



ELKHART COUNTY
UNITED
SOCCER CLUB

NEW PLAY FORMAT

NEW TEAM FORMAT FOR 2013 TO 2007 PLAYERS

We are introducing a new team model designed to elevate the training experience and ensure equal development opportunities for all players.

Each age group will now consist of one unified team, for example, ECU 2009 ECNL/ISL Team, with 25–30 players. This structure comes with several benefits:

- Equal access to ECNL-level training, coaching, and resources
- 3–4 licensed coaches assigned to each team
- Shared training days and competition structure for all players
- A strong culture of competition, accountability, and development

If we determine that only 20 players in a group are ECNL-ready, we'll roster only those players and focus on a single league. If we have 30 committed and capable players, we'll split them across both ECNL and ISL matches, allowing for game rotation and development. If a team ends up with fewer than 20 players, they will compete in only one league and participate in two tournaments. The four-tournament schedule applies only to teams with 25–30 players, as our goal is to ensure that every player has the opportunity to experience at least two tournaments.

HOW ECNL GAME OPPORTUNITIES WILL WORK

Players will compete in practice and follow commitment standards to earn roster spots for ECNL matches. If a player is unavailable or doesn't meet the commitment expectations, this structure allows for smooth adjustments while keeping a competitive environment.

We believe this model will help us build a college-prep culture, where the most committed players rise and develop through effort and opportunity.

FOR PLAYERS WHO WANT TO TRAIN WITHOUT ECNL PRESSURE

We also understand that not every player is pursuing ECNL competition. Some may simply want a high-level training environment. These players are welcome to be part of our development program and will:

- Participate in ISL games (based on attendance and commitment)
- Be part of team training sessions
- Still receive elite coaching and resources



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GUARANTEED GAME MINIMUMS

All players who meet attendance expectations will:

- Play in 6–8 games
- Compete in 2 tournaments
- Receive top coaching and development support

Players selected for ECNL games may not have guaranteed playing time, but will have opportunities to participate in ISL or friendly matches to ensure continued development through game experience.

PROGRAM DETAILS BY AGE GROUP

Parents, please note that tournament participation and the number of games played may vary if a team roster has fewer than 25 players. Please refer to the **New Playing Format** section for more detailed information.

Our goal is for every player to participate in **at least two tournaments** throughout the seasonal year. To ensure this opportunity for all athletes, some teams may be scheduled for three or four tournaments. This allows us to effectively manage our **player pool model (25–30 players per age group)** and rotate participation so that each player has access to meaningful competitive experiences.

U17/U18/U19 Teams

Tournaments

- 4 Tournaments (2 ECNL Showcases + 2 Regular Events)

League Play

- 10–12 ECNL Games
- 6–8 ISL Games
- 2–4 Friendlies

Training Schedule

- Fall & Spring: 3x per week
- Winter: 2–3x per week (Kroc Center)

Additional Development

- Goalkeeper Training (Winter & Spring)
- Strength & Conditioning Program
- Licensed Coaching Staff



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- College Recruitment Support
- Online Player Workshops & Conference Calls

U15/U16 Teams

Tournaments

- 3 Tournaments (3 Spring)

League Play

- 10–12 ECNL Games
- 6–8 ISL Games
- 2–4 Friendlies

Training Schedule

- Fall & Spring: 3x per week
- Winter: 2–3x per week (Kroc Center)

Additional Development

- Goalkeeper Training
- Strength & Conditioning Program
- Licensed Coaching Staff
- Online Player Workshops & Conference Calls

U13/U14 Teams

Additional Development

- 2 Tournaments (1 Fall, 2 Spring)

League Play

- 12–18 ECNL Games
- 12–16 ISL Games
- 1–3 Friendlies

Training Schedule

- Fall & Spring: 3x per week
- Winter: 2–3x per week

Additional Development

- Goalkeeper Training
- Strength & Conditioning Program
- Licensed Coaching Staff
- Online Player Workshops & Conference Calls



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U11/U12 Teams

Tournaments

- 2 Tournaments (1 Fall, 1 Spring)

League Play

- 12–16 ISL Games
- 1–3 Friendlies

Training Schedule

- Fall & Spring: 2–3x per week
- Winter: 2–3x per week

Additional Development

- Goalkeeper Training
- Strength & Conditioning Program (Spring Only)
- Licensed Coaching Staff
- Online Player Workshops & Conference Calls

U9/U10 Teams

Tournaments

- Optional as parent paid for this

League Play

- 14–18 ISL Games
- 1–3 Friendlies

Training Schedule

- Fall & Spring: 2–3x per week
- Winter: 2x per week

Additional Development

- Optional Technical Day
- Licensed Coaching Staff

U7/U8 Teams

Tournaments

- Optional as parent paid for this

League Play

- 6–12 ISL Games
- 1–2 Friendlies



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Training Schedule

- Fall & Spring: 1–2x per week
- Winter: 1–2x per week

Additional Development

- Optional Technical Day
- Licensed Coaching Staff

We believe this new structure will create a more unified, competitive, and productive environment for every player. Our goal is to prepare them for the next level—whether that’s college soccer or simply reaching their personal best.

Thank you for trusting us with your child’s development. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your player’s individual path, feel free to reach out.



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GET IN TOUCH

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