



Development Team Policy

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- To allow players to develop skills at a higher level, and to experience personal growth both mentally and physically.
- To encourage players to be mentors and examples to other players in our club
- To develop coaches by ensuring they can attend workshops and Clinics.
- To improve the overall level of soccer in the community by supporting and developing players and coaches for future years.
- To promote good sportsmanship and always emphasize fair play

Recreational Participation

- Participation in the recreational spring and fall sessions and all associated tournaments is required by all development team players.
- Development teams may not select or register for optional tournaments that would conflict with the spring or fall recreational sessions
- Exceptions may be considered by the Board upon request

Team Formation/Age Groups

- For teams to operate, they must have a minimum number of registrants based on the age group as defined in the BC Soccer Small Sided Development policy.
 - Eg. U10 – 7v7. Must have minimum 7 players registered. U11/12 – 8v8 – minimum 8 players registered, etc.
- If there are insufficient registrants, every effort will be made by the Club to advertise, outreach and seek additional registrants.
- Play-ups may be considered to address registration shortfalls.
- At the discretion of the Board, teams not able to meet minimum registration numbers may not be permitted to form or operate.
- Registrations will be capped at two times the age group as defined above, minus one. Eg. U10 capped at 13 players. Exceptions to the cap at discretion of ED with Coach support.
- If registrations exceed the cap, preference will be given to previous year's registrants.
- As recommended by the ED and at the discretion of the Board, player tryouts may be considered where registration interest is high, and multiple teams cannot be formed.



Fees

- Fee structure is determined and approved annually by the Board.
- Fee structure will include recreational spring and fall fees, weekly practices as defined on yearly program calendar, and a number of paid tournaments as approved by the Board.
- Additional inclusions such as kits will be determined as part of the fee structure approval.

Playing Up

- A Play-Up is defined as a player from a younger age category playing in an older age category for the entire season.
- Considerations for Play-Ups will be player evaluations and specific team needs.
- Play-ups will be determined in line with BC Soccer and Canada Soccer player profiles.
- Final approval and decisions will be made by the ED.

Tournaments

- Teams and players must participate in the paid tournaments as defined in the approved annual fee structure.
- The tournaments are determined by the Club leadership and approved by the Board annually.
- Extra optional tournaments may be proposed by the team coaches, managers and parents if they do not conflict with recreational leagues. Teams must fundraise to cover all optional tournament costs. Optionally, additional player fees may be charged if enough parents agree to participate.

Coaches

- Coaches are volunteers and each team is required to have at least one volunteer coach to operate.
- Coaches are approved by the ED and selected based on their technical qualifications, coaching experience, leadership qualities, availability, commitment and willingness to travel to tournaments.
- If no player parent volunteers to coach, the Club will make every effort to recruit a volunteer Coach from outside the team.

- At the discretion of the Board, the Club may utilize a contract Coach temporarily if a volunteer coach is not available.
- Teams that cannot fill a volunteer coach position may, at Board discretion, be disbanded. The Board will determine if a fee refund is appropriate.
- Volunteer coaches who are not the parent of a player may optionally be paid a stipend to be set by the Board, for each tournament attended, to defray their travel and accommodation costs. Stipends will be paid after each tournament and are funded through player fees.
- As part of annual compensation review, the Board may approve a coach honorarium for development team volunteer coaches that consists of a player fee discount.
- Coach certifications (i.e. C Level, B Level) will be supported when grant funding is available.

Managers

- It is recommended that every development team has a volunteer parent team manager.
- Managers are a liaison to player parents and the club, support organizing friendlies and coordinating tournament travel for their team. Managers, with coaches may identify extra tournaments and with support of parents, fundraise or seek sponsorships to cover tournament fees.

Development Team Committee

- Coaches and team managers are required to participate in a Development Team Committee.
- The Committee should meet at least quarterly and will be facilitated by the Executive Director.
- The Committee is advisory to the Board and may recommend changes to required tournaments or policies.