



## **Illinois Fire Juniors Training Player Policy**

There are occasions where the Illinois Fire Juniors will offer players spots as Training Players on a team. The age group selected would be based on the environment our Director of Coaching Staff feels is most appropriate for a player's individual development.

Placement will be made based upon the skills displayed by a player and may also be based on the number of players in a particular age group. This document outlines our Training Player policy and helps to define what Training Players can expect from the Illinois Fire Juniors club.

The mission and vision of our Training Player program is to promote, support and foster a love of soccer while simultaneously developing and enhancing basic, intermediate and advanced soccer skill sets. Illinois Fire Juniors believes players develop most from our advanced and specialized training environment. Success is achieved through repetition and reinforcement of actively engaged training players. We believe the expertise of our coaching staff and our training program will help training players will develop the skills and create the desire to remain involved in our organization as a future rostered player.

1. The coaching staff of the Illinois Fire Juniors is committed to the training of all players equally - regardless of their status as 'training player' or 'rostered player', and coaches will foster an environment where all players feel valued.
2. All players are integral parts of our team and our organization works to increase the skill level of ALL players.
3. Due to Illinois Youth Soccer (IYSA) regulations, Training Players will not be rostered on the teams that they practice with. Training Players are not included in the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) roster.
4. Athletes in Training Player status will receive IYSA player cards and therefore are eligible to play in IYSA or CIYSL sanctioned matches or tournaments.
  - a. However, these athletes will play in "friendly" scrimmages scheduled by the Illinois Fire Juniors coaching staff or as determined by the team coach.

5. The Training Player commitment is for the entire season, unless alternative arrangements have been made with the Illinois Fusion DOC staff.
6. The DOC staff member has the discretion to determine whether or not a player is eligible to join a team as a rostered player in mid-season. This scenario would present itself most likely due to:
  - a. Observations of the training player's consistently increasing skills as observed by the coach or DOC staff.
  - b. The training player consistently applying those skills during regular practice sessions or 'friendly scrimmages' as observed by the coach or DOC staff.
  - c. In conjunction with '6a' and '6b' above and a direct need as a result of a roster opening on the team during mid-season.
7. Fees for athletes in 'Training Player' status can be found in the [player fee document](#) on the website. The fee includes:
  - a. Participation in the same outdoor training/practice sessions that those full time Illinois Fire Juniors athletes participate in. This includes practice sessions with the team and skills development program based on the coach's instructional plan for the practice session.
  - b. The option to participate in winter indoor training and other training regiments as developed by the Illinois Fire Juniors Directors of Coaching (DOC) staff. This additional training would be at the same pricing structure available to current full time Illinois Fire Juniors athletes.
8. While there are no express or implied guarantees that a player participating as a 'Training Player' one year will automatically secure a roster spot on an age appropriate team the following year, it is our hope that all Training Players will want to continue with the Illinois Fire Juniors because of the interest created as a result of our training environment. As such, these players are invited to participate in team tryouts as all Illinois Fire Juniors athletes do. It is understood that all player placements will be based on the player's skill level and work rate during tryouts.
9. IYSA insurance policies do not cover athletes who are not on an official IYSA team roster. The individual player's familial major medical coverage or other available health care coverage would be the primary coverage available.