



LEVELS OF PLAY, Questions & Answers

The mission of the Iowa Soccer Association is to foster, promote and perpetuate the sport of soccer. Our organization is centered around the values of education, fairness and service, and our core beliefs are development, opportunity and organization. On the quest to live these words, Iowa Soccer provides various levels of play designed to fulfill the needs of all youth who wish to play soccer in our state. We are excited to unveil to our membership the next phase of our growth: Levels of Play.

Why are team classifications changing?

This is not just a change in terminology. Iowa Soccer is making a push to better identify and support the levels of play as they truly exist in our state, and to offer classifications that better reflect how teams are truly formed by member clubs -- and how they view themselves -- thereby creating additional options to play.

What is Level 3?

All U10-below teams are Level 3 by virtue of not having a selection process for forming teams. Iowa Soccer's philosophy is that players this young should not be subject to a selection process, and teams at these age groups should not be formed based upon ability. Any teams U11-above that aren't formed by a selection process may be classified as Level 3 teams. Level 3 teams may choose to play in a Level 2 division of an in-state tournament, if/as the tournament rules allow.

What is Level 2?

Any teams U11-above may be classified as Level 2 whether or not they use a selection process to form teams. Level 2 teams may enter a Level 1 division of an in-state tournament, if/as the tournament rules allow. Examples of Level 2 teams include: for clubs that form "first" and "second" teams in an age group, the so-called "second" team; a U13-above team that has no intent to play in the Iowa State Cup¹.

What is Level 1?

Any teams U11-above may be classified as Level 1 whether or not they use a selection process to form teams. Level 1 teams may only participate in a Level 1 division of an in-state tournament. Examples of Level 1 teams include: for clubs that form "first" and "second" teams in an age group, the so-called "first" team; a U13-above team that intends to play in the Iowa State Cup.

How does the old terminology translate to the new levels of play?

Recreation = Level III

Classic = Level II

Select = Level II or Level I

Premier = Level I

State Cup teams = Level I

¹ The Iowa State Cup is considered the highest level of youth competition in the state for the highest level teams in the state (Level 1). The purpose of the Iowa State Cup is to identify the team in each age division that will represent the state of Iowa at the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Midwest Region Championships.