



POLICY: Independent Team Formation

INDEPENDENT TEAM FORMATION

Iowa Soccer will support independent team formation in certain cases in alignment with article VIII section D of the bylaws. The general reason for allowing independent teams to register is to support the mission of Iowa Soccer to provide soccer opportunities to these youth participants that would otherwise not have the option to belong to an organizational member. To meet the requirements of an independent team, the following conditions should be met.

1. The players do not have a reasonable option to belong to Iowa Soccer by registering with current Iowa Soccer Organizational members.
2. The team may not be considered select, meaning no tryouts or other skill-based team selection criteria may be used. This does not mean that teams may not enter select competitions if appropriate.
3. Independent team standards may be set by Iowa Soccer to ensure compliance with registration requirements.
4. Independent teams are required to meet all Iowa Safe Soccer and Risk Management policies.

While not a requirement, ideally independent teams are a step to building a viable club in an area to further the growth of the sport.

Existing independent teams will be grandfathered in and may continue as independent teams if not all the criteria are met.

Once a team is granted membership, it may enter any US Youth Soccer sanctioned activity or any non-USYS US Soccer sanctioned open or unrestricted event. However, individual leagues or events are not required to accept independent teams.

The application to become an independent team will be made to the Chief Member Services Officer of Iowa Soccer. If the criteria are not met and the application is declined, an appeal may be made to a standing committee at Iowa Soccer chaired by the Chief Member Services Officer or his or her designee.