



IOWA SOCCER – COMPETITIONS

2020-2021... We Made It! A huge thanks to YOU and all our membership for their patience and understanding while we navigated through this unprecedented time!

The team at Iowa Soccer, alongside our membership, worked very hard in 20-21 to ensure we fulfilled our mission in providing soccer opportunities and getting everyone *BACK* to the fields to play in a year where we took nothing for granted. This mission would not have been possible without Iowa Soccer membership including coaches, administrators, referees, parents, players, etc., being passionate and patient during this time and always eager/excited to play this beautiful game when the opportunity presented itself!

All 20-21 programming looked a bit different but looking back we feel very fortunate to have played thousands of games in 20-21. We continued to adapt, evolve, and play while others were often unable to do so. In addition to our existing programming, we secured and executed several new events this past year. In some cases, we had limited teams and participation, but it did not prevent us from putting our best foot forward and working hard to provide great opportunities and experiences for our membership.

NEW EVENTS/PROGRAMS/OPPORTUNITIES

1. United Cup (Youth/Rec/@ NE Iowa)
2. Junior Showcase & Junior Championships (Youth/Eastern Iowa)
3. Youth Referee Academy & mentorship (Youth/Eastern Iowa)
4. Adult Small Sided League (Adults/Central Iowa)
5. Keeper Wars, Ink. (Youth & Adults/Central Iowa)
6. USASA Tournament of Champions (Adult/Eastern Iowa)
7. USYS National Presidents Cup (Youth/Central Iowa)

Iowa Soccer strives to offer high-quality, low-cost programming for our membership. With clear and unique pathways established we're working hard to provide all membership with a complete soccer experience, including a variety of seasonal playing opportunities. It is our goal to ensure every member has access to a high-quality league experience and an opportunity to participate in a capstone event festival/tournament/cup experience. Additionally, thanks to our national affiliates including US Youth Soccer and US Adult Soccer our championship teams have unique opportunities to join **#TEAMIOWA** and compete against the top teams in the Midwest Region and beyond in hopes to become Iowa's next Midwest Region Champ, or even National Champ!!

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: PSC 05 BOYS

Presidents Cup Champion -> Midwest Regional Presidents Cup Champion -> National Championship Run
The PSC 05 Boys team was new to the regional experience, the Presidents Cup Series once again proves to be an excellent opportunity for many of our members to take advantage of a great competition that provides them with exposure to great competition with clubs/teams from 14 different states, opportunities to be seen/watched by college coaches, and best of all an extension of their season which in this case resulted in training and playing for an additional 6 weeks while playing 9 games vs. teams from all over the country, which ultimately has helped them prepare for yet another run in 2022! BEST OF LUCK TO YOU AND ALL MEMBERSHIP IN 2022!



DEMOSPHERE / TOOLS / ADMIN UPDATES

We continue to work closely with our partners at Demosphere to create a unique one-of-a-kind product to efficiently manage all aspects of this playing experience (on and off the field). We've surely had some challenges during this transition, but we continue to work together to develop and improve the tools we all use to get and keep players on the field.

PANDEMIC / STAFF

Throughout this pandemic Iowa Soccer made every effort to provide/maintain our programming with an emphasis on doing it safely and responsibly. Over the past couple years, we've had to constantly shift our priorities and decision making, while making a conscious effort to keep looking forward.

Our staff/program leaders work closely with our team and our membership to ensure all our products are player focused. In effort to provide our members with an optimal environment to develop strong people/players/teams, we've recognized the importance of all the other surrounding variables including: Player Development Initiatives (US Soccer), Coach Education, Parent Education, Referee Education/Development, Club Development (Organization/Administration), Calendar, Facilities & Facility Development, and more). Program leads will continue to collaborate/discuss/prioritize all these variables in effort to offer the best product possible.

LOOKING FORWARD

As previously mentioned, this past year has been a challenging season to plan for. A huge benefit of this pandemic is we've learned new ways to efficiently communicate and engage members, leadership, advisory panels/etc. We are excited to roll out a new member engagement plan that will take advantage of this technology and be more consistent and regular which will help our program leads better shape our programs to our membership needs and challenges. We do expect in the coming year we'll have the ability to begin planning, with more confidence that our 6-12-18 month plans may stay intact. We look forward to this process of engaging members, understanding how things have changed, and laying a new foundation for what soccer in Iowa can look like!

TOP TRENDS FOR 21-22

REFEREES: Iowa Soccer continues to work closely with the Iowa Referee Committee to improve tools, identify, and retain referees across the state. Just like our players we're working hard to develop referees and provide them opportunities to advance and be recognized!

COACHES: Iowa Soccer continues to offer free coaching education; we believe this is one of the most important parts of the players overall soccer experience!

SCHEDULING & COMMITMENTS: The last two years have challenged us all in ways we've never been challenged before. We want to work alongside our membership to support a better calendar/season which will result in an improved experience for all membership!

Our team would like to thank ALL OF YOU for your patience and dedication to the game this past season. 21-22 will be a challenging yet exciting year as our team works toward re-imagining soccer post-pandemic.

Yours in Soccer,

Competitions Coordinator: Collin Hemann (Recreational & Adult Pathways)

Competitions Coordinator: Zach Roberts (Competitive & Academy Pathways)

Manager of Referee Services: Hidajet Tica (Referees, Assignors, & Operations)

Senior Director of Competitions: Craig Winger (Department Lead, Premier Pathway)

Iowa Soccer

Soccer for all. Soccer for life.