

## **Indiana Youth Soccer**

### **4v4 Festivals**

"Young players need freedom of expression to develop as creative players...they should be encouraged to try skills without fear of failure."

**Arsene Wenger**

Indiana Youth Soccer will offer play dates for 7-10 year olds for member clubs. These 4v4 Festivals will be organized by Indiana Youth Soccer with the sole purpose of allowing the children to play a "street-oriented" game with and against other children.

#### **Why?**

- This is an avenue to allow young players the experience of playing against other children in a manner that will allow them to express themselves and not worry about results.
- This is an avenue that will allow players to improve their technical abilities, further their enjoyment for the game, and improve their social skills.
- This is an avenue that will truly give the game back to the children without adult influences.

#### **4v4 Festival Format**

**Clubs must first contact Indiana Youth Soccer and be approved by the Director of Education for Indiana Youth Soccer.**

- All matches will be 4v4
  - Players will all be mixed together from the various clubs. Clubs will not form 4v4 teams from within. There will be no more than 2 players from each club allowed on a 4v4 team.
  - Clubs participating must all be within a 30 minute radius of each other.
  - Clubs will arrive at a venue and will be mixed up by a 4v4 Festival site coordinator.
  - Mixed teams will be no larger than 5 players each. The purpose is to maximize playing time.
  - Players may be mixed into age categories but no more than a two age group gap i.e. 7/8 and 9/10.
  - Parents are not allowed to watch the players from the sidelines and must be away from the playing fields.
- Children will referee themselves (although there will be a field facilitator on each field)
- Matches will be 10 minutes in length.
  - Each Festival Day should play at least 4 matches with a 10 minute break after the second match.
  - Children will participate after the second match for a "clinic". The "clinic" will only last 10-20 minutes and will only be for the purposes of giving players ideas to use at home/backyard.
  - Clubs will re-shuffle all of the players after the second matches to make new playing groups.
- Field sizes:
  - Minimum Length: 25 yards Maximum Length: 35 yards
  - Minimum Width: 20 yards Maximum Width: 30 yards
- No goalkeepers will be used. Coned goals.
- Children decide whether a kick-in or dribble-in will be used to re-enter the ball back into play.
- Corner kicks and Goal kicks used.
- No results or standings will be kept.
- All Festival Days will also have a Parent Education Session.
- All Festival Days participants will require children to answer a short survey.

## Sample Field Setup



### Rotation:

Teams on the outside of the field go clockwise, teams on the inside go counter clock wise.