

# **VUFC Evaluations for incoming U11 players for the 2021-22 season**



# Perspective...

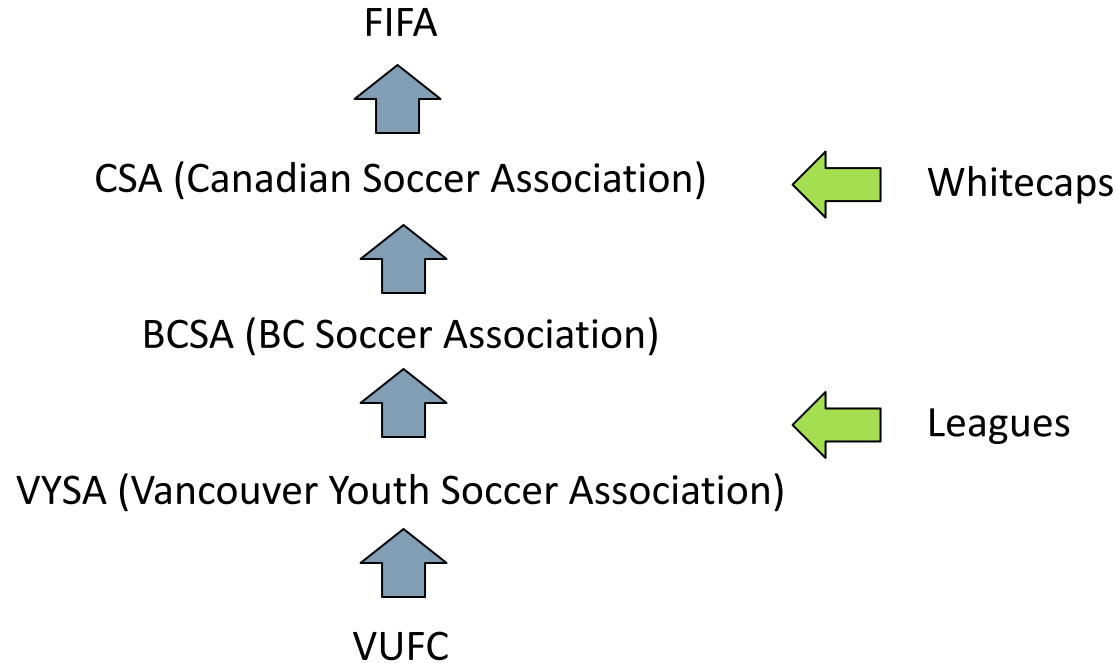
“Those of us who are involved in youth development or in soccer academies, must bear in mind that, of the 16-year-olds who sign a professional contract, 85% are out of the professional game by the age of 21.”

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



# Local soccer governing structure



# \*League structure

## Elite

Whitecaps MLS and  
pre-MLS Academy  
(boys) & REX (girls)



BC Soccer HPP



BC SPL

## Grassroots / Recreational

Vancouver "Clubs" (eg. VUFC)



VYSA (the "District")



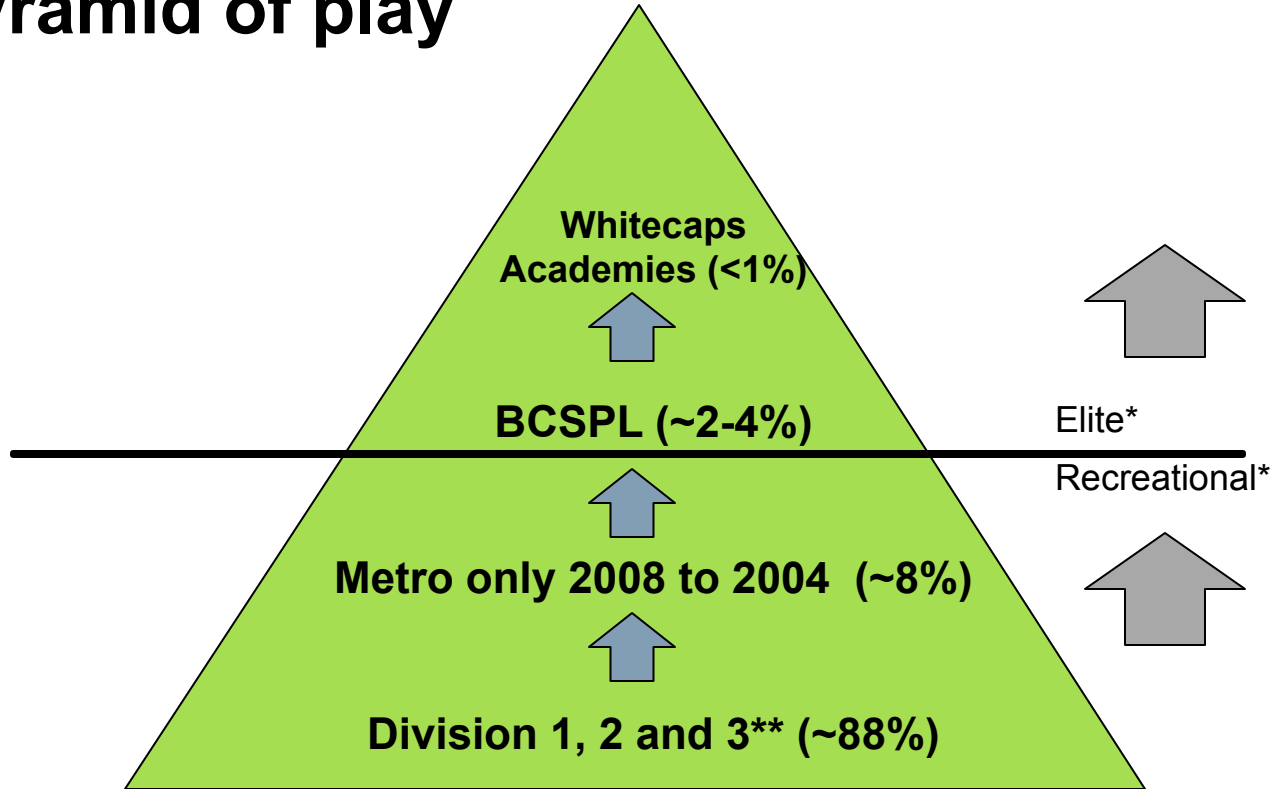
BCCSL (the "League")



Div 1  
Div 2  
Div 3



# Pyramid of play



*\*As defined by BCSA*

*\*\*Typically at VUFC, 15-25% play Div 1, 35-40% Div 2 and 40-55% Div 3;  
skews more to Div 2 and Div 3 at U11 and U12*



# \*Leagues by age

Age Group	Division	League	Governing Body	Game Format
U11 & U12 Boys	Div 1	BCCSL	BCCSL	8 a side
	Div 2			
	Div 3	VYSA	TBD	
U11 & U12 Girls	Div 1	BCCSL	BCCSL	8 a side
	Div 2			
	Div 3	VYSA	VYSA	
U13-18 Boys	*BCSPL 2008/2009	BCSPL/BCCSL	BCSPL/BCCSL	11 a side
	*Metro(U14-18 only)			
	Div 1			
	Div 2			
	Div 3			
U13-18 Girls	*BCSPL 2008/2009	BCSPL/BCCSL	BCSPL/BCCSL	11 a side
	*Metro(U14-18only)			
	Div 1			
	Div 2			
	Div 3			



# 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

1. We are considering a player pool selection of 40-44 Boys and 20-24 Girls for VanU Plus Division 1 teams. The players will be assigned along with volunteer coaches candidates in late April when we have a better idea of balanced teams through play. (There may be a possibility that we complete the process in late March or early April)
2. Once coaches are selected for our teams they will have substantial input on the number of players on their team but the club, via the TD will have final say on roster sizes both at the Team Formation Meetings and then through the spring/summer and into the regular season.
3. Players arriving into Vancouver once teams have been selected will be placed to the best of our ability. For most age groups and levels this will likely mean this will not happen until either close to the start of the season or once the season has started. There will be no rebate on registration fees, including any 'Early Bird' options, for players placed on teams on or before September 30 due to the considerable amount of work by both administrative and technical staff to individually assess, place and register players once teams affiliation forms have gone into the District.
4. No player requiring an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) will be registered, assessed or placed on a team until the family has completed the process and provided the approved form to the VUFC Registrar. Note that VUFC has no role in this process and families have full responsibility for its completion. We have posted information on the ITC here:  
<https://vancouverunitedfc.com/en-ca/vancouver-united-home/registration/international-transfer-certificate>
5. BCCSL has now eliminated the Metro Division and has gone to a Division 1, 2 & 3 structure. To be eligible to participate in Division 1 your Club needs to have it's BC Soccer Charter membership in good standing. All Metro teams 2008 to 2004 will be grandfathered and continue to play in that Division until they graduate through U18.



# COVID-19: Phase 3 & 4 Evaluation Contingency Plan

In the event that we are unable to offer Phase 3 On field evaluations, the following process will apply when completing Phase 4.

- Phase 1 & 2 scores
- Academy and VTS coaches notes
- Skill Centre coaches notes
- TD, Technical Lead & Technical team discussions
- TD, Technical Team & Volunteer coaches discussion
- Ability to challenge selection process (for example: new players, players with not enough data from Phase 1 & 2 that feel they need to be reevaluated. Be advised that those players may not be able to be evaluated until September.
- In the event we are not able to run Phase 3 as scheduled, we encourage those from other clubs who want to join VanU to register for Evaluations so we know how many players outside the club are interested and can form teams knowing we may need to save places. We will then evaluate those players when allowed

# Role of parents

- Read the information provided by the club on our website. Follow instructions provided.
- Register for Phase 3 well in advance.
- Do not believe or start rumours. If you hear rumours inform people to check info against published VUFC info
- Perspective: this is not the start of a professional career or the end of the world
- Remain civilized. Kids' sports do strange things to adults



# Phase 3: where do players start?

- For U11 Evaluations, you request to be considered for a level of play when you register for the Phase 3 evaluations
- 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 Div 1 or Div 2 sessions if they feel strongly they should still be considered
- Players that show well at that session will be invited to the Div 1 or 2 session they requested
- Keep in mind that in recent years, about half our players play on Div 3 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 Div 1 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 Div 1 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 Div 1 the first year, there's no chance making Div 1 after that”***

- Reality is that turnover between Div 1 and Div 2 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
- All coaches must have a valid Criminal Record Check (CRC)
- All coaches require the CSA Community Stream Course appropriate age/stage certification
- Selection will be by Technical Leads and led by TD
- Where there is competition we may require meetings with prospective coaches
- U11 and U12 Div 1 are the levels we see the majority of discipline problems with our coaches and parents but notably not the players





# U11 Friday + team training 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 VanU Plus Program

- \*U11 VanU Plus program is for Division 1 players only
- Mandatory spring component; training once per week plus regular games against other top clubs and options to play in tournaments and/or Cascadia Soccer League
- Automatic enrollment in Whitecaps/VanU Academy on Mondays & Thursdays 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
- 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)



# Training commitment for each level

## **VanU Plus teams - Division 1**

- 3x training plus 1 game per week = VanU Academy run by senior staff and assisted by volunteer coach. Whitecaps run session and 1 volunteer run and senior staff assisted session.

## **Division 2**

- 1 training and 1 game per week with their volunteer coach. Ability to join academy on Monday nights as well as an option for teams to add additional day of training if desired. Friday Plus option available.

## **Division 3**

- 1 training and 1 game per week with their volunteer coach. Ability to join academy on Monday nights as well as an option for teams to add additional day of training if desired. Friday Plus option available.

# More perspective

- This is a sport for later developers; post-pubescent
- German and French federations have found very little to no correlation between success at younger ages and playing elite adult soccer
- We have players who were the best at U10 now playing 4th tier at U16
- We've had U12 Div 3 players move on to Whitecaps Prospects
- Four pillars: Technical, tactical, physical, and psychological/social
  - English FA Talent Identification Manager says their research shows most important is psych/social
- Overwhelmingly, discipline issues at U11 games are adults, not kids



# 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?



**Questions?**

