



## Minimum Standards of Coaching And Continuing Education Program



Beginning January 1st, 2008, the Northern Illinois Soccer League (NISL) will be implementing minimum coaching standards for all coaches in the league. The NISL fully supports coaching education for all levels and would like to emphasize that there is no substitute for an educated coach. We believe that coaching does not begin and end with just one course. Coaching Education must be an instrumental part in every club's planning and training regiment.

**Coaches will have until January 1st, 2010, to meet our standards.**

**As a league, we feel that implementing a minimum standards of coaching policy will provide for the following:**

- ◆ An increase in the effectiveness of a volunteer or paid coach by enhancing knowledge of fundamental coaching concepts such as:
  - Philosophy of Coaching
  - Age-appropriate training for youth soccer players
  - Prevention/Care of injuries
  - Practice Planning
  - Seasonal/Goal-based planning
  - Nutrition
  - Team management
  - Risk management
- ◆ Protects coaches from civil lawsuits
  - If a coach is sued for an injury to a youth soccer player, a more effective legal defense can be produced when a coach has been continuously educated and trained.
- ◆ Increases knowledge and effectiveness of properly teaching technique and tactics
- ◆ Gives volunteer coaches who have never played soccer or have limited knowledge of soccer a clear and concise direction by providing detailed age-specific sessions and seasonal plans.

### **COACHING CLASSIFICATIONS**

The NISL will be classifying coaches according to the ISCA coaching classifications.

- ◆ **Professional Coach:** any person employed as a head or assistant coach of a professional team
- ◆ **Director of Coaching:** Any person designated as a Director of their affiliated club or community association, or an individual who is directly involved with the hiring and/or releasing of coaches for a soccer club. These directors are in charge of the overall education of their coaches on staff, parents, and players. We fan further divide the Directors of Coaching into 3 categories:
  1. Full-Time Director of a Competitive and Recreational Club
  2. Part-Time Director of a Competitive and Recreational Program
  3. Volunteer Director of a Recreational Soccer Program
- ◆ **Head College Coach:** any person employed as a Head Coach of a college program.
- ◆ **Varsity High School Coach:** any person employed as a Head High School Varsity Coach.
- ◆ **Select Soccer Coach:** any person employed as a coach of a competitive/select youth soccer team.
- ◆ **Recreational Coach:** any person employed as a coach of a recreational youth soccer team.
- ◆ **Youth Team Manager:** any person that helps out with the operations of a youth team; may at times be required to stand on the sidelines as coach and interact with the players.
- ◆ **Volunteer:** Parent or person that deals with the communication for a team; does not coach or stand on sidelines with the team ever.
- ◆ **Youth Club Administrator:** any person in charge of the organizational side of a youth soccer program. Does not coach any team.

## WAIVERS

To receive a waiver into the USSF "D" License or above, you must write a letter to the Illinois Soccer Coaches Association (ISCA) explaining the reasons as to why the coach should be given license equivalency. Documentation such as licenses and resumes should be included. Each request will be dealt with separately and the decision made by the ISC will be final. Each request should be forwarded to the ISCA office or e-mailed to Kevin@soccer-isca.org.

## MONITORING AND POLICING

The ISCA will monitor coaching qualifications through its online system. If your individual does not show the appropriate coaching certifications, licenses, or continuing education credits at least one month after the event or the issuing of the license/certification, it is the duty of the coach or director of coaching to send in the appropriate paperwork (copy of license, certification) as soon as possible to the ISCA office.

If coaches do not meet the minimum requirements, they will not be issued a coaches pass until the requirements are met.

Fines will be issued to clubs/programs that allow uncertified coaches to coach an NISL team at any time.

## NISL & ISCA ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The NISL will institute a **24-month** phase in period which will allow the coaches in need of attending a coaching education course plenty of time to do so. During the phase-in, the ISCA will be providing additional coaching education opportunities in and around the area as well as on the internet. We will do our best to develop new courses and provide as many opportunities for education as possible.

## Minimum Coaching Requirements Mandated by the NISL

### DIRECTORS OF COACHING:

Full-Time Director of a Competitive and Recreational Club:

- USSF "C" License & USSF National Youth License

Part-Time Director of a Competitive and Recreational Program:

- USSF "D" License & USSF National Youth License

Volunteer Director of a Recreational Soccer Program:

- USSF "D" License and / or National Youth License

### SELECT SOCCER COACHES

U8-U12 SELECT TEAMS:

Head Coach: USSF "E" Certificate

Assistant Coach: US Youth Soccer Module

U13-U19 SELECT TEAMS:

Head Coach: USSF State "D" License

Assistant Coach: USSF "E" Certificate

### RECREATIONAL COACHES

ALL AGE GROUPS:

Head Coach - US Youth Soccer Module

Assistant Coach - US Youth Soccer Module

**\*Note: All coaches will be required to be annually certified in CPR and First Aid.**

## Minimum Continuing Education Requirements Mandated by the NISL

TIER	BI-ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
Director of Coaching	15 Credits
Select Youth Soccer Head Coach - U13-U19	10 Credits
Select Youth Soccer Head Coach - U8-U12	8 Credits
Select Youth Soccer Assistant Coach - U8-U12 Select Youth Soccer Assistant Coach - U13-U19 Recreational Youth Head Coach Recreational Youth Assistant Coach	5 Credits

### License Conversion

Coaches who have completed the equivalent of the minimum coaching requirements from a foreign country or another organization such as the NSCAA or the ISCA can receive equivalent USSF Status. Proof of completion must be shown for all license and submitted to the ISCA by e-mail at Kevin@soccer-isca.org.

The Table below shows the NSCAA & ISCA equivalent to the United States Federation Licenses:

USSF License	NSCAA License	ISCA License
USSF "A" License	National Diploma	-
USSF "B" License	Advanced National Diploma	-
USSF "C" License	National Diploma	-
USSF "D" License	Advanced Regional Diploma	ISCA Silver Course
USSF "E" License	Regional Diploma	ISCA Bronze Course
US Youth Soccer Module	State Diploma	ISCA Bronze Course