



Indy Premier - Michiana Echo Alliance Q&A Document

Q: What is an alliance and how will it affect the clubs?

A: The alliance is an agreement for the two clubs to work closely together to provide additional opportunities and an enhanced experience for their players and parents. Michiana Echo and Indy Premier have similar cultures focused on player development within a family-friendly environment that provides a good starting point for working together. The clubs will remain independent and continue to be managed locally where they are in close contact with players and parents.

Q: What will this do for my son or daughter?

A: This alliance will benefit all players from both clubs. The clubs will share their coaching, programming, and organizational resources with each other, providing an enhanced experience for all players. For high school age players, all players will be placed in a joint player pool, allowing for local training and free player passing between the clubs.

Q: Will this increase my player fees?

A: No, the alliance will not increase either club's standard fees or cost to parents. Additional playing opportunities will likely result in additional costs. For example, if an eligible Echo player chooses to play for Indy Premier, that player would have to pay any associated fees to Indy Premier.

Q: Do Echo players have to buy new jerseys?

A: The formation of the alliance will have no impact on the timing of new Echo uniforms. We will maintain the previously scheduled cycle for new uniforms in 2020, which will be re-designed to reflect the alliance.

Q: How do I register for tryouts?

A: You will continue to register for tryouts with your home club and will tryout locally at your home club's facilities.

Q: What additional playing opportunities are available?

A: The joint player pool will allow the clubs to work together in many ways to provide opportunities for players at both clubs. For example, Echo players may receive opportunities to play with Indy Premier teams for college showcases, league games, and state and regional tournaments. In some instances, Echo players could be rostered as primary players on Indy Premier teams. The clubs could also choose to form joint teams at some age groups for league or tournament play. In all of these scenarios, the Directors of Coaching from both clubs will work together to provide opportunities for players in both clubs.

Q: Can younger age groups participate?

A: The joint player pool for player passing among the clubs will be only high school aged players (15U and up). Players 14U and younger may be given opportunities to player pass on occasion with Director of Coaching approval if the need arises and there is no conflict with the player's responsibilities to their home club.

Q: How will players be selected to pass between clubs?

A: The Directors of Coaching of the respective clubs will make recommendations to one another regarding players that might be suitable for player passing opportunities. Echo players must register for an Echo team to be placed into the joint player pool and player passing opportunities will not be guaranteed in advance of registration for an Echo team.

Q: Where will players in the joint player pool practice?

A: All players in the joint player pool will have the option to continue training locally while also having the option to train with the other club if and when desired. The clubs may also conduct certain training activities together.

Q: Why is local training an important aspect of the alliance?

A: Your son or daughter will not have to travel far from home regularly to take advantage of additional training opportunities. Additionally, both clubs have similar training approaches and will share resources and information about training methods and players.

Q: Is training locally a disadvantage for Echo players?

A: No. Kenrick Ramirez, Girls Director of Coaching at Indy Premier, has the following to say about Echo's training:

When you look at the state of Indiana over the last 4-6 years some of the most technical players have come from Echo, and that is one of the reasons we wanted to partner with Echo.

- 1. Echo produces good players in current set up. They get better by developing players, not by going out to get new players only.*
- 2. They value technical players, players who are comfortable with the ball.*
- 3. They are willing to help players in being able to express themselves on the field and not just be robotic, it means there will be many mistakes but they understand there is a process and they are willing to go through it to make a quality player at ages 15/16/17.*

Echo is player centric and we believe players would get just as good of a training environment at Echo as with Indy Premier, thereby kids not having to travel as much. We will be sharing curriculum, daily communication, and analysis of players, with coaching staffs always being in communication. Again this benefits the player, so said player doesn't have to travel as much. We have had Echo-trained kids come in and play with us in the past and we didn't need to do anything different. That synergy makes this partnership more than worthy and the players benefit from not having to travel all the time.

Q: Why did Echo and Indy Premier enter into the alliance?

A: There are three primary reasons for the alliance. (1) Echo and Indy Premier share a lot in common, which provides a great foundation for working cooperatively together. (2) The alliance will allow players to train locally while having access to expanded playing and training opportunities that would not otherwise be available. (3) The alliance will benefit our coaching staffs and all players

through shared resources such as a joint player pool, programming, session plans, facilities, best practices, and other resources.

Q: Who can I contact with questions?

A: Echo will be holding an informational Town Hall meeting on Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Pfeil Center at Holy Cross College. We recommend that local families attend the meeting if you have questions about the alliance.