

# ICL

**Constitution**  
**By-Laws**  
**General Policies**

# ICL

## Constitution, By-Laws and General Policies

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## Chapter 1            Constitution

### **Article 1.1    Name**

The body shall be known as the Indiana Champions League (I C L).

### **Article 1.2    Purpose**

1. Provide professional leadership and services to insure the successful growth and development of youth soccer including; players, spectators, coaches, administrators and referee's.
2. Provide an environment where soccer as a youth sport can be developed to its highest competitive level in a predictable, consistent and perpetual manner.
3. Provide an environment to educate coaches, referees and parents.

## Chapter 2            Membership

### **Article 2.1    Membership Conditions**

Membership conditions will be made at the time of affiliation with the ICL. The Membership Agreement will be signed by the entering club/teams and the commissioner of the league. Clubs and/or Teams who desire to participate must apply in writing to the commissioner, no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Article 2.2    Conditions of termination of Membership**

Club affiliation and membership may be terminated by any of the performance bond conditions set forth by the Membership Agreement. It (any club) may also be terminated for violation by Club Directors or Members, of the League's By-Laws, concerning the fixing of game results or attempts to bribe game officials or any activity that is deemed by the ICL Board, at its sole discretion, to be unethical.

### **Article 2.3    Reference to Membership Agreement**

Information concerning clubs specific membership conditions shall be found in the Membership Agreement signed by the Commissioner at the time of admission into the league.

#### **Article 2.4 Purpose of I C L and Membership**

Membership is not intended to be limited to the founding clubs and at the conclusion of each season a Club Directors Advisory Committee meeting will be held to evaluate additional membership and offer a recommendation to the Board of Directors and member clubs. The Club Advisory Committee will also evaluate member clubs to determine whether they will be continued as members if the ICL and offer a recommendation to the Board of Directors and other member clubs. Evaluations will be made by voice vote, unless a secret ballot is requested by any club, with each club having one vote. A majority vote will determine if a club(s) are added or dropped.

#### **Article 2.5 Criteria of Membership (Currently Suspended)**

Section 2.5.1 Each club participating in the ICL must have a teams eligible to participate in all age groups, U-10 through U-18. Failure to do so may result in not being eligible for membership, or forfeiting membership.

Section 2.5.2 All clubs must have fields available for play in accordance with the General Policies of the ICL, page 18.

Section 2.5.3 To be eligible for membership in the ICL, clubs must sign the Membership Agreement, Addendum 4 page 19, of the ICL By-Laws, and comply with the conditions as set forth under the Constitution, By-Laws, and General Policies in effect at the end of the preceding season.

Section 2.5.4 The I C L will consist of no fewer than 3 Clubs. Divisions may be formed to accommodate more clubs.

Section 2.5.5 There may be 1, or more, at large groups to participate in the ICL, consisting of individual teams that do not have to be affiliated with full clubs meeting the requirements of having teams for each age group. A maximum of 3 at large groups can be allowed as determined by the number of full clubs applying to keep the number of teams participating at each age group. Written application for play in the following season, must be received by the commissioner no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. If there are more applications than openings the teams will be required to a play off as determined by the Commissioner. Any expenses for play off(s) will be shared by equally by the teams involved in the play offs.

Section 2.5.6 Clubs who are not eligible to field teams in each age group may be allowed to add a maximum of one team from other clubs or organizations. This team will be considered a guest of the ICL. A guest team will not be allowed to become a member of this club or any other member club of the ICL without the approval by the ICL board.

Section 2.5.7 Based on the number of clubs and at large groups (combination of individual teams under Section 2.5.4 & 2.5.5), a play in may be required to challenge the lowest ranking Club for the previous two seasons. This would occur when the league has reached maximum number of Clubs and at large groups. The lowest ranking club will be determined by assigning points for league standings in each age group at the end of the fall and spring season. 1<sup>st</sup> place 1 point, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 points, etc. and the club with the highest number of points for the combined seasons would be required to play each surviving challenging Club(s) team(s). U10B's are excluded from this play off activity and formula. The challenge match(s) are to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> and to be reported to the Commissioner in writing with opposing coaches signatures for each game. Any expenses for play off(s) will be shared equally by the teams involved in the play offs.

Section 2.5.8 Each team not directly affiliated with a club participating in the ICL, will be required to sign a membership agreement with the ICL and post a separate bond of \$250. The bond will not be cashed unless the Team is determined to be in violation of the ICL membership agreement.

Section 2.5.9 Each team will have one vote in any decision making.

Section 2.5.10 Games will be scheduled to insure back to back games for all age groups at one site between clubs/groups.

Section 2.5.11 To insure equal financial burden (support), all clubs and their member teams (direct affiliation or by single team addition) and each team within an at large position, will be required to pay their seasonal fee prior to the beginning of each season. The referee fees will be paid by the host club in an amount equal to their liability for referees. It is possible that some clubs will host more games than other clubs thus will insure equality. Assignor fees will be paid by the Commissioner.

## Chapter 3            Governing Bodies and Committees

### **Article 3.1    Commissioner**

The Commissioner will be the Chief Executive Officer of the ICL.

The Commissioner will have the power to also:

1. Prepare the schedule for league and Championship Series.
2. Propose and interpret the rules.
3. Be the final appeal in protested games.
4. Exercise disciplinary powers conferred upon him by these By-Laws.
5. Maintain a headquarters office for the League in Indiana.
6. Have full authority to take any action that in his judgment, is necessary or desirable to prevent or discourage and conduct a member(s) or any other person(s) which is not, in the Commissioners opinion, in the best interest of the League or which, in the Commissioners judgment, is necessary or desirable to preserve or protect the integrity or reputation of the League, its members or the sport of soccer.
7. Conduct the day-to-day affairs of the League, and shall employ administrative and clerical staff necessary to carry out the business of the League at salaries and terms the Commissioner determines.
8. Make known and enforce the provisions of these By-Laws and Rules of the League.
9. He shall have charge of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the League. He shall deposit all such revenues in the name of the League in Federally approved and insured depositories as may be selected by the Commissioner. He shall keep an accurate account of all monies of the League for payment of accounts, fees and dues and shall make such payments as due by the League.
10. He shall serve as an ex-officio of the Clubs Directors Advisory Committee and all other League and/or division Committees.

**Article 3.2 Club Directors Advisory Committee**

The Club Directors Advisory Committee consists of one member from each Club and three members at large from the total membership. The Chairman of the Club Directors Advisory Committee will be selected by the members of the Club Directors Advisory Committee annually. The Commissioner will be an ex-officio member of the Club Directors Advisory Committee.

**Article 3.3 Standing Committees**

The Commissioner shall have the power to appoint a Rules and Competition Committee, Minimum Standards Committee, Marketing and Public Relations Committee, and other special committees he deems necessary. The Commissioner shall also prescribe the duties of each Committee and each Committee will report directly to the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall be an ex-officio of all Standing Committees.

**Section 3.3.1 The Rules and Competition Committee**

The Rules and Competition Committee will assist the Commissioner and Club Directors Advisory Committee in identifying Rules and Competition plans and policies for the League. This includes but is not limited to; rules; point systems; non-league games; Cup games and rosters. The Commissioner will be an ex-officio member of the Rules and Competition Committee.

**Section 3.3.2 Minimum Standards Committee**

The Minimum Standards Committee will assist the Commissioner and the Club Directors Advisory Committee in identifying Minimum Standard plans and policies for the League. This includes but is not limited to: game operations; press box; reporting of scores and results via phone, e mail, fax; uniforms; club media guides/programs; registration deadlines and penalties. The Commissioner will be an ex-officio member of the Minimum Standards Committee.

**Section 3.3.3 Marketing/Public Relations Committee**

The Marketing/Public Relations Committee will assist the Commissioner and the Club Directors Advisory Committee in identifying Marketing/Public Relation plans and policies for the League. The Commissioner will be an ex-officio member of the Marketing/Public Relations Committee.

**Article 3.4 Election of Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer**

The Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected to serve a two year term by the participating clubs at the Annual General Meeting. Each participating club will have one vote per team. The Commissioner will be elected in even numbered years and the Secretary and Treasurer will be elected in odd numbered years.

### **Article 3.5 Secretary**

The Secretary will be responsible to the Commissioner, Treasurer and members of the Advisory Committee. The Secretary will be responsible to:

Section 3.5.1 Maintain permanent records of the minutes of meetings and distribute copies to members of the Advisory Committee and member clubs in a timely manner.

Section 3.5.2 Comply with the requirements of the Indiana Secretary of State to maintain incorporation for the ICL.

Section 3.5.3 Prepare and distribute correspondence to the clubs and other agencies as deemed necessary by the Commissioner, Treasurer and the Advisory Committee.

Section 3.5.4 Carry out any other duties as deemed necessary by the Commissioner, Treasurer and the Advisory Committee.

### **Article 3.6 Treasurer**

The Treasurer will be responsible to the Commissioner and all member clubs and their representatives to maintain financial records including income and disbursements in accordance with accepted financial practices. In addition the Treasurer will:

Section 3.6.1 Maintain records of income and disbursements for review by ICL members at any reasonable time.

Section 3.6.2 Provide financial statements at regularly scheduled meetings per Article 4.4 (meetings page 9)

Section 3.6.3 Prepare and file Indiana and Federal tax returns and reports as required by Indiana and Federal guidelines.

Section 3.6.4 Pay all bills as approved by the Commissioner acting under the direction of the Advisory Committee.

Section 3.6.5 Receive all monies by check only and deposit such monies by direct deposit only. A for deposit only to ICL endorsement stamp is to be used.

### **Article 3.7 Disciplinary Committee**

A Disciplinary Committee will be established with one member representing each club to serve when deemed necessary by the Commissioner. Club representatives will not vote on matters regarding their individual club when involved in disciplinary actions.

## Chapter 4 Meetings

### **Article 4.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The AGM of the ICL will take place no later than the first weekend in August. The Commissioner will designate the site and date of the AGM.

### **Article 4.2 Annual Operations Meeting (AOM)**

The AOM of the ICL will take place no sooner than 60 days following the AGM. The Commissioner will designate the site and date of the AOM.

Section 4.2.1 Mandatory attendance at the AGM and AOM is required by a representative of each Club. Non-attendance will result in a fine payable by the Club equal to their bond.

### **Article 4.3 Other Meetings**

Other Meetings may be called by the Commissioner at such time and place he designates.

### **Article 4.4 Club Directors Advisory Committee Meetings**

Club Directors Advisory Committee meets four (4) times a year.

1. AGM
2. AOM
3. Spring – site and date at Commissioners discretion.
4. Fall – site and date at Commissioners discretion.

## Chapter 5            Misconduct, Protest, Appeals and Discipline

### **Article 5.1    Organizational Misconduct**

There will be no gifts, loans or guarantees exchanged from the person(s) or groups(s) of one club to person(s) or group(s) of any other club.

### **Article 5.2    Disciplinary Powers**

The Commissioner will have the disciplinary power to act on any breach of the By-Laws or Rules. The Commissioner has the ability to divert any breach to appropriate ICL Committee for review. The final decision will be made by the Commissioner.

### **Article 5.3    Protests and Appeals**

Game protests or appeals shall be made in writing no later than 24 hours after completion of the game to the Commissioner who may refer the protest to the Rules and Competition Committee for binding resolution.

### **Article 5.4    Suspension/Termination of a Game**

If a game is suspended and the first half has been completed, it will be considered a complete game. If a game is terminated, the Commissioner may defer to the Rules and Competition and/or Disciplinary Committee to determine if the game is to be replayed and for binding resolution.

## Chapter 6 Minimum Standards

### **Article 6.1 Playing Venues**

The playing venue will meet all Minimum Standards set forth by the ICL and US CLUB SOCCER as listed in Addendum 1.

### **Article 6.2 Finance**

The financial obligations will be set forth by the ICL and described in Addendum 1.

### **Article 6.3 Game Day**

The game day operations of the ICL will meet all standards of ICL and US CLUB SOCCER as found in Addendum 1.

### **Article 6.4 Uniforms**

Uniforms of the ICL will be in accordance with the standards of US CLUB SOCCER.

### **Article 6.5 Rosters**

Rosters will be in accordance with the rules of US CLUB SOCCER.

### **Article 6.6 Home and Visitors Responsibility**

The home club and visitors club responsibilities will meet the minimum standards as set forth by the League.

### **Article 6.7 Laws of the Game**

The Laws of the Game as interpreted by US CLUB SOCCER shall govern all league play. *The ICL maintains the option to include league rules for the betterment of the game.*

## Chapter 7 Rules and Regulations

### **Article 7.1 Physical Assault**

Physical assault by any individual associated with a team, to include spectators, on a referee or other game official will **be immediately referred to US CLUB SOCCER for disciplinary action.**

### **Article 7.2 Dismissal of a Coach**

Dismissals of a manager or a coach will result in a game suspension. A second offence will require a review by the Disciplinary Committee prior to resuming coaching a team in the ICL. Any dismissal requires the individual to leave the premises.

### **Article 7.3 General Behavior**

The manager/coach is the responsible person to the league in all matters pertaining to the team, on and off the field. Improper conduct of a coach, manager, player or supporter of a team is the responsibility of the club to correct and if necessary to remove the individual from the area. Continued problems will be addressed by the Commissioner for final resolution. The Commissioner may defer to the Disciplinary Committee for final resolution.

### **Article 7.4 Player Disciplinary Actions**

Section 7.4.1 A player receiving a red card will be sent off the field and reported on the game report. A player receiving a red card will be suspended for the next League game. Any red cards will be reported to the referee assignor by the referee forwarding the game report to the assignor.

Section 7.4.2 A player receiving two yellow cards in one game will be suspended for the next League game and reported on the game report.

Section 7.4.3 The Commissioner is responsible to monitor repetitive actions resulting in yellow and or red cards by individual players and dismissals of individuals. The Commissioner will insure the Disciplinary Committee is aware of any consistent disciplinary actions taken by the referees and the individual involved. The Commissioner and the Disciplinary Committee have the authority to take appropriate actions, to include removal from participation in the ICL, for consistent undesirable actions by any individual and or player.

**Article 7.5 Safety**

All players are required to wear shin guards and tension straps if wearing safety glasses. Safety glasses are recommended.

**Article 7.6 Spectators**

Spectators are to be on the opposite side of the field from the players and coaches.

**Article 7.7 League Standings**

Standings will be determined on the basis of 3 points for a win and 1 point for a tie. In the case of a tie the following system will be used:

1. Team with point advantage in head to head competition.
2. Team with the better goal differential in head to head competition.
3. Goal differential for all games with a maximum 4 goals per game.
4. Most number of goals scored.

**Article 7.8 Referees**

Only a three person system is allowed and if there are only 2 referees present, one must act as referee assistant. Vacant assistant referee positions are to be substituted for by volunteers. Failure to use a 3 person system will result in a no game played.

**Article 7.9 Game Reports – Addendum 2**

Game reports are to be completed at the end of each game and signed by the referee and a representative of each team. At the end of the days competition, the referee and the home team will be required to submit a copy to the Commissioner within 24 hours. Any red cards issued will be sent to the referee assignor in the form if the game report.

**Article 7.10 Eligibility**

Players, coaches and managers must be in possession of a pass/player card as issued by US CLUB SOCCER with a photo and laminated prior to play after the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September. Each team must have a roster issued by US CLUB SOCCER. If a pass/player card is not provided the player/coach/manager must print and sign their name on the back of the game report. **EACH CLUB IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING PLAYER PASSES, TEAM ROSTERS AND TRAVEL PERMITS FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL CLUB.**

Section 7.10.1 Club cards will be issued. A guest player will be allowed to compete if they are in possession of their player card in their own age group or an older age group. No player may play in more than 1 ICL game per day.

**Article 7.11 Supervision**

Each team must have a responsible adult, manager or coach present with the team at all games. Failure to comply is an automatic forfeit.

**Article 7.12 Referee Assignor**

The ICL will employ a referee assignor for all games who is qualified in accordance with US CLUB SOCCER standards. The cost of the assignor will be the responsibility of the ICL and paid from club fees.

**Article 7.13 Disputes**

Disputes between teams will be referred to the Commissioner for resolution.

**Article 7.14 Reschedules**

There will be no rescheduling of games once the final schedule has been released unless:

1. Unplayable fields due to weather as determined by the home field.
2. Games called by the referees due to weather.
3. Unsafe travel conditions as determined by the League.
4. Unusual circumstances as determined by the League.

**Article 7.15 Recruiting**

Recruiting from other clubs is not allowed and is contrary to the principles of the ICL. Violations submitted in written form only, will be subject to review by the Commissioner and may be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee. US CLUB SOCCER standards will be met and if necessary the violation will be reported to US CLUB SOCCER.

**Article 7.16 Agreement with the Indiana Champions League**

On January 3, 2008, Pete Kapsalis, Marc Maxey, Bobby Porsanidis and Mario Manta met and agreed to develop a relationship to compete in the Indiana Champions League to ensure competition in a league format on a seasonal basis. The following was agreed upon:

1. Scheduled games, dates and times will be agreed upon by the ICL to avoid conflicts with other pre-set scheduled games.
2. All games within the age group bracket are to be played at one site.
3. Only players registered with a player pass for a participating club would be eligible to play for that club team. Players from a club would be allowed to play up in another age group within the same club. Guest players from outside the club are not permitted. A player may not participate in more than one ICL game per day.
4. Referee fees and other field costs will be assumed by the host club.
5. The length of play will be governed by the ICL Rules and Competition Committee.

We accept article 7.16, Agreement with the Indiana Champions League, in the best interest of youth soccer in Indiana.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Team representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (acting ICL Commissioner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Club Representing

## **Addendum 1**

Minimum standards of the ICL are to be in compliance with the Rules of US CLUB SOCCER.

Playing venues, Financial obligations, Game day, and Home and Visitor responsibility are detailed in General Policies.