



### **Technical Department**

Our technical department staff continues to focus on adding value to our member clubs by developing and maintaining strong relationships with all club technical departments/leaders. Our primary focus is to support technical leaders within their unique club environments by providing them with the support/resources they need to develop and grow their players, coaches, and club environments. IN addition to onsite support, with the use of technology (because of COVID) we can do this even more effectively with the ability to support clubs in the virtual space (i.e., zoom) through educational workshops. The technical staff is now fully active in support of member clubs across the state.

### **Club Development**

Optimizing the club environment is the key point of focus for the technical department because it is one of the key ways to positively influence (adding value) our members (players, coaches, and parents). Over the past year, our technical staff has focused on supporting clubs in several areas including player pathways, coach development/education, club education workshops, coach education licensing. In 2022, the club standards project will be reevaluated based on the feedback from membership engagement groups and survey feedback. During the fall of 2021, the technical staff continued to successfully engage in on-site club visits to support clubs within their environment to meet their unique club needs.

### **Coach Education and Development**

Our coaching education and development programs and courses have increased and continue to support all clubs and levels of play. Each of these courses takes us one step closer to our target of 100% licensed coaches. Our staff has evolved to provide a virtual educational support series for technical leaders based on their needs. Additionally, we now provide clubs with informal and formal coaching education, curriculum, and development opportunities both onsite and in a virtual platform. A few key highlights: 1) we offered grassroots courses of all game formats across the state of Iowa. 2) We maximized/filled all course spots on multiple D licenses courses and will offer D license courses in 2021-2022. The goal is to provide our local coaches with the opportunity to attain national-level licensing locally and at a reduced cost. 3) We have started to offer courses to underserved populations as part of our innovation to grow initiative and help to expand our influence and impact across the state at all levels of the game.

### **Iowa Soccer Symposium**

As a result of the challenges presented by COVID, our Iowa soccer staff successfully pivoted to transition our very successful symposium to a virtual experience for members across the state. This allowed for multiple educational opportunities to be available to our membership in a safe, accessible, and affordable format. We provide our members with access to nationally recognized presenters across domains (i.e., coaching, administration, etc.,) related to youth soccer and club development. The symposium is scheduled to be both an in-person and virtual experience for 2022.



### **Olympic Development Program (Damien Corrieri)**

The Iowa ODP program remains very strongly supported by our membership statewide. The Iowa ODP is a critical aspect of the Iowa player pathway, especially the elite player pathway at the state, regional, and national levels.

#### **2021 -2022 Objectives:**

The objectives for the ODP program remain the same.

1. Operate in a complementary manner with club programming through aligned schedules, active communication, and ongoing collaboration.
2. Provide supplemental training, education, and identify opportunities to maximize the development of Iowa's elite youth players.
3. Provide a clear pathway to collegiate and professional soccer

Iowa ODP is the primary pathway connected to the regional and national pathway for US Youth and is soon to be connected to the youth professional pathway (MLS, USL, NWSL). The program continues to provide important opportunities for players to gain exposure at the elite youth level by providing access to regional and national programming via US Youth National ODP pathways. Additionally, the program continues to show great success in placing players at the next level by providing exposure to be recruited at the collegiate level.

With the ongoing collaboration with club technical leaders, the program continues to serve as a complementary program supporting the daily development process taking place within our club environments. Additionally, the program helps to support not only player development but also parent and coach education and development as well.