



**BC SOCCER**

BC Soccer  
Provincial Program

Version 1.0  
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# 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 is primarily focused on the individual player and 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, professional programming and ultimately Canada Soccer's youth national teams programming.

## b. Overview

The Provincial Program selects players in the U15-U18 age groups. There are two phases annually within each calendar year and players can be selected for January to July, and/or August to December. Each phase consists of training sessions, match play, and camp activity. At the end of each Phase (December and July), players who have participated in training sessions 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. In 2022, in alignment with the introduction of League 1 BC, BC Soccer will be extending the program to include the U19 to U21 combined age group. This part of the Program will consist of match play and players that participate receive a BC Soccer Player Performance Report that will be made available upon request to Professional Clubs in the Canadian Premier League (CPL), 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 the 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 for participation, there is only a one-time kit fee for participation in the U15 to U18 Development Group component of the program.

## 2. Program

### a. Player Selection

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

1. BCSPL Club Team Head Coach recommends players to the Club's Technical Director, who in turn recommends the players to BC Soccer.
2. The player is identified in a BCSPL match by a BC Soccer's soccer development staff member.
3. The player is identified in a BCSPL 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.

BC Soccer works to ensure that all recommended players are provided at a minimum participation in one game and/or camp within the year. Due to the number of players that are recommended to BC Soccer to participate in the Provincial Program, BC Soccer relies on the individual scoring provided from the Club on the BC Soccer Player Profile criteria provided by the recommending individual/organization.

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 not necessarily a negative for the player but rather a result of BC Soccer's wider responsibility to have more recommended players involved in the Provincial Program.

\*Players who participate in non-BCSPL 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 BCSPL 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.

With the intent to provide more opportunity 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 ultimate goal with this initiative is to empower female coaches, while providing them new skillsets and experiences which can be shared back into the BC Soccer membership.

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

## 2. Provincial Program

The Program includes an identification group U14 to U18 and development group U15 to U18. The identification group include players invited from the BC SPL 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 are provided with further training, games, and camps to support their overall development. Furthermore, the development group players are provided with progression opportunities into university, college, professional and national teams, through identification games and player data sharing.

BC Soccer wants to give the players the best selection opportunities and be as responsible as possible. Therefore, selection has been delayed until U15 taking into consideration a player's biological maturity while also encouraging players to be multisport athletes at U14 and under.

The chart below provides a visual of this process.

BC Soccer Premier League	↔	BC Soccer Provincial Program		↔
		Identification Group		Development Group
U13 to U18 2,000 female and male players	Recommendations	U14 to U18 160 female and male players	Selections	U15 to U18 80 female and male players

### c. Player Identification Group

This group consists of around 160 female and male 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 age group, who are observed for future selection into U15-U18 development group as well as the U15-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 provided below.

Age Groups	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov
U14	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Game 5	Game 6
U15-U18	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Game 5	Game 6

\*No Activity in Dec-Feb and Jun to Aug.

The on-going identification program allows players to be observed over a longer period and provides selectors and players opportunities to view the player over several performances which will cater for 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 players overall development, and this is achieved by providing them with the following on field services:

Activity	Description	Frequency	Hours
Session	1 session per week (integrated into the BCPSL training schedule) providing players with a 4:1 training to game ratio in alignment with CSA LTPD standards.	22	33
Game	Identification games versus professional and other PSO's to provide competition and support the players progression into higher levels of play.	8	12
Physical Testing	Providing an opportunity to measure the players physical output across strength, speed, endurance, and power.	1	3

As well as off field services such as.

- Players within the development group qualify as a provincial development athlete through the Canadian Sports Institute Athlete benefits program. For more information on the benefits players receive, please see Appendix c.
- 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*

## 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 include:

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, each phase there will be matches against the Whitecaps FC both on the male and female side 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 with 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 the 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 into the program. For more information please contact [lucadallapace@bcsoccer.net](mailto:lucadallapace@bcsoccer.net)*

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

*We work closely with Whitecaps FC to best support the players that are released from their program. And those players have the opportunity to 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?**

*With the effort to minimize the cost for 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 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 have created a Female Development Lead within the Program as well as 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 players development and involvement in the program by scheduling the players 3<sup>rd</sup> BCSPL session with the age group above their own (if possible).*



## 4. Appendix

### a. Player Uniform

Players will receive the following BC Soccer Training Apparel.

Adidas Rain Jacket



Adidas Training Jacket



Adidas Training Jersey/Shorts/Socks



Adidas Pack Sack



Players are to wear the BC Soccer Training kit to 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 kit 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

### b. Canadian Sports Institute Athlete Benefits

CORE BENEFITS	<b>GymWorks™</b>	<b>FoodStuff™</b>	<b>Official Supporters</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.	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.	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.



	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	Fee For Service	Performance Service may be delivered through Training Group LOU.	Performance Service may be delivered through Training Group LOU.
Medical Services						
Mental Performance						
Nutrition						
Performance Analysis						
Physiology						
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

### c. BC Soccer Staff

The BC Soccer, Soccer Development Staff lead the Program with support from identified coaches within the BC Soccer Membership. Our Program lead coaches include:



Luca Dalla Pace

Soccer Development Officer (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

Soccer Development Officer

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

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



Rob Csabai

Manager of Coaching Development

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

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



Chris Cerroni

Director of Soccer Development

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

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

With safety a priority, all BC Soccer, Soccer Development staff are criminal record checked, have taken the respect in sport online course and adhere to the rule of two coaching requirement. 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.

## 4. Appendix

### d. Player Progression

Since 2017, the BC Soccer Provincial Program has had around 403 players participate with in the Program, either as an identification player or as part of the development group. During this time BC have 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 Super Rex 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 2018, Isabella Muzzolini (Coquitlam Metro Ford SC/Whitecaps GE Super REX), Mia Pante (Mountain United FC/Whitecaps GE Super REX), Daniella Ramirez (Surrey United SC/Whitecaps GE Super REX) & Maya Rogers (Fusion FC/Whitecaps GE Super REX) were all part of the Canadian Women's U15 National Team for the Concacaf Championships.

Caitlyn Shaw (Coquitlam Metro Ford SC/Whitecaps GE Super REX), Jazmine Wilkinson (Vancouver Island Wave/Whitecaps GE Super REX), & Jordyn Huitema (Surrey United SC/Whitecaps GE Super REX) all finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup with the Canadian Women's U17 National Team in 2018.

Julia Grosso (Mountain United FC/Whitecaps GE Super REX) and Huitema represented Canada at the 2019 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. In 2020, Emma Regan (Mountain United FC/Whitecaps GE Super REX), Molly Quarry (Mountain United FC/Whitecaps GE Super REX), Shaw and Wilkinson were all a part of the Canadian Women's U20 National Team for Concacaf Qualifying. Huitema has also been playing her professional soccer with Paris St. Germain FC, France since 2019 and most recently Grosso signed her first professional contract with Juventus FC, Italy. Most recently Pante and Holly Ward (Mountain United FC/Whitecaps GE Super REX) were selected to the 2022 U20 Woman's Concacaf World Cup Qualifying tournament.

#### Male Players

Damiano Pecile (Mountain United FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy), Emiliano Brienza (Mountain United FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy), Nathan Demain (Surrey United SC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy), Deylan Velios (Mountain United FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy), and Kamron Habibullah (Mountain United FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy), all represented Canada at the 2019 FIFA U17 World Cup. Also, in 2019 Matteo Campanga (Surrey United SC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy) and Max Anchor (Mountain United FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy), were part of the Canadian Men's U15 National Team for the Concacaf Championships.

Furthermore, in recent years, Pecile, Habibullah, Campanga, Issac Boehmer (Thompson Okanagan FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy), Simon Coyle (Surrey United SC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy) & Patrick Metcalfe (Fusion FC/Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy) have all signed homegrown MLS contracts with the Vancouver Whitecaps. 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 (Mountain United FC/HFX Wanderers) have begun their professional careers within the Canadian Premier League. Most recently, Christian Rossi (Surrey United SC) was drafted by York United in the 2022 CPL Draft.

## 4. Appendix

### e. 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:

- Michael D'Agostino (working his way from WFC MLS Academy Coach into the MLS First Team Assistant Coach).
- Nick Dasovic (Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy).
- Adam Day (Vancouver Whitecaps FC GE Super REX Coach/Canada Women's National Team).
- Dan Fairhurst (Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy).
- Scott Howey (Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy).
- Emma Humphries (Vancouver Whitecaps GE Super REX Head Coach/Director of Women's Football, Assistant Coach, Liverpool FC).
- Jasmine Mander (Canada Women's National Team).
- Dante Marconato (Vancouver Whitecaps MLS Academy).
- James Merriman (Pacific FC).
- Martin Nash (York United).
- Michael Norris (Vancouver Whitecaps FC GE Super REX Head Coach/Canada Women's National Team and Portland Thorns).
- Chris Sargent (Vancouver Whitecaps FC GE Super REX Head Coach/Canada Women's U17 National Team and FC Nordajaelland).
- Brendan Shaw (FC Edmonton).
- Mark Village (Pacific FC).

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