



2018 AGM Report: Competitions

Craig Winger: Director of Competitions
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IOWA SOCCER – COMPETITIONS

Iowa Soccer's competitions team is generating more playing opportunities than ever, covering the entire state and beyond. With a clear pathway identified we are working tirelessly to ensure we can offer our members with the highest quality playing opportunities. With the programming in place, the Iowa Soccer team is excited to continue to raise the bar in regards to the overall experience for all involved, including players, coaches, referees, and all the soccer families/fans!

2018 Stat Line: Rec Games: 4,778 Select Games: 3,004 Total Games: 7,782

IOWA SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (ISCS):

It's very exciting to see the vision coming together for ISCS. This new event/structure has successfully extended our competitions pathway and has significantly increased opportunities for a larger percentage of our membership. Not only has ISCS greatly benefitted our membership it's also proven to offer significant benefits to our referee community, similar to our membership the referees are seeing additional opportunities to work and advance to both regional and national competitions. We made history this year advancing two teams and three referees to USYS National Stage and crowning our first ever USYS National President's Cup Champion!

MIDWEST REGIONAL PRESIDENTS CUP:

I continue to serve on the Midwest Region President's Cup Committee and am very excited to see the continued growth and support of this event by our state and others within the Midwest Region. This year's event was hosted @ Voice of America Athletic Complex, West Chester Township, Ohio. Five of the nine teams advanced out of group play with two teams being crowned Midwest Presidents Cup, Regional Champions! (14G & 18B). Both of these teams had excellent showings at National Presidents Cup each advancing to their respective National Championship match, the 18B team won and became Iowa's first USYS National Champion!

Iowa Stat Line: 17 Win 14 Loss 3 Draw Goal Differential: +16

MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

Iowa Soccer once again advanced a full slate (14) teams to this year's Midwest Regional Championships hosted @ Grand Park, Westfield Indiana. 1 of the 14 teams advanced out of group play and eventually lost in the Semi-Final match.

Iowa Stat Line: 8 Win 25 Loss 8 Draws Goal Differential: -61

TARGET UNITED CUP

As one of the largest recreational youth tournaments in the country, the Target United Cup has quickly become a high-quality event opportunity for Rec teams in Iowa. On September 29th and 30th, 59 teams congregated in Altoona for a fun-filled weekend of soccer. One thing that makes this tournament so unique is the Target United Village – where players, families, and coaches of all teams can partake in a variety of games and fun! Iowa Soccer is excited to secure bids for 2019 and continue to offer this one of a kind event!

INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Iowa Soccer Indoor Championships is just one of the many unique events provided by Iowa Soccer. This event is something players look forward to every winter and sells out quickly. Iowa Soccer looks forward to boosting their indoor programming options due to new and exciting projects/facilities. We will be able to share this indoor experience with many more, in years to come.



IOWA SOCCER LEAGUE(S)

We have begun the rebranding process for the Iowa Soccer League (ISL) which is a league that offers a large percentage of our membership consistent playing opportunities to further develop their teams, across all youth age groups and at a variety of different levels including; Rec, Academy, Competitive, and Premier. We look forward to unveiling updated logos in the next year as we continue to reinforce our brand and ensure consistency across multiple playing levels. The consistency across different programs has proven to make it easier for players/teams to move up or down along the pathway based on their wants/needs/performance.

THE IOWA SOCCER COMPETITIONS “EXPERIENCE”

Iowa Soccer continues to evaluate and improve all of our products, while at the same time ensuring consistency between competition opportunities and our player pathway. All of our leagues are player-centered and focus on what is in the best interest of long-term player development. Iowa Soccer is working to support and further develop clubs, creating an optimal environment to foster/facilitate the player development process. Iowa Soccer will continue to collaborate with membership and our Player Development Advisory Panel as we strive to meet US Soccer’s Player Development Initiatives; including Calendar alignment, consistent playing schedules, developmentally appropriate match-ups, appropriate practice-to-game ratios, and appropriate number of games per day and per season. Iowa Soccer is taking a holistic approach to improve the member experience engaging all of our departments and more, including competitions, technical, membership, marketing/communications, as well as engaging our friends at the Iowa Referee Committee. Our focus is on better tools, better processes, better communication, and better experience! With lots of work to do, we are excited about 2019 and are hopeful to share our “experience” with even more members including both youth and adults!

MISSION – Provide soccer opportunities

ISCS & the new Presidents Cup has created new and exciting opportunities for Iowa Referees to work and be identified. A few of these newly identified referees have been invited to regional leagues and have done very well with one being invited to DA after his recent performance. With the addition of President’s Cup, it allows us to have another training ground to: 1- have an opportunity for more referees to showcase their talents; and 2- have another setting that gives more referees access to higher level training and games. This past summer we were able to send 10 referees and 2 mentors to the Regional President’s Cup. 2 of our Iowa Referees, were selected to go to the National Finals of the Presidents Cup Championship tournament. This is proving to be a vital series of games to help in the growth and development of Iowa Referees.

VISION – The sport of choice

Faith Rossi | Iowa Referee Committee | State Youth Referee Administrator, SYRA

The ISCS and the additional National Championship Series pathway through the President’s Cup has been a great addition to Iowa Soccer’s annual tournament calendar. The President’s Cup competition at the state level allows more players and teams to compete for a state level championship and give an opportunity to advance within a national championship series. By winning the President’s Cup at the state level, it has allowed some of our Iowa Rush teams the chance to experience regional competition and national competition at a comparable level of play. The teams that competed at the regional and national level of President’s Cup gained tremendous confidence, team comradery and in-game experience as they played against different styles of play from opponents they don’t see regularly. We feel this better prepared them for the state level competition they faced when they came back into league play.

2000 Iowa Rush 18U Boys – 2018 President’s Cup – State Champions, Regional Champions, National Champions

2004 Iowa Rush 14U Girls – 2018 President’s Cup – State Champions, Regional Champions, National Finalist

2005 Iowa Rush 13U Girls – 2018 President’s Cup - State Champions, Regional Participant

Paul Fabry | Executive Director/Technical Director | Iowa Rush Soccer Club