



2023-2024 Tournament Commitment Policies ISC Advanced Year- Round Players

All players on the advanced year-round teams are required to commit to a required number of tournaments during each season. Once you commit to a tournament through our online tournament commitment form, you will need to honor your commitment to that tournament. In order to protect the players on the teams and the integrity of the club at each event, we will assess a fee if a player pulls out of a tournament for reasons other than one of the excused reasons that are listed below.

For all 9U-12U players, the fee for withdrawing from a tournament will be \$50. Families need to look carefully at their schedules when they are choosing and selecting the events that they commit their children to in each season. If a player withdraws from 2 or more events per soccer year, the ISC player may not be guaranteed their roster position with the Advanced Year-Round program when the clinics are held for the next soccer year. The ISC Director of Coaching will determine whether the roster position will be offered based on the information provided by the player and their family regarding why the player did not meet the requirement.

For all 13U-19U players, the fee is \$100 for any player that withdraws from a tournament that they have committed to through the online process. Players will not be allowed to participate in any other tournament or league game with the team until the fee is paid. If a player withdraws from 2 or more events per soccer year, the ISC player may not be guaranteed their roster position with the Advanced Year-Round program when the tryouts are held for the next soccer year. The ISC Director of Coaching will determine whether the roster position will be offered based on the information provided by the player and their family regarding why the player did not meet the requirement.

Accepted Excuses for withdrawing from a tournament:

Medical or family emergencies are excusable reasons for pulling out of a tournament. You will not be fined if you withdraw from a tournament for medical reasons or if you are dealing with some family crisis or emergency. If your child is injured, sick, or if there is a family emergency, such as a funeral, very ill family member, or some other family crisis, we will not impose the fine for withdrawing from the tournament.

The club is not authorized to make exceptions to the fine for parents who commit their child to a tournament and then the parents realize that they have a family event planned for that weekend, such as a wedding, graduation, or reunion. These events, while very important to your family, do not fall into the category of family emergencies. We ask that you look very carefully at the dates for these events and our tournaments before you commit to the tournament. While we certainly strive to be "family friendly" in the ISC, we also have to safeguard the health and safety of our players that commit to a tournament and if we have less than the minimum number arrive at a tournament, player injury becomes a very big concern.

Please note that the full fine is still applicable even if you only missed one game for the weekend.

We do not pro-rate the fine based on the number of games missed for a tournament. Even if your child only misses one game of the tournament, they will still be fined the full amount. You need to honor all games for all days that you commit to, or you will be fined the full fee.

While it may sound like this part of the overall tournament commitment policy seems unfair or too strict for youth sports, let's be clear why we have these policies in the first place. When an ISC team attends a tournament, we honor all games that our teams are scheduled to play in for the tournament. This clause protects the kids that want to play all games in the event that they committed to play in for the weekend. Moreover, it protects the kids from half of the team leaving the second game of the day for another sporting event, music event, etc. This policy also protects the kids from injury or overuse injuries. Less important, but still vital to the team, this policy protects the kids from an embarrassing situation where the team does not field a full team for a particular game in the tournament.

What happens if I need to withdraw my child for only one game of a tournament that I committed them to?

If you notify the Director of Coaching and your team manager that your son or daughter can no longer participate in a tournament that they had committed to, you will be notified that your child will be removed from the roster for all games. In some situations, parents notify us that their child will only miss one of the games of the tournament that they had previously committed to all games. Our policy is clear that tournament commitments require participation in all games of the event. Even if your child will only miss one game, they will not be included on the roster for any of the other games for the tournament.

Filling out the Online Form for Blue players: U13 and Older

Please note that in the 13U and older age groups, players on "blue" teams, which are our "A" teams are allowed to commit to tournaments for the "white" team, our "B" teams, in their age group to make numbers work for the "white" team. This commitment is the same as any other commitment. If your child is on a "blue" team in the ISC, and they pull out of a "white" event that they have committed to, they will be fined the full amount. If the white roster is large enough in a an age group, we may not be able to accommodate all "blue" players that commit to the event, but once a "blue" player commits and is assigned to play with the white team, the fine would be assessed if the "blue" player pulls out of the event.

Please read the other related ISC policies below:

1) Players commit to the ISC club for the tournament.

We typically take a number of teams from the club to any event that we recommend. Sometimes we have to move some players "up" to an older team to maximize the participation of the entire ISC membership to meet our player development goals. We want everyone to clearly understand that if you commit to any tournament, you may be placed with another team in the ISC. Your commitment is to the ISC club for the weekend. You will be fined if you pull out of the tournament even if your reason for pulling out is due to the fact that your child was assigned to play with a different team in the ISC other than their own team.

If you are certain that your child will not play with another team in the ISC other than their own, you might have to rethink your commitment to the ISC. This is a player development club focused on ALL of our players. The coaching staff believe in the value of developing all of our players in this club on all teams. We cannot develop our players in this club if we do not have the flexibility to move players from a certain age group that might have too many players for the roster for a particular tournament to another age group that might need a few more players in order to field a full team. If we cannot move players in these circumstances, we are forced to tell certain players that they cannot play in the tournament.

Moreover, the coaching staff firmly believe that there is significant value from a player development perspective when giving your child challenges by playing with new players from time to time.

This policy does not mean that we would force girls to play with a boys' team. However, we may ask girls to play on a boys' team from time to time, but we will not require girls to play with a boys' team.

2) Once the tournament commitment deadline passes, we will not accept any more players for an event unless we contact you.

Do not e-mail the parent manager, team coach, or the Director of Coaching if your schedule changes and your child becomes available to play in a certain event after you have committed as a "no" for the event in question. If we need more players to make the numbers work, we will contact you to inquire with you if your child's availability has changed for an event. The reason for this policy is that we cannot possibly even come close to keeping up with all of the requests for changes in status for the weekends. While on one hand this might sound inconsistent with our mission to develop all of our players, there is also a limit on our administrative capacities as an organization.

If we need more players to make a tournament work and you have committed as a "no" for the event in question, we may contact you to see if your status has changed, otherwise, please do not contact us to notify us that your weekend is now open to play.

Thanks for taking the time to read these policies. For those of you who are new to the ISC, all of this can be overwhelming, but I assure you that over time you will find that these policies are essential to ensuring the quality experience that we want for all ISC year round players.

3) If you pull out of an event, please follow the procedure below:

- 1) Email the director of coaching and your team manager.
Director of Coaching: jon.cook@iowasoccerclub.com
- 2) The ISC accountant will contact you back with instructions in regard to how to pay the fine.
- 3) Once the fine is collected, the process is complete.

Thanks,
Jon Cook
ISC Coaching Director