

## **TRANSITION FROM U11 TO U14: 8 V 8 TO 11 A SIDE AND HOUSE TEAMS TO METRO SOCCER**

### **General Soccer Information**

There are several levels of soccer played in British Columbia. From top to bottom, the levels are as follows:

- Professional Team: Vancouver Whitecaps
- Provincial Teams: U13 to U16
- Super Y-League Teams: U13 to U16
- Metro Soccer: U14 to U18
- Club Teams: U6 to U18 (i.e. Cliff Avenue United FC)

At each level, the teams are governed and run by different organizations. Club teams are governed by their respective Club from U6 to U10. From U11 to U18, Club teams are governed by various Districts.

For boys' soccer, the policies and procedures are governed by the Burnaby District (made up of all Burnaby Clubs) and the 4 District, made up of Clubs from Vancouver, Richmond, North Shore and Burnaby.

For girls' soccer, the policies and procedures are governed by the North District (made up of Burnaby, Coquitlam, Pt. Moody, Pt. Coquitlam and New Westminster Clubs) and further by the 5 District. The 5 District includes Clubs from the North District as well as Clubs from Vancouver/Richmond, North Shore and South District.

Generally speaking, the game changes as follows:

- mini soccer at U6 - U10 (up to 6 v 6, various field sizes)
- intermediate at U11 and U12 (8 v 8,  $\frac{3}{4}$  field size)
- youth from U13 and up (11 a side-full field)

The Club teams and Metro soccer play their season from September to March. The Provincial and Y-League season begins in the spring and runs through the summer.

The transition from U11 to U14 is important to note, given that all the various Clubs and Districts noted above are involved in the game structure, level of play and different programming.

### **Boys Soccer**

At the Club level, play is moved from a House program at U10, to a partially tiered program at U11, and the first season of 8 v 8 soccer. At U11, the boy teams are tiered into two levels: A & B. At U12, Boys are tiered into three levels: Gold, Silver and Bronze. However there are two subgroups at Gold and 3 subgroups at Silver and Bronze level. In effect, there are eight levels: Division 1 to 8 called Gold 1, Gold 2, Silver 1, Silver 2, Silver 3 Bronze 1, Bronze 2 and Bronze 3.

### **Girls Soccer**

At the Club level, play is moved from a House program at U10, to a partially tiered program at U11, and the first season of 8 v 8 soccer. At U11, the girl teams are tiered into two levels: Select and House. At U12, girls are tiered into two groups: Select and House. At House and Select, they tier into two to three levels at each group depending on the number of girl teams. At U13, the girl teams are tiered into Gold and Silver with two to three levels at each age group, again depending on the number of teams. Effectively there are up to six divisions for girls' soccer beginning at U12.

## **Movement of Players between Teams and Levels**

There tends to be significant movement of players onto different teams and to different levels from U11 to U14. These movements are due to changes in play such as:

- 8 v. 8 and full 11-a-side format
- Tiering to Select;
- Tiering to Gold Silver and Bronze;
- Tiering to Metro, Gold, Silver and Bronze

Do not be discouraged if your son or daughter does not make the level of play you anticipate. As players move from U12 to U13 and U14, the number of players per team increases from 12-13 at 8 a side, to 15 to 18 players at 11 a side.

At U14, an additional level of play (Metro) comes into effect. Again, there is further movement of players as there may be 2 to 4 players from 4 or 5 top Gold teams moving to form one Metro team. The trickle down effect is that the top players from the level below may in fact move up a level of play.

Another way of looking at this is that at U12 and U13 the highest level of play will be the Gold level. With the full field and 11-a-side change at U13, several players that are not placed on the Gold 1 team at U12 may be selected at the Gold 1 level at U13. This in turn will result in player movement throughout the levels (Bronze through to Silver and Gold). Further player movement may occur between U13 and U14 when the next level of play (Metro) is introduced. Again, this means that players not on a Gold team at U13 may move to a Gold level at U14.

The Provincial teams and the Y-League teams are run in the spring and are made up of the best players from Metro and Gold soccer. These leagues are run by BC Soccer and The Vancouver Whitecaps respectively. At each higher level of play, there are fewer teams. Therefore, as you move up the ranks, the competition level increases as well as the commitment expectations of your son or daughter.

### **Club Teams evaluation/placement process:**

At Cliff Avenue United FC, an evaluation process takes place every spring for U11 to U18 players. The evaluation process is run by coaching volunteers but assessments are conducted by professional evaluators and, in our case, by our Technical Director and professionally paid coaches.

The evaluation of the player is only one part of the selection process. This only marks the technical ability of the player. Once the evaluation is completed, input is provided by the prior year's coaches to factor in other issues such as:

- level of commitment (selection of soccer as their primary sport)
- level of attendance at practices and games
- request to play at a lower level
- players attitude; willingness to learn and other factors

A child who is selected on a high level team can choose to play at a lower level. However, a child selected on a lower level team cannot choose to play at a higher level.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
When will the placement camps occur?	Typically the evaluation camps begin in early April and run through to early late May or early June. Evaluation dates are posted on the website at <a href="http://www.cliffavenuesoccer.com">www.cliffavenuesoccer.com</a> .
What is the process?	Typically the first session is a series of stations with drills and the following sessions are small sided games. At the each session the players will sign-in and be assigned a numbered colored bib to identify the player.
Is there a cost for the evaluation sessions?	No fee for placement camps. <b>On-line registration</b> is available at <a href="http://www.cliffavenuesoccer.com">www.cliffavenuesoccer.com</a> and you are expected to register once placed on a team, or risk losing your place on that team.
Who is in charge of the evaluation process?	Our technical director along with other Academy and professional coaches will do independent evaluations. Prior year coaches are expected to help run the stations and will provide input to form the teams after the independent evaluation.
What happens if the player misses an evaluation session, or is going to be away?	You must advise the age group coordinator or coaches if your son or daughter cannot attend an evaluation camp.
How and when will the player be advised as to which team they are on?	Each team coach will call to invite players to their team, generally within two weeks after the last session.
Who are the coaches for the age group?	The head coach for each age group is the respective metro or gold coach for that age group. That person, along with the club directors, is responsible for setting up all the teams and ensuring there are enough coaches for each of the teams.
How many levels will there be at each age group?	This depends on registration numbers and the skill level of the players. Generally, the district moves teams to a higher or lower level before Thanksgiving weekend if it is determined that they were initially placed at the wrong level of play.
How many players will be on a team?	The number of players depends on the coach but generally there are 13 players for U11/U12 per team and 16/17 players for U13 to U18.
What happens if my son/daughter doesn't want to play for the team selected?	A child selected to play at a higher level can move to a lower level if they desire. However, a child selected to a lower level team cannot move to a higher level team. At Cliff Avenue we advocate that a committed player play at the highest level possible.
Does my child benefit from loyalty to Cliff Avenue United FC?	Yes. Our coaches are told that when players of equal caliber are assessed to make a team, then players whom have shown loyalty to Cliff Avenue United FC are to be selected before players from other clubs.



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