

## **Jr Irish Soccer Club 15U – 19U Program Overview**

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

The Senior program is designed to prepare and expose players to the collegiate level. Every effort will be made to hire current or former college coaches in order to give our players a true college feel.

Advanced tactical play is something demanded at the collegiate level and our coaching staff will continue to challenge these players to learn and grow. Players must have a solid technical foundation with both feet by this time in order to execute the tactical elements. Tactics, or “Soccer IQ”, is about understanding the whys of the game and being able to execute technically under pressure. 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 with collegiate coaching experience meeting the minimum coaching standards set by US Youth Soccer will be hired with oversight coming from the Director of Coaching. While US Soccer puts an emphasis on results and a premier level of competition, Jr Irish more concerned about exposing our players to college coaches for recruiting purposes. Jr. Irish will attempt to place its top team in the highest competitive platform possible each year and a second team that will be developed to support that mission.

Due to High School obligations, the Jr Irish season begins in November with Winter Training Program 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 to mid-June. The expectations to participate are 3 training sessions each week throughout the season. 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 - 10 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 College Showcase events, a State Cup event as well as our club tournament the Memorial Day Invitational (MDI).

College Showcase Events are typically three-day events and may require players to miss school. The reason these events are set up this way is to assure players are fresh to showcase their talents for college coaches. This also allows college coaches to see more players over a three-day event. Most events will have a letter that players can turn into their schools for excused absences.