

## **Jr Irish Soccer Club**

### **13U – 15U Youth Program Overview**

It is the mission of the Jr Irish Soccer Club to develop and promote premier youth soccer throughout the Northern Indiana.

This is the age when players' transition to the 11-aside game and tactics become a focal point of the curriculum. Players must have a solid technical foundation by the time they enter 13U in order to execute the tactical elements. Tactics, or "Soccer IQ", is a basic understanding of the whys of the game. Players will be asked to understand different systems of play as well as positional roles and responsibilities. Players will still be asked to play in different positions and roles to continue their growth in the game. Other tactics that will be taught are zonal defending, attacking principles and combination play, attacking movements off the ball, Defensive shape and compactness, and building play from the back 1/3 of the field. A Professional coaching staff meeting the minimum coaching standards set by US Youth Soccer will be hired with oversight coming from the Director of Coaching. By the end of a player's 15U season, all players should be prepared to compete at their high schools.

This is also the age in which US Soccer starts to put an emphasis on results and a premier level of competition. 13U is the first age group in which a State, Regional, and National Championship is crowned. It is also the first year for state wide ISL Premier and 1<sup>st</sup> Divisions competition. It is also the first year a team can compete in the National League Great Lakes or Midwest Conference (formerly MRL). Jr. Irish will attempt to place it's top team in the highest competitive platform possible each year and a second team that will be developed to support that mission.

We run a 10-month soccer curriculum. Our Fall Season begins in Early August and runs through the end of October. Our Winter Training Program begins in January and runs through March and we will offer a Jr. Irish Futsal program at an additional cost. Our Spring Season begins in April and finished in early June depending on State Cup and Regional Cup qualification. The expectations to participate are 2-3 training sessions each week during the Fall season, 2-3 sessions per week in the Spring Seasons, and 1 Practice per week during the Winter Training Program. We also offer Goalkeeper Training separate from Team Training. Additionally, we have an expectation all players attend all Matches and Tournaments scheduled. Traditionally we play on average 8 to10 league matches per season, which is scheduled by either the state or Regional offices. Teams at this age group will compete in a minimum of three tournaments (potentially including a State Cup event) as well as our Labor Day and Memorial Day Invitationals.

Because of the US Soccer's switch to birth year age groups, the 15U age group is split by grades. Jr. Irish is committed to offering those 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are 15U's a fall season. Depending on those numbers, we will offer one of three opportunities: 1) we will field a Jr Irish fall 15U team and club pass from the 14U's. 2) we will have those 8<sup>th</sup> graders play with the 14U team in the fall as trapped players. 3) we will combine our 8<sup>th</sup>

graders with another club and enter a combined team for the fall (agreements have already been made)