



OVERVIEW OF PROCESS TO ADJUST ITC PROCESS

OVERVIEW

- Membership has frequently expressed dissatisfaction with the current ITC process, especially noting the volume of ITCs required
- The current process makes it more difficult for kids not born in the United States to play soccer, hurting our ambition to increase participation in the sport
- Adjusting our ITC process will make the job of club administrators and member organization staff easier

STEPS TAKEN TO DEVELOP UPDATED ITC PROCESS

COLLECTED FEEDBACK

65% of members submitted feedback, with feedback covering approximately 9,000 clubs and 2.9M players

CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS

Conducted more than 10 one-on-one interviews with member org leadership and club administrators

DOCUMENTED FEEDBACK

Consolidated all feedback and identified most prominent concerns and opportunities for largest impact

SHARED LEARNINGS

Shared summarized learnings back with subset of club administrators to finalize feedback

PROPOSED UPDATES

Based on priority pain points, proposed a set of adjustments to the ITC process

REVIEWED PROPOSAL

Worked with US Club and USYS, two of our largest members, to review proposed updates to ITC process



KEY ITC PAIN POINTS WE HEARD FROM MEMBERSHIP

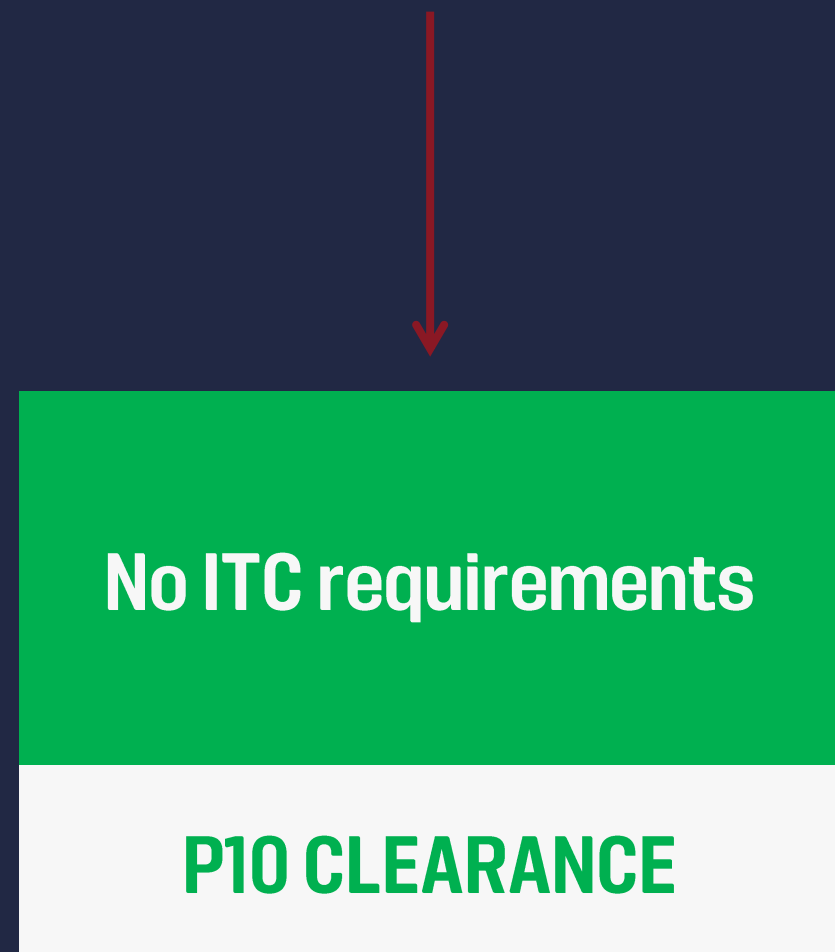
- 1 The ITC Process is time intensive and cumbersome
- 2 All kids looking to play soccer, especially just recreationally, should not face extensive barriers to do so
- 3 Parents and players are unclear as to why the ITC process is necessary
- 4 It is not easy to articulate the requirements of this process to non-English speakers
- 5 Compliance with the ITC process varies among U.S. Soccer members
- 6 Club administrators, or those completing this process, are often not aware of any updates shared by U.S. Soccer



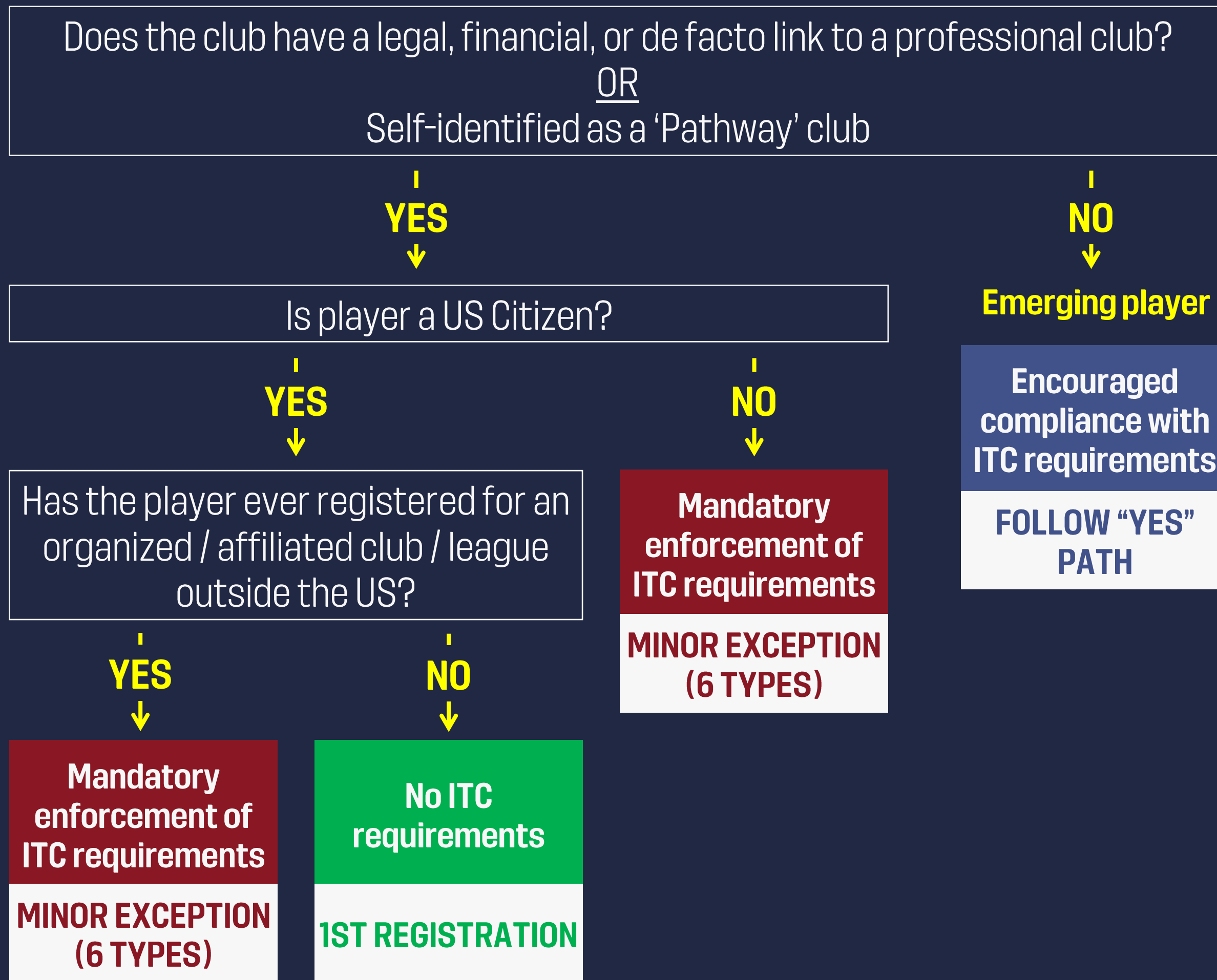
PROPOSED UPDATED ITC CLEARANCE PATHWAYS

/ DRAFT

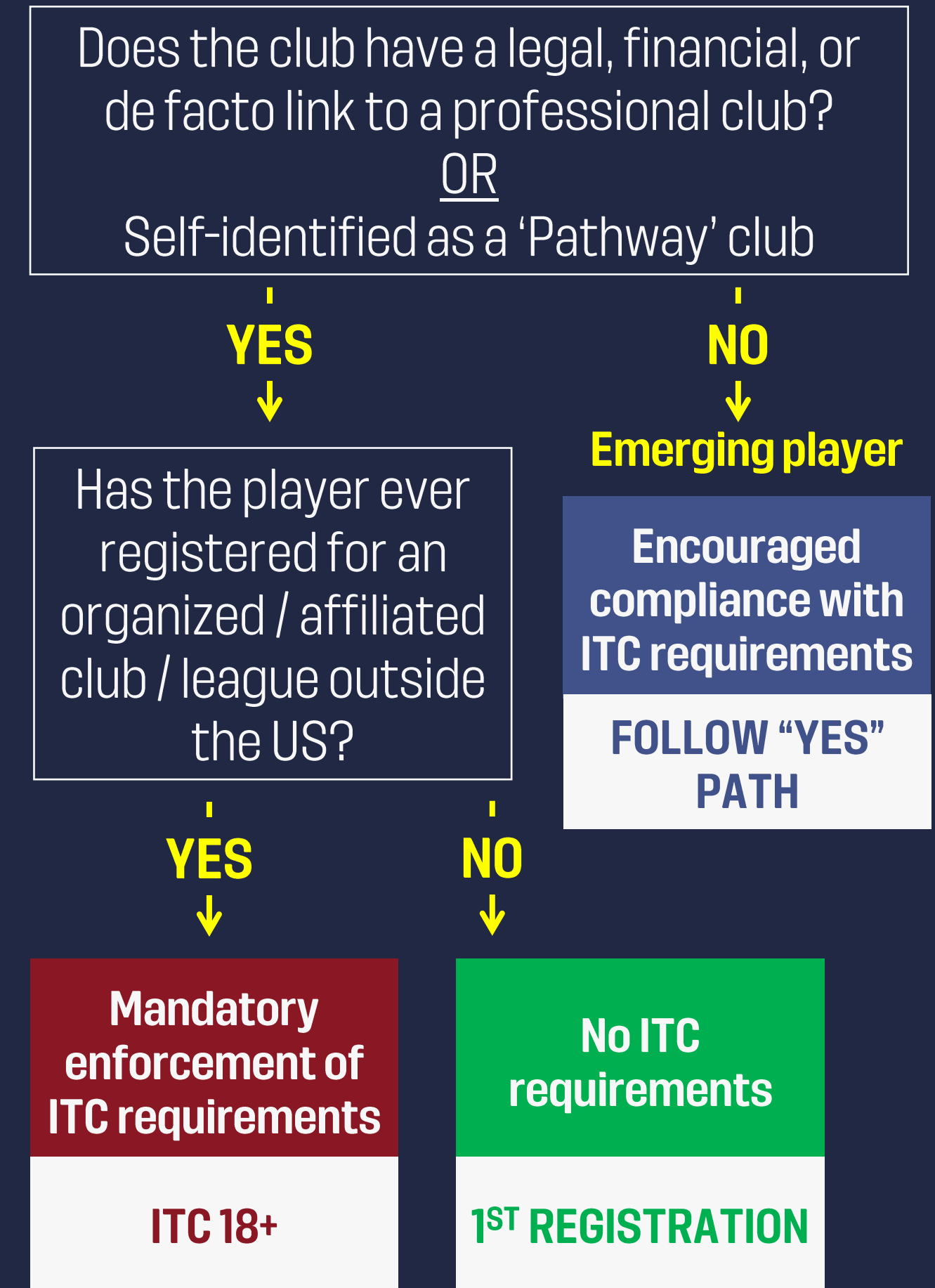
AGE 9 OR YOUNGER



AGE 10 TO 17



AGE 18 OR OLDER



WHAT'S CHANGED?

Those at clubs without a legal, financial, or de facto link to a professional club or identification as an 'Pathway' club are no longer mandated to complete the ITC process



'PATHWAY' CLUBS CAN BE CLEARLY DEFINED AND A LIST CAN BE PUBLISHED FOR VISIBILITY

/ EXAMPLES

WHAT CLUBS THESE ARE



- Youth academies with direct ties to a professional club (e.g., Racing Louisville FC Academy, SC del Sol development academy)
- A club that receives funding, resources, or access to facilities from a professional team
- A club, or a group of clubs that the member organization selects, that willingly self-identifies as a 'Pathway' club (e.g., as part of registration, club categorizes 'Pathway' teams)
- A club participating in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup

WHAT CLUBS THESE ARE NOT



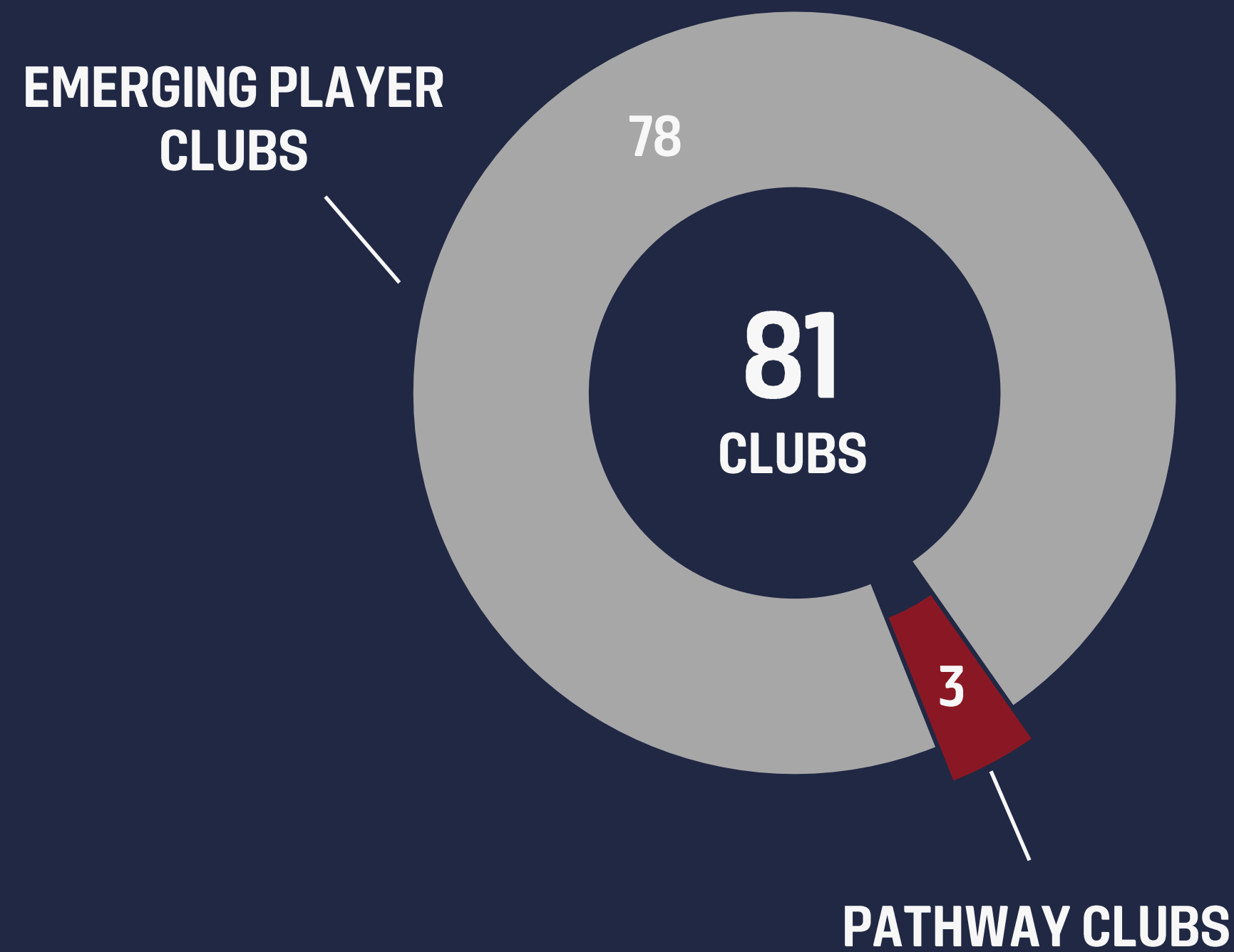
- A club whose only link to a professional club is receiving a discount or tickets to cheer on the local professional team
- A youth state association program with no pro league affiliation
- A professional club's grassroots recreational program (e.g., Houston Dynamic Dribblers)

It should be noted that the moment a player transitions to a club's competitive branch, an ITC is mandated to play

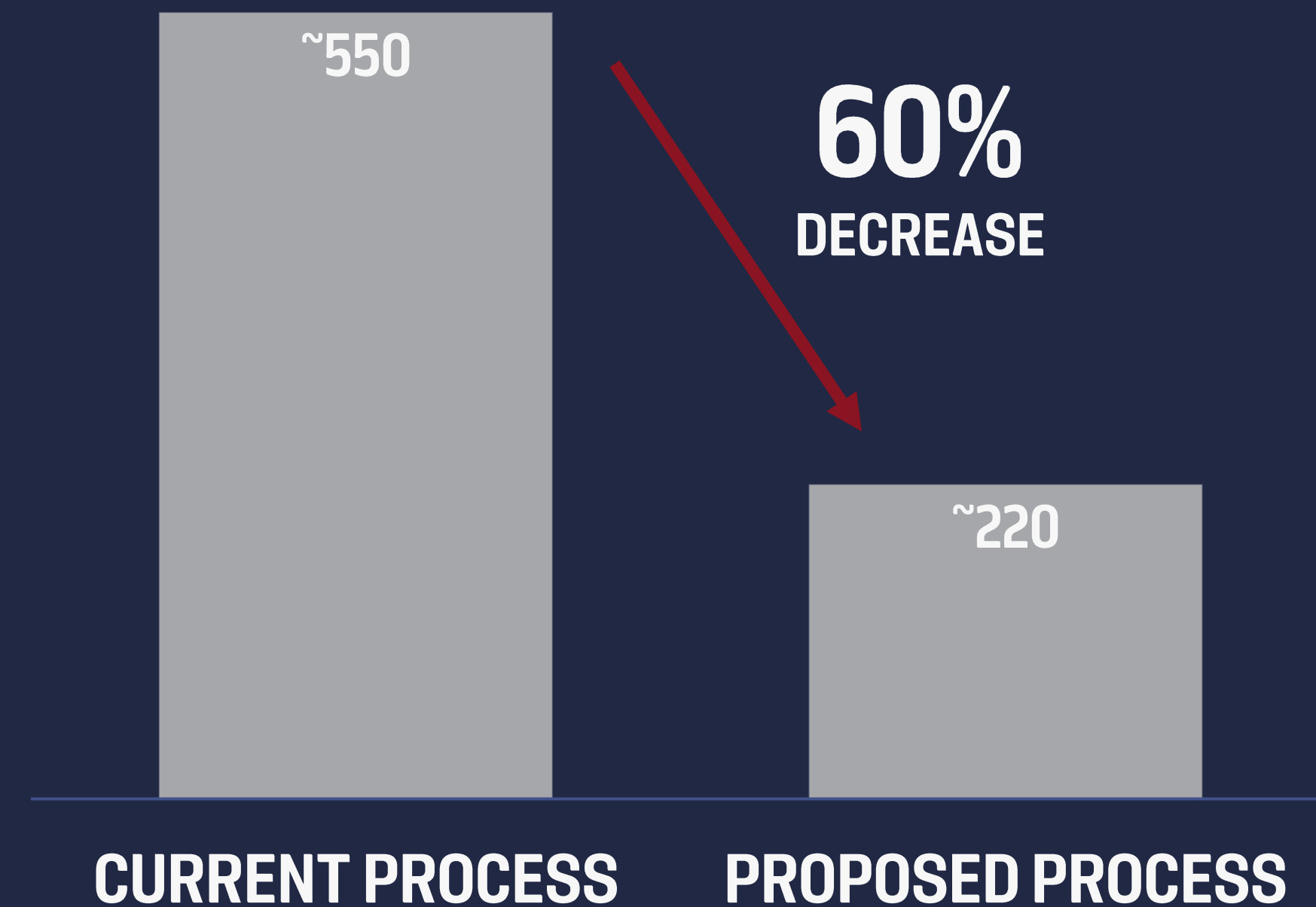


NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION CASE STUDY

DEFINING NCYSA CLUBS



ITC SUBMISSIONS PER YEAR*



APPROXIMATELY 1,000 HOURS OF STATE ASSOCIATION AND CLUB ADMINISTRATIVE HOURS ELIMINATED PER YEAR

*2022-2023 SEASON DATA



ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ITC PROCESS



Development of overview pamphlet stating the purpose of this process and requirement for appropriate documents

Pamphlet to be made available in Spanish, Portuguese, German, & French



Player status / ITC updates previously shared in the Member Newsletter to now be distributed to identified team administrators, as well



Clubs / organizations in compliance with ITC process to be highlighted in U.S. Soccer annual safeguarding report



STEPS NECESSARY TO OPERATIONALIZE NEW ITC PROCESS



FINALIZE PROCESS

Share with RAC Committee for final input and approval

TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS

Complete successful improvements of player status technology platform

DEVELOP COMMS PLAN

Develop stakeholder communication plan, including an overview pamphlet for distribution

UPDATE WEBSITE

Update Player Status portion of website, including improved FAQs

IDENTIFY CLUBS

Work with members to identify their 'Pathway' clubs and then publish complete list

MODERNIZE TECHNOLOGY

Define SLAs for ITC turnaround times and develop self-service status page for better customer service



APPENDIX



BENEFITS OF ITC PROCESS COMPLIANCE WHEN NOT MANDATED BY U.S. SOCCER

AGE 9 OR YOUNGER



- P10 clearance application only requires one proof of age document, fewer documents than needed for applications during ages 10-17
- If player is later recruited by a club with professional affiliation, they will not need to complete the ITC process again

AGE 10 TO 17



- Player can proactively complete ITC process while continuing to play
- A player without an ITC would not receive a FIFA player passport and their club would not be able to collect training compensation
- If a player transfers to a club with an affiliation to a professional club, said player will not be eligible to play until ITC process is completed
- Clubs avoids any FIFA sanctions (e.g., probation, fines, suspensions, etc.)



FIFA MINOR EXCEPTIONS

| FIFA EXCEPTION | APPLICATION CRITERIA |
|---|--|
| 5 Year Exception | Exception: Art. 19 pars 3 and 4 of the RSTP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Player is registering for the first time• And has lived continuously for the last five years in the country of intended registration prior to this request |
| 50 km Exception | Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both the player's residence and the new club are within 50 km of their common border and the distance between the two is no greater than 100 km |
| Parents Move Exception | Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The player's parents have moved to the country where the player wants to register for reasons not linked to football• Includes United States citizens returning to the U.S. after studying abroad and/or playing abroad with an affiliated* club/league at any level.• (*Meaning affiliated to the foreign Federation as members are affiliated to USSF) |
| Exchange Student Exception | Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 e) of the RSTP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The player is moving temporarily without their parent(s) for academic reasons in order to undertake an exchange program• Duration of the player's registration will not exceed one year• Registering U.S. club is purely amateur and has no pro affiliation |
| Humanitarian Exception (Accompanied) | Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The player is moving due to humanitarian reasons with their parent(s) and could not be expected to return to their country of origin |
| Humanitarian Exception (Unaccompanied) | Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 d) of the RSTP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The player is moving due to humanitarian reasons without their parent(s) and could not be expected to return to their country of origin |