



EASTERN IOWA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Members – CRSA / CVSC / DSC / FC UNITED / ISC / IOWA RUSH / PEARL CITY / SPORTING IOWA EAST

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.

Season/Game Philosophy

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.

SEASON 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.

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, Dubuque, and Cedar Falls, etc.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS - GAMES

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.

The EIYSL will utilize a “DROP OFF LINE” during 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 team our league has instituted a drop off line for all 9-12U 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 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 9-12U age group

GENERAL MATCH RULES:

Age Group	Game Length	Ball Size	Number of Players	Roster Limit
11U & 12U	Two 30' halves	#4	9v9; goalkeepers	12 Players
9U & 10U	Two 25' halves	#4	7v7; goalkeepers	16 Players
Age Group	Maximum Goal Size (in feet)	Field Width Min. Max. (in yards)	Field Length Min. Max. (in yards)	
11U & 12U	7' x 21'	45 55	70 80	
9U & 10U	6.5' x 18.5'	35 45	55 65	

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.

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.

COACHING LICENSURE STANDARDS:

All coaches working with teams in the EIYSL must complete both the 7v7 and 9v9 US Soccer Grassroots Coaching Licenses. The courses can be completed either online or in person. If a coach has the USSF “E” License or higher they do not need to complete the 7v7 and 9v9 courses. All coaches have a 6 month grace period from the time they join your club and the time that they must 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES:

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****

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.

VOTING MEMBER GUIDELINES:

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

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 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 coaching standards for game day coaches.

C) The director or EIYSL meeting representative for their club must meet our coaching licensure requirements.

Once the applying club meets the standards outlined above, they will be a full voting member of the EIYSL.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (League and Clubs):

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

Commitment to Scheduled 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 directly 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 will come from the league. 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.

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.

Points of Emphasis for Competition Dates (PARENTS AND SPECTATORS)

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!