



# ***NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS***

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*“We judge ourselves based on our intentions.  
Others judge us based on our behavior.”*

*- Lee J. Colan*

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# **NISL Youth Club Standards**

One of the primary goals of US Club Soccer and the Northern Illinois Soccer League (NISL) is to elevate the standard of the sport in the United States, specifically through improving the structure, operation, and programming within youth soccer clubs. In this sense, US Club Soccer / NISL endeavors to provide a path and process to improve the quality of the daily player experience by raising standards in club structure, organization, and operation, and in coaching development and education. Clubs that are better-structured, organized, and led will generally develop better players than those that are not; as such, the identification, establishment, and elevation of Club Standards is critically tied to the player development process.

This document outlines expectations for clubs in areas as diverse as facilities, operations, coaching education, and more. The following Youth Club Standards are designed to be aspirational guidelines that reflect specific areas or platforms that clubs and club leadership should be targeting for growth, change, and improvement. The standards are categorized into the following three areas:

1. Business
2. Administration
3. Operations

The more standards that a club meets, the more successful that club will be in developing top level youth soccer players and fulfilling their club mission statement. Standards provide only a baseline concept; the quality of the club leadership and staff (and its selection, training, and oversight), and the manner in which a program is executed, will ultimately set the ceiling of success for any club.

The growth of the game, and improvement of the quality of the game in this country, will largely be a function of the standards to which clubs and coaches are held, or to which they hold themselves. The best clubs constantly evolve to expand and improve their structure and operations on and off of the field. These Youth Club Standards will hopefully help to provide a roadmap for doing so.



# NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

## BUSINESS

- o Registered Club Name

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Club Logo *(please attach a jpeg or an eps file)*

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Structured as a registered corporate or similar legal entity, either for-profit or not-for-profit, in good standing according to federal and state law

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Stable Ownership

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Dedicated business location with phone and fax capabilities with e-mail access

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Have a mission statement identifying the primary purpose for the Club's existence and its goals in playing and personal development of the players. The mission statement should be realistic based on the club and community resources

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Central Executive Authority, by way of a formal governance board or an advisory board to provide guidance and assistance in financial, legal, real estate, and other general business matters

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Central Bank Account through which all coaching salaries, player registration, facility payment, and other financial obligations are managed

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Web page updated as required within 48 hours

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Organization Chart is a graphic diagram specifying the authority and responsibility of each management function

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Policies, procedures, duties, and functions are outlined in complete manuals that detail specific duties of those charged with each function and must be set forth clearly

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Annual budgets with a system of budget control. A management team can only plan accurately when they know what a reasonable expectation of each phase of the club is by their tangible measures of accomplishment

YES ✓ NO ✓



## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

- o Cost and Accounting System for your club with help management to have a means of controlling and keeping cost under constant observation, fixing the responsibility for excess, and knowing where costs are excessive. The mechanics for a constant observation are required.

YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Operating Reports with a sound system of cost and budgets, with management having the basis for effective reports. Foremost is the monthly summary of each department's actual cost to budget allotment.

YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Calendar of Events: a 12-month calendar of events, which should continually be updated to give a complete 12-month cycle at all times

YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Soccer Club Criteria requires good leadership – someone who inspires the team to be creative and productive

YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Clubs should have good creative people that have developed a reputation for quality and innovation

YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o A technical director charged with technical oversight of all teams and coaches within the Club

YES ✓ NO ✓



## ADMINISTRATION

- o Centralized Technical Authority YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Registration Secretary for the Club with online registration system YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Financial manager for the Club YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Administration Staff & Team Managers YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Equipment agreement or contract YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Documented annual player agreements YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Documented annual parent/guardian agreements, including financials YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Written policies outlining player expectations, player commitment, and player release procedures YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Annual members meetings with players and parents to clearly outline expectations and standards at each age group YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Volunteer recruitment and development plan to engage all members in Club Activities and to communicate costs YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Newsletter or other means of communications to the membership YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Annual Social Event YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Alumni program to keep former players/coaches connected with and engaged in the Club YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Community outreach program YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Attendance at NISL meetings and Seminars YES ✓ NO ✓



## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

- o Dedicated training and game facilities that is owned or leased by the Club YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Coaching Staff salaried with contracts YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Background checks on all coaches and any adults directly in contact with youth plaers YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Conflict of Interest policy YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Coaches' code of conduct emphasizing a high degree of professionalism, personnel integrity, and maturity from all the staff YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Basic fundraising program to help minimize costs of participation of all players YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Scholarship program to reduce or eliminate costs of participation for players with significant financial needs YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Marketing and Sponsorship program designed to attract corporate and other sponsors to defray cost YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Provide players and parents access to resources regarding proper nutrition, hydration, and sports medicine YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Relationship with local physical therapy organization and orthopedic groups to provide quick access to treatment or diagnostics for their players YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Provide an international trip for players to aid and enhance development YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Club inside or outside tournament YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Formal annual review and evaluation process for all full-time staff YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Strategy or Program to identify, hire, and retain new coaches and staff, as well as lateral hires of experienced coaches and staff YES ✓ NO ✓



## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

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- o Annual strategic planning and goal setting meeting to determine the direction and focus for the future of the Club, short-term and long-term

YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o 5-year strategic plan outlining goals and objectives, reviewed and assessed annually

YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Executive Director or Business Manager to manage finances, logistics, and other business tasks of the club. This position may report to the Director of Coaching or directly to the Board of Directors, depending upon the Club and the skills of the individual involved

YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Player Scouting Program

YES ✓ NO ✓
  
- o Parent Sideline Behavior: Respect, Roots

YES ✓ NO ✓



## OPERATIONS

- o Directors of Coaching holds a US Soccer License or equivalent

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Directors of Coaching is a full-time position

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Director of Coaching actively involved in coaching network

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Director of Coaching experience coaching at different levels of the game

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o All coaches at U-10 level and above should hold a US soccer license or equivalent

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Club should have a specialist goalkeeping coach with a US Soccer License or equivalent

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Structured as a pyramid with broad base players and multiple teams in each age group at younger ages, narrowing to fewer teams at the senior level

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Technical Plan integrated and age-specific

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Infrastructure for Coaching – all ages

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Vertically integrated with boys and girls teams at every age group, U8-U19

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Developmental curriculum outlining the skills and concepts to be taught is consistent with US Soccer’s recommended training curriculum

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Consistent style of play and vision of the game across all teams

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Overall consistent competitive grade for all ages

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Age-appropriate field and goal sizes (refer to NISL Rules and Regs)

YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Encourage the best players from second or third teams to train and play with top teams in age group as dictated by player performance

YES ✓ NO ✓





## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

- o Quality training sessions to games, ratio at a minimum of 2:1, ranging from 60-105 minutes YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Encourage the best players within the program to “move up” to more selective programs as appropriate by their ability YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Access to high-quality training facilities YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Standard training apparel for teams to promote a professional atmosphere YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Standard dynamic warm-up YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Limit parental presence at training to create a professional educational environment YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Protocol and procedures for team travel YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Provide written annual evaluations to assist players to identifying areas of strength and weakness YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Integrate age-appropriate strength agility and coordination training into the team training YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Have a U20 and up Program YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Recreation program U6-U9 YES ✓ NO ✓
- o Discipline Program YES ✓ NO ✓



## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

### COMPETITIVE CLUB INFORMATION

AGE	BOYS			GIRLS		
	# of Players	# of Teams	Level	# of Players	# of Teams	Level
U8						
U9						
U10						
U11						
U12						
U13						
U14						
U15						
U16						
U17						
U18						
U19						
Other						
<b>TOTALS</b>						

Number of Full-Time Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Part-time Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Parent Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

**Competitive Season** (please circle)

Jul   Aug   Sep   Oct   Nov   Dec   Jan   Mar   Apr   May   Jun



# NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

## CLUB FACILITY

**Outdoor Fields:**

Rented

Owned

	<b>Field Sizes</b>	<b>Goal Sizes</b>	<b>Number of Fields.</b>
U8	35' x 30'	4' x 9'	_____
U9-U10	55' x 35'	6' x 12'	_____
U11-U12	70' x 55'	6.6' x 18'	_____
U13-U19	110' x 70'	8' x 24'	_____

	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Number of Fields.</b>
Access to Turf Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
Access to Lighted Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
Access to Indoor Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

\_\_\_\_\_



## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

### COACHING STAFF

**President** (FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

**Director of Coaching/Technical Director** (FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

**Director of Coaching – Boys** (FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

**Director of Coaching – Girls** (FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

**Age Group Director – Boys** (FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

**Age Group Director – Girls** (FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

**2nd Age Group Director – Boys** (FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_



# NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

## 2nd Age Group Director – Girls

(FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

## Staff Coaches

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_ (FT/PT)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_ (FT/PT)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_ (FT/PT)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_ (FT/PT)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_ (FT/PT)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_ (FT/PT)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_ (FT/PT)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_ (FT/PT)

## Recreational Director of Coaching

(FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

## Administration

### Club Administration/League Contact

(FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

### Club Financial Manager

(FT/PT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_



## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

### TEAM PERFORMANCE

#### Team Performance – **BOYS U12**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **BOYS U13**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **BOYS U14**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **BOYS U15**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_



## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

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### TEAM PERFORMANCE

#### Team Performance – **BOYS U16**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **BOYS U17**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **BOYS U18**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_



## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

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### TEAM PERFORMANCE

#### Team Performance – **GIRLS U12**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_  
League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_  
Placement: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_  
Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **GIRLS U13**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_  
League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_  
Placement: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_  
Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **GIRLS U14**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_  
League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_  
Placement: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_  
Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **GIRLS U15**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_  
League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_  
Placement: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_  
Placement: \_\_\_\_\_





## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

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### TEAM PERFORMANCE

#### Team Performance – **GIRLS U16**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **GIRLS U17**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Team Performance – **GILRS U18**

Total Number of Players Registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Teams Playing: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

League Level of All Teams Top to Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Leagues Participating In: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournaments participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_



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## NOTABLE CLUB PLAYERS & INFORMATION

Please list notable players to have played for your youth club. Please list the years in which they played for your club and the highest level they played upon leaving your club. (Top 50 College, Professional, etc.)

Last Name	First Name	Highest Level Played	Years Participated in Your Club
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			

### Other Notable Club Information

Please provide any other information regarding your club that you feel is relevant.

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## NISL YOUTH CLUB STANDARDS

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### PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION (Person filling in this form.)

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB MAY ATTACH ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO ASSIST THE EVALUATOR  
IN DETERMINE THE CLUB RANK.**

### NISL USE ONLY

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#### NISL – CLUB RANKING.

Total number of questions answered completely: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADMINISTRATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OPERATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CLUB ANALYSIS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_