



# Indiana Champions League

Indiana Champions League



# Aim of Presentation

Provide a view into the development and structure of:

- Indiana Champions League
- Indiana Champions League Cup
- Player Development Program
- Coaches Education Program



## Why did we act?

- Emphasis in Youth Soccer is changing
- Predictable playing environment
- Provide a club league, run by directors
- Player Development Program - Free of charge, cooperation with clubs for creating unique opportunities for our elite players.



# Guided by asking, “What is best for soccer?”

*"We must strenuously protect the pyramid structure of our sport against any potential breakaway groups, or elitist closed leagues with no chance of promotion or relegation.....This is the base of our football pyramid that supports the top tiers. We must do everything we can to make sure that we protect it."*

Lennart Johansson, Former UEFA  
President



# Support Soccer Clubs

- Soccer Clubs are the proven, world - wide model for best providing players **of all levels** a positive, enjoyable soccer experience at all levels.
- Clubs, when allowed the necessary flexibility, provide players the greatest opportunities for player development at each players level.
- Clubs, not leagues, are the World's model for providing soccer teams to soccer players



# Promote and Support Individual Player Development

***“ We use to have those boys (Roy, Van Basten or Witschge) play two teams higher than their age level and we put them ahead of other players on purpose. At the higher level they got kicked so hard that they really understood. I believe in a very hard school.”***

Johan Cruyff



# Promote and Support High Level Coaches Education

*"If the quality of the art of our game and, consequently, its attractiveness are to survive, coaches must be prepared and trained appropriately for their job...Coaches education is the key in this respect, and it must be kept up to date."*

UEFA President Lennart Johansson



# Provide Open Competitions

- We believe league's should be the primary form of competition for player development
- We believe leagues should be merit based and have multiple divisions of play
- We believe in promotion & relegation - in appropriate age groups.



# Develop Player, Coach, Family Friendly Calendar:

**4-5 months of playing - one month break - 4-5 months of  
playing - one month break**

*“We are burning kids out. The need to win the next tournament is the grand reason why we do everything, and so we manipulate the situation to find shortcuts to success. In many cases we just burn these guys out and in the end they haven’t mastered anything. We can do a lot better than that if we start thinking more about what makes the kids better players instead of just about winning meaningless games.”*

***U14 National Team coach Manny Schellscheidt***



# Promote & Support Connection between Youth & Adult Soccer

- For player development purposes - top youth playing up, “late bloomers”
- For club development purposes - lifetime members, lifetime involvement!
- For soccer development purposes - enjoy club soccer past age 18!



# Simple Administration in Club and Player Development Process

- Club Soccer Passes - Allowing player movement within each club, player development
- Web based registration and League Administration
- Club friendly rules of play



# Promote and Support Entire Soccer Pyramid

*"Football is like a cake - the icing is the top level, the élite youth sector forms the 'fruit' that will one day flower into the top level, while the base of the 'cake' is the grassroots. All three levels have to function for the game to be healthy"*

L. Johnson, Former UEFA President



# Indiana Champions League Pyramid

**US National Teams**

**MLS, WUSA**

**College, NPSL, PDL, U21's**

**Elite Club National League**

**US Developmental Academy League U16 & U18**

**National Premier League**

**MRL**

**Indiana State League**

**State/Regional Divisions - Ages 8-10**

**Club Grassroots Programs Ages 4 - 8**



# Develop the foundation: Grassroots Soccer

Stimulate and support clubs, in building their  
grassroots soccer program

Allow the most passionate soccer people to  
spread the message of soccer - year round!

*"Without the grassroots, the élite would be absolutely  
nothing. If the work was not done in the grassroots, football  
would not be the most popular sport in the world."*

**UEFA Grassroots Charter**



# League Guidelines

- Emphasis on player development.
- Open to all selected clubs who are sanctioned and who meet Indiana Champions League requirements .
- Calendar: August-July ( Full year).
- Clubs allowed to move players appropriately within their own club.



# League Guidelines

- All Players have a club pass.
- 8v8 games can only have 14 players on bench per game.
- 11v11 games can only have 18 players on bench per game.
- Team rosters must be printed on or by Friday before each play weekend. Rosters are given to referees.



# Standard Playing Format

U8/U9-U10: 6v6

U13- U18: 11v11

Players/Teams may play up



# League Schedule

**This is the game schedule format for  
the entire season.**



# League Administration



# Indiana Champions League Cup



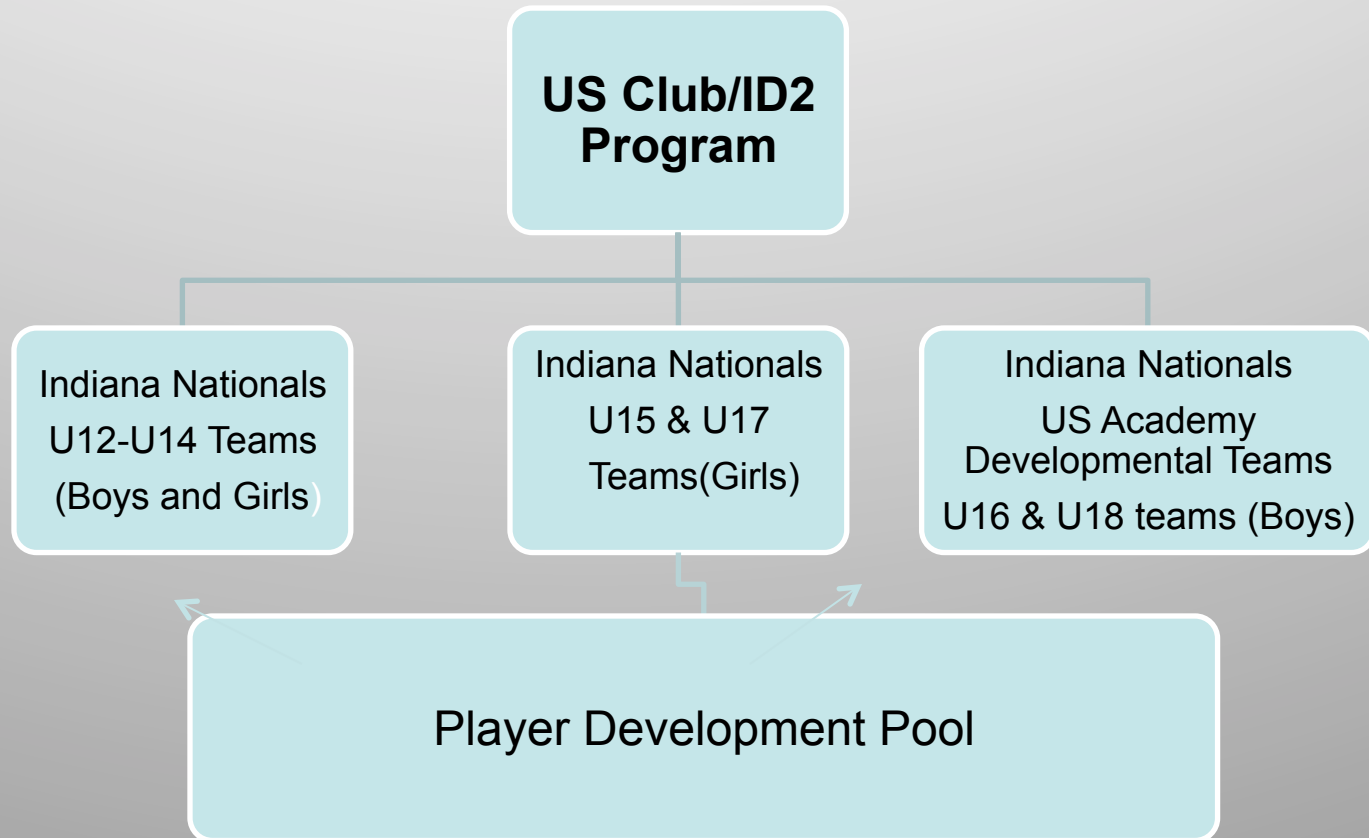
# Player Development Program

Objective: To identify, showcase, and assist clubs in developing their top players

- Program is free to the players
- 4 - 6 training dates a year
- Identify up to 40 players in each age group.
- Select the top 24 players to form Indiana Nationals
- Showcase players to professional and college coaches in special events ( 3-4 per year).
- Form a relationship with college/pro scouts



## Player Development Program Structure





# Coaches Education

## Offer coaching education opportunities to all member coaches

- USSF Coaching Schools
- NSCAA Coaching Schools
- ICL coaching symposium (local)
- ICL coaching symposium ( International)
- Promote local/regional/national coaching education programs