



VYSA
Mini League Guide
2016-17 Season

VANCOUVER YOUTH SOCCER

MINI LEAGUE GUIDE

2016-17 SEASON

1. Criminal Record Check

All team officials aged 19 and older must complete a Criminal Record Check every 36 months through an agency approved by BCSA and be registered by their club with VYSA. At least one registered team official must be of the same gender as the players on the team.

2. Registration

All players and team officials must be registered with their club at least 24 hours before their first game.

3. Field Preparation and Maintenance

The Home team is responsible for lining the fields in accordance with BCSA measurements. Cones can be used instead of lines. The Home team is also responsible for ensuring that the playing field affords a safe environment. The team should organize a pre-game inspection crew of parents to remove any dangerous objects. *The Home Team is responsible for garbage and litter clean up after the game.* Litter has been a major concern in the past for the Parks and School Boards from whom the fields are leased.

4. Uniforms & Equipment

All players must wear shin pads, regulation soccer boots and full club issue uniforms. The Home team will play in its usual colours unless there is a colour clash with the Visiting team. In that case the Home team will play in its alternate colour or use pinnies. Team officials should discuss this the evening before the game.

Goalkeepers must wear a jersey colour that distinguishes them from all outfield players.

Scarves and baseball caps are not permitted. Shirts must be tucked inside the shorts. If pinnies are worn, they may hang outside of the shorts. Gloves, long track pants, ski toques and undershirts are permitted. If track pants are worn, they are to be worn under the club shorts and socks.

Religious headwear may be worn at games such as turbans, patkas or keskis, although it must be safe and not pose a danger to the wearer or other participants. All jewelry and piercings must be removed. The only exception is for Medic Alert and religious bracelets but they must be totally covered by tape so as not to cause injury to the player or anyone else. All items of clothing are subject to the inspection by game official.

5. Schedule

A schedule will be forwarded to the clubs as soon as possible after teams are confirmed. There is no tiering of teams based on results. Games are played on Saturdays rain or shine. The home team is always the one listed on the left side of the schedule.

It is compulsory for the "Home" team coach to phone the opposing coach the day before the game to confirm:

- Both teams have sufficient numbers;
- The kick-off time is as per the schedule;
- The visiting coach knows directions to the field;
- Alternative arrangements are made if necessitated by weather and field conditions;
- Postponement discussions are held if weather conditions are extremely adverse;
- There will not be a uniform colour clash;
- Adjustments to be made in the case of uneven teams (see paragraph 11);
- Both teams have the same understanding of the BCSA Official Playing Rules specific to their age group;

6. Not Enough Players

In the event of a team not having enough players at game time, team officials may agree to mix their teams together to have a friendly. Players not registered to either of the two scheduled teams may not participate and these types of games on league days may not be arranged in advance.

7. Punctuality

Kick off times MUST be followed as per the schedule. Failure to do so results in games backing up and possible delays. Games cannot be rescheduled. It is recommended that *players arrive at the field, in full uniform, no later than 30 minutes before kick-off.*

Regardless of how late a game starts, it must be ended on time so that the next match can start as per the schedule.

8. Referees

Each Club's referee scheduler assigns a referee for all HOME GAMES based on the internal procedure used by each Club. In the event there is a change of venue or the game is cancelled, it is the responsibility of the Home Club to advise the referee accordingly.

Young referees will make mistakes. It is very important to be supportive and patient with them, and prevent sideline criticism by supporters. Direct any competency or judgment complaints to the Referee Scheduler of the home club. Coaches should make a special effort to thank the referee for his or her work after the game.

9. Start of the Game

The game should start with a player representative from each team and the Referee meeting at the centre of the field. The Referee will toss a coin and the winner decides which end his team will defend. In practice sometimes the coaches do it with the referee.

10. Parents/Supporters

Each team should establish a base for their supporters on the sidelines (not behind the goal). Where field configuration permits, team officials and their players must stand on one side of the field while both teams' spectators will stand on the opposite side of the field.

Coaches must continually remind parents that they should be giving positive encouragement to the players, and not criticizing or yelling at them, the referee or making negative comments about the other team. Please also advise your team's supporters not to approach the referee or any child on the opposing team.

11. Coaches

Coaches should make every effort to coach from the sidelines. Under unusual circumstances, such as the addition of a large number of new players, and with agreement from the opposing team, a coach may stay on the field. *However, coaches must stay away from the area of play and not interfere with the game.*

12. Excessive Physical Contact and Unsportsmanlike Conduct

While it is generally accepted that soccer involves physical contact, there have been reports of instances where tackling has been overly zealous. Elbowing and pushing are also becoming commonplace. It is important that coaches teach players that this is not acceptable play. Punching, kicking, spitting, and slide tackling from behind, are all examples of serious incidents that must be stopped by the coach by immediately taking the player off the field to teach him or her the unacceptable nature of what they have done. There have been serious injuries in the past. Coaches have the duty to make players aware that these sorts of tactics are NOT acceptable and that persistence with *this type of behaviour will result in the offending player being withdrawn from the game by HIS or HER coach*. Referees are instructed to talk to the coaches if there is any unnecessary rough play or distasteful behaviour.

All complaints must be fielded by the Coach and dealt with as outlined in the “Disciplinary Action” section below.

Concussions: It’s important that team officials educate themselves about the seriousness of concussions and when the player can safely return to play. Refer to “*What Should I do If an Athlete Gets a Concussion?*” on <http://www.sportmedbc.com>. Best policy is: “*when in doubt sit them out.*”

The District strongly urges all team officials to take the Making Headway e-learning course and see <http://www.coach.ca/concussion-elearning-modules-p153487> additional information on www.cattonline.com. Some signs of concussion are: “pressure in the head”, neck pain, nausea/vomiting, balance problems, blurred vision, seeing stars or spots, not clear-headed, difficulty concentrating or remembering and confusion.

BCSA’s Return-to-play policy requires players, with their parent(s)/guardian(s) if the player is under the age of 18, diagnosed with a concussion provide written evidence of medical clearance to the team’s coach and also the local club and youth district before returning to activity (e.g. competition, practice or physical conditioning sessions).

A violation of this policy will be considered an institutional violation and member organizations will be subject to discipline by BC Soccer.

Note: at the discretion of the referee the wearing of eyeglasses is acceptable as are insulin pumps as long as they are not a danger to the player or another player.

13. Disciplinary Action

Mini Soccer level complaints are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the VYSA Mini Coordinator, Gordon Quan, <mailto:minischeduler@vysa.ca>, who will make sure that the Clubs are aware of any problems with their teams. Any problems should be reported to him in writing, countersigned by at least two witnesses to the incident. This includes running up scores and un-sporting-like behaviours on the sidelines. Gordon will liaise with the VYSA Boys’ Discipline Chair, Jackie Larson, or the VYSA Girls’ Discipline Chair, Jaiden Simmons, about how to handle specific complaints based on BCSA Discipline guidelines and policies. In keeping with the BCSA Discipline Guidelines, disciplinary action will be taken against the offending team official should the referee report excessive disputing of calls or referee harassment.

Clubs are encouraged to adopt a policy whereby team officials would present a complaint regarding the opposition through their club first rather than sending the complaint directly to the District.

By first being reviewed, by the responsible club person, it gives the club the option to forward it – or not.

Obviously if the complaint is of a serious nature it should be forwarded.

On the other hand, it's quite possible that by one club contacting the other club that the problem can be resolved between the clubs and ultimately encourages self-monitoring.

The referee is in charge of the game. This authority is total and should not be challenged. The referee is under no obligation to explain their actions. The referee may report after game misconduct,

Team officials are responsible for the behaviour of their fans. Speak to your fans before the referee has to request you to do so. If requested by the referee to control sideline behaviour, a team official could be reported for failing to use best efforts to comply with this request.

14. Uneven Teams

Every effort must be taken to avoid discouraging defeats. Consequently, the recording of goals will be stopped once a 4-goal margin is reached and the score will be reported as such. At this point, *the winning coach will call a time-out* to make suitable arrangements for the remainder of the game with the opposition's coach. The game can either be concluded or play can continue with some adjustments made to the number of players on each team and/or any other method that will maintain a balance. Any further scoring will not be regarded.

If the VYSA Mini Coordinator receives two complaints against any one team for running up the score, there will be action taken to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

15. Rules of the Game

Please run off a copy of the Mini Soccer Rules (found in the following link) and keep it in your coaching bag for reference should a dispute arise. In the event of a dispute the referee's decision is final.

<http://www.bcsoccer.net/files/Referee/ContinuingEducation/BC%20Soccer%20Small-Sided%20Rules%20Current.pdf>

Submitted by the Vancouver Youth Soccer Association

<http://www.vysa.ca>