



## **ISC Player Commitment Expectations for Advanced Level Players and the ISC Player Development Philosophy Document**

### **2026-2027 Season**

#### **The expectations below apply only to the 11U-12U ISC Players in the ISC Advanced Year- Round Program**

##### **Background:**

The ISC offers different levels of commitment and competition at the 11U-12U age. For those that just want to practice once per week without games, the ISC Lightning program is the best option. For those that want the option to practice multiple times per week without games or travel, the ISC “POP” program is the best option. For those that want the option to practice multiple times per week and compete in our indoor leagues from November through March, the ISC “POPPI” program is the best option. For players who want to practice multiple times per week and play both outdoor and indoor games throughout most of the year, the ISC Advanced Year-Round Program is the best fit. Finally, for those kids who just can never get enough soccer, participation in our ISC Advanced Year-Round Program and our Rewards program is the highest level of competition and commitment.

The purpose of this document is to thoroughly explain the time commitment that we expect of players in our ISC Advanced Year-Round Program. In addition, the information here will hopefully give parents a clear idea of our coaching and developmental philosophy related to youth sports.

The ISC supports and encourages our 11U-12U players to be active in other sports, activities, and organizations. We do our best to offer our year-round programs in such a way that our year-round players on the 11U-12U teams have the flexibility to pursue the other activities that they want to be involved with even as our program runs throughout most of the year. We strive to offer both an elite soccer experience for our year-round players and to maintain a child-centered and holistic approach by respecting the kids as kids and appreciating the fact that they want to do lots of activities at this age. However, the ISC advanced year-round level is our highest level of commitment and participation in the program is optional. Therefore, a high

degree of commitment is required. We have expectations and rules that we require the year-round players to commit to for each child to maintain their position in the advanced year-round program. If, after reading these rules, you find this commitment to be more than your child is ready for, please consider one of our other program levels within the ISC.

**The commitment rules outlined in this document were put in place to meet the objectives listed below.**

- 1) We need to ensure that our 11U-12U teams have enough available players for the events that we participate in throughout the year.
- 2) Second, it is important that all our players in the 11U-12U age groups meet a high level of commitment given the fact that the ISC year-round competitive teams are our highest level of soccer commitment at this age of participation.

We need to make sure that we are grouping kids by interest level and matching kids together that have a high interest in the game of soccer in our advanced year-round program at the 11U-12U ages. While we DO NOT select players by ability for our year-round program until the 13U season, we offer the year-round program as our highest level of commitment, and it is geared for kids that love soccer and want to be grouped with other kids who are highly enthusiastic about the sport.

We are driven by the belief that kids develop at vastly different times and that early selection by ability at 9U-12U does not account for the rapidly changing developmental growth of soccer players. Moreover, compelling research shows that most tryout procedures at the youngest ages are fraught with bias and highly influenced by the relative age effect related to the cutoff dates for the birth year. Therefore, we do not believe in tryouts that group kids into “A” and “B” teams for kids until the 13U season because our experience has proven to us that there is so much growth made in terms of development from 9U-12U that the process of trying to group kids into “A” and “B” is not an effective means to build a strong team or age group for the long term. For the past 29 years, we have delayed the “tracking” of kids into “A” and “B” teams until the 13U season, and we are confident that this process has been successful both in terms of keeping kids in competitive soccer longer and in terms of helping develop high level soccer players.

We welcome any 11U-12U player who wants to join the ISC Advanced Year- Round teams, but they need to be players who share the interest and desire to make a commitment that is comparable to their teammates.

While we do NOT select by athletic ability and soccer ability at 9U-12U, the year-round player must be willing to meet our commitment expectations, show a willingness to learn, a willingness to work hard, and a willingness to be a good teammate.

Moreover, players in the year-round program must either meet our financial obligations or qualify for financial assistance. Finally, all players in the year-round program must

comply with all provisions of our ISC Code of Conduct to remain in good standing in the ISC.

We believe that we are probably the strongest advocate for the “late developing” athlete in the Iowa City area. We want to give the kids who join a little later or those who might be a “late developer,” the opportunity to take part in our program, but all players must meet the same requirements so that we are grouping kids with a similar focus together on the same teams.

In sum, our priority is to group players by commitment level not by ability level at this age.

- 3) Finally, in our expert opinion, we believe that the 9U-12U years are probably the most critical years for skill development. Therefore, we feel it is important to set concrete practice requirements in place to make certain that the players in the 11U-12U age groups are committed to our comprehensive developmental program to build the proper foundation for growth and improvement. We expect our 11U-12U players to attend practice to take full advantage of the teaching and coaching we offer to help players improve in what is often considered the “golden age of learning” for soccer players.

### **THE ISC PHILOSOPHY OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

In the ISC, WE HAVE PROVEN FOR OVER 29 YEARS that it is possible to run a professionally coached and developmentally focused, competitive program without implementing tryout procedures that "cut" young kids or group players on "A" and "B" teams based on their ability during the 9U-12U years of competition.

Each year we help kids develop and grow into some of the top players in Eastern Iowa without following the procedures of many other sports organizations that "cut" young athletes without giving these kids the chance to prove that they will develop and grow over time. Our experience has proven to us that kids develop at vastly different rates and times. In addition, despite the commonly held belief by many coaches and parents that the best kids need to play together for the best kids to improve, there is no research in the sports science field that supports this notion at 9U-12U. Therefore, rather than grouping kids by ability from 9U-12U, we group players based on their commitment and interest level during the 9U-12U years.

The kids are not selected or “tracked” by coaches at 9U-12U into an “A” team, or “B” team. The kids and parents decide how much time they are willing to commit to soccer. If the kids choose the “year-round program,” we give the kids an opportunity to develop into competitive players from 9U-12U through quality coaching, constant support, and positive mentoring.

**However, we will speak candidly with parents if their kids do not demonstrate a willingness to learn, willingness to work hard, and a willingness to be a good teammate at the clinics.** We will give all kids an opportunity to join our 9U-12U program if they make the time commitment outlined in this document and if they demonstrate a consistent commitment to the 3 W’s mentioned above.

### 3 W's Required of ISC 9U-12U Players

- 1) Willingness to Learn
- 2) Willingness to Work Hard
- 3) Willingness to be a good teammate.

By delaying the “A” and “B” selections until the 13U season, more players have a longer period of time to improve, grow, and enjoy the game before they must focus on tryouts for “A” and “B” teams. However, if your son or daughter does not display a willingness to learn, work hard, and to be a good teammate, they will not be selected at this time.

### SUMMARY

The ISC Advanced Level year-round program for 9U-12U soccer players is open to players of all ability levels who have a high interest and enthusiasm for competitive soccer. We will accept all kids in the 11U-12U program if they commit to the rules in this document, adhere to our code of conduct, work hard to commit to the 3 W's outlined above, and agree to meet their financial obligations with their team and the club. (Please note that we may be able to provide financial assistance to those families who qualify.)

Please note that if your child is interested in joining after the clinics have passed, we may not have roster positions available and parents should inquire with our administrator at [registrar@iowasoccerclub.com](mailto:registrar@iowasoccerclub.com) to check if there are still spots in the age group. All kids who join during the JUNE REGISTRATION period will be given an opportunity to be considered for the year-round program. Returning ISC Advanced year-round players, this does not include POP or POPPI, are always guaranteed a position in the age group for the next year if they meet our requirements and stay committed to the 3 W's. Players who finish the 2026-2027, seasonal year as a provisional status member may not be provided the opportunity to return for the following year as an ISC Advanced Year-Round Player.

Please carefully read through our commitment requirements below.

If you make a commitment to our program by following the rules below, we will provide playing time guarantees to all players for all for all league games and tournament games.

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## ISC COMMITMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR 11U-12U PLAYERS

### Summary of requirements:

- Outdoor Game attendance requirements for fall and spring seasons.
- Indoor League Game attendance requirements.
- Practice Requirements.

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## **Summary of Game Attendance Requirements for all ISC 11U-12U Advanced Year- Round Players:**

Fall 2026 Season - Must play in 10 Fall 2026 Outdoor Games.

Winter -Must play in 8 indoor league games.

Spring/Summer 2027 Season-Must Play in 10 Spring/Summer 2027 Outdoor Games

**Total=28 Games**

## **DETAILS RELATED TO GAME ATTENDANCE FOR ISC 11U-12U Advanced Year- Round Players:**

Fall 2026 Season - Must play in 10 Fall 2026 Games.

- The 11U-12U teams will likely have close to 16 games scheduled in the Fall 2026 season when considering their league games and the two tournaments that they will play in during the time period from early August 2026 through October 2026. Therefore, the ISC Advanced Year-Round player in the 11U-12U age group must play in 10 of the 16 outdoor games.
- All 9U-12U teams will play in 5 league dates for the Fall 2026 season. On each league date, the teams will play 2 games per day. This means that all 9U-12U players will have the opportunity to play in 10 league games in the fall 2026 season. All league games are played only on the weekends.
- All 9U-12U teams will play in 2 tournaments in the fall and 3 tournaments in the spring season. The tournament games are held over both Saturday and Sunday on the weekends. Usually, all teams will play 3 games in each tournament. This means that all 9U-12U players will have the opportunity to play in 6 tournament games in the Fall outdoor season. All tournament games are played only on the weekends.
- To meet the required number of 10 games, players can count both the tournament and league games to meet the minimum number of 10 games.

Winter -Must play in 8 indoor league games.

Spring/Summer 2027 Season-Must Play in 10 Spring/Summer 2027 Games

- The Spring season is very similar to the fall season. However, the main difference is that the kids may only have 8 league games, but they will likely have 3 tournament options in the spring season. Therefore, in the spring the kids will likely have 9 tournament games and 8 leagues games for a total of 17 games. The kids will need to attend 10 of the 17 games.

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## **Summary for Indoor League Game Requirements for All ISC 11U-12U Year - Round Players:**

All ISC Advanced Year- Round Players must register for at least 1 of the 2 sessions of the ISC Intra-Club Indoor Soccer league known as BAGIL BITES. Session options are the November-December option or the January-March option. The leagues are set up so that for each session the kids play 10-12 indoor games with games played on Saturday afternoons. All indoor games are played in the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Center, HTRC, in Iowa City at 2820 Prairie Meadow Drive, Iowa City.

The ISC website has more information on the ISC indoor leagues. Each player signs up on their own. The indoor registration fee is an additional cost which is NOT covered by your monthly fees. Last year the fee was \$110 per session for 12 indoor games on indoor turf. Games are played on the weekends in Iowa City in the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Center, known as the HTRC.

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Effective in 2026-2027, we changed our policy and removed the game withdrawal fees, but there are player status implications for players that withdraw from league games and tournament games. There are also player status implications for players that do not meet the game attendance and practice attendance requirements detailed in this document.

- If a player withdraws from two league games or more or more during the 2026-2027 soccer year, they will be moved to provisional status.
- In addition, if a player withdraws from two tournaments or more during the 2026-2027 season, they will be moved to provisional status.
- Players will also be moved to provisional status if they do not meet their game attendance requirements for one of the 3 seasons listed above.
- Finally, players will be moved to provisional status if they do not meet their practice obligations listed in the next section of this document.

Once a player is moved to provisional status, they will need to meet both the practice and game requirements for a period of 6 months before they can return to the full status as an advanced Year-Round ISC player. If a player has not moved out of the provisional status within 6 months, the player will need to join the ISC “POPPI” or ISC “POP” program if they want to stay in the ISC player development program. In addition, if players finish the 2026-2027 season as a

provisional status member, they may not be provided the opportunity to return for the following year as an ISC Advanced Year-Round Player.

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### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

#### **What happens if a player does not meet the game attendance requirement for the Fall 2026, Winter 2026-2027 season, or the Spring 2027 season?**

If your ISC 11U-12U Soccer player does not attend and participate in the required number of games for any one of the 3 seasons listed in the previous section, they will be considered a provisional ISC year-round player until they meet the requirements to regain full ISC Year-Round status. (Of course, exceptions will be made if a player does not meet their requirement due to injury, illness, or family emergency.)

If a player has not moved out of the provisional status within 6 months, the player will need to join the ISC “POPPI” or ISC “POP” program if they want to stay in the ISC player development program. *Players that enter the 13U tryout period as either provisional status members or “ISC POPPI” or “ISC POP” players are not guaranteed a spot with the club during the tryouts.*

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

#### **How does my soccer player move from provisional status to full ISC Year-Round Status?**

If your child was moved to provisional status, they must meet all practice and game requirements for the next 6 months to regain full status as an ISC Advanced Year-Round player.

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### **DETAILS on Tournament Attendance and Differences between tournaments and league games.**

When an ISC player commits to a tournament, they are committing to all the games of the tournament and therefore, they will need to honor all games on the schedule for the weekend.

However, we do allow ISC players more flexibility with league date commitments. If your child’s team has more than one game per day for league games, they will be allowed to participate in the games that work in their schedule and are not obligated to play in all games during the weekend when participating in league games. The main reason for the stricter policy for tournaments is due to the fact that the club has much less flexibility with rosters for tournaments as opposed to league games.

A complete schedule of fall and spring tournaments for 11U-12U teams can be found at the end of this document. This schedule may be subject to revision.

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## **Summary of Practice Attendance for all ISC 11U-12U Year-Round Players:**

- 2 Per Week in the Fall and Spring Seasons
- 1 Per week during the winter.

(There are a few months when we only practice part of the month.)

Please note that if practice attendance is not met, your child will not play in the games on the weekend. For example, if your child does not attend at least two practices per week in the fall and spring and 1 practice per week in the winter season, they are NOT eligible to play in the games on the weekend.

- In addition, even if we do not have scheduled games on the weekend, the players must meet their practice requirements.

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Starting in the 2026-2027 season, we are modifying our injury and illness policy for practice attendance.

### **Updated Policy for Practice Exceptions Related to Illness-2026-2027**

- Effective in 2026-2027, players will be granted a limited number of practice exceptions for illness. We do not want players to attend practice if they are sick. Our new policy update will provide players with a limited number of excused absences for illness which will provide kids with the opportunity to play in games even if they did not fulfill their practice obligation during the week that they were sick.
- Each player will be given 3 separate weeks during the 2026-2027 season when they will be allowed to miss their practice requirements due to illness without any consequence to their eligibility to participate in the games for the weekend. For the 11U-12U players, a written medical excuse will not be required. An email to your team coach and the Director will suffice for players at this age.
- Once a player has exceeded the 3 allowable weeks for illness, they will need to meet their weekly practice requirements to be eligible to participate in games. If they unfortunately miss another week due to illness and are unable to meet their practice requirement for the week, they will not be allowed to participate in the games on the weekend.

### **Updated Policy for Practice Exceptions Related to Injury-2026-2027**

- Effective in 2026-2027, players will be granted a limited number of practice exceptions for injury. We do not want players to practice if they are injured. Our new policy update will provide players with a limited number of excused absences for injury which will provide kids with the opportunity to play in games even if they did not fulfill their practice obligation during the week that they were injured.
- Each player will be given 3 separate weeks during the 2026-2027 season when they will be allowed to waive their practice requirements due to injury and still be eligible to participate in games. For the 11U-12U players, a written medical excuse will not be required. An email to your team coach and the Director will suffice for players at this age. However, we highly encourage parents to consider the increased injury risks of entering a game without any practice time for the player to test whether they are prepared to return to play.
- Once a player has exceeded the 3 allowable weeks for injury, they will need to meet their weekly practice requirements to be eligible to participate in games. Players that are injured will NOT be required to make up previously missed practices due to injury, but if they have exceeded the 3-week exception period, they must meet their practice requirements for the week preceding the match to be eligible for the weekend matches.

#### **Updated Policy for Vacation or Travel Exceptions-2026-2027**

- Effective in 2026-2027, players will be granted a limited number of practice exceptions for vacation or travel.
  - Each player will be granted 3 weeks during the 2026-2027 season when they will be permitted to waive their practice requirements due to family travel or vacation. During any of these 3 weeks, players will be allowed to miss training and still be eligible to participate in games if they return from vacation/travel prior to the weekend games. Parents will need to communicate effectively and email both their child's team coach and the Director to notify the coach and Director that their child will miss practices for travel or vacation. The 3 permitted weeks for travel or vacation are in addition to the 4 weeks that all players have a break from training during our seasonal year. The 4 weeks that all players have off during the seasonal year are 1) Thanksgiving break week, 2) the 2-week winter break and, 3) Spring break.
  - Once a player has exceeded the 3 allowable weeks for travel or vacation, they will need to meet their weekly practice requirements to be eligible to participate in games.
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## **Practice Attendance Requirement Details for all 11U-12U ISC Players:**

Our soccer season starts in the month of August. For the 2026-2027 season, practices will start the week of August 3, 2026. Required practices will start on August 3. If parents are still out of town for vacation, they can use the vacation exception clause detailed in the previous section. All ISC teams will receive 70 practices from our professional and licensed coaching staff. The practice sessions are normally completed for the soccer year by mid-June. We guarantee that all 70 sessions/practices are scheduled and completed for your team even for sessions rained out or cancelled due to bad weather. We spread the practice sessions out like this:

- Early August through the end of October-All 9U-12U teams have 2 outdoor sessions per week.
- November through the second week of March –All 9U-12U teams have 1 indoor session per week except for the week of Spring Break and during the 2-week period for winter break.
- For the first 3 weeks after spring break, all 9U-12U teams have 2 indoor practices per week.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April-Mid-June-All 9U-12U teams have 3 outdoor practice sessions per week.

Following the format above, all teams will receive their 70 practice sessions per year. To be clear, we ALWAYS make up sessions later in the year for anything cancelled due to weather. So even if a session was cancelled in early August, we may not make the practice up until some other time in the year, but your kids will receive all 70 sessions.

### **Practice Attendance Periods for ISC 11U-12U Players:**

**August 3, 2026-October 31, 2026: 2 Times Per week required.**

**November 2, 2026 -March 12, 2027: 1 time Per week required.**

**March 22, 2027- May 28, 2027: 2 Times per week required.**

Please note, however, that during the time periods above, there are 4 weeks that practice attendance is not required. Those weeks are the week of Thanksgiving break, 2 weeks of winter break, and spring break 2027.

- June –Only first 2 weeks of June required. The first two weeks are the clinics for the next year.
- **July –NONE REQUIRED-Usually practices are not held during this month unless we are making up practices.**

In the ISC, there is a lot of flexibility for players to attend other sessions within the club if your child's team session is scheduled for a time that your child has a conflict. Players can

attend a "super skills" practice, or they can attend a team practice with the team one age older or one age group younger.

If you think that your son or daughter cannot meet this level of commitment, we have many other strong ISC soccer programs such as the ISC Lightning, ISC "POP" program, or the ISC "POPPI" programs that are good options.

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## **Our Playing Time Guarantee to our 11U-12U players:**

If each player meets our minimal standards of commitment outlined above, we will provide the following playing time guarantees:

**All players are guaranteed half of the minutes in each half for all outdoor league and outdoor tournament games.** The minutes of guaranteed time per half is played in a block of time. For example, if the half length is 30 minutes long, each player will receive 15 minutes of playing time per half. We make sure that the kids play those 15 minutes without interruption or substitution. In other words, we do not sub them in for five minutes in one part of the half and then later for 10 minutes. By playing 15 minutes consecutively with no chance of being subbed off during that period, the actual value of the playing time is far greater than if we broke up that playing time in smaller segments each half. In addition, our focus in the ISC is always on the long- term success of our players, and we believe it is vital to teach young players to play in longer stretches of time without constant subbing.

We also guarantee players playing time in indoor games, but usually we sub more frequently because those games are fast paced. The playing time guarantee for indoor games still amounts to half of the game.

## 11U-12U Tournament Schedule for 2026-2027:

When you commit your child to an ISC tournament, he/she will be required to attend all games for their assigned team in the tournament. Almost all tournaments have games on both Saturday and Sundays. Please note that if you are making the commitment to participate in the ISC Advanced Year-Round Program, tournament attendance for games on both Saturday and Sundays will be required unless you make it clear that you need a religious exemption on all Sundays. If you need to declare a religious exemption, you MUST notify the Director of Coaching, Jon Cook, prior to accepting your roster position with the ISC.

Listed Below is the proposed tournament schedule for the fall, winter, and spring/summer season for our ISC 11U -12U boys' and girls' teams for the 2026-2027 Season. This schedule is subject to revision.

### Fall 2026 Tournaments

- August 15-16, 2026 - Tournament at TBK Complex-Bettendorf, Iowa
- September 19-20, 2026- FC United Fall Classic Tournament -Marion, Iowa-North of Cedar Rapids-At Tuma Soccer Complex

### Winter Tournaments

- ISC Bubble Blowout-January 2027 -Iowa City, Iowa. Held in Iowa City at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Center.

### Spring/Summer 2027 Tournaments Boys and Girls

- Late April 2027-CRSA CHILLOUT- Hiawatha, Iowa-North of Cedar Rapids-At Tuma Soccer Complex
- Early to Mid-May 2027-Cinco de Mayo Tournament -Held in Muscatine, Iowa
- Early to Mid-June 2027 -Cedar Valley Moonlight Classic-Waterloo/Cedar Falls, Iowa

## **2026-2027 Tournament Commitment Policies ISC Advanced Year- Round Players**

All players on the ISC advanced year-round teams are given the option to commit to play in 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 for all games in the tournament. Tournaments, unlike league games, are played over both days on a given weekend. This means that when you commit to a tournament, you are committing to playing in games on both days of the weekend. To protect the players on the teams and the integrity of the club at each event, there are consequences for players if a player pulls out of a tournament for reasons other than one of the excused reasons that are listed below. Withdrawing from even one game of the tournament is considered as a full withdrawal from the tournament.

If a family must withdraw their child from the tournament, the tournament withdrawal is documented. Please note that withdrawal from even one game of a tournament is considered a full withdrawal from the tournament. If a player pulls out of two tournaments or more during the 2026-2027 soccer year, they will be moved to provisional status.

Families need to look carefully at their schedules when they are choosing and selecting the tournament events that they commit their children to in each season.

### **Accepted Excuses for withdrawing from a tournament:**

Medical or family emergencies are excusable reasons for pulling out of a tournament. If an injury, illness, or family emergency prevents your child from participating in a tournament, the withdrawal will not have an impact on your child's status as a full member of the ISC Advanced Year-Round program.

Family emergencies may be a funeral, a very ill family member, or some other family crisis that you feel must be attended to immediately. As was mentioned above, we will also grant a family a religious exemption for playing games on Sundays provided that this request is communicated to the Director of Coaching, Jon Cook, prior to the start of the season.

The club is not authorized to make exceptions for parents who commit their children 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 you to look 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 must 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.

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 in all games in the event. 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. Finally, 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, your team coach, 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. 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 and the withdrawal will be documented.

## **Please read the other related ISC policies below for tournaments and league games.**

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

We typically take a significant number of teams from the club to any event that we recommend. Sometimes we must 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.

If you are certain that your child will not play with another team in the ISC other than their own, you might not want to have your child play in tournaments. This is a player development club which is focused on ALL of our players. The coaching staff believe in the value of developing all of our players in the ISC 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.

### **3) League game withdrawals.**

If you need to withdraw your son or daughter from a league game that they committed to playing in, please contact us as soon as possible so we can do our best to adjust the rosters. If an injury, illness, or family emergency prevents your child from participating in the league game, the withdrawal will not have an impact on your child's status as a full member of the ISC Advanced Year-Round program.

### **4) If you pull out of a league game or tournament, please follow the procedure below:**

- 1) Email the director of coaching, team coach, and your team manager.  
Director of Coaching: [jon.cook@iowasoccerclub.com](mailto:jon.cook@iowasoccerclub.com)

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.

Thanks,  
Jon Cook-ISC Coaching Director

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**The information below is for 2 supplemental programs that the ISC offers only for the ISC Advanced Year-Round Players.**

**Participation in either the ISC 11U-12U Rewards OUTDOOR Program AND ISC 11U-12U INDOOR Program is NOT Required.**

## **ISC REWARDS OUTDOOR PROGRAM**

For any 11U-12U player that would like to compete more frequently and at the same time play in 5 extra tournament events with players that have committed to a higher practice requirement than the practice requirement outlined above, the ISC offers what we call our ISC Rewards Program for kids to join.

**The players who choose to participate in the ISC Rewards program will be grouped together for 5 events per year with the other players in the 11U-12U age groups who:**

- 1) Meet all practice and league game requirements outlined above as required by all Advanced Year Round ISC players.

AND

- 2) Also meet an increased practice attendance requirement during any 5-month period that the player and family choose. During the 5 months of increased attendance, the players must exceed the normal requirements of 2 practices per week and attend 3 practices per week. One of the 3 practices per week **MUST** be an ISC Super Skills practice. Goalie practices can be included as a part of 1 of the practices per week.

### **REWARDS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS;**

- 1) **Can my child spread out the 3 practices per week over a greater time and simply practice 2 times per week?**

We do not allow the practices to be completed in this way.

We allow a lot of flexibility for the players to choose any 5 months in which the increased practice requirement must be met. For example, a player may choose August, September, October, November, and December or they may choose November, December, January,

February, and March. A player could even break up the months and do any combination of months except July cannot be a month that is included because we do not hold regular team practices in July. Obviously, there are many combinations of months that would work, but in the months that are included, players must practice 3 times per week.

**What is the additional cost?**

There are 3 additional costs:

- A) Travel and Accommodations to the 5 additional tournaments.
- B) Additional Rewards Uniform Fee- (Should not exceed \$125.) The Rewards Uniform will be added to the Soccer.com site and can be ordered directly.
- C) Additional Fee for Tournament Registration -Total Fee \$250. A link will be provided to pay the fee in July 2026.

**2) Are the kids who participate in the Rewards program grouped together for normal league games with their age group team?**

The Rewards is simply a supplemental program. Kids in the Rewards program play all league games with their ISC age group teams. They are not grouped separately for regular league games or regular tournaments. The kids that participate in Rewards are both full members of the normal age group teams and also members of the Rewards program.

**3) How likely is it that my 11U player will be grouped with 12U players for the Rewards event or that my 11U-12U girl will be grouped with boys? Very Likely**

If you sign your son or daughter up for the Rewards program, you must be prepared for a mix of ages to play together. If you are not comfortable with this, please do not register for this program.

**4) Will the Rewards Teams train together prior to the events they attend? NO**

All of the ISC teams at this age play the same system of play, the same style, and are coached using the same developmental plan. Moreover, the kids on the 11U team are freely allowed to practice with the 12U team whenever they would like. Additional training for the players on Rewards will not be included in the training schedule.

**5) What if my child cannot attend all 5 events, will they be allowed to participate, or will there be a discount included?**

Your child must attend at least 4 of the 5 tournaments to be included in the Rewards program. We do not offer a price discount if they cannot participate in all events.

## 6) What are the Rewards Events?

**Fall 2026 Event:** St. Louis Scott Gallagher Tournament. (Labor Day Weekend -September 2026)

**Fall 2026 Event:** Sporting Iowa Fall Tournament-Hy-Vee Plex in Grimes, Iowa (Des Moines Area.) (September 26-27, 2026.)

**Spring 2027 Event: Last weekend of March-**Tournament at TBK Sports Complex-Bettendorf, IA.

**Spring 2027 Event:** First Weekend of April. April Fool's Day Tournament at TBK Sports Complex-Bettendorf, IA.

**Summer 2027 Event:** Mid-June 2027. PCYS Classic: Steven's Point Wisconsin.

## 7) Does my child need to tryout to make the Rewards team? No

We do not select by ability for this program. The philosophy for this program is not different than the general philosophy of the club. We do not believe in selection by ability until the 13U year.

## 8) What exceptions are permissible for injury, illness, or vacation or travel for players in the Rewards program?

All policies that apply to the Advanced-Year-Round player apply to the players who are enrolled in Rewards. For example, a player in the Rewards program is granted all of the same permitted absences for illness, injury, or travel/vacation as is detailed in the sections above for the ISC Advanced Year-Round player.

# ISC REWARDS INDOOR PROGRAM

Players who participate in the Outdoor Rewards program are not required to participate in the INDOOR Rewards Program. In addition, if someone does not participate in the OUTDOOR REWARDS Program, they are still eligible to participate in the INDOOR Rewards Program.

The indoor Rewards program is a local based program that is held during the winter months from November-March. If a player chooses to participate in the INDOOR Rewards Program, they must meet the practice requirement outlined above. However, if an ISC player wants to play in the winter indoor program and they already met their practice requirement for the outdoor Rewards program they DO NOT have to do another 5 months of 3 practices per week. There is a separate league fee for participation in the ISC REWARDS INDOOR PROGRAM and players who participate in the INDOOR Rewards Program must also purchase the Rewards Uniform kit.