



**BC SOCCER**

BC Soccer  
Provincial Program

Version 4.0  
January 2024

# Contents

## 1. Introduction

- a. Purpose
- b. Overview

## 2. Provincial Program

- a. Player Selection
- b. Coach Selection
- c. Player Identification Group
- d. Player Development Group
- e. Player & Parent Core Commitments

## 3. Frequently Asked Questions

## 4. Appendix

- a. BC Soccer Technical Resources
- b. Player Uniform
- c. Canadian Sports Institute Athlete Benefits
- d. BC Soccer Staff
- e. Player Progression
- f. Coach Progression

# 1. Introduction

## a. Purpose

The Provincial Program is designed to bring together identified players from the BC Soccer Premier League (BCSPL) and wider membership into training and game environments. In line with Canada Soccer's Long-Term Player Development guidelines, the Provincial Program primarily focuses on the individual player, not the team. The rationale for this is that players develop at different rates, stages, and ages, thus each player experiences a unique development path. In addition to supporting each player's development, the program also aims to create an overall environment that allows scouting opportunities by Universities, Colleges, semi-professional, and professional programming, and ultimately Canada Soccer's youth national teams programming.

## b. Overview

The Provincial Program identifies players in the U14-U18 age groups. There are two phases annually within each calendar year and each phase consists of training sessions, match play, and potential camp/travel activities. At the end of each Phase (December and July), players who have participated in the Development Group receive a BC Soccer Player Progress Report. The Player Progress Report has been designed to support the players in identifying areas of strength and areas to improve upon within their Club activity. The report is also shared with their respective Club Technical Director. A BC Soccer Player Progress Report can be made available upon request to universities and colleges, Semi-Professional Clubs in League 1BC, Professional Clubs in the Canadian Premier League (CPL), Project 8 (2025) Major League Soccer (MLS), and the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), along with Canada Soccer National Programming.

The Program commits to the following four key principles:

1. To promote a Player/Person First Approach.
2. To support Canada Soccer's, Long Term Player Development Principles.
3. To provide a Clear and Recognized Pathway for players to be developed, identified, and supported within.
4. To continually review and enhance all technical services provided to the players within the program.

**Player Participation Cost:** With the effort to minimize the cost of participation, there is only a one-time kit fee for participation in the Development Group component of the program.

## 2. Program

### a. Player Selection

Players are identified and selected for the program through the BC Soccer identification network which includes the following options\*:

1. BC SPL Club recommends players to the BC Soccer's Soccer Development staff.
2. The player is identified in a BC SPL match by a BC Soccer's soccer development staff member.
3. The player is identified in a BC SPL match by a professional youth programming staff member.
4. The player is identified by a Canada Soccer's youth national programming staff member.
5. The player is identified on their prior performance within the BC Soccer Provincial Program.

It is important to note that players may be selected for a game and then not involved in the next game and then may be in a future game or a camp; this is a result of BC Soccer's wider responsibility to provide opportunities for identification for as many players as possible.

\*Players who participate in non-BC SPL playing environments who are interested in being evaluated for potential selection to the BC Soccer Provincial Program must be recommended by the club's/organization's Technical Lead via completing and submitting a Player Recommendation Form.

For more information on this process please contact [lucadallapace@bcsoccer.net](mailto:lucadallapace@bcsoccer.net))

### b. Coach Selection

BC Soccer's soccer development staff lead (Appendix d) the Provincial Program with additional coaches who are either recommended by the BC SPL Club they coach within based on meeting and exceeding BC Soccer's Coach Profile Criteria or an apprentice coach who has been a former player within the program. Final coach selections for the Provincial Program are completed by BC Soccer's Soccer Development staff.

With the intent to provide more opportunities for female coach participation and development within the province, BC Soccer has developed a female coach position whereby candidates who meet the criteria can apply to be involved within our Provincial Program. BC Soccer's goal with this initiative is to empower female coaches while providing them with new skill sets and experiences that can be shared back into the BC Soccer membership.

Lastly, through the BC Soccer Coach Mentorship Program, mentees can shadow Provincial Program staff during activities to complement their developmental experience through the Mentorship program.

For more information on the mentorship program please visit [here](#).

## 2. Provincial Program

The Program includes an Identification Group U14 to U18 and a Development Group U17 to U18. The identification group includes players invited to participate in games throughout the season. These games are used by BC Soccer to identify players for selection and invitation into the development group of the program.

The Development Group is provided with further training, games, and camps/travel to support their overall development. Furthermore, the Development Group players are provided with progression opportunities into university, college, semi-professional, professional and national teams, through identification games and player data sharing.

The chart below provides a visual of this process.

BC Soccer Premier League*	BC Soccer Provincial Program			
	↔	Identification Group	↔	Development Group
U14 to U18  Approx. 2,000 female and male players	Recommendations	U14 to U18  Approx. 160 female and male players	Selections	U17 to U18  Approx. 80 female and male players

### c. Player Identification Group

This group consists of players that have been identified through the program’s player selection process. The Identification Group consists of players who are viewed with the potential to be selected for the Development Group. The identification group includes the U14-15 age group, who are observed for future selection into the U17-U18 Development Group as well as the U16-U18 age group, who are continually observed for potential immediate selection into the Development group (if deemed of the level), noting that the age group is like for like.

An example of our annual identification phase schedule for U14 to U18 age groups is below.

Age Groups	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
U14-U18	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Game 5	Game 6	Game 7	Game 8	Game 9

The ongoing identification program allows players to be observed over a longer period and provides s BC Soccer’s Soccer Development staff, support coaches, and players opportunities to view the player over several performances which will cater to consistency factors.

## 2. Provincial Program

### d. Player Development Group

As previously mentioned from the identification group players are observed and considered for selection to the development group which consists of around 80 female and male players. The players progressing to the development group are then provided with additional services covering, technical, tactical, mental, and physical development. The purpose is to better support the player's overall development, and this is achieved by providing them with the following on-field services:

Activity	Description	Frequency	Hours
Sessions	One session per week (integrated into the BCPSL training schedule) provides players with a 4:1 training-to-game ratio in alignment with CSA LTPD standards.	22	44
Games	Identification games against semi-professional, professional, and other PSOs to provide competition and support the player's progression into higher levels of play.	10	20
Physical Testing	Providing an opportunity to measure the player's physical output across strength, speed, endurance, and power.	2	5
ID Events	The Development Group also participates in the following (but not limited to) Identification Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BC Soccer Provincial Program Identification Weekend</li> <li>Vancouver Whitecaps FC Showcase</li> </ul>	2	8

As well as off-field services such as.

- Players within the development group qualify as provincial development athletes through the Canadian Sports Institute Athlete Benefits program. For more information on the benefits players receive, please see Appendix C.
- Players within the development group will receive Athlete Level 2 UXSA (4 High School Credits)
- A variety of BC Soccer Workshops that cover areas to support player development such as mental, motivational, and awareness workshops to name a few.
- Additional Services for the players to better support them as individual people and not just a player include providing them with educational training in coaching and refereeing, free of charge. For a snapshot of this please see the below.
  - Referee Course\* - Small-Sided Referee Clinics. This clinic is the basics of refereeing and once an individual is successful in passing this clinic, they are classified as a Small Sided Referee and may officiate in any match with players between U6 and U12.
  - Coaching Course\* - Active Start (U6). This is a base entry community course that will give the players the skills and knowledge to provide a fun and safe atmosphere for players U6 and below through informal games. Once completed, players are trained to coach within the BC Soccer Membership for U6 and below.

*\*If available*

Ryan Clark appointed as the BC Soccer Provincial Program University/College Transition Lead also provides off-field support for players transitioning into University and College. Ryan has extensive knowledge in this field and works with the Provincial Program players and families to support their progression into the higher levels of play through ongoing workshops and support meetings.

## 2. Provincial Program

### e. Player & Parent Core Commitments

The player and parent core commitments have been shared to highlight the high standard of expectation that the players and parents hold themselves accountable to.

The 5 player core commitments originated from the 2019 Provincial Program player survey and 2020 Provincial Program introduction workshop and were shared as common themes include:

1. I am Proud to be selected.
2. I am here to take my Opportunity.
3. I will Work Hard every day.
4. I want to Learn and get better.
5. I will Respect my fellow players and coaches.

The 3 parent core commitments originated from the Provincial Program parents and were shared as a common theme recorded from the 2020 Provincial Program introduction workshop including:

1. I will Support my child's development.
2. I will Cheer all the players from the sidelines.
3. I will Respect the coach to do their job.

### **3. Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Does the Program participate in any tournaments?**

*The Provincial Program is more focused on individual player development rather than team-based activity, in each phase, there will be matches against the Whitecaps FC both on the male and female sides and potentially against other visiting Provinces. BC Soccer will also look to explore other identification/competition outlets that may require travel.*

#### **Do players receive feedback?**

*Players within the Development Group will receive a Formal Player Assessment Report at the end of each phase. There may also be opportunities for less formal feedback to players and the group after the analysis of the Provincial Program Activity.*

#### **When does the Provincial Program season take place?**

*The program runs from Sep to Dec and Feb to May. The program intake happens in Aug and Jan, although players can be added at any time throughout the Provincial Program Phases. Players can also be released at any time throughout the program.*

#### **What is the BC Soccer Technical Resources comprised of?**

*Please see Appendix A*

#### **Does the program only select players from the BCSPL?**

*No there is a process for non-BCSPL Players to be assessed and selected for the program. For more information please contact [lucadallapace@bcsoccer.net](mailto:lucadallapace@bcsoccer.net)*

#### **Do WFC Academy/GE REX players who get released automatically get selected into the Provincial Program?**

*We work closely with Whitecaps FC to best support the players who are released from their program. And those players could be selected for the Provincial Program.*

#### **How are the match rosters selected?**

*Players are selected to match rosters based on performance within the training environment, positional specific needs, player's fitness levels, and injuries. Therefore, not all development group players will be selected for games, and for those that are selected equal playing time is not guaranteed within Provincial Program games.*

#### **What financial costs are there for selected players?**

*To minimize the cost of participation to the player, the cost of the program is provided by BC Soccer. There is only a one-time kit fee for participation in the program (see a player uniform in the appendix).*

#### **What are the Canadian Sports Institute Athlete Benefits?**

*For full details please see Appendix C.*

#### **Who are the BC Soccer Coaches?**

*Please see Appendix D for a list of BC Soccer Staff.*

#### **Are there any Female Coaches within the BC Soccer Provincial Program?**

*Yes, BC Soccer has created a Female Development Lead within the Program as well as an opportunity for female coaches to be selected for the program via the specifically created female coach position.*

#### **What happens if a players' club team session is at the same time as the BC Soccer Provincial Program Session?**

*The expectation is for the BCSPL Club TD to support the player's development and involvement in the program by scheduling the player's 3<sup>rd</sup> BCSPL session with the age group above their own (if possible).*



## 5. Appendix

### a. BC Soccer Technical Resources

#### [Player Profile \(U10-U18\)](#)

The Player Profile is composed of the Player as a person as well as the Player, which includes the individual players attacking and defending actions related to the game of soccer. These two combined provide the Player Profile and is paired with the session themes of the curriculum which guides coaches in developing players as well as identifying the player's strengths and their areas for improvement.

#### [Team Profile \(U14-18\)](#)

The Team Profile provides an age-appropriate developmental framework for the season long game environment and is paired with the Curriculum. It identifies the attacking and defending actions for individual players as well as the team. Throughout the season within games, players should be experiencing these actions to aid their overall technical and tactical development.

### b. Player Uniform

Players will receive the following BC Soccer Training Apparel.

Adidas Rain Jacket



Adidas Training Jacket



Adidas Training Jersey/Shorts/Socks/Bag



Players are to wear the BC Soccer Training kit for all Provincial Program Training sessions. Match kit will be provided for the matches, but please make sure to bring the training kit to the matches. (All match kits will be returned after each game).

BCSPL Club Team apparel is NOT permitted to be worn during Provincial Program Activity. Players will require their own footwear, shin pads, goalkeeper gloves, and base layer wear.

## 4. Appendix

### c. Canadian Sports Institute Athlete Benefits

CORE BENEFITS	<p><b>GymWorks™</b> GymWorks™ is a partnership program with local fitness facilities, health clubs, and community centres. This benefit enhances the training environment by providing easy, local, and no-fee access to strength and conditioning centres. As a registered athlete or coach with Canadian Sport Institute / PacificSport, you are eligible to take advantage of the benefits of this partnership.</p>	<p><b>FoodStuff™</b> FoodStuff™ is a community partnership between local restaurants / grocery stores and Canadian Sport Institute / PacificSport. It is in support of Canada's High Performance athletes and coaches. Your Canadian Sport Institute card provides the region's High Performance athletes and coaches with affordable options and the kind of food value they need to reach their goals in representing Canada.</p>	<p><b>Official Supporters</b> Canadian Sport Institute and PacificSport are proud to work with world-class partners who help in advancing High Performance athletes. Throughout the province, there are community partners who offer various benefits and discounts to registered Canadian Sport Institute and PacificSport athletes and coaches.</p>
			

	PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT	CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT	CANADIAN ELITE	PODIUM	COACH	
CORE BENEFITS	Athlete Performance Health Handbook	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Community Supporters	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	FoodStuff™	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	GymWorks™	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Performance Points Subscription	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS	Approved Vitamins / Supplements	✗	✗	✓	✗	
	Athlete Logbook	✓	✓	✓	User Pay	
	Canadian Athlete Insurance Program (CAIP)	User Pay	User Pay	By Application*	By Application*	User Pay
	FliteKit™	User Pay	User Pay	User Pay	User Pay	User Pay
	Field Testing Kit	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
	Grants & Bursaries	By Application*	By Application*	✗	✗	May be available for some programs
	Language Training (Rosetta Stone)	✗	✗	✓	✓	By Application*
	MRI / CT Scans	Discounts	Discounts	Discounts	✓	✗
	Sport Nutrition: Custom Fuel™	Discounts	Discounts	Discounts	Discounts	Discounts
	PERFORMANCE SERVICES	Career Transition / Game Plan				Fee For Service
Medical Services				By Application*	By Application*	OR
Mental Performance				OR	OR	By Application*
Nutrition		Fee For Service	Fee For Service	Performance Service may be delivered through Training Group LOU.	Performance Service may be delivered through Training Group LOU.	OR
Physiology						Performance Service may be delivered through Training Group LOU.
PROGRAMS	Talent Development (Canadian Sport School, IGNITE™, NextGen)	By Application	Eligibility and pre-requisites do apply and vary by program.			Advanced Coaching Diploma / International Coaching School
	Talent Transfer (PODIUM SEARCH™)					
	Sport Education / Events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## 4. Appendix

### d. BC Soccer Staff

The BC Soccer, Soccer Development Staff leads the Program with support from identified coaches within the BC Soccer Membership. Our Program lead coaches include Add Yas below MS; RC under CC)



Luca Dalla Pace

Player Development Senior Coordinator (Provincial Program Lead)

Qualifications: CSA 'A' License & UEFA 'B' Goalkeeping License

Email: [lucadallapace@bcsoccer.net](mailto:lucadallapace@bcsoccer.net)

Telephone: 604.299.6401 Ext. 2351



Chelsey Hannesson

Female Development Lead

Qualifications: CSA 'A' License & CSA Coach Developer



Michael Salmon

Player Development Senior Coordinator

Qualifications: UEFA 'A' License & UEFA 'A' Goalkeeping License



Yasamin Alipour

Player Development Coordinator

Qualifications: CSA 'B' License



Rob Csabai

Manager of Coaching Development

Qualifications: CSA 'A' License & NCCP Master Learning Facilitator



Chris Cerroni

Director of Soccer Development

Qualifications: UEFA 'A' License & UEFA Youth 'A' License



Ryan Clark

BC Soccer Provincial Program University/College Transition Lead

Email: [ryanclark@bcsoccer.net](mailto:ryanclark@bcsoccer.net)

With safety, a priority, all BC Soccer, and Soccer Development staff are criminal record checks, have taken the respect in sport online course, and adhere to the rule of two coaching requirements. For all female sessions and games, a female staff member is present to lead and or support the program. Furthermore, an Athletic Therapist is present for all sessions and games to lead the activation of the players, monitor and treat in-session and in-game injuries as well as provide post-session and game recovery protocol.

## **b. Appendix**

### **e. Player Progression**

Since 2017, the BC Soccer Provincial Program has had over 500 players a year participate in the Program, either as part of the Identification Group or as part of the Development Group. During this time BC has also seen 225 male BC players selected for the Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy as well as 125 female BC players selected for the Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC in partnership with BC Soccer Programming.

Some notable former BC Soccer Provincial Program player standouts have excelled at the international level and various professional levels throughout the soccer world. These include.

#### **Female Players**

In 2022, Emily Wong (Coquitlam Metro Ford SC/Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC) and Keira Martin (Surrey United/Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC) were both part of the Canadian Women's U15 National Team for the Concacaf Championships.

Clare Logan (Fusion FC/Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC), Jeneva Hernandez Gray (Burnaby FC/Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC), Jaime Perrault (Coastal FC/Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC), Ashley Roberts (VI Wave/Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC) and Emily Wong (Coquitlam Metro Ford SC/Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC) all were at the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup with the Canadian Women's U17 National Team in 2022.

Mia Pante (Burnaby FC FC) and Holly Ward (Burnaby FC FC) took part in the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup with the Canadian Women's U20 National Team in 2022.

Logan, Hernandez Gray, and Perrault were also a part of the Canadian Women's U20 National Team that qualified for the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup in 2023.

Julia Grosso (Burnaby FC FC) and Jordyn Huitema (Surrey United) represented Canada at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup as part of the Canadian Women's National Team and played key roles in winning the 2021 Olympic Gold medal in Tokyo, Japan. Hernandez Gray received her first call-up to the Senior Women's National Team in late 2023.

#### **Male Players**

In 2022 Matteo Campagna (Surrey United SC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy), Ben Alexander (Fraser Valley FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy), and Kamron Habibullah (Burnaby FC FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy) were part of the Canadian Men's U20 National Team for the Concacaf Championships. While Patrick Metcalfe (Fusion FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy) represented Canada at the U23 Olympic Qualifying.

2019 also saw the establishment of the Canadian Premier League where there are many former Provincial Program players playing throughout. Notably, Sean Young (Vancouver Island Wave/Pacific FC) & Jake Ruby (Burnaby FC FC/HFX Wanderers) have begun their professional careers in the Canadian Premier League.

Most recently, Anthony White (Coquitlam Metro Ford SC) was drafted by Vancouver FC first overall in the 2022 CPL Draft, and James Cameron (Burnaby FC FC) was signed by the club in 2023.

## 4. Appendix

### f. Coach Progression

Another goal within the BC Soccer Provincial Program is to help identified coaches progress to their next level of competency. The program is led by BC Soccer's soccer development staff and since 2017 there has been 28 Support Staff coaches within the Provincial Program.

Some of the noted coaches that have been with the Provincial Program and have progressed to professional and/or national team roles include.

- Chris Sargent (Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC Head Coach/Canada Women's U17 National Team) and FC Nordajaell,
- Emma Humphries (Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC Head Coach/Director of Women's Football, and Head Coach of the U17 Women's National Team), Jasmine Mander (Canada Women's National Team and U15 Women's National Team Head Coach),
- Adam Day (Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC Coach/Canada Women's National Team)
- Michael Norris (Vancouver Whitecaps FC NDC Head Coach/Canada Women's National Team and Portland Thorns.
- Scott Howey Houston Dynamo MLS Academy.
- Dante Marconato, Nick Dasovic, Nicho Agnoloni, and, Dan Fairhurst (All Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy) with Michael D'Agostino and Brendan Shaw working their way from WFC MLS Academy Coach into the MLS First Team Assistant Coaches.
- Martin Nash (York United), Mark Village (Vancouver FC) & James Merriman (Pacific FC) of the Canadian Professional League, the latter winning the CPL championship in 2021.

Lastly, BC Soccer's Soccer Development staff all support the Canada Soccer National programming through their ongoing identification activity in BC through Canada Soccer Integration Camps. Most notably, Luca Dalla Pace has been a part of the Canada Men's U15/U20 National Team coaching staff.