



Coaches,

I trust this message finds both you and your teams well as we look forward to the exciting opportunities of the Fall 2011 soccer season! This fall, NISL [Northern Indiana Soccer League] is pleased to continue two programs for the U9 and U10 travel teams: Player of the Match and Team Sportsman awards.

### Players of the Match

Please find enclosed nine Player of the Match patches in efforts to emphasize the importance of player development and each player's impact on the match. As requested in the NISL Academy Coaches we have changed the patches to a smaller soccer ball and star format in efforts to allow for more patches on the player's training bags. Similarly, in efforts to ease coaching concerns, the following program adjustments have been made:

- For each NISL U9/U10 match coaches will recognize a one or two players from your own team who demonstrate the Play Date's developmental theme or your coaching focus of the day.
- We suggest coaches utilize a different "theme" or "skill" each week in efforts to recognize the many ways players can contribute to improve their team. For your reference, we have included the proposed themes below:

Best Dribbler  
Best Passer  
110% Award

Best Turn  
Sportsmanship  
Best First Touch

Best Defender  
"Super Support Player"

### Team Sportsmanship Award

For the good of the game, each team's game report shall include an evaluation form for the opposition's sportsmanship; the game reports shall include evaluations in the areas of players, coaches, and spectators. Teams shall be awarded "fair play" points for favorable evaluations. The team who display fair play throughout the season and collects the most "fair play" points will be honored with a Sportsmanship award including team gift certificates.

### United Program

Before the first match of each U9 and U10 play date (September 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> & October 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>), the players will read a pre-match message and also perform a World Cup style pre-match handshake (please reference attachment). Pre-Match Message:

Welcome player, parents, fans, coaches and referees to (*insert club name*). As members of Indiana Soccer and (*insert league name*), we believe in being UNITED. You can help us celebrate being UNITED in soccer by:

- Understanding this is a game
- Not using any put-downs to players, coaches or referees.
- Having Integrity in your actions and words
- Remembering we are all in this Together
- Enjoying the game, so we can, too
- Knowing Development takes time.

We are here to learn the game of soccer, play fair, make friends and have fun. You should too! Thank you.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I wish your teams the best this season!

Thank you,

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