

The 2023-2024 Executive Director's Annual Report – Dave Guthrie

It is my pleasure to report on the condition and developments of Indiana Soccer for the fiscal year 2023-24. Dave Guthrie, Executive Director – the Indiana Soccer Association.



**Purpose:** Improve Lives Through Soccer

**Vision:** Where Soccer is Accessible to All

**Mission:** To remain a premier service organization by providing leadership, organizing play, educating community stakeholders and developing youth and adults through soccer.

**Core Values:**

- Diversity & Inclusion
- Integrity & Respect
- Fair & Safe Play
- Leadership & Service

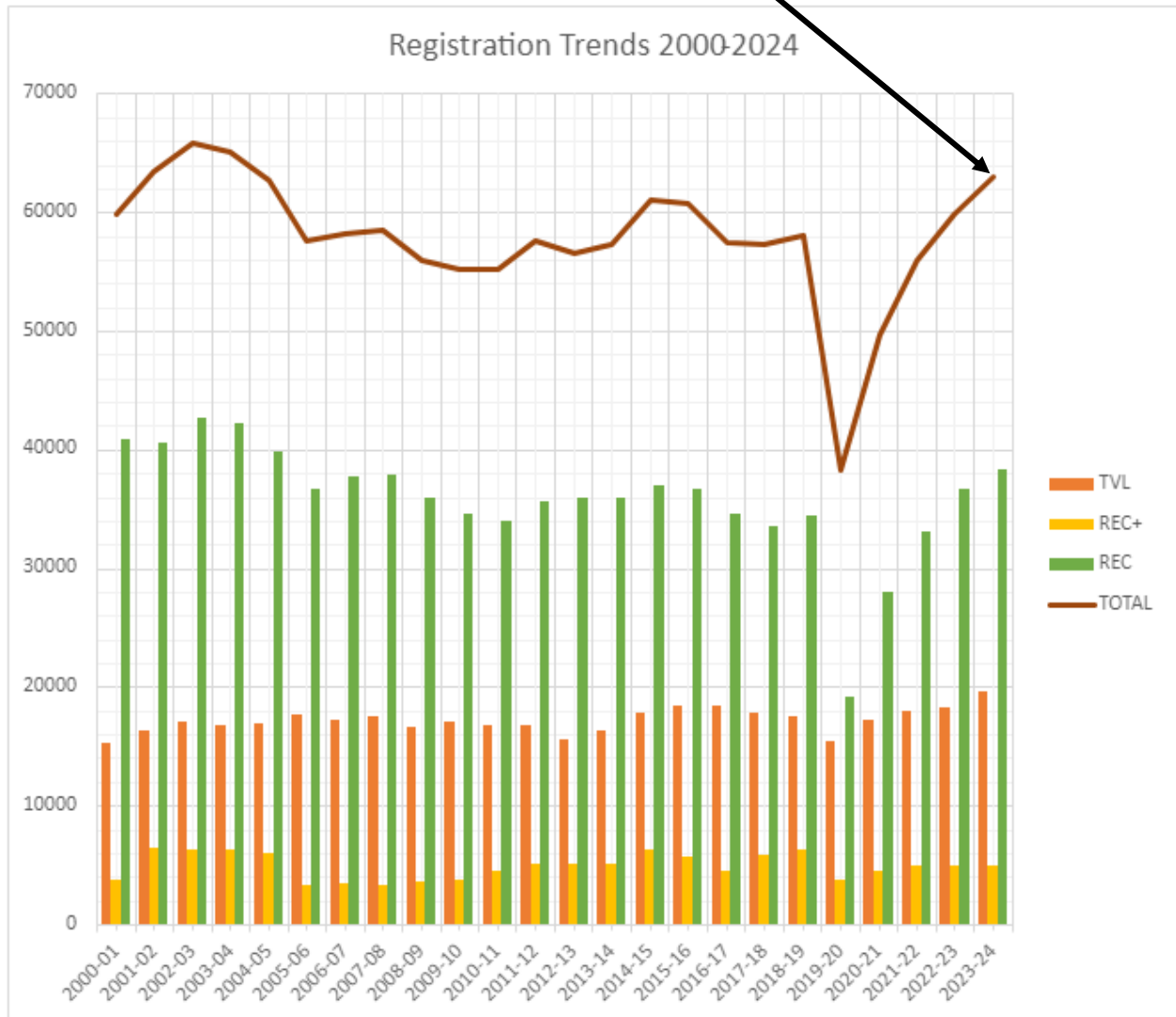
## **This year's AGM:**

The theme of this year's AGM surrounds Indiana Soccer's partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance. I invite all members to take advantage of the valuable sessions that will be available at this year's Annual General Meeting.

**The in-school initiative:** The in-school initiative, referenced as futsal-for-all, has made great strides this past year. Your state association submitted a grant request to US Soccer and FIFA to partner with Indiana to fund this initiative. US Soccer found favor with the grant request and agreed to provide \$200,000 over three years to reimburse Indiana Soccer for the cost incurred to implement Futsal for All in any participating school in Indiana. As of this writing, nearly 300,000 students have been impacted by this initiative. There are approximately 1.1 million children in either public or private schools in Indiana. The three-year goal that was articulated in the grant request is to affect 600,000 of these students by the end of 2026. Most of us realize the value that the small-sided game delivers from the many physical and cognitive benefits as well as the opportunity to fall in love with our game. Many of these new game lovers will seek more playing opportunities and will become players of a member club.

Member clubs are invited to help connect your state association with your school district with the goal of partnering with your school district to implement Futsal for All. Participating schools allow Indiana Soccer to provide formal futsal training for their physical education teachers. Participating teachers earn three "Professional Growth Points (PGPs)." PGPs are required by the state of Indiana to maintain an Indiana Teachers License so there is a need for teachers to embrace the free education provided by Indiana Soccer. Participating schools receive a pair of portable futsal goals and as many as ten futsal balls for each gymnasium. This initiative is being offered at no charge to participating school corporations. Each club member is asked to help with this initiative by identifying the decision-maker(s) in your school corporation and then helping to introduce Indiana Soccer to that decision-maker. Justin Becht stands ready and willing to bring this initiative to your community. Please contact Justin at [Justin@soccerindiana.org](mailto:Justin@soccerindiana.org) to learn more about how you can involve your community.

Youth Membership for seasonal year 2023/24: **63,043**



**New Members:** This past year, the association extended membership to

- Speak Easy Soccer
- Southern Indiana FC Youth Academy
- Wawasee Footy Club

**Adult Soccer:** Mark Webber recently agreed to step into the role of Adult Commissioner, which was recently vacated by John Mitchell. Mark is a long-time player and is enthusiastic about the adult player and the future of adult play. The adult space accommodates the 11 v 11 player, the small-sided game player, and those looking for a coed/social experience. Mark is committed to exploring ways to better serve all adult players. If you have an interest in developing an adult option at your club, please reach out to Mark at [mark@soccerindiana.org](mailto:mark@soccerindiana.org).

**TOPSoccer: TopSoccer** is an offering already provided by several member clubs. Those who provide this opportunity to children and adults with special needs report that it is their most rewarding effort. If you are one of the Indiana Soccer members that have not developed TopSoccer, please allow me to encourage you to initiate a TopSoccer program in your community. I realize that the fear of the unknown inhibits us at times. However, you can remove that fear by learning more about the TOPSoccer program and learning what participating clubs or doing by visiting [TOPSoccer Clubs | Indiana \(soccerindiana.org\)](http://TOPSoccer.Clubs|Indiana(soccerindiana.org)). Mary Schalliol from Michiana Echo serves as Indiana's TopSoccer administrator. Mary is anxious to share her vast knowledge and experience with you. You can reach out to Mary at [topsoccer@soccerindiana.org](mailto:topsoccer@soccerindiana.org)

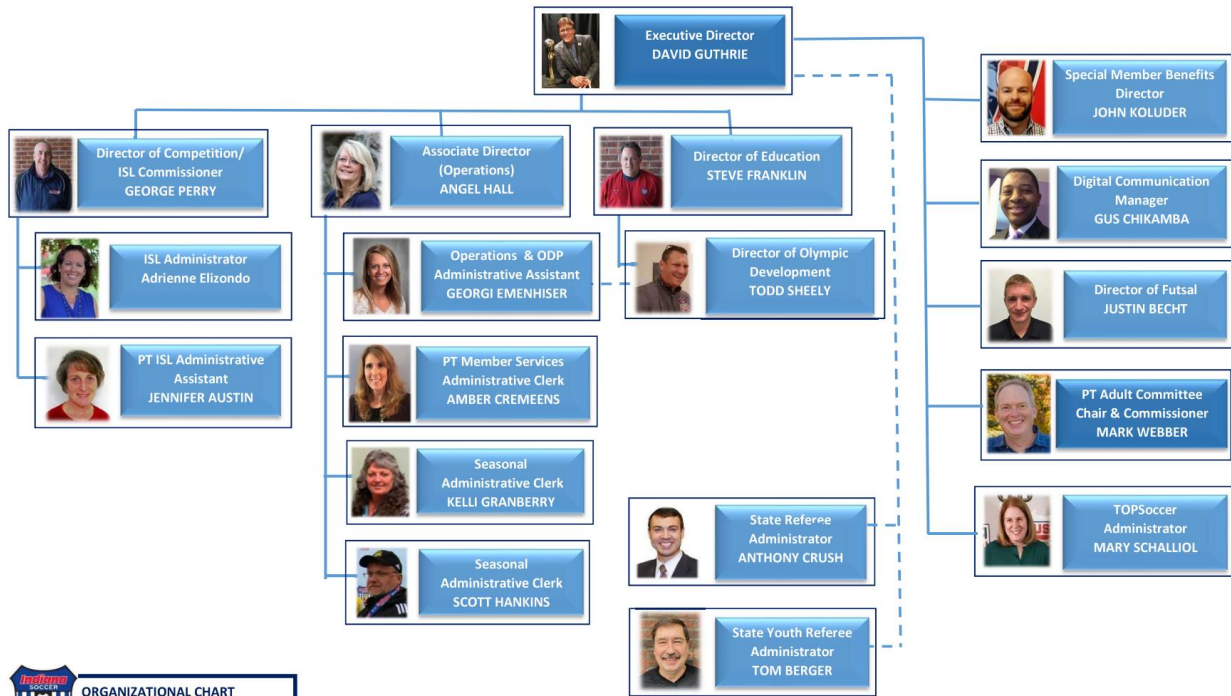
### **Referee Development:**

The Indiana State Referee Committee consists of a group of highly resolute volunteers, committed to supporting referees from their first rec game to the first pro game. Tony Crush is Indiana's State Referee Administrator (SRA), and Tom Berger is Indiana's State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA). Indiana is fortunate that both gentlemen have agreed to serve as leaders of an equally talented State Referee Committee (SRC). These committed referees are anxious to develop a more seamless relationship with member clubs so that we can populate all games, regardless of the level of play, with appropriately skilled referees. I invite you to reach out to either Tony [tonyc@soccerindiana.org](mailto:tonyc@soccerindiana.org) or Tom [tom@soccerindiana.org](mailto:tom@soccerindiana.org) to explore ways you can help to educate interested moms, dads, players, administrators or other interested people with interest in becoming a referee.

Indiana Soccer, to further support and supplement referee development, has developed a small-sided soccer course that licenses an individual to referee any small-sided, sanctioned game played in the state of Indiana. Indiana Soccer's small-sided referee focuses on preparing folks on how to referee small-sided play by teaching the nuances and demands of small-sided play. The course has a written/digital learning component and a valuable on-field portion. Indiana's small-sided license is an excellent segway into the US Soccer referee license. For those wanting to get their feet wet before jumping into the full US Soccer referee course, I invite you to reach out to George Perry [george@soccerindiana.org](mailto:george@soccerindiana.org) or Steve Franklin [steve@soccerindiana.org](mailto:steve@soccerindiana.org) and sign up for one of their small-sided referee courses.

Indiana Soccer also offers a Guardian of the Game course. The Guardian of the Game course instructs adult club volunteers on how to assist the center referee when a licensed assistant referee is unavailable. Each travel team should have at least two adults that have become **Guardians of the Game**. The course is completely on-line, and you can access the course by clicking this link - [Club AR/Guardian Program - Indiana Soccer \(soccerindiana.org\)](http://ClubAR/GuardianProgram-IndianaSoccer(soccerindiana.org)). You can find additional information by contacting Scott Hankins at [scott@soccerindiana.org](mailto:scott@soccerindiana.org) or Steve Franklin at [steve@soccerindiana.org](mailto:steve@soccerindiana.org)

**Your State Office Staff:** I am proud of the team that assembles and focuses each day on serving the Indiana Soccer member clubs. Your staff invest countless hours and passion to ensure that each member receives the best service possible. Please know that they are ready and willing to serve your needs. Below is a current organization chart of your association:



 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART  
August 14, 2024

Respectfully submitted by your Executive Director



Dave Guthrie