



# **ISC Player Commitment Expectations for Advanced Level Players**

## **2017-2018 Season**

### **The expectations below apply only to the 11U-12U ISC Year Round Players in our Advanced Level Program**

#### **Background:**

The ISC supports and encourages all of our 11U-12U players to be active in other sports, activities, and organizations. We do our best to offer our year round programs in such a way that all of our year round players on the 11U-12U teams have the flexibility to pursue the other activities that they want to be involved with even as our program runs throughout most of the year. While the ISC year round advanced program runs generally from early-August to mid-June, we have tried to structure our requirements so that kids have the ability to pursue other sports and activities at the same time that they play club soccer for the ISC. We strive to offer both an elite soccer experience for our advanced year round players and to maintain a child centered approach by respecting the kids as kids and appreciating the fact that they want to participate in lots of activities at this age. That being said, the advanced year round level is our highest level of commitment. Participation in the program is optional. Therefore, a relatively high level of commitment is expected. We have some expectations and rules that we require all of our year round players to commit to in order to maintain their position in the ISC 11U-12U advanced year round program. We will certainly work with families with some conflicts that you might have, but if, after reading these rules, you find this commitment to be too much, please consider another level within the ISC.

The commitment rules outlined in this document were put in place for a number of reasons. First, in order to ensure that our 11U-12U teams will be able to field players for the events that we participate in throughout the year, we need each player to commit to games in each of our seasons. Second, it is imperative that all of our players in the 11U-12U age group meet some basic standards of commitment given the fact that the year round competitive teams are our highest level at this age of participation.

It is also important to have commitment rules given the fact that we DO NOT select by ability until the 13U year. We don't believe in tryouts for kids until the 13U season because we believe kids develop at different times and we see great value in delaying the "tracking" of kids into "A" and "B" teams until the 13U season. We welcome any 11U-12U player who wants to join the ISC for the first time. Moreover, we believe we are probably the strongest advocate for the "late developing" athlete of all of the youth sports programs in the Iowa City area. We want to give the kids who join a little later and also the "late developer" the opportunity to take part in our program, but all players must meet the same practice requirement so that we are grouping kids with a similar focus together on the same teams. Our priority is to group teams by commitment level not by ability level at this age.

## THE ISC PHILOSOPHY OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

### OUR SELF TRACKING PROGRAM FROM 9U-12U

We strongly believe that players should be grouped by commitment at the ages from 9U-12U and that young children in the 9U-12U age range should have the choice to pick the level of soccer coaching and soccer opportunities that they want to be involved in at this age. By delaying the “A” and “B” selections until the 13U season, more players have a longer period of time to improve, grow, and enjoy the game before they have to focus on tryouts for “A” and “B” teams. We don’t “track” the kids into an “A” and “B” track during the 9U-12U years, the kids “track” themselves on the path of commitment that they think is best for their interest in the game.

In the ISC, WE HAVE PROVEN FOR OVER 20 YEARS that it is possible to run a professionally coached and developmentally focused, competitive program without implementing tryout procedures that "cut" young kids or group players on "A" and "B" teams based on their ability at the 9U-12U level. Each year we help develop the strongest soccer players in the area without following the procedures of many of our competitors who "cut" young athletes or track kids on "A" and "B" teams. We believe that when coaches make “A” and “B” teams based on ability in the years from 9U-12U, that those coaches do not give young athletes enough time to develop into a competitive soccer player before the coach or club makes the decision as to who they think will be a top player in the future. In the ISC we make “A” and “B” teams at the 13U year.

To be clear though, we won't accept a player in our Advanced Year Round program if we believe that they will not make the commitment to the program. On the other hand, we regularly accept players that are further behind their peers as long as they are dedicated to making the commitment to meet our practice and game requirements.

One of the main tenets of the ISC philosophy described above is the belief that tryouts for 9U-12U players that "cut" or divide players into "A" and "B" teams is counter-productive to the development of most young players. We **DO NOT** believe that most youth players, even those with the highest interest level, need to be grouped by natural ability during the 9U-12U years, but they **MUST** be grouped with other players that are serious about their commitment to the game if they are to develop into a strong player.

### SUMMARY

The ISC Advanced Level program for 11U-12U soccer players is open to players of all ability levels who have a high interest and enthusiasm for competitive soccer. We will place the 11U-12U players who attend clinics on an ISC roster if they can commit to the practices and games and if they can meet our financial obligations. (Please note that we may be able to provide financial assistance to those families who qualify.)

To reiterate, players are not selected by ability from 11U-12U. Our view is that tryouts based on ability are not necessary at the youngest ages from 9U-12U. We believe that the youngest kids deserve a chance to participate if they have the interest and if their parents are willing to make the commitment to making this work for their kids.

Please note that if your child is interested in joining after the clinic period has ended, we may not have roster positions available and parents should inquire with our administrator at [registrar@iowasoccerclub.com](mailto:registrar@iowasoccerclub.com) to check if there are still spots in the age group. All kids who join during the 11U-12U clinic period will be accepted. Returning year round players are always guaranteed a position in the age group for the next year.

Please carefully read through our commitment requirements below. While we are committed to helping develop players that are further behind in their soccer development, we have to be careful to ensure that all players on the rosters are meeting our time and commitment standards.

If you make a commitment to our program by following the rules below, we will provide playing time guarantees to all players for all for all league games and tournament games.

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### **ISC COMMITMENT REQUIREMENTS for 11U-12U PLAYERS**

Before reading the rules below, please note that we will of course work with families if there are major conflicts that prevent your child from meeting one of the requirements below. The commitment expectations below are stricter than simply a set of guidelines that the kids and their families hope that they can meet in order to participate in the Advanced Year Round ISC Soccer Program. However, if parents communicate with us regarding their child's inability to meet a particular requirement below due to unusual circumstances, we will of course be flexible if the situation warrants some flexibility. Before we make any judgment on whether someone should remain in the Advanced Year Round program, we would review that child's commitment over the full year to see if they are meeting the rest of the requirements required to participate in this level within the club. We offer different levels of participation within the ISC, and the Advanced Year Round Program might not be the best fit for certain kids.

#### **Summary of Tournament Attendance for all ISC 11U-12U Year Round Players:**

Fall - Must attend 2 of 3

Winter -Must attend 2 of 3

Spring/Summer-Must attend 2 of 3

**Total Required for 2017-2018 Season= 6 of 9 (This equals at least 18 games)**

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## **Summary for League Game Requirements for All ISC 11U-12U Year Round Players:**

Fall - Must attend 50% of all Fall League Games.

Winter - All Advanced Year Round Players must attend 1 of the 2 sessions of the ISC Intra-Club league known as "BAGIL BITES." Session options are the November-December option or the January-March option. All indoor games were played in the HTRC in Iowa City. Players must attend 50% of all league games.

Spring/Summer -Must attend 50% all Spring League Games.

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## **Summary of Practice Attendance for all ISC 11U-12U Year Round Players:**

1 Per Week for a 10 month Period

### **Total Required=35 Practices**

(Please note that if practice attendance isn't met, your child will not play in the games on the weekend. For example, if your child does not attend at least one practice per week, they are NOT eligible to play in the games on the weekend. If a player is sick or injured and that prevents your child from attending at least one practice per week, they are still not eligible to play in the games that weekend. Even if we do not have scheduled games on the weekend, the players must attend 1 practice per week during the required practice months.)

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## **Details on the Commitment Required to Tournaments, League games, and Practices:**

### **TOURNAMENT COMMITMENTS:**

#### **Fall Tournament Season:**

All players must commit to at least **2 full weekend tournaments in the fall season**. This means that the player must be in attendance for all of the games for 2 tournaments. Tournaments usually last two days, but there are some tournaments that are only one day long. The fall season begins in August and ends in early November. A complete schedule of the fall tournaments for 11U-12U teams can be found at the end of this document. This schedule may be subject to some revision.

#### **Winter Season:**

All ISC 11U-12U year round players must to commit to at **least 2 full weekend tournaments in the winter** season. This means that the player must be in attendance for all of the games for 2 of the winter tournaments. A complete schedule of the winter tournaments for 11U-12U teams can be found at the end of this document. This schedule may be subject to some revision.

### **Spring/Summer Season:**

All ISC 11U-12U year round players must commit to at **least 2 full weekend tournaments in the spring/summer** season. This means that the player must be in attendance for all of the games for 2 of the spring/summer tournaments. The spring/summer season begins in April and ends in the middle of June for the 11U-12U teams. A complete schedule of the spring/summer tournaments is listed at the end of this document. This schedule may be subject to some revision.

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### **League Game Attendance for all 11U-12U ISC Players:**

#### **Fall and Spring Season:**

All ISC 11U-12U players play in a weekend league. Games are only played on the weekends. Games could be played on Saturdays or on Sundays. Each team will have 6-8 league games in the Fall and 6-8 league games in the spring. Players **do not need to attend all league games** with their team in the fall season or spring season. We want players to have some flexibility to play other sports or miss some weekend games due to other activities that arise. However, each player must play in 50% of the league games in both the fall and spring season. Players can attend more than this of course, but 50% is the minimum requirement. All of our teams have a volunteer team manager. We ask that all parents on the team notify the team manager if they intend to miss a league game so that we are aware of how many players will be in attendance for each game.

#### **Winter Season:**

Our website has more information on the indoor league. This is an extra cost, but not paid to team fees. Each player signs up on their own. Last year the fee was \$80 per session. Games are played on the weekends. All ISC 11U-12U players must play in at least one session of indoor during the winter. Games are held in Iowa City at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Center.

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### **Practice Attendance for all 11U-12U ISC Players:**

Our soccer season starts in the month of August. All ISC teams in the age range from 11U-12U will receive 70 sessions/practices from our professional and licensed coaching staff. The sessions will start in early August 2017 and will be completed by mid-June 2018. However, if we have make up practices from rain outs from other times of the year, we will make those up in the time frame from Mid-June-early July. Practice attendance at these make up practices are optional since official practice attendance is not required from mid-June through mid-August.

The team sessions are scheduled as follows in each of the 3 seasons:

- Early August through the end of October-Each 11U-12U team is offered 2 outdoor sessions per week
- First week of November through the first week of April –each 11U-12U team is offered 1 indoor session per week except for the week of Spring Break and except for 2 weeks during the winter break.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April-Mid-June-Each 11U-12U team is offered 3 outdoor sessions per week

Following the format above, all teams will receive their 70 sessions per year. To be clear, we ALWAYS make up sessions later in the year for anything cancelled due to weather. So even if a session was cancelled in early August, we may not make the practice up until some other time in the year, but your kids will receive all 70 team sessions.

We have very clear practice attendance rules for 11U-12U teams. To reiterate what was said above, we feel strongly that in order to field players of different ability levels on evenly divided teams, there must be some accountability on the part of the players to attend practice. Players are required to attend 1 practice per week in the months listed below. Please note that the teams will receive more than 1 practice per week in the fall and spring, but players must attend only 1 practice per week.

**Required Months when players must practice 1 time per week:**

- August -Only last two weeks of August required (we may start earlier though than last 2 weeks of August.)
- September
- October
- November
- December-NONE REQUIRED-but practices are offered for the first two weeks of the month.
- January
- February
- March -except for the week of Spring Break when Practices are not offered.
- April
- May
- June –Only first 2 weeks of June required. This is during the clinic period.
- July –NONE REQUIRED-Usually practices are not held during this month unless we are making up practices.

In each of the required months listed above, each 11U-12U player is required to attend at least 1 practice per week. In the ISC, there is a LOT of flexibility for players to attend other sessions within the club if

your child's team session is scheduled for a time that your child has a conflict. Players can attend a "super skills" practice or a team training session with a team one year older or one year younger in order meet the practice requirement.

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## **Our Playing Time Guarantee to our 11U-12U players:**

**All players are guaranteed to play in half of the minutes in each half for all league and tournament games as long as they make their practice commitments. We do not guarantee equal playing time, but we do guarantee that the kids will play half of each game regardless of whether the game is a league game or tournament game.**

The minutes of guaranteed time per half is played in a block of time. For example, if the half- length is 30 minutes long, each player will receive 15 minutes of playing time. We make sure that the kids play those 15 minutes without interruption or substitution. In other words, we don't sub them in for five minutes in one part of the half and then later for 10 minutes. By playing 15 minutes in a row with no chance of being subbed off during that 15 minute period, the actual value of the playing time is far greater than if we broke up that playing time in smaller segments each half. We aren't trying to "hide" kids on the field, we are trying to make sure all the kids are improving and enjoying the games. In addition, our focus in the ISC is always on the long- term success of our players, and we believe it is vital to teach young players to play in longer stretches of time without constant subbing.

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Listed Below is the proposed tournament schedule for the fall, winter, and spring/summer season for our ISC 11U-12U boys' and girls' teams for the 2017-2018 Season. This schedule is subject to revision.

### **Fall 2017 Tournaments**

- Late August - Super Sixes Tournament-In Iowa City, Iowa at Kicker's Soccer Complex
- Late August/Early September, Muscatine Fall Classic- Muscatine Soccer Complex, Muscatine, Iowa
- Late September-FC United Midwest Classic-Hiawatha, Iowa-North of Cedar Rapids-At Tuma Soccer Complex

### **Winter 2017-2018 Tournaments**

- ISC Bubble Blowout-January 2018 -Iowa City, Iowa. Held in Iowa City at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Center.
- Indoor Tournament at UNI Dome. Girls in January and Boys in February
- U of I Indoor Tourney held over spring Break in March 2018. Held in Iowa City at the HTRC -Iowa Turf

### **Spring/Summer 2018 Tournaments Boys and Girls**

- WDM Tournament-Early April-West Des Moines, Iowa
- Mid to late April-CRSA CHILLOUT- Hiawatha, Iowa-North of Cedar Rapids-At Tuma Soccer Complex
- Mid to early June-Muscatine Summer Classic, Muscatine, Iowa