

BC Soccer Club Charter

White Paper

Introduction

BC Soccer's Strategic Plan 2012-2015 has been a guiding light for the association over the last 3 years and we are very pleased to have delivered against a number of targeted objectives within it. As we look to build on the Strategic Path for 2016-2019, BC Soccer has identified that developing and implementing an opt-in Club Charter Program will assist BC Soccer in delivering against our objectives surrounding pre-existing soccer development, governance and administrative objectives that will carry forward from the current Strategic Plan to the new update one.

Background

In early 2015 BC Soccer commissioned a third party sport and soccer specific consultant to investigate the viability of establishing a Club Charter and if it make sense for BC Soccer to do so, with a view to placing greater structure around the development of BC Soccer affiliate clubs, and the associated developmental services BC Soccer offers to achieve this. The result of this research was a recommendation to implement such as Club Charter Program, which was presented and discussed with the Board in April 2015.

Benefits

What are the benefits to a Club Charter Program?

- Provide a structured framework for Clubs to work within, which is supported by BC Soccer services.
- Provide an environment to share Good / Best Practice in club development, governance, administrative and service.
- Proactively address trends (legal, social or cultural).
- Build a better soccer structure for BC.

National Landscape

The report provided an overview of the landscape as it relates to the current (and future planned) Club Charter Programs that are in place across Canada within other soccer PSOs and Canada Soccer.

Canada Soccer will be employing a Club Licensing Model structured program, whereby all Canadian soccer clubs affiliated directly to Canada Soccer (professional clubs) will be required to fulfill certain standards based criteria to receive a license to operate at a certain level of scope within the game. This program commences in 2015/2016 with the licensing of national-level clubs who are eligible to participate in the Amway Canadian Championships, with a view to extension to all semi-professional clubs in due course. Extension of the program to provincial level is roughly projected for 2016 or beyond. At the Provincial level, three tiers of licence are being proposed for each PSO to develop and

implement within their respective borders and membership. The focus will be on the following six categories of club standards:

1. Infrastructure
2. Sporting
3. Administration
4. Financial
5. Legal
6. Social responsibility

Implementation of the program is planned to be managed at provincial level through Club Charter programs that have either already been developed or are in the process of being developed by the respective provincial soccer association, BC Soccer in our case. To that end, the program's sole requirements will be that provincial Club Charter programs follow, at a minimum, the base criteria outlined in Canada Soccer's Club Charter.

BC Soccer Landscape

In order for BC Soccer, as a collective, to achieve success with the development and implementation of our Club Charter Program, we need feedback from our members, their affiliate clubs and stakeholders across our province. With this in mind we are pleased to have shared with the membership and wider soccer community the consultant report, with a required for comments and feedback by June 11, 2015.

BC Soccer is in the process of analysing the comments and feedback from members and wider soccer stakeholders across the province, along with doing further research on successful Club Charter Program and the process used to implement.

The Club Charter Program for BC Soccer has not been defined in detail, however what we do know is that the overall program:

- Will be opt-in (not mandatory participation);
- Will have a baseline charter and overtime will be developed to include higher club charter levels;
- Will have both Grassroots and High Performance standards within it;
- Will have standards and criteria in technical (coaching, player and referee development), governance and administration, which align with Canada Soccer's direction, including the 6 categories being infrastructure, sporting, administration, financial, legal and social responsibility;
- Will most importantly, be a BC Soccer supported program to help clubs achieve their desired level of charter.

Next Steps

Between June 11, 2015 and the end of the calendar year, BC Soccer will develop, with the comments and feedback from members, affiliated soccer clubs and stakeholders in the game in BC a more detailed structure to BC Soccer's Club Charter Program, including realistic implementation timelines.

Baseline Charter

The baseline or entry Club Charter level will be achievable, regardless of the youth or adult, size and location of the soccer club. It will built on the current requirements (primarily BC Soccer rules and regulations) that are in place already. Below is an example of what components the baseline Club Charter level may include:

Technical (can provide evidence of the following)

Coaching Development

1. The club complies with BC Soccer coaching certification requirement of all Head Coaches having the appropriate coaching certification for the age group and level in which they coach.
2. The club hosts a minimum of 1 Grassroots Workshop on an annual basis to provide ongoing coach education.

Player Development / Game Structure

3. The club complies with BC Soccer Small Sided Games Development Manual, including players are placed in the appropriate field sizes, goal sizes, ball sizes, no league standing, etc.
4. The club openly supports and promotes the BCSPL / BC Soccer / WFC / Canada Soccer Player Pathway, by having appropriate logos and links on website.
5. The club only participates in tournaments and competitions that are compliance with long term player development.

Referee Development

6. The club schedules only BC Soccer Registered Referees for any soccer related activity that they facilitate.

Governance (can provide evidence of the following)

7. The club only participates in sanctioned soccer activity.
8. The club complies with BC Soccer requirement to be a Registered Society.
9. The club has a Constitution and Bylaws that meets BC Soccer minimum standards.
10. The club conducts an audit or annual financial review that meets the minimum standards for Youth Districts as outline in BC Soccer's rules and regulations.
11. The club has rules and regulations that align with their direct governing body and BC Soccer.
12. The club is an Active Member of and in good standing with its Districts Association and/or Adult League and/or Inter-district leagues, including compliance with BC Soccer regulations regarding legal.
13. The club can provide to their direct governing body upon request or in line with submission deadlines, the following;
 - a) Annual General Meeting minutes for the previous year,
 - b) A Financial Report for the previous year,
 - c) Evidence that all Board Members have signed a Conflict of Interest Statement,
 - d) Evidence that all Board Members have signed an Oath of Confidentiality.
14. The club works cooperatively with clubs in the soccer community and their respective district associations and / or leagues.

Administration (can provide evidence of the following)

15. The club provides to their direct governing body upon request or in line with submission deadlines, the following;
 - a. Evidence of compliance with BC Soccer Risk Management regulation being Criminal Record Check management,
 - b. Player and team official registration and certification information,
 - c. Club Board of Director and Staff details including contact information,
16. The club has policies which align with BC Soccer on Harassment and Risk Management.
17. The club complies with all BC Soccer rules and regulations, including;
 - a. Player transfer regulations
 - b. Travel sanctioning
 - c. Tournament sanctioning