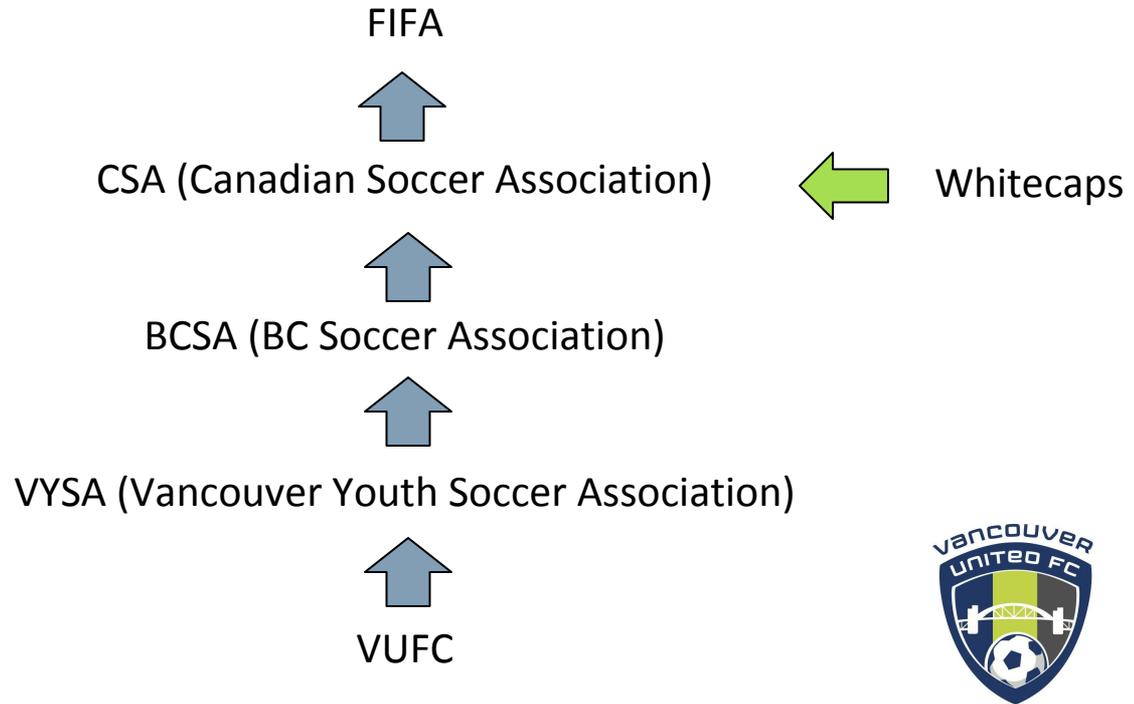


VUFC Evaluations for incoming U11 players for the 2017-18 season

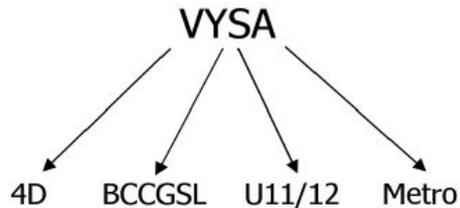
February 6, 2017



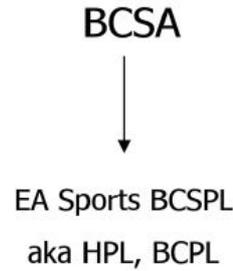
Local soccer governing structure



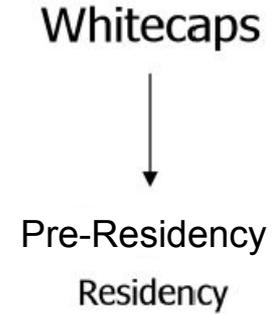
Local U13-18 league structure



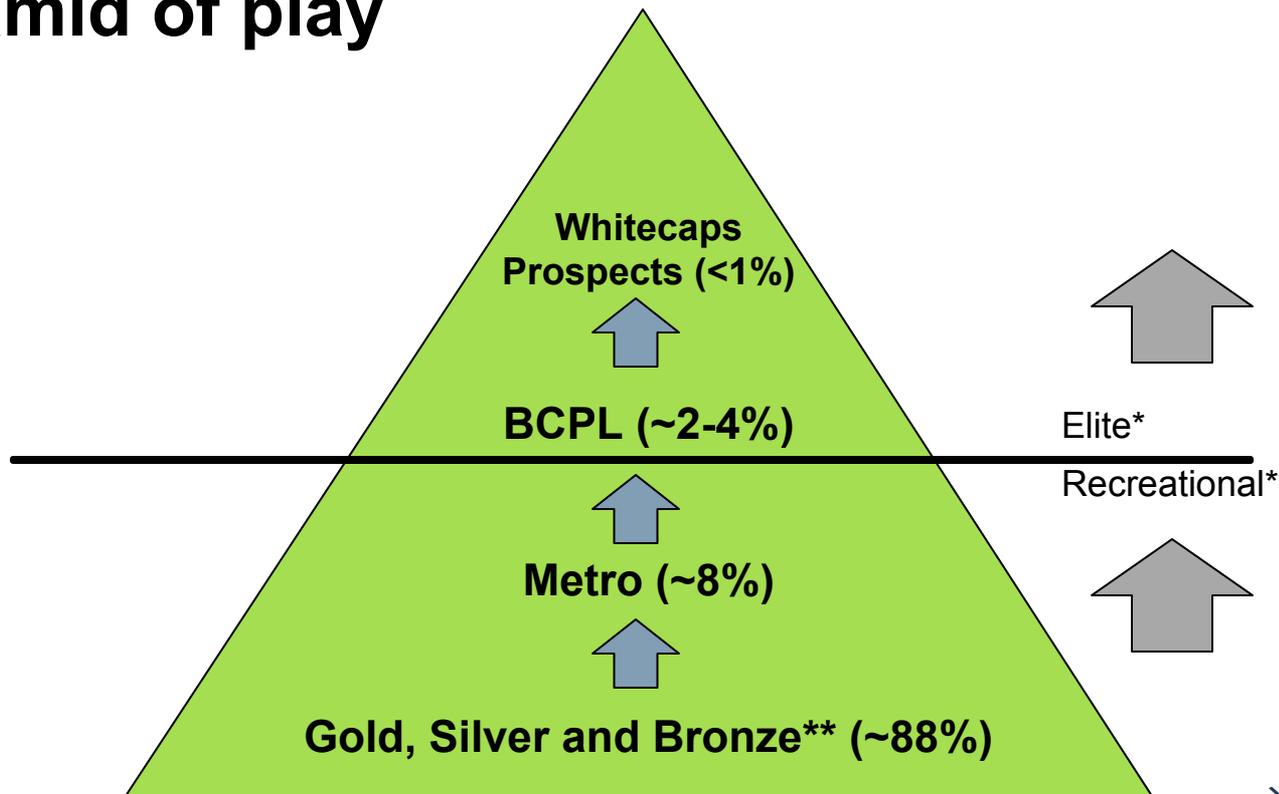
VYSA is the District organization that oversees soccer in Vancouver. It liaises between the clubs and BCSA.



BCSA is the governing body for soccer in BC



Pyramid of play



**As defined by BCSA*

***Typically at VUFC, 15-25% play gold, 35-40% silver and 40-55% bronze; skews more to silver and bronze at U11 and U12*



U11-12 divisions, leagues, formats by age

Age Group	Division	League	Governing Body	Game Format
U11 Boys	Gold	4 District League	4 District	8 a-side
	Silver	VYSA League	VYSA	
	Bronze			
U11 Girls	Gold	VYSA League - teams from Vancouver, West Van & Burnaby participate in Gold and Silver A	VYSA	8 a-side
	Recreational/Silver			
U12 Boys	Gold 1, 2	4 District League	4 Districts Board of Directors	8 a-side
	Silver 1, 2			
	Bronze 1, 2			
U12 Girls	Div 1A, 1B	BC Coastal Girls Soccer League	BCCGSL Board of Directors	8 a-side



Leagues by age

Age Group	Division	League	Governing Body	Game Format
U11 Boys	Gold	4 District League	4 District	8 a-side
	Silver	VYSA League	VYSA	
	Bronze			
U11 Girls	Gold	VYSA League- teams from	VYSA	8 a-side
	Silver A and B			
U12-18 Boys	Gold 1, 2	4 District League	4 Districts Board of	8 a-side
	Silver 1, 2			
	Bronze 1, 2			
U12 Girls	Div 1A, 1B	BC Coastal Girls Soccer Le	BCCGSL Board of	8 a-side
	Silver A and B	VYSA League- teams from	VYSA	8 a-side
U13-18 Boys	Gold 1, 2	4 District League	4 Districts Board of	11 a-side
	Silver 1, 2			
	Bronze 1, 2			
U13-18 Girls	Div 1, 2 & 3	BC Coastal Girls Soccer Le	BCCGSL Board of	11 a-side



Guiding principles of VUFC Evaluations

- Objective
- Transparent
- BCSA and LTPD compliant
- Checks and balances
- Season long



Objective of VUFC Evaluations

- Goal of our Evaluations is to ensure all our players are put on teams that are suitable for their current level of play.
- Increases likelihood of a positive playing and training experience and thus continued play with the club.
- By then putting them in the right division we facilitate appropriate level of competition
- Reduce attrition, keeps kids playing



Structure of VUFC Evaluations

Phase 1:

VUFC staff coach reports on players

Phase 2:

Team coach Player Assessment Reports at end of season

Phase 3:

On field, end of season evaluation sessions scored by independent evaluators

Phase 4:

Opinion and notes of incoming coaches to be used with all other available data at a team formation meeting led by senior staff coaches

Team rosters are posted online at the conclusion of this process.



New for this year

- Coach Selection criteria more closely reflects club motto of Game, Club, Community
- Players moving to Vancouver after Phase 4 are considered only after they have received International Transfer Clearance
- Ideal roster sizes added

All these changes are in the Evaluation Policies and, as always, in the interests of transparency, any changes to the Policies are separated and noted at the start of the document



Phase 3: where do players start?

- For U11 Evaluations, you request to be considered for a level of play
- Those requests are evaluated by cross-referencing Phase 1 & 2 scores
- Invites are sent to those that a reasonable chance of making the level requested.
- Those not invited are given the opportunity to come to an extra session that precedes the Gold or Silver sessions if they feel strongly they should still be considered
- Players that show well at that session will be invited to the Gold or Silver session they requested
- Keep in mind that in recent years, about half our players play on bronze teams at U11



Myths of VUFC Evaluations 😊

"The 'tryouts' are a sham. The teams are picked beforehand."

- The reality is that because we are evaluating players throughout the season we do know where a fair number of the players will end up next year. That's the job of the staff coaches.
- This is a far better system than relying on two sessions at the end of the season where players could totally under or over-perform.

"You have to go to the Academy to have a chance of making the gold team"

- Any extra training is beneficial. Training with good coaches with players of a similar ability is even better.
- We do use Academy sessions as one of our Evaluation tools.
- As an assessment tool this can help us determine that gold may not be the appropriate level for some players.

"Coach's kids always get onto higher level teams than they deserve"

- Players are always placed where they belong and then coaching decisions are made afterwards.
- No one at this club want to see a player put in way over their head simply because we either need a coach for a team or because the coach is well known to us.



Myths of VUFC Evaluations, p.2

“All that matters is how you do at the on field "tryouts" (Phase 3)”

- One of the primary goals of this presentation is to make it clear that this is clearly not the case.
- We believe season-long evaluations and a variety of voices give us the best chance to place players at the level they will enjoy and develop at most.
- All four phases are valued. Phase 3 scores are not valued more than info from the other phases.

“They only pick the big, fast kids”

- This used to be more the case but coaching has evolved and a quick look at our higher level teams will clearly illustrate that players are picked on a variety of abilities with physical abilities nearer the bottom of the list than the top as those physical differences mitigate as kids go through puberty.

“If you don't make gold the first year, there's no chance making gold after that”

- Reality is that turnover between gold and silver teams between U11 and U12 is consistently around 20%; rarely less than 15%.



Coach selection for U11 teams

- Coaches will be given a link to an online application
- Selection will be by staff coaches led by TD
- Where there is competition we may require meetings with prospective coaches
- U11 and U12 gold are the levels we see the majority of discipline problems with our coaches and parents but notably not the players



U11/12 Friday Plus program

- No additional cost or additional training times
- Teams that want to participate agree to train on Fridays
- Staff coach works with them collectively every week; double the normal support given to teams
- Age and level appropriate session plans provided to coaches ahead of time



U11 Gold Plus program

- Mandatory spring component; training once per week plus regular games against other top clubs and Umbro Challenge Cup on May long weekend in White Rock
- Automatic enrollment in Academy on Mondays thru fall and winter (cost added to registration fees)
- Staff coach works with them at most training sessions either directly, collectively or to give feedback to parent coaches running the session
- Attend and lead coaching at home games
- Total commitment in-season is 3x per week plus game



Things to consider when requesting a level of play

- Level of play (desire to play at highest level)
- Coaching (desire to have quality coaching)
- Personal enjoyment (ensuring soccer experience is fun)
- Opportunity to travel (tournaments, development trips)
- Opportunity to be considered for representative teams (Province, National)
- Ability to play with friends (social considerations)

Family considerations:

- Time commitment (ability to play other sports or family activities)
- Financial commitment (higher levels generally more expensive)



Important considerations

Some of the previous questions need to be answered from an adult perspective but for others the only perspective that's important is the player's. Recognize which is which.

Important question: How will my son/daughter handle it if they tryout and don't make the team?

Equally important question: How will my son/daughter handle it if they tryout and they do make the team?



Perspective...

“Those of us who are involved in youth development or in soccer academies, must bear in mind that, of the 16-year-olds who sign a professional contract, 85% are out of the professional game by the age of 21.”

*Higgins, T. Laying the foundations.
The Technician - UEFA (Jan. 2007)*

- 2004: Barcelona pay 250 000 Euros for 12-year-old Dennis Krol from Bayer Leverkusen youth team and pay his father €7,000 a month
- He's 23 now, prime age for professional players
- He's playing amateur soccer in Germany

- Whitecaps entered MLS in 2011
- Number of Vancouver area developed players that have played for them: 1 (45 minutes)



Questions?

