



INDY ELEVEN 2021 SEASON MEDIA GUIDELINES

On behalf of Indy Eleven, we thank you and your media outlet for your interest in covering Indiana's Team during our 2021 USL Championship season, taking place "Back Home Again" at IUPUI's Michael A. Carroll Stadium.

Between the continued, far-reaching effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and a move back to Carroll Stadium, this season will have more notable changes when it comes to gameday procedures for media as well as gaining access to players, coaches, and staff for in-person interview requests at Carroll Stadium, Grand Park, and our downtown front office locations. Such decisions are made with strict adherence to campus, city, and state guidelines and the USL Championship's Return to Play protocols in mind.

To help facilitate your requests, please read our updated media policies below, all of which put the safety of all parties first and foremost. As public health conditions allow for potential shifts in policy (and therefore access), we will keep you abreast of updates in these guidelines via email and the [Media Guidelines page at indyeleven.com](#).

We appreciate your understanding and look forward to working with you as closely as ever (while maintaining social distancing, of course!) to provide coverage of what will be another memorable season of Indy Eleven soccer.

Sincerely,

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2021 PRACTICE/NON-GAMEDAY PROTOCOLS (as of May 2021)

In order to minimize contact between members of the Indy Eleven “testing pool” – including all players and coaches and select team staff – and individuals outside of that group to the greatest possible extent, for the time being Indy Eleven training sessions at Grand Park will be closed to members of the media and the general public.

INTERVIEW REQUESTS

In lieu of in-person interview opportunities at this time, the Indy Eleven Communications Staff will continue to coordinate video conference call and phone interview opportunities as requested by media members.

While times for these calls will be coordinated on a case-by-case basis, media members should expect to execute these calls, when possible, in the afternoon/early evening hours (12:30-6:00 p.m.) in conjunction with the team’s usual 10:00 a.m.-noon weekday practice schedule at Grand Park.

TRAINING B-ROLL AND GAME HIGHLIGHT FOOTAGE

Indy Eleven Communications Staff is glad to accommodate requests from media members for b-roll video footage from training sessions at Grand Park and highlights from previous games for inclusion in their coverage of the team.

If you have a request for training b-roll of a specific player, please contact an Indy Eleven Communications Staff member with your request at least two (2) days in advance of when you will need the footage in order to allow for coordination and execution.

If you have a request for game highlights of a specific player, please contact an Indy Eleven Communications Staff member with your request at least 24 hours in advance of when you will need the footage in order to allow for timely execution.



2021 GAMEDAY PROTOCOLS AT CARROLL STADIUM (as of May 2021)

2021 HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN

In addition to the media specific guidelines listed here, media members are also expected to abide by the comprehensive Health & Safety Plan for Indy Eleven games at Carroll Stadium in 2021. This includes the mandatory wearing of masks (when not consuming food or beverage), maintaining social distancing guidelines and participating in a temperature check at stadium entry.

[Please click here to read the full Indy Eleven 2021 Health & Safety Plan](#)

ABUSING CREDENTIAL PRIVILEGES

When issuing media credentials, it is the expectation that recipients will actively produce written, photographic, and/or audio content on, about or pertaining to Indy Eleven in a professional manner. Unfortunately, not everyone adheres to this expectation.

Anyone caught abusing their media credential privileges by not adhering to both our 2021 Media Guidelines contained in this document and the 2021 Health & Safety Plan for Carroll Stadium will have their credentials revoked and will be ineligible for Indy Eleven media access for the remainder of the 2021 USL Championship Season – and potentially beyond.

THESE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED IN 2021, ESPECIALLY THE FOLLOWING OF SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES AND WEARING OF MASKS AT THE STADIUM (EXCEPT WHEN CONSUMING FOOD AND BEVERAGES) – INCLUDING INSIDE THE PRESS BOX.

PLEASE RESPECT YOUR FELLOW MEDIA MEMBERS, FANS, EVENT STAFF AND OTHERS SO THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE TO ENFORCE THESE GUIDELINES AND POTENTIALLY REVOKE YOUR ACCESS.

Please note that lost full season or single-game credentials WILL NOT BE REPLACED. If you lose your credential, please contact John Koluder (via contact info on Page 1) immediately to discuss next course of action.

SINGLE-GAME CREDENTIAL & PARKING REQUEST

Single-game credential applications will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on game days. Requests received after this time may not be considered or seen by the Indy Eleven Communications Staff. To request a single-game credential and/or parking pass, visit www.indyeleven.com/single-game-cred. For follow up on your request, please contact John Koluder at your earliest convenience (see top of document/page for contact info).

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NEW FOR 2021: MEDIA WILL CALL
(CREDENTIAL & PARKING PASS PICK-UP, MATCH DAY CHECK IN & PHOTO BIB PICK UP)

In 2021, the Media Will Call window at the Carroll Stadium Box Office located just inside Gate C (formerly known as the Northwest Gate), located near the intersection of New York Street & Barnhill Drive, will be the central hub for all materials surrounding media needs on gameday, including:

- Credential & Parking Pass Pick-up (both full season & single-game materials)
- Match Day Check-in (new procedure in 2021)
- Photo Bib Pick-up (mandatory for ALL field level working media)



CREDENTIAL & PARKING PASS PICK-UP

Media members who have been approved to receive either 2021 full season or single-game credentials and/or parking passes may pick up those materials at the Media Will Call window. The Media Will Call window will open 90 minutes prior to kickoff (typically 5:30 p.m.) and remain open until 15 minutes after kickoff (typically 7:15 p.m.).

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Anyone picking up their materials will be allowed to park temporarily in the right-most lane of traffic on the east-bound side of New York Street (reference above map) **PRIOR TO 6:00 P.M.**, when the lane will be re-opened to traffic. ***For this reason, media members who need to pick up a parking pass on gameday are strongly encouraged to arrive by 6:00 p.m.***

MEDIA CHECK-IN & ENTRANCE ACCESS

NEW PROCEDURE FOR 2021: All credentialed media personnel – regardless of full season or single-game status – will need to check in at the Media Will Call window AT EVERY GAME.

Media will be allowed to enter the facility **ONLY THROUGH GATE C** beginning 90 minutes prior to kickoff (typically 5:30 p.m.).

NEW FOR SINGLE-GAME CREDENTIAL RECIPIENTS IN 2021: Media members who receive single-game credentials will need to sign-out their credentials as part of the check-in process at the Media Will Call window. Upon exiting the venue, single-game credential holders must return their pass to personnel at Media Will Call and can then proceed to exit through Gate C.

DISPLAYING OF CREDENTIALS

All credentialed media must have their credentials visible and physically on them at all times. Anyone not properly displaying their credential in a restricted area will be ejected from the stadium (unless they have a ticket; they will be escorted to the appropriate seat/section).

SECURITY CHECK

Credentialed media consent to allowing Indy Eleven and/or Carroll Stadium staff to inspect bearer's person and any bags, clothing, or other articles for security purposes, whether by walk-through metal detection, handheld metal detection, bag checks or otherwise, and acknowledges and agrees that bearer may be denied entry to or ejected from any Indy Eleven event if bearer is in possession of any item or object that Indy Eleven and/or Carroll Stadium considers potentially dangerous, hazardous, inappropriate and/or injurious to other patrons or participants, and any prohibited items may be confiscated. Bearer consents to security searches and/or screening of bearer and waives any claims that bearer might have against Indy Eleven.

MEDIA PARKING

UPDATED MAY 21: Full season AND single-game credentialed media will be allowed to access Lots A, B, or C by showing their credential to parking personnel stationed at each entry location; please refer to the below map for lot access points. To begin the season, all surface lots will open 90 minutes prior to kickoff (typically 5:30 p.m.).

Because of proximity to Gate C, it is suggested that media attempt to park in Lots A or B (refer to map below).

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INDY ELEVEN GAMEDAY PARKING MAP Carroll Stadium, IUPUI



MEDIA ACCESS & PRESS BOX ACCOMODATIONS

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS, PRESS CREDENTIALS WILL NOT ALLOW MEDIA MEMBERS ACCESS THE SEATING AREAS AT CARROLL STADIUM – NO EXCEPTIONS. This will be a point of emphasis for ushers and security in order to maintain social distancing guidelines for the safety of fans and in accordance with club and campus policies.

All credentialed media – including photographers and videographers working at field level – will have access to the press box in order to access materials surrounding game coverage (team match notes, starting lineups, stats) and food and beverages dedicated for media members.

Seating for media members inside the West side of the press box will be marked off and spaced to accommodate proper social distancing guidelines. Seating will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

ACCESS TO WORKING ACCESSORIES

The Press Box will include access to power outlets, a printer/copier and Wi-Fi access. The Wi-Fi network and key/password will be made available via signage in the press area; please contact an Indy Eleven Communications Staff member if you are having trouble accessing the network and Stadium IT personnel will be called in to assist.

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FOOD & BEVERAGE

Indy Eleven will have a limited amount of press box meals and snacks for working media members in 2021, in addition to bottled water. Because of the limited number of meals available, we suggest you plan your evening meal(s) accordingly.

PHOTOGRAPHER ON-FIELD ACCESS & DISTANCING GUIDELINES



OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION, ALL MEDIA WITH FIELD ACCESS MUST REMAIN AT LEAST 15 FEET (5 YARDS) FROM ALL TEAM PERSONNEL AND REFEREES – NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED.

UPDATED MAY 21: PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE ASKED TO REMAIN OFF THE FIELD TURF AREA RINGING ALL SIDES OF THE FIELD.

To maintain social distancing guidelines and keep “team bubble” and referee safety front of mind, **NO MEDIA MEMBERS** will be allowed inside the boundaries of the field boards and/or onto the field at any time.

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Pre-game Activities

Warmups: Photographers can station themselves anywhere in the light blue shaded areas on the Photo Access map above – as long as no players or other team personnel are present and social distancing guidelines are maintained. Media members are asked to be particularly cognizant of social distancing protocols while players, coaches, team personnel, and referees are entering and exiting the field; again, a minimum of 5 yards of distance must be maintained (using the edges of the center circle as a “no access best practice” is recommended).

National Anthem/Team walk-out: There will be no official team/referee “proessional” entrance for games in 2021; instead referees, the away team, and the home team (in that order) will stagger their exits from the center tunnel locker room area in 1-minute intervals immediately following the playing of the National Anthem. While photographers will be allowed access to the south endline/track area during these walkouts, adherence to the 5-yard distance guideline will be strictly enforced.

First Kick, Coin Toss & Starting XI Photo: These former pre-game activities will not take place on the field for games in 2021.

During the match: Again, photographers can station themselves anywhere in the light blue shaded access areas on the map above, which have been determined with social distancing guidelines, the greatest amount of photographer access, and fan sightlines in mind.

PHOTO BIBS

ALL media members credentialed for FIELD access will need to sign out a photo bib as part of the check-in procedure at the Media Will Call window at Gate C (see MEDIA CHECK-IN section for reference).

Because bibs identify you as a member of the working media AND designate access between media members and team/broadcast personnel, BIBS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON FIELD LEVEL, PER USL MEDIA GUIDELINES. Media who do not follow this stipulation will be at risk of having their credential revoked.

Upon exiting the venue, FIELD level working media should return their bib to personnel at Media Will Call window and can proceed to exit through Gate C.

If you forget your bib or credential, it/they will not be replaced, and you will lose your stadium/field access; in this instance, please contact John Koluder (via contact info on Page 1) to discuss next course of action.



POST-GAME PRESS CONFERENCE & MEDIA INTERVIEW ACCESS

Out of an abundance of caution, Indy Eleven will conduct all post-game coach and player interviews via video conference and/or video or phone call with requested individuals, all of which must be coordinated with Indy Eleven Communications Staff (see Page 1 for contact information).

Press Conference

As in 2020, Indy Eleven will conduct a post-game press conference with Head Coach Martin Rennie and one player as requested by the media via Zoom video conferencing. A link to the Zoom press conference will be made available each gameday at www.indyeleven.com/media.

The press conference will go live approximately 5 minutes after the final whistle for media to “populate the room” and make player requests as needed, while player & coach will be made available starting approximately 10-15 minutes after the final whistle, pending availability following post-game television interviews.

Audio and/or video files of the press conference will be made available to media members upon request beginning approximately 10 minutes upon its conclusion. Media members should contact John Koluder (contact info available on Page 1) to make their request for the file(s).

Video/Phone Call Interview Access

For access to Indy Eleven players not taking part in the post-game press conference, media members are asked to coordinate video/phone calls for specific players with John Koluder via call or text to 317-919-0808 before the final whistle.

In-person Interview Access Prohibited

No in-person interviews with Indy Eleven players and coaches will be permitted. Credentialed media are asked not to approach any player or coaching staff member for face-to-face interviews inside or outside of the stadium on gameday; not adhering to this guideline could result in revocation of credentials upon the first violation.

Visiting Team Media Availability

Media members looking for post-game access to players and coaches from the opposing team are asked to coordinate their requests with each club’s respective PR Staff who, if not present to facilitate themselves, will work with Indy Eleven Communications Staff to coordinate interview opportunities.



ALCOHOL USE PROHIBITED

The consumption of any alcoholic beverage(s) is strictly prohibited by anyone actively reporting or attending Indy Eleven matches at Carroll Stadium by use of a season long or single game media credential. **Failure to comply with this standard will result in ejection from Carroll Stadium for the remainder of the match and any issued credentials will be revoked for the remainder of the 2021 season. This is a zero-tolerance policy.**

NO PERSONAL USE

Credential bearers may not request autographs, take non-work related photographs or make any other personal use of this credential or the stadium access conferred by this credential. A first-time offense of this guideline will result in revoking of credentials.

PUBLICITY

The bearer grants permission to Indy Eleven and its licensors to use the bearer's image, likeness, actions and statements, in perpetuity, in any Media Use relating to any Indy Eleven event in any context for any purpose, including commercial or promotional purposes, without further authorization from or compensation to the bearer.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

The bearer of this credential and his or her employer assume all risk and danger of personal injury and all other hazards arising from or related in any way to stadium access, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Indy Eleven and Carroll Stadium, its member teams, other agents and employees from and against all liability, loss, damages or expense resulting from or arising out of the bearer's presence at the stadium.

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