



# UISA Super8 League Best Practices

## **Core philosophy / values:**

All players shall be encouraged to develop, following the LTPD model of BC Soccer.

We acknowledge that players develop at different ages. Our league will strive to allow the late-developing player to mature on all four pillars of the game into the player they can be. We discourage cutting players who may be a diamond in the rough.

Coach development is an important component of creating the best support for player development, and will be promoted and supported by UISA and its member clubs.

## **Team formation:**

Team formation should be player-centered, with an eye to creating a cohort that can form a team at later ages.

Clubs must balance the standards of rep play with the challenge of developing players, which requires opportunities at all levels and a strong house program – clubs should avoid a mindset of limiting numbers.

Clubs will decide how to organize their teams. Clubs are encouraged to mix ages in order to maximize participation.

## **Squad-based ideals:**

Coaches should look for opportunities to develop all your players, using equal-ability players against similar level competition.

Coaches shall ensure all players present at the start of the game shall play at least 50% of any game. Playing time for players with outstanding discipline issues will be adjusted accordingly. Parents with concerns about playing time should address them first with the coach, then with the club if needed and finally with UISA if needed.

Coaches should adjust squad playing time or position based on the caliber of your opposition. Know your players well and play them in positions they may not be comfortable.

Coaches are encouraged to draw on younger ages or house players and permit high-potential players.

### **League organization and scheduling:**

Competition shall be development-based, not age-based.

UISA will strive to give teams the best playing experience by scheduling based on caliber.

Super 8 teams will start the season by playing a “seeding” round, which will last approximately 5 weekends.

After the seeding round, teams will be streamed into at least two pools for more competitive play. Pools may be adjusted after the winter holiday break, to take into account team development over the course of the first part of the season.

### **Commitment to league play:**

All players, player families, spectators, league officials and team officials are expected to respect league play, abide by the rules and regulations and conduct themselves in accordance with district and club codes of conduct.

All games have value, regardless of whether standings are kept.

All players, player families, and team officials are expected to commit to fulfilling their league game obligations, including all away games. Players and player families are expected to keep team officials informed well in advance of any issues that may affect their attendance.