**Westside United FC Response to USSF Birth Year Mandates**

In response to the changes that U.S. Soccer and Indiana Youth Soccer has announced for youth soccer, Westside United FC wants to make sure our members are up to date with the information and the implementation plans in store for our sport in Indiana. Many things are still being decided on, but we feel it is better to give you as many facts as possible.

At this moment in time, we have enough information to work on our own implementation plans for Westside United FC. Prior to this, we did not have confirmation on a number of important details. As a staff, we have been working diligently since this news broke to come up with a plan that works for both the long term health of the club, and the collective experiences of our players.

Please be patient during this time as there are a lot of different areas of the club that will be impacted by this, and it is not as simple as only looking at which teams players will play on. As a club, we have the responsibility to all players, not solely as individuals, but as members of our teams, our Club, and the soccer community, as a whole. That being said, please be confident that, as a club, we want what is best for every team and every player.

The Club has set forth a plan to implement the USSF Mandates as soon as possible. The following changes will take place Fall 2016:

1. Players born during or after 2005 will be placed on teams according to birth year. There will be exceptions for players that directors feel should be playing up.

2. Players born between 2001 and 2004 will be looked at on a case by case basis. The INTENT is to grandfather in all players and teams in these ages. However, there will be a few exceptions where a player may move up or down and those will be directly communicated to that player prior to tryouts.

3. High school aged teams will be grandfathered in allowing for the mixed age group teams to remain intact. There will be a few exceptions where a player may move up or down and those will be directly communicated to that player prior to tryouts.

Thank you for remaining patient during this process. This affects a great number of people across the entire country, but we will get through it and WSU will continue to thrive as one of the top soccer programs across the state of Indiana!