



Information Bulletin

Bulletin #	IB_2022-50
Date	November 14, 2022
To	Full Members and affiliate clubs
CC	BC Soccer Board of Directors and Staff
From	Chris Cerroni, Director of Soccer Development
Subject	BCSPL Age Group Update

BC Soccer makes changes to the entrance and exit age groups of the BCSPL for September 2023 onwards

On an annual basis, BC Soccer through a consultation process gathers formal feedback on the BCSPL, its Rules & Regulations, and technical standards in two ways:

- Through the BCSPL club feedback survey, and
- Through individual club meetings conducted by the BCSPL General Manager.

The purpose of the consultation process is to provide an opportunity for all BCSPL Club Leadership to share feedback on the previous year's BCSPL experience with the intent to support BC Soccer on shaping the BCSPL for following year's implementation and beyond. In addition to the consultation process with the BCSPL clubs, BC Soccer works with Canada Soccer and its Technical Department in further aligning the BCSPL Rules & Regulations (technical standards) with the Canada Soccer Player Development Program standards and/or to meet specific Provincial needs.

From this year's consultation process there were two key outcomes that will impact what the BCSPL will look like from September 2023 and beyond, which include:

1. The New Intake Age Group of the BCSPL will be the U14 Intake (2011 Birth Year) for September 2024
2. The New Exit Age Group of the BCSPL will be the U17 age group (2007 Birth Year) for 2024 onwards

The New Intake Age Group of the BCSPL will be the U14 Intake (2011 Birth Year) for September 2024

In September 2023*, across the province, all U13 age groups will commence 9v9 small side game formats which is aligned with the direction from Canada Soccer. This change impacts the BCSPL as this standards-based level of play is based on 11v11 game formats. Therefore, in September 2023 the U13 Intake age group (2011 Birth Year) will not be participating in the BCSPL. This age group's selection process will be delayed by one year until September 2024 at the U14 Intake age group within the 11v11 game format. The 2011 born players will continue to participate in their regular soccer environment with their club teams utilizing the 9v9 small-sided game format.

*Some leagues in BC already use 9v9 or smaller sided game formats for the U13 age group.

These changes may impact the wider membership with BCSPL Clubs having their U13 age group now remaining within their local inter-district league playing small-sided game formats.

At the top of the next page, a timeline is provided outlining the impact of this change for players born in 2011.

2023

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	U12						U13				
	2011 Birth Year						2011 Birth Year				
	9v9 or below						9v9				
	Local District League						Local District League				

2024

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	U13						U14 (Intake)				
	2011 Birth Year						2011 Birth Year				
	9v9						11v11				
	Local District League						BCSPL				

The New Exit Age Group of the BCSPL will be the U17 age group (2007 Birth Year) for 2024 onwards

Commencing Spring 2024, the U18 age group will be phased out of the BCSPL. The last year of participation will be Phase 1 of 2024 (2006 Birth Year). In 2024 the new exit age group of the BCSPL will be the U17 age group (2007 Birth Year). This means the U17 age group will only play in Phase 1 in 2024 completing their participation with Provincial Championships in June 2024.

The intent of this change is to encourage more progressive players that will now graduate out of the BCSPL at the U17 age group (from 2024 onwards) to transition into adult soccer to aid their development and gain further experience for their U18 age year. This process means that further collaboration between the youth and adult playing environments as well as BC Soccer is something that BC Soccer will be supporting the Adult Leagues on more in the coming years. The overall aim to aid these players transition, which will ideally prepare them better for the Adult Leagues, University/College, League 1BC and beyond.

Below provides a timeline outlining the impact of this change for players born in 2007.

2023

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	U16						U16				
	2007 Birth Year						2007 Birth Year				
	11v11						11v11				
	BCSPL (Phase 1)						BCSPL (Phase 2)				

2024

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	U17						U18*				
	2007 Birth Year						2007 Birth Year				
	11v11						11v11				
	BCSPL (Phase 1)						Youth Division 1 or Adult				

*U18 on the coastal season (Based on school year and not the calendar year).

For further questions, please contact [Chris Cerroni, BC Soccer Director of Soccer Development](#).

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