

Memorandum

To: All Members and Affiliates
From: Chris Branscome, Chief Executive Officer
CC: Board of Directors
RE: US Soccer mandates/Small Sided Games changes for 2016-17

I'm pleased to share with you that U.S. Soccer has finally released its most recent/final version of the Player Development Initiative for the 2016-17 season. The document attached includes all of the changes as well as explanations for them, similar to what has been presented before with some of the requested changes from the national youth technical committee. Of primary concern to the overwhelming majority of you, is the small sided games rules.

Thank you for your continued patience over the last few months. The answers that many of you were searching for, simply were not available, not even for us. Be assured that we have been in communication with US Soccer and US Youth Soccer on multiple occasions over the summer, including an in-person discussion just two weeks ago. The delays have been unfortunate, but it's time to move forward.

To be clear, going back to last Fall, Eastern Pennsylvania has adopted these rules for the 16-17 season. The target date was always August 1, therefore, **these rules all take effect immediately.** A specific reminder, heading a soccer ball will not be allowed in Under 11 and younger game play and training. A presentation on the heading will be made in conjunction with our referee committee (EPSARC) will be made available shortly. This presentation will explain the rules and their application.

In Eastern Pennsylvania, there are few exceptions to these rules. The primary exception is roster sizes. We confirmed our roster sizes for 16-17 this past spring as US Soccer did not confirm until after most had their try-outs, therefore our limits are slightly different from this document. Goal sizes, as we stated in the past, are not mandated for 16-17 but may be phased in over time as budgets allow. Tournament play as discussed in this document will be addressed in the future, but not for the 16-17 season. Any and all issues involving the state cups will be addressed at a later date.

The entire PDI document is on our website. I would encourage you to go through the whole document. For your convenience, we have also broken it down by 4v4, 7v7 and 9v9.

Once again, thank you for your patience. Success requires commitment and a long-term approach. We will continue to work with our governing bodies to best support and educate you through the upcoming season. Should you have any additional questions, please contact us.

