

# President's Report - Seasonal Year 2023/2024

It is my honor to write my first "President's Report" especially when the Association's year-end results and trends are favorable.

## Annual Audit

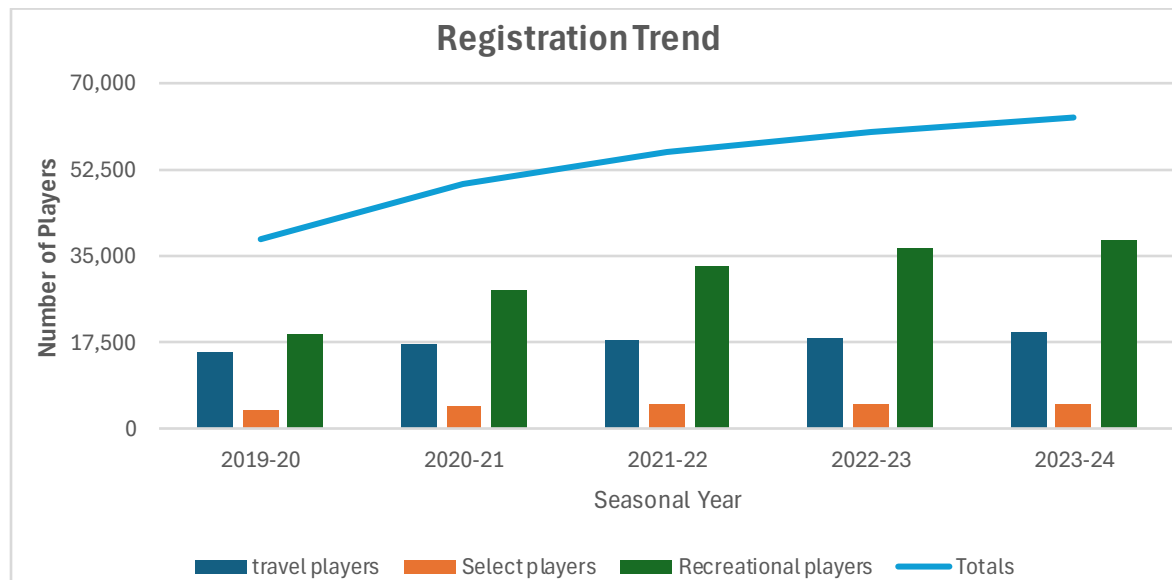
Recently your board of directors met with the auditors, and I am happy to announce that your state association received the coveted "unmodified report," which is referred to as a "clean audit". The auditor complimented the organization on its strong "Financial Position Statement" and for the smooth transition from in-house bookkeeping to the identification and onboarding of an outside accountant. The auditor also complimented the organization on its responsiveness and cooperation during the audit. A copy of the audit report can be found online by visiting Indiana Soccer's website under "important documents".

## Registration

Member clubs should take pride in the fact that the registration trend, since the dip experienced during the Covid epidemic, has shown consistent improvement across all categories:

- **Travel Players:** Increased from 15,447 in 2019-20 to 19,680 in 2023-24.
- **Select Players:** Gained steadily from 3,795 in 2019-20 to 4,981 in 2023-24.
- **Recreational Players:** Improved significantly from 19,134 in 2019-20 to 38,383 in 2023-24.
- **Total Registrations:** Rose from 38,376 in 2019-20 to 63,044 in 2023-24

**NOTE** – Registrations for the current seasonal year exceeded Indiana Soccer's previous record for registrations in a single seasonal year.



We should all prepare for how we will capitalize on the increased registration opportunity afforded us since the US is the host country of the 2026 World Cup.

## Registration date

Several years ago, US Soccer mandated that all its players be registered on a calendar year. That mandate, which was unilaterally decided and imposed upon the four million youth soccer players registered with

US Soccer, imposed an unnecessary burden on teams, clubs and players, and has been debated ever since. Recently US Soccer, with the help of US Youth Soccer and its state associations and other organizational members of US soccer, sought input on this topic through surveys. The survey results favored a return to seasonal year registration in lieu of calendar year registration. The Board of US Soccer hinted that the board would decide at the December 2024 board meeting whether to continue to register by calendar year or return to seasonal year registration. US Soccer did not decide and determined that members of US Soccer could chose to register, however they decided to register. I anticipate that U.S. Soccer's youth council, of which US Youth is the largest member, will decide soon, whether to register by seasonal year or by calendar year.

### **Outreach/Grant funds**

Your Indiana Soccer Board of Directors tasked Alan Brown to lead an outreach task force. The purpose of the task force is to provide an opportunity to experience the world's game, for those who otherwise would not experience our game. This task force is supported by your Indiana Soccer staff; in particular, Justin Becht and John Koluder.

Indiana Soccer has received a three-year, \$200,000 grant from US Soccer's Innovate to Grow initiative. The grant is partially funded by US Soccer and partially funded by FIFA. The focus of the grant is to create futsal experiences in schools across the state of Indiana. As I drafted this report, which addresses the first twelve of the 36-month grant, futsal has been introduced in 370 schools, which impacts over 223,418 students. The Memorial Cup revenues also provide revenue which is used to provide access to our game to those that would otherwise not have access.

I invite you to contact Justin [justin@soccerindiana.org](mailto:justin@soccerindiana.org) to explore how you can help introduce futsal in your school district.

Respectfully submitted.

Larry Rowland

Indiana Soccer Association, Board of Directors, President