

VANCOUVER ISLAND WAVE - EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. BC SPL GENERAL INFORMATION

Our U14-U18 male and female teams play in the British Columbia Soccer Premier League (BC SPL).

“The BC Soccer Premier League (BC SPL) is a standards-based development environment for girls and boys aged U14 to U18 and is positioned as the highest level of youth development community soccer within BC. Its purpose is to bring together identified players from the BC Soccer membership in training and game environments that support overall development, as well as provide further opportunities for player identification into higher levels of play including, Provincial Programming, University, League1 BC, Professional, progression into adult community soccer, and ultimately, National teams programming.”

BIRTH YEAR AND SEASON MATRIX

Season	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Birth Year							
2024							
2023							
2022							U6
2021						U6	U7
2020					U6	U7	U8
2019				U6	U7	U8	U9
2018			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2017		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2016	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2015	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2014	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2013	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2012	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2011	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2010	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2009	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2008	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2007	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2006	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2005	U17	U18	U19				
2004	U18	U19					
2003	U19						

Extracted from: <https://www.kansasyouthsoccer.org/birth-year-matrix/>

Historically, BC SPL operated split into 2 phases:

- Phase 2 (Sep to Nov) featuring exhibition matches
- Phase 1 (Feb to May) featuring league matches leading to the playoffs in June (Premier Cup)

The BC SPL season starting September 2025 will no longer feature 2 phases. Thus, BC SPL clubs will play a regular season from September to May, leading to the Premier Cup (playoffs) in June, including a short break in December.

In Vancouver Island, there are two clubs who operate BC SPL: Van Isle Wave and Nanaimo United FC. In the Mainland, there are other 13 clubs, and 1 in the Okanagan area (Okanagan United). For more info, please visit [BC SPL Website](#).

All clubs in the BC SPL are [National Youth Club License](#) holders. “The Canada Soccer National Youth Club Licence recognizes the highest achieving organizations from across Canada and rewards them with the Canada Soccer Approved Youth Soccer Club endorsement and associated MLS Home Grown Player benefits. Organizations achieving this licence display characteristics and demonstrate behaviours aligned with the highest expectations of governance, administration, infrastructure, and technical, support their Member Association and Canada Soccer Pathways and participate in the highest level of competition in Canada; the Canada Soccer Player Development Program”

The BC SPL also operates under the [Player Development Program \(PDP\) Standards](#) created by Canada Soccer. “Canada Soccer’s Player-Development Program features a network of standards-based programs that represent high-level amateur youth soccer in Canada. Participating organisations, both clubs and academies, all meet the requirements for standards-based programming including recognition as an active National Youth Club Licensee.

The new Canada Soccer Player-Development Program Championship strengthens that connection between standards-based programs and showcases their quality of play. Inaugurated in 2024, the competition features clubs from the BC Soccer Premier League, the Alberta Youth Soccer League, the Ontario Player-Development League, and the Québec Youth Soccer Premier League (Première Ligue de Soccer Juvénile du Québec).”



2. VI WAVE EVALUATIONS & ASSESSMENTS & SELECTION OF PLAYERS

BACKGROUND

Historically, the player selection process featured the tryouts system where a large group of players would attend one or more sessions to be evaluated/assessed towards a spot on the team. That has been slowly modified by Canada Soccer/BC Soccer over the past few years.

BC Soccer recently released the [BC Soccer Premier League U14 to U18 Evaluation & Selection](#) manual. This document “was designed in consultation with Canada Soccer, aiming to provide clubs, players, and parents with information on the evaluation and selection of players for the BCSPL within the U14 to U18 age groups.

BC Soccer recognizes that “the identification process can be extremely stressful for young players. This is particularly true if player identification is done through a traditional “tryout”, which provides a relatively limited opportunity to demonstrate the ability to play at the BCSPL level in an unfamiliar and high stress environment. In addition to being stressful on young players, tryouts are also not the most effective way to evaluate players. Evaluating players on an ongoing basis over an extended period, preferably in an environment in which they are comfortable, is a better approach in terms of the effectiveness of the evaluation and in limiting the amount of stress on young players.”

Wherever possible, the BCSPL Evaluation Philosophy and Process shall rely on continuous evaluation of players to determine if they are at the BCSPL level and therefore suitable for selection to a BCSPL team that includes league play. For the clubs lacking this supporting programming infrastructure, a similar suitable evaluation environment should be created. Players should be evaluated within the U13 team or training environments, and without “tryouts” taking place. “Open Tryouts” (or other similarly structured evaluation events) cannot be advertised for BCSPL programs.

Within the BC Soccer membership and for purposes of BCSPL Player Evaluation and Selection, clubs and their registered players are divided into four categories. For these purposes, a player’s U13 club or league team (where they appear on an official team roster) defines where they are officially registered* (BC Soccer registration) and the category into which they would fall below:

Player Categories:

A = Players currently registered with a BCSPL club.

B = Players currently registered with a BCSPL “designated partner club.”**

C = Players currently registered with a club that has no BC SPL affiliation (LISA players)

D= Players currently registered with a BC SPL club or designated partner club who would like to be evaluated for BC SPL participation by a club other than the club at which they are currently registered.

* In the situation where a player is registered in a U13 club but pays for supplemental training outside their club, their U13 team is considered where they are committed to in this period.

** A designated partner's program is where it is clearly stipulated in writing (i.e., on a website) that a partnership exists between two clubs.

THE UPDATED RULES & REGULATIONS AS OF 2025

The old tryouts system where a large group of players would attend one or a couple more sessions to be evaluated/assessed towards a spot on the team are no longer in practice. With that, our club is slowly adjusting to the updated rules & regulations regarding evaluation/assessment/selection of players to our BC SPL teams. We appreciate everyone's patience as we navigate through those changes and work to find the most suitable approach.

The updated BC Soccer Rules & Regulations define that:

1. Evaluations should be a minimum of two (2) weeks in length and include at least six (6) training sessions.
2. U13 Players being evaluated for the upcoming U14 BC SPL season should be evaluated within their U13 team without "tryouts" taking place.
3. "Tryouts" (or other similarly structured evaluation events) cannot be openly advertised for any of the BC SPL age groups (U14 - U18), including social media and website(s).
4. In consideration of the Player and their registered Club, evaluation opportunities in training or matches should be coordinated without or with limited conflict wherever possible.

BC SPL PLAYER IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION PROCESS GUIDELINES (AS PER BC SOCCER)

- A. Category "A" Players are training and playing matches with a BC SPL club and should be evaluated in that environment. A supplemental tryout is not necessary to determine if these players are at the BC SPL level.
- B. Category "B" Players are training and playing matches with a "designated partner club" and can be evaluated in their home environment as a part of the working relationship with the BC SPL club or invited to be evaluated in the BC SPL club training environment to determine if



they are at the BCSPPL level. A tryout is not necessary to determine if these players are at the BCSPPL level.

- C. Category "C" Players may be scouted and observed in their current environment at any time and may be invited to be evaluated for BCSPPL participation as outlined in BC Soccer Rule 21***, with the following requirements:
 - a. Permission to contact players to offer an opportunity for evaluation to join the BCSPPL shall not be unreasonably withheld.
 - b. If the player's current club Technical Director does not comply with the request, the BCSPPL organization may contact BC Soccer for permission to approach the player's parent or guardian or coach/official of the player's current team.
- D. Category "D" Players may participate in the BCSPPL evaluation process with the following restrictions:
 - a. BCSPPL clubs are not permitted to contact a player or parent or guardian of a player who is registered with another BCSPPL club at any time. No attempt to recruit, persuade, or entice players from another BCSPPL club shall be permitted. Recruitment refers to the unsolicited, deliberate, proactive, persuasion or attempted persuasion of a player registered to another organization, with the intention of enticing them to leave their current organization.
 - b. Contact with players registered at other BCSPPL organizations may be initiated by the player's parents or guardians only. Clubs may offer an evaluation opportunity once contact has been initiated.
 - c. If an evaluation opportunity is offered, the club must inform the parent/guardian that the Technical Director of the club at which the player is registered will be informed. The Technical Director of the club offering the evaluation must inform the Technical Director of the club at which the player is registered of the evaluation prior to it occurring.

*** RULE 21 - RULES FOR THE OPERATION OF BC SOCCER STANDARDS BASED LEAGUES

For the purposes of development only, a technical staff member of a club shall be permitted to approach the Technical Director responsible for any other club to request permission to contact players to offer an opportunity for promotion, such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any other contact shall be deemed as poaching as described in Rule 6.

E. Player Invitations to a BC SPL Team Starting September (Beginning of the season)

a. **U14 Age Group**

- i. Clubs can offer an invitation to join a BC SPL team (beginning in September) to players that are currently registered at the U13 Age Group from January 17 to July 18.
- ii. Players (through their parents or guardian) are not required to accept BC SPL roster invitations. Players and their parents/guardians are encouraged to be respectful of the club making the offer of a roster spot as they may be required to offer opportunities to other players on challenging timelines if a response is not provided in a timely manner.
- iii. Responses to all invitations to join BC SPL teams are required within 7 days, unless the player is being evaluated by another club, in which case an extension can be requested for a response. The extension request must include a specific date by which a response will be provided and be tied to the evaluation process in which the player is involved.

b. **U15 to U18 Age Group**

- i. Clubs can offer an Invitation to join a BC SPL team to players that are currently registered in the BC SPL at the U14 to U17 age groups beginning the day after Premier Cup Finals until July 18 annually.
- ii. Clubs can offer an invitation to join a BC SPL team (beginning in September) to players that are currently registered in lower divisions of play at the U14 to U17 age groups from April 1 to July 18.
- iii. Players (through their parents or guardian) are not required to accept BC SPL roster spots. Players and their parents/guardians are encouraged to be respectful of the club making the offer of a roster spot as they may be required to offer opportunities to other players on challenging timelines if a response is not provided in a timely manner.
- iv. Responses to all invitations to join BC SPL teams are required within 7 days of receipt of the invitation, unless the player is being evaluated by another club, in which case an extension can be requested for a response. The extension request must include a specific date by which a response will be provided and be tied to the evaluation process in which the player is involved.



VI WAVE PLAYER IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION PROCESS GUIDELINES

In a nutshell, the evaluation and selection process to play at VI Wave is a long pathway. Players will be evaluated and selected through a combination of scouting at training sessions, games, academy sessions, feedback from club coaches, and feedback from Technical Directors.

Our Coaching Staff will familiarize themselves with players over several months (sometimes more than a year) to make sure that players have been thoroughly evaluated within the environments they are part of. This approach ensures that final selections can be based on a player's performance over the course of the season and recent years.

Along with that, our internal player pathway starts with our Trident Development Program as the entry door for players to get in touch with the Pacific FC / VI Wave methodology they might be playing with in the future. Trident Development Program is a complementary player-focused program designed to elevate players' skills through weekly sessions over the year. This is not a team-based program, so matches are not part of the curriculum other than small sided games.

Note: Being part of the Trident Program does not guarantee a spot in the team.

Please see below the evaluation & selection process for VI Wave teams (based on age group) that will play the BC SPL season 2025-2026 (from August 2025 to June 2026).

1. U14 Age Groups
 - a. For this age group, players would be part of a **training program** that runs for 6-12 months before selecting the team. For instance, the 2012 age groups started their process back in Fall 2024, ending with the team selection by February 2025. Then, the selected team trained and played exhibition matches from April to June, mimicking what a BC SPL season looks like, ahead of their start in September 2024.
2. U15-U18 Age Groups
 - a. For the U15-U18 age groups players (please refer to page 1 of this document for reference) who wish to be assessed by our coaching staff, they must fill out this [online form](#).
 - b. All requests made via the online form will be reviewed by the club's technical leadership. However, not necessarily every player will be invited to be assessed. All requests will receive a formal communication by either our Technical Director or Technical Leads.

- c. By filling out this form, you understand that this is solely to request an individual player observation with the VI Wave Program. You understand that at this time your age group may not have any positions available. This form does not guarantee an invitation to become a VI Wave player whatsoever.
- d. Our coaches are instructed to direct you to fill out this form. You cannot attend any training sessions without filling out this form and formal communication from our technical staff requesting you to do so.
- e. Following BC Soccer Guidelines, after reviewing your responses to this form and in the event our technical staff communicates that you will be assessed, you will be expected to attend either 6 (six) training sessions or 2 weeks **in May 2025** within our BC SPL environment. The technical staff will let you know the date/location/time for those sessions via email.
- f. After the assessment period is finished, our technical staff will have an in-person conversation with the player and parents to communicate any decision made.
- g. Out-of-BC SPL players can receive an invitation, between Jan 17th and July 18th, to join a VI Wave team starting the season in September.
- h. Our club will contact your club's Technical Director to inform them that you requested to be assessed by our club.

