card shall be sufficient for proof of age.

## **Section 12 ROSTERING**

### **12.1 Initial Rosters**

ISL Teams must establish their initial event rosters per Indiana Soccer and US Youth Soccer rules prior to the first ISL game for each season.

### **12.2 Club Pass**

Players registered with a club may use their Indiana Soccer player pass to play for any other age-eligible teams within their own club. (Note: A player rostered to a team in MRL or the ISL Premier Division should not play "down" for a team in a lower division or league unless the player is not receiving significant playing time.)

### **12.3 Guest Players**

Guest players (defined as "players from another club") are not allowed to participate on any ISL team. Club Pass players are not defined as "guest players."

#### **12.4.1 Over Age/Trapped Players**

By definition for ISL, over age or trapped players are U15 players who have not moved up to high school with their peers and U19 players who are still in high school.

12.4.1 During the fall season only, U14 teams may roster up to 3 U15 over age/ trapped players.

12.4.2 During the spring season only, U18 teams may roster up to 3 U19 over age/trapped players.

12.4.3 All over age/trapped players must use the club pass system or league only guest player passes provided for by Indiana Soccer. Trapped players may not appear on state rosters, but will appear on league rosters.

#### **12.5 Roster Additions**

When a team's active roster drops below the minimum number due to illness, injury or resignation, that team shall be allowed to add players to their roster through the normal registration process until they have reached the minimum or maximum roster limits.

#### **12.6 Playing Up**

12.7.1 Players are not restricted from playing on older teams.

12.7.2 Teams are not restricted in playing up but must be approved by the ISL DOC Council or ISL Commissioner to do so.

### **Section 13 TRANSFERS/COMMITMENT**

All player or team transfers are governed by the policies set forth by Indiana Soccer. Please refer to the Indiana Soccer Registration Rules document posted at [www.soccerindiana.org](http://www.soccerindiana.org) for the most current rules regarding transfer players. The same document also contains the rules for player commitment.

### **Section 14 INSURANCE AND INSURANCE CLAIMS**

Indiana Soccer insurance provides liability insurance for players, coaches, club officers and league officials as well as medical insurance for all players and coaches.

### **Section 15 DISCIPLINARY RULINGS**

#### **15.1 Oversight Authority of the ISL Disciplinary Panel**

The ISL DOC Council or an appointed ISL Disciplinary Panel will be responsible to review all disciplinary matters for ISL. In situations where Red Cards or ejections have been issued for serious offenses, the ISL Disciplinary Panel will have the authority to hold Disciplinary Hearings and issue fines or extend suspensions as deemed necessary.

#### **15.2 Suspensions Pending Hearings**

In accordance with US Soccer rules, all suspensions are considered to be in force from the time an infraction is reported and verified until a disciplinary hearing can be held.

#### **15.3 Automatic Penalties**

Automatic penalties are to be applied to the next played ISL game or games.

#### **15.4 Send Offs**

15.4.1 Players who are Red Carded by the referee shall receive an automatic one (1) game suspension.

15.4.2 Coaches or team officials who are sent off (ejected) by the referee shall receive an automatic one (1) game suspension.

15.4.3 A suspension is defined as not participating in the game in any manner whatsoever. Suspended team personnel (i.e. coaches, etc.) are to leave the immediate vicinity. Immediate vicinity shall be defined as sufficient distance from the playing field where the

offending party cannot cause additional disruptions to the game. This is considered the “Out of Sight and Out of Sound” principle. Due to travel and carpooling, players may remain in the team technical area on the bench for safety reasons. Otherwise, players should observe the “Out of Sight and Out of Sound” rule.

15.4.4 Penalties for more serious situations are outlined below.

**15.5 Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language**

15.5.1 Players who are Red Carded and coaches or other team officials that are sent off for using offensive, insulting or abusive language before, during or after a game may receive a two (2) game suspension. This is not an automatic suspension and may be subject to a hearing.

15.5.2 Note that the team coach is responsible for the words and actions of all persons associated with his or her team before, during and after each game.

**15.6 Violent Conduct and Serious Foul Play**

Players who are Red Carded for violent conduct or serious foul play before, during or after a game may receive a two (2) game suspension. This is not an automatic suspension and may be subject to a hearing.

**15.7 Pushing or Striking**

15.7.1 Players who are Red Carded for pushing or striking any player, coach, team official or match official may be suspended for up to one (1) year. An ISL Disciplinary Hearing will be required.

15.7.2 Coaches, managers or other team officials who are ejected for pushing or striking any league official, coach, manager, player or match official may be suspended for up to two (2) years. An ISL Disciplinary Hearing will be required.

15.7.3 Repeat offenders may be barred from any further participation in the ISL. An ISL Disciplinary Hearing will be required.

**15.8 Accumulative Yellow Cards**

Any player who receives three (3) yellow cards or coach who receives three (3) documented warnings in three separate games over the course of a single playing season shall be suspended for the next played ISL game. It is primarily the responsibility of the club or team to follow ethical practices in enforcing this penalty. The respective Boys’ and Girls’ Division Director will track yellow cards. This is an automatic suspension and not subject to a hearing.

**15.9 Accumulative Red Cards**

Any coach, manager, team official or player receiving two (2) ejections in a single playing season may be suspended from participating in any further ISL games during that season. An ISL Disciplinary Hearing will be required.

**15.10 Participation by an Ineligible Player**

If a player is not properly registered or eligible to play, the offending team shall automatically forfeit that game. This is an automatic suspension and not subject to a hearing.

**15.11 Playing a Suspended Player**

Any coach who allows a suspended player to compete in a sanctioned ISL game shall receive a minimum of a one year suspension and the game(s) in which the ineligible player participated shall be forfeited. This is an automatic suspension and not subject to a hearing.

**15.12 Participation by a Suspended Team Official**

Any coach who allows a suspended team official (coach, assistant coach, manager, etc.) to participate in a sanctioned ISL game, shall receive a one year suspension and the game(s) shall be forfeited. This is an automatic suspension and not subject to a hearing.

### **15.13 Alteration and/or Falsification of Birth Records and/or Rosters**

Any coach, manager, team official or player who falsifies a team roster or game report, who falsifies a birth date, or who affixes an illegal photograph to a player pass may be suspended for up to seven (7) years, pending a hearing by the ISL Disciplinary Panel.

### **15.14 Application of Suspensions**

15.14.1 All suspensions or sanctions imposed by the ISL DOC Council or appointed ISL Disciplinary Panel apply to only ISL games, whether or not the game is within the same season or seasonal year.

15.14.2 Any forfeited game, canceled game or postponed game is not considered a played game.

### **15.15 Second Forfeit**

Teams that forfeit two games in a season may be suspended by the ISL Commissioner and face expulsion from the league. This suspension may carry over to the following season and the club will be held responsible for any unpaid league fines and referee fees left by the team.

## **Section 16 HEARINGS AND APPEALS**

### **16.1 Club Responsibility**

16.1.1 All teams, players, coaches, managers, team officials, clubs and/or leagues will follow the rules of the ISL, Indiana Soccer, US Youth and US Soccer. It is the responsibility of each player, coach, manager, trainer, team official and league official to know and understand the rules of the ISL.

16.1.2 Ignorance of these rules will not be considered an excuse for failing to follow them and will not be considered a defense in any ISL Disciplinary Hearing.

### **16.2 Hearings**

16.2.1 Referee abuse and assault cases are referred to Indiana Youth Soccer.

16.2.2 Other infractions are referred to the ISL DOC Council or Appointed ISL Disciplinary Panel.

16.2.3 If an imposed penalty is limited to ISL games, the outcome of the hearing may not be appealed.

16.2.4 If an imposed penalty affects all games, including league and tournament play, the outcome may be appealed to Indiana Soccer.

16.2.5 If an imposed penalty is limited to all Indiana Soccer activities, the outcome may not be appealed to the US Soccer.

16.2.6 If an imposed penalty extends to all soccer activities inside and beyond Indiana Soccer, the outcome may be appealed to the US Soccer.

### **16.3 Use of the Court System**

US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, Section 1 states that, "No member of US Youth Soccer, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, and as provided within US Youth Soccer."

## **Section 17 LAWS OF THE GAME AND PLAYING RULES**

### **17.1 Rules of Play**

The rules of play shall be the current "Laws of the Game", as published by F.I.F.A. All contests sanctioned by the ISL shall abide by the "Laws of the Game." Authorized modifications to the Laws of the Game, as permitted by FIFA, are noted below.

### **17.2 Modifications to the Laws of the Game**

17.2.1 Games will employ unlimited substitution with the consent of the referee at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in in your teams favor

- Prior to a goal kick by either team
- After any goal
- At half-time
- At half-time of any overtime period, if applicable
- If a team has a substitute player ready on their own possession as described above and the opponent also has a player ready for substitution, both teams may substitute when signaled by the referee.

17.2.2 For any play-off situation (if required), the entire overtime is treated the same as 17.2.1.

17.2.3 Referees may add extra time if they feel a team has delayed the game by using substitutions excessively.

### 17.3 Playing Formats

The Playing Formats shall be as follows:

Age	Halves	Ball	Game Format	Event Roster Size
U-17/Adult	2x45-minutes	Size 5	11v11	7-22
U-15/16	2x40-minutes	Size 5	11v11	7-22
U-13/14	2x35-minutes	Size 5	11v11	7-22
U11/U12	2x30-minutes	Size 4	8v8	6-14
U9/U10	2x25-minutes	Size 4	6v6	4-12

### 17.4 Abandonment of Game

17.4.1 Any game that is abandoned because of inclement weather or darkness, after the completion of the first half, will be considered a completed game. If the first half has not been completed, the game will be replayed in its entirety prior to the end of the current season.

17.4.2 The ISL Commissioner shall review any game abandoned for any other reason.

### 17.5 Reporting of Scores

Both teams are responsible for reporting scores to ISL. Scores should be reported within 24 hours and can be submitted via the League phone-in score system.

### 17.6 Delayed Game Start

Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game by more than fifteen (15) minutes without authorization from the ISL Commissioner shall forfeit the game to their opponent and shall be responsible for full payment of the game referee fees.

### 17.7 Failure to Appear for a Game

In the event that both teams do not appear for a scheduled game and the match official rules the grounds playable, both teams shall be assessed with a loss and for paying the referee's fees.

### 17.8 Coaching from the Sidelines

17.8.1 Coaching from the sidelines is allowed in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game. Only persons with a valid pass are permitted to coach or give direction from the sidelines. Only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions. No mechanical or electrical devices are permitted.

17.8.2 The number of team officials (i.e. coach, assistant coach, DOC, team manager) in the technical area shall be limited three (3). All others must go to the spectator sideline.

17.8.3 The technical area as defined by FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply: The technical area extends

1m (1yd) on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of 1m (1yd) from the touch line. This will apply even if the technical area lines are not marked/painted at the game site.

- 17.8.4 The team officials must remain within the confines of the technical area except in special circumstances, for example, a team official assisting an injured player
- 17.8.5 The home team or, in the case of a neutral venue, the team listed first on the schedule will have their choice of preferred sideline. Spectators must take the opposite sideline to the teams.

#### **17.9 Host/Home Team Responsibilities**

The Host team is defined as the team whose home club is the site being used for the games. The Home team is defined as the team who appears first on the schedule.

- 17.9.1 The home team must wear a white/light color jersey and the visiting team must wear a dark color jersey. If the referee determines the uniforms are too similar and may cause confusion, the offending team must change their jersey to comply with the color requirements.
- 17.9.2 The host team is responsible for the condition of the field and the field markings. Goals, goal nets and corner flags are required.
- 17.9.2 The host team must ensure that all goals are properly secured, nets in good condition and corner flags are properly placed.
- 17.9.3 Where neutral venues are involved, neither team will be held responsible for the condition of the field; however, both teams will be responsible for the anchoring of the goals.
- 17.9.4 The home team shall be responsible for providing a game ball.
- 17.9.5 In the event of a referee declaring a field unplayable due to dangerous surface conditions, excluding weather-related cancellations, improper markings, missing corner flags or missing nets, the game will be rescheduled. The host team will pay the referee fees for the cancelled game(s). The referee fees for the rescheduled game will be shared by both teams. The rescheduled game will take place at the home field of the original visiting team, unless mutually agreed to by both parties.

#### **17.10 Medical Release Forms**

Notarized medical release forms must be available at all ISL games.



## **Section 18        SPORTSMANSHIP**

### **18.1    Pre and Post Game Sportsmanship**

18.6.1    Prior to the kick-off, both teams and the match officials should “walk on” to the field together and exchange handshakes.

18.6.2    At the conclusion of the match, opposing players and coaches should shake hands.

### **18.2    Policies and Rules**

Coaches, players, spectators, teams and clubs will be expected to acknowledge reading and adhering to all league policies and rules regarding behavior.

### **18.3    Code of Conduct**

Coaches, players, parents/guardians and a club representative will be required to sign a Code of Conduct document and submit to ISL prior to first game each seasonal year.

### **18.4    Evaluation of behavior**

The behavior of all coaches, players, spectators, and referees will be evaluated through game reports.

18.4.1    These game reports will be submitted electronically via a secure web site.

18.4.2    This information will be reviewed by a league disciplinary committee.

18.4.3    Game reports will also be used to recognize (and reward) those individuals, teams and clubs demonstrating exemplary sportsmanship and play.

### **18.5    Sanctioning**

Individuals, teams and clubs may be sanctioned if an accumulation of incidents (from caution/ejections/forfeits/etc.) reaches an unacceptable level any season.

## **Section 19        REQUIREMENTS OF REFEREES**

### **19.1    Pass Verification**

The referee shall obtain an official line-up card from both teams. (Players, coaches, managers and team officials) Teams must also present their player passes for check in and in the event the game is being played with limited substitution.

### **19.2    Equipment Verification**

Prior to the start of the game the Referee shall make sure that each player's equipment is in proper order.

### **19.3    Field Verification**

Prior to the start of the game the referee shall make sure that all goal nets and corner flags are properly installed and in proper repair, that the field has the proper makings, and that the ground is fit for play. Both goals must be securely anchored.

#### **19.4 Referee Qualifications**

All referees will be currently registered USSF Grade 8, or higher, officials. No person shall officiate as a referee or as a neutral assistant referee in any match under the sanction or jurisdiction (direct or indirect) of the USSF who is not registered with the Federation, unless both coaches agree and sign the game report stating such agreement.

#### **19.5 Referees Assignments**

19.5.1 All ISL games must be assigned by a US Soccer licensed assignor.

19.5.2 All initial ISL games assignments will be reviewed by the League Assignor Administrator and the ISL Commissioner.

#### **19.6 Referee Conflict of Interest**

Referees may not officiate a game in which a team participant is a member of his/her family, or in which there is a close relationship with one of the teams, unless both coaches agree and sign the game report stating such an agreement.

#### **19.7 No Official Referee Available**

If a registered referee is unable to officiate ISL games, club or team officials may agree upon some other person to act as the official(s).

19.7.1 Referees may not officiate games in which a team participant is a member of his/her family unless both coaches agree and sign the game report stating such agreement.

19.7.2 In the event both coaches do not agree on an alternate referee, the game will be replayed.

#### **19.8 Ejections**

If a player, coach, manager or other team official is ejected for misconduct, the Referee must complete the supplemental game report found on the ISL website..

19.8.1 Game Reports involving Red Cards or ejections must be submitted to the League Commissioner within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

#### **19.9 Referee Fees**

19.9.1 Referee compensation will be reviewed annually and determined by the ISL Commissioner and the State Referee Administrator (SRA) .

19.9.2 When a full crew of officials is not available, the referee and any assistant referee should only be paid the designated fee for that position.

19.9.3 Referee Payments – Cancelled Game Policy

Weather Related Cancellations:

- If a game is cancelled by the site manager due to the weather and/or unsafe field conditions and the game has not started, the referees will not be paid. Those referees will be given the first chance to referee the rescheduled game.
- If a game has started and the site manager closes the fields, the referees may keep the payments already made. Referees will not be paid for remainder of games that day. When the cancelled game is rescheduled, the newly assigned referees will be paid.
- If a game has started and the referee terminates the game due to severe weather or unsafe field conditions, the referees may keep the payments already made. Referees will not be paid for the remainder of the games that day. When the game is rescheduled, the newly assigned referees will be paid.

Other Cancellations: If a game is cancelled for any other reason more than 48 hours before game time, the referees will not be paid.

19.9.4 Each team will pay their half of the referee fee prior to the start of each game.

#### **19.10 Referee Game Reports**

Referee Game reports will be filled via a secure web site.

19.10.1 The referee shall keep a complete record of the game and complete the online report.

19.10.2 Game Reports involving ejections or Red Cards must be submitted to the League Commissioner within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

19.10.3 The League Assignor Administrator will be advised of improperly completed Referee Game Reports.

#### **19.11 Coach Game Reports**

Coach game reports will be filled via a secure web site.

19.11.1 The coach shall complete the online report within 24 hours of the game.

19.11.2 The District Volunteer will review the game reports and report as needed to the ISL Commissioner.

#### **19.12 Player, Coach, Administrator and Referee Abuse and Assault**

Reports of Abuse or Assault shall be submitted to the Indiana Soccer Executive Director, Indiana Soccer Disciplinary Committee, ISL Commissioner, SRA and SYRA within 48 hours of the incident.

### **Section 20 REQUIREMENTS OF PLAYERS**

#### **20.1 Shin Guards**

All players are required to wear age-appropriate shin guards, worn within two inches of the ankle. Shin guards must be worn at all times while on the field of play. Shin Guards must be completely covered by the socks at all times.

#### **20.2 Uniforms**

All teammates must have unique numbers on their uniforms.

20.2.1 Once a team is checked in, the players are not allowed to switch numbers without first notifying the referee.

20.2.2 The home team must wear a white/light color jersey and the visiting team must wear a dark color jersey. If the referee determines the uniforms are too similar and may cause confusion, the offending team must change their jersey to comply with the color requirements.

20.2.3 All uniform shirts must be clearly numbered on the back.

20.2.4 Players may wear numbers on their shorts and socks that correspond to their uniform shirt numbers.

20.2.5 A number, no larger than 4" may also be displayed on the right front or center of the chest.

### **20.3 Sponsor Patch**

A sponsor patch, no larger than 4" may be attached to the uniform shirt.

### **20.4 Other Uniform Markings**

20.4.1 Team names may be displayed on the uniform.

20.4.2 Teams may only display a US Youth Soccer, Indiana Soccer and ISL patches and logos on their uniforms. No competing youth soccer organization markers are permitted.

## **Section 21 REQUIREMENTS OF COACHES**

### **21.1 Coach's Responsibilities**

21.1.1 Coaches and managers will be required to read all league rules prior to each season.

21.1.2 Coaches are responsible for the conduct of his/her players, other team officials and spectators before, during and after the game, and shall instruct all of the above to behave in a proper and respectful manner.

21.1.3 Coaches' sportsmanship and overall behavior will be reviewed by the league Commissioner and Advisory Council.

21.1.4 Each coach is responsible for submitting the proper game rosters prior to each match to the other coach and to the referee.

21.1.5 Each coach is responsible for correctly submitting a post game report after each game via the ISL website.

21.1.6 In the event that a coach wishes to protest a game, he/she should inform the referee prior to the start of the match, at half-time, or within five (5) minutes of the final whistle. The referee will note the reasons for the protest on the Referee Game Report.

21.1.7 The coach is responsible for enforcing suspensions to players or team agents.

21.1.8 The host team coach is responsible for securing the goals and nets, and for assuring corner flags and proper field markings are provided.

21.1.9 When neutral sites are utilized, the liability for goal security is broad-based. When playing at a neutral field, both teams will be responsible for securely anchoring the goals. It is recommended that all coaches routinely bring goal anchors to all games.

### **21.2 Valid Pass**

Each coach and team administrator must register with Indiana Soccer and carry a valid Indiana Soccer coaching administrator pass to matches.

### **21.3 KidSafe Disclosure Forms**

All team coaches must have, on file with Indiana Soccer, a completed and signed Indiana Soccer KidSafe disclosure statement. A background check must be completed and approved prior to a coach beginning league play.

### **21.4 Minimum Coaching Education Standards**

Indiana Soccer will approve guidelines which include minimum coaching standards for coaches. Coaches participating in the ISL must adhere to these published minimum coaching education standards.

### **21.5 Coaching Conduct**

Coaches in the ISL are expected to exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship. In the event the referee determines the conduct of the coach is detrimental to the game, the referee may ask the coach to leave the immediate vicinity. Immediate vicinity shall be defined as sufficient distance from the playing field where the offending party cannot cause additional disruptions to the game. This is considered the "Out of Sight and Out of Sound" principle.

22.5.1 Any coach ejected from an ISL game for serious offenses may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing. Penalties for serious offenses can include (but is not limited to) completion of referee certification, probation, and suspension.

**21.6 Coaches Game Reports**

Coaches' game reports will be filed via a secure web site

All game reports must be submitted within 48 hours of the game's conclusion. Red card offenses must be reported to the league within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game.

**Section 22 AWARDS**

The DOC Council shall determine the league, team and individual awards to honor significant achievement. The ISL will publish the description and criteria for all awards prior to each season.

**Section 23 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

The ISL Commissioner, DOC Council, Indiana Soccer Executive Director and the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors reserve the authority to make decisions and resolve conflicts for matters not otherwise provided for in this copy of the ISL Rules, Policies, and Procedures.