



LEVELS OF PLAY-IAN BRADLEY

To Whom It May Concern:

There have been concerns expressed about the new Iowa Soccer Levels of Play initiative and specifically coaches taking it upon themselves to form Level 2 teams without their registering clubs' support.

ISA's position is that independent Level 2 teams should not be formed in clubs that already offer Level 1, 2 and 3 programs. If coaches are allowed to form Level 2 teams independently of the club and basically "cherry pick" players from the recreational and select programs, then the integrity of the club is compromised and Level 3 and Level 1 programs can be negatively affected, potentially reducing opportunities and participation.

In clubs that have multiple teams in an age group or already offer Level 1, 2 and 3 options, all Level 1 and 2 teams should be created through a club-wide tryout or selection process and the opportunity to play on those teams should be offered to all age appropriate players in the club.

Clubs that form teams using Level 3 team formation guidelines (no tryouts or team selection) can choose to play Level 2 or Level 3, although there is no benefit for a team using Level 3 team formation guidelines registering as Level 2.

One purpose of adding Level 2 was to create more opportunities for players looking for a higher level of play or for players who may play multiple sports and do not want to commit to the rigors and cost of participating in Level 1 or 2 professionally coached programs. Consequently, I believe clubs should assess whether those types of teams can be accommodated within their current structure without affecting the integrity of the current Level 1, 2, 3 system.

There may be a place for Level 2 teams in clubs that offer Level 1,2 and 3 programs, that are parent coached and consequently do not pay the professional coaching fees or receive the opportunities that playing under a professional staff creates. However, those teams cannot be allowed to run independently of the Level 1,2,3 program already supported by the club and must be open to all age appropriate club members.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 515-252-6363 ext 102 or by e-mail at ibradley@iowaosoccer.org.

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