



EASTERN IOWA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

FULL VOTING MEMBERS OF EIYSL – CRSA / CVSC / DSC / FC UNITED / ISC / IOWA RUSH / PEARL CITY / SPORTING IOWA EAST

PROVISIONAL STATUS MEMBERS-AYSO AND PRAIRIE SOCCER CLUB

EIYSL OVERVIEW

The EIYSL (Eastern Iowa Youth Soccer League) is a youth soccer league formed and directed by like-minded soccer clubs with a professional structure.

The league was founded upon the 4 core principles outlined below:

EIYSL FOUNDING PRINCIPLES and VALUES

- 1) The EIYSL Club Directors believe that a successful youth soccer league must be driven and guided by the goals of player development and long-term player engagement. The EIYSL members are committed to keeping player development at the forefront of all decision making. Therefore, the EIYSL members will pursue whatever progressive measures are needed to ensure that the players in EIYSL member clubs will grow and thrive in the sport of soccer for as long as they choose to play the game.*
- 2) The voting members of our league must have the right to shape and alter league policy as needed to meet our player development goals for our players. Therefore, each voting member of the league has an opportunity to vote on all matters related to league policy, league formats, and any disciplinary matters related to league conduct. In addition, all non-voting members of the league have a clear pathway to becoming a voting member of the league so that they too have equal representation in the league.*

- 3) *The EIYSL Club Directors believe that a central site scheduling model is a key factor in player development. We are confident that through central site scheduling, we can ensure that our most qualified coaches will have the opportunity to work with more teams and players on a consistent basis which we believe will lead to greater player success and enjoyment in the game for our players.*

- 4) *The EIYSL member clubs recognize that we are responsible for working together to build an environment on game days that is both highly competitive but also grounded in the principles of player development for all members. We have made a promise to our member clubs that while each club enters each game with the intent to win games, we will never lose sight of the bigger picture of long-term player engagement for all players in the league. Therefore, all coaches will act with respect and professionalism to all league members, all children in the league, and to the referees that are so vital to our league's success.*

EIYSL PURPOSE AND FORMAT:

The EIYSL will strive to create a positive and encouraging game environment while implementing progressive and player-centric guidelines which focuses on individual and team development.

CENTRAL SITE SCHEDULING SEASONAL FORMAT

Clubs/Teams participating in the EIYSL will have the opportunity to compete in four (4) dates of competition in the Fall Season and Spring Season

Teams will play two (2) games on each date of competition. All games on each of the 4 seasonal dates of competition will be held at a central site determined prior to the season by the voting members of the league.

Competition dates will be held at various locations on the Eastern side of Iowa. Locations may include (but are not limited to) – Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Bettendorf, Muscatine, Waverly, Dubuque, and Cedar Falls, etc.

Given that the central site scheduling format is one of the core founding principles of the league, any changes to the central site scheduling format must be approved by a super majority of the voting members of the league. A super majority for the purposes of this league is 75% of the eligible voting members.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE AND STANDARDS FOR EIYSL GAMES

PLAYING TIME RULES:

All players that participate in the 9U-12U divisions of the league must play in at least 10 minutes of both halves of each game. Any coach or club that violates this policy on more than 2 occasions per season will be considered under review and the voting members of the league will determine whether or not they will be allowed to continue to participate in the league.

RULE MODIFICATIONS FOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT:

DROP OFF LINE RULES:

The EIYSL will utilize a “DROP OFF LINE” during all 9U-12U games. The “drop off line” will be a specific area on the field where the defending team must “retreat” to when the opposing team is taking a goal kick or when the opposing team’s goalkeeper is in clear possession of the ball (in his/her hands).

Our league recognizes a need to go further than US Soccer’s rules in regard to the drop off line. Therefore, in an attempt to continue to support the player development of the players in our league, our league has instituted a drop off line for all 9-12U age groups.

In the Fall of 2023, we added 13U-14U divisions for 9v9 play, but there is no drop off for 13U-14U age groups.

9-10U Drop Off Line – HALF FIELD LINE / CENTER LINE

11-12U DROP OFF LINE -Top of the center circle in the defensive half of the team in possession. This will apply to both goal kicks and when the goalie has the ball in their hands.

All coaches are responsible for enforcing the drop off line for 9-12U age groups

NO PUNTING RULES:

No punting from the goalkeeper in the 9-12U age groups

- Should a goalkeeper punt or drop kick, play will be stopped and restarted from a goal kick. The team whose goalkeeper punted the ball will be the team that takes the goal kick.

The defending team can pressure (IE – Advance past the drop off line) when the ball is released by the goal keeper.

The OFFSIDE RULE IS IN EFFECT for 10U and older divisions.

All player development initiatives are reviewed by the voting members of the league annually and any changes to the player development initiatives may be altered by a simple majority vote of all voting members of the league.

EIYSL LEAGUE FORMATS -UPDATED FALL 2023:

League Format for EIYSL	Playing Format	Half Length	Ball Size	Throw-ins	Offsides
9U	5v5	25 Minutes	4	Yes	No
10U	7v7	30 Minutes	4	Yes	Yes
11U	7v7	30 Minutes	4	Yes	Yes
12U	9v9	30 Minutes	4	Yes	Yes
13U-14U	9v9	30 Minutes	5	Yes	Yes

EIYSL LEAGUE FORMATS CONTINUED -UPDATED FALL 2023:

League Format for EIYSL	Build Out Line/Drop Off Line	Roster Limits	Punting
9U	Half	10	No
10U	Half	12	No
11U	Half	12	No
12U	Even with center circle closest to goal kick	16	No
13U-14U	None	18	Yes

COACHING CONDUCT STANDARDS:

The EIYSL recognizes the valuable partnership that must take place between coaches and referees. All coaches are expected to treat the referees with respect and in no circumstances will the league tolerate any abusive comments directed toward referees.

In addition to the action(s) taken by the referee's during the match, additional penalties for such behavior will fall on the club and the voting members of the league will review club participation and status in the league. Please note that voting members can be removed from the league as well if they violate the afore mentioned policy.

All coaches in the league will uphold the highest standards of professionalism. Under no circumstances are coaches allowed to berate an opposing player.

PARENTAL BEHAVIOR STANDARDS FOR GAME DAYS

As a Parent/Guardian/Coach of a young soccer player it is essential to understand the importance of your conduct during the game. Please be aware of the following:

- Encouragement and Positivity will help our teams be successful on the field
- Please abstain from making comments about the referee's and the decisions they make throughout the game. When parents begin to focus on referees, so do our players. This leads to our players to lose focus on what is important...playing! Ultimately, as a parent or coach, we should not have any negative interactions/comments with the referees, before, during, or after the game.
- Please refrain from coaching/making coaching points throughout the game to individual players and / or the team. Too much information creates a very difficult environment for players to focus and reach their potential. As well, soccer is a fantastically unique sport as it often has a "number" of "right" answers to many situations. Allowing the players to make decisions on their own and be creative allows for better development.
- Allowing our players to take decisions based upon the coaches' instructions and information helps the team recognize their strengths and weaknesses.
- Sit back and enjoy the game! There is no doubt soccer is a very passionate game... Enthusiasm and encouragement are great assets but please continue to be self-aware and willing to "take a step back" when emotions get the best of you. This is, at times, difficult to do. Understanding that we want our players, teams, coaches, and parents to continue to have a passion for the game of soccer will help create a positive and encouraging environment that will allow us all to enjoy the beautiful game!

VOTING MEMBERS OF EIYSL:

The voting members of the EIYSL include all of the founding members of the 9U-12U divisions. Those clubs are:

- 1) Cedar Valley Soccer Club
- 2) CRSA
- 3) Dubuque Soccer Club
- 4) FC United
- 5) Iowa Rush North
- 6) ISC
- 7) Pear City Soccer Club
- 8) Sporting Iowa East

VOTING MEMBERS-COACHING LICENSURE STANDARDS:

- A. **Game Day Coaching Requirements for Voting Member Clubs**-All coaches working with any team in the league must hold both the US Soccer Grassroots 7v7 and 9v9 coaching licenses. Both the 7v7 and 9v9 licenses must be taken in person and the club is responsible to provide proof of licensure. New coaches to your club have a 12-month grace period to complete the licenses.
- B. If a coach has the USSF "E" License or higher they do not need to complete the 7v7 and 9v9 courses.

ADMINISTRATOR (CLUB REPRESENTATIVE) LICENSURE STANDARDS:

All clubs must have a representative at the weekly EIYSL meetings who holds the USSF "C" License or higher.

The club is given a 1-year grace period from the time that they join the league until the time that they must satisfy this requirement

NON -VOTING MEMBERS OF EIYSL (PROVISIONAL STATUS MEMBERS)

A club may be approved to join the EIYSL as a non-voting member, which we will refer to as a provisional status member, for a period not to exceed 12 months. A formal application for provisional membership to the EIYSL must be submitted via email to the league administrator. The application will be posted on the EIYSL website. The league administrator will present the application to the voting members of the EIYSL. To join the EIYSL as a provisional status member, the applying club must meet the provisional status requirements set forth by the voting members of the league. If the applying club meets the provisional status requirements listed below, they will be given a 12- month period to participate in the EIYSL as a non- voting member.

Provisional Status Member Requirements:

1. There must be a statement made by the club's representative that the club intends to abide by the league's player development standards, coach conduct standards, parental sideline expectations, and be a good faith partner in the league with 90% league meeting attendance in the 12 month period.
2. All players must hold current and valid US Club Soccer passes.
3. All Provisional status members must meet the provisional status game day coaching requirements.

A. Game Day Coaching Requirements for Provisional Status Members-All coaches working with any team in the league must hold both the US Soccer Grassroots 7v7 and 9v9 coaching licenses. Both the 7v7 and 9v9 licenses must be taken in person and the club is responsible to provide proof of licensure for all coaches prior to joining the EIYSL on provisional status. New coaches to your club have a 12-month grace period to complete the licenses.

4. The league representative of the Provisional Status club must hold the US Soccer "D" License.

Clubs that are given provisional status to join the league will be given a maximum of 12 months or what is the equivalent of 2 seasons before they must either meet the requirements to join the league as full voting member or if they cannot meet the voting member requirements after 12 months, they will need to register their teams with another league.

In other words, 12 months is the maximum time that a club can remain on provisional status. If a club is not approved for voting status membership, they will not be allowed to register their teams in the league until they are prepared to reapply and they present a clear plan to the EIYSL voting members in regard to how they plan to meet the voting member criteria. Clubs that re apply must take off at least one season for the league before they can re-apply.

GAINING VOTING STATUS IN THE EIYSL:

To join the founding members as an additional voting member, any club that wishes to gain voting status with the EIYSL must meeting the following requirements:

A) Complete one full season as a Provisional Status Member with the EIYSL and be in good standing with the league. To be in good standing with the league, the applying club must be in compliance with the league's player developmental standards, coach conduct standards, and parental sideline conduct standards.

B) Meet all Game Day Coaching Requirements as outlined above in the section titled "**Game Day Coaching Requirements for Voting Member Clubs.**"

C) The director or EIYSL meeting representative for the club must meet our coaching licensure requirements which state that the EIYSL league representative of a voting member club must hold the USSF "C" License or Higher.

If the applying club meets the standards outlined above, the voting members must approve the applying club to be a full voting member of the EIYSL.

All voting member coaching standards, provisional member standards, and voting member requirement rules may be amended or altered by a simple majority vote of all voting members of the league.

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES:

TEAM SELECTIONS:

Clubs who have more than one (1) team in an age group, must divide the players evenly in the age group.

Clubs are allowed to use a 10U player, if needed, to fill out a roster to play with a 9U team. Clubs are not allowed to use 11U players to play “down” on either a 10U or 9U team.

Clubs are allowed to use a 12U player if needed to fill out a roster to play with an 11U team. Clubs are not allowed to use a 13U player to play “down” in any age group in EIYSL.

****Exceptions to the above guidelines must be approved by the league representatives****

LEAGUE MEETINGS:

At the beginning of each season, the Directors of participating Clubs will proactively meet to discuss specific schedules, team placement, potential rule/guideline adjustments, etc.

Directors of participating clubs will continue to meet on a weekly basis throughout each season to ensure consistent oversight, management, and appropriate adjustments needed to be addressed.

Clubs are required to meet with parents of 9U-12U teams to discuss proper sideline behavior.

UNIFORMS

Each jersey should have a visible number. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from any other players; numbers for GK jerseys are optional. There is no requirement for home (wearing light color) and away (wearing dark color). As long as the colors between the teams are easy to distinguish.

EQUIPMENT

Wearing age- and size-appropriate shin guards will be enforced by referees, and goalkeepers are encouraged to wear gloves help ensure their safety. Casts are allowed if properly padded, keeping in mind the safety not only of the player wearing the cast, but of the other players. Referees will be the final authority of properly-sized guards and properly-padded casts. If a Referee points out non-compliance, the player will be given the opportunity to comply before any final decision is made regarding his/her ineligibility to play in the game.

GAME DAY REQUIREMENTS:

All Coaches and Players must have a current and valid Coaching Pass / Player Pass issued by US Club Soccer.

A picture of a Coaching Pass and/or Player pass will be recognized in the same manner as a “hard” pass.

It is not a requirement to “show” players and/or coaches passes prior to the match.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (League and Clubs):

All EIYSL league fees must be paid in full (each season) by the Monday preceding the first league play date of the season. If league fees are not received by the league treasurer by the Monday preceding the first league play date of the season, a 5% penalty will be imposed. Any club that has not paid per the guidelines above will not be allowed to play in any EIYSL games until the full fee is paid including the 5% penalty.

FINE FOR WITHDRAWING FROM LEAGUE GAMES:

If a club must pull out of an EIYSL game, they will be fined \$150 for each game that they withdraw their team from the scheduled league competition. The fine is paid to the league. If the team that was scheduled to play the club that withdrew from the game is unable to have a game scheduled to make up for the cancelled game, the club/team will receive the \$150 fine.

The fine is not paid directly from club to club. To be clear, the fine is still assessed to the club that withdraws from the game even if a rescheduled game is arranged.

FINANCIAL RESERVE POLICY:

The EIYSL will cap the financial reserves at 10% of the total of the Fall and Spring seasons' combined gross income. If the reserve fund exceeds 10% of the Fall and Spring seasons' combined gross income, the participating clubs will receive a proportionate distribution based on the level of participation of each club. The amount distributed will not be the entire reserve fund. The amount distributed will be the amount that exceeds 10% of the Fall and Spring seasons' combined gross income.

Recapitalization – Should the EIYSL reserves fall below 5% of the total of the Fall and Spring seasons' combined gross income, the EIYSL member clubs will be required to recapitalize.

All administrative guideline policies and rules may be amended or altered by a simple majority vote of all voting members of the league.