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**LOWER ISLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

# **Welcome to the 2017/18 season**

**League play for all Silver and Bronze leagues begins the weekend of September 16/17.**

The LISA office got a new website over the summer and so all league schedules and contact updates will now be posted on the LISA website. Your schedule for the upcoming season is posted on the new website. Go to Competitions and in the drop-down box select League Play and then either Boys or Girls. By clicking on a team name in the standings you will be taken to that team's contact information. However contact information is still being inputted and we hope that portion to be completed soon. Also by clicking on a team name in the standings you will be able to see the league schedule just for that individual team. Please be patient as this is an entirely new system.

***It is each team's responsibility to check the website schedule to make sure the contact information for your team is correct.*** If there are any mistakes or updates please let your club registrar know as soon as possible. In addition, inform your opposing teams and your Lower Island score recorder so they will know how to get a hold of you.

While email addresses are included in your team's contact information on the website LISA does not consider the sending of an email an official communication between teams. When exchanging game and field information there must be definite confirmation. "Read Receipts" are not considered definite confirmation. **Initial contact with your opponent must be by phone.**

**If you are not the appropriate person to receive scheduling information and other notices that are sent out from the LISA office throughout the season then make sure you pass this package onto the person who should receive it.** And ask that person to provide their registrar with his or her contact data, who will notify the LISA office, in order for future emailings to be sent directly to the correct person. There is important information in here that team officials and club personnel need to

know. In addition other notices are sent out throughout the season, including cup draws, and, when required, scheduling changes.

## **SCORE REPORTING**

*Sores and standings will be posted on the LISA website.* We are using an entirely new system this year so some fine-tuning might be needed – and not just at the start of the season as we might have to make some adjustments as the season progresses. *Please be patient.*

***BOTH TEAMS must report to your league's score recorder (listed on your website schedule) by 5 p.m. the day your game is played.***

Sometimes it is difficult to do that, especially if you had to travel to an away afternoon game. In such cases submit your score as soon as possible that evening. But, as **both** teams are responsible for reporting to their score recorder, hopefully the home team was able to make the deadline. Reporting scores by email is preferred.

**When reporting your score include the division and section (i.e. Boys or Girls; age division; your section is either Gold, Silver or Bronze) as well as the name of the clubs and teams involved.** You'd be surprised how often score recorders only get U14 tied 1-1 when it should be U14 girls gold Prospect Lake Crushers tied 1-1 vs U14 girls gold Bays Smith.

**And remember, you must also report to your score recorder if your game was not played and provide the reason why the game did not take place.** This includes anytime the fields are closed. Score recorders do not know when fields are closed or what field you were scheduled on.

Once standings and scores are posted if you noticed any mistakes or if there are any missing scores for your games contact your score recorder as soon as possible.

***Sometimes different scores are reported for the same game. If the score posted on the website is not what you think it was that is not an issue as long as the result is correct (i.e. the team that won is correct or it was a draw).***

While the standings database shows Goals For and Goals Against that data is only there for interest sake. Goal differential, goal ratio, goals for and goals against are **NOT** used for any official tiebreaking formula, including the determining of league champions.

For example, if one team reports a 6-1 score and the other a 5-1 score one of those will be posted on the website. There is no need to chase down a referee's report to determine which one is correct as long as both reports are for the same team winning that game.

Please note with the new standings and scheduling system no two teams within the same club can have the same nickname. For instance, if one team uses F.C. then no other team from that club can be identified as F.C. If one team calls itself Strikers then no other team from that club can be known as Strikers. If no team nickname was supplied when your club declared its teams for scheduling LISA will use the surname of one of the team contacts or assign a nickname. Some coaches/contacts are associated with more than one team within the same club however we can only use that coach's name as a team nickname for one team.

## **LEAGUE SCHEDULES**

**League schedules are written in a predetermined numbering sequence, one round at a time.** The last date listed on your schedule only reflects the date of that round's completed numbering sequence – *partial rounds are not scheduled; only full rounds.*

**The last date on your schedule might not be the final day for league play. League play might officially conclude prior to or some time after the last date on your schedule.** (NOTE: see the section on League Play further below in this notice for additional information about scheduling changes that take place after the winter break.)

All league winners are declared by applying LISA's rules (see Chapter 3 of the rules on the LISA website). If, as the season progresses, you have any questions or concerns regarding your team's situation in the standings contact the district scheduler.

*If a club does not have enough fields to accommodate all its home games* the teams without an assigned field should contact their opposition to see if the "visiting" team's club can supply a field in order to play the game. If the teams can not play their game because no field is available at either club they must inform their score recorder and they should try to make it up as soon as possible.

Please note that concerning *league* games, if a field is offered with a start time different than the standard start time for that division **both** teams must agree in order for that game to be played at this new time.

***LISA does not continue weekly scheduling during the winter break, however that does not mean the season has been shut down.*** While most of the grass fields are closed during that time by the permit-issuers, some fields, namely the artificial turf fields, remain open. Teams are expected to make up their outstanding league games during the winter break. Once we return in January there will only be a few weeks left before league play ends and District Cup begins so there will be little time available to make up outstanding league games. In addition field availability can be quite limited during January and February because of field closures and the youth and adult cup play.

***Regarding spring break and Easter weekend:*** This year LISA will *not* continue to schedule *regular* weekly league games or District Cup matches during the following spring break weekends, March 17/18 and March 24/25, as well as Easter weekend March 31/April 1. However that does not mean we are closed. Teams can still play during that time, if *both* teams agree. In almost every case the deadline for league play will have passed, though, as the semi-finals of the District Cup competition are tentatively scheduled for the weekend of March 10/11.

Please note that this scheduling approach for spring break is for Lower Island's own competitive programs. LISA does not have scheduling control over inter-district programs such as the Coastal 'A' and 'B' Cup competitions. As spring breaks vary throughout the coastal region inter-district cup matches could be scheduled during spring break of some school districts.

**The District Cup finals are scheduled to take place over the weekend of April 7/8 at Sooke.** The quarter-finals (for District Cup draws of five to eight teams) will take place the March 3/4 weekend. If more than eight teams are in a District Cup draw their opening round will take place February 24/25.

Once teams are involved in the District Cup competition they can no longer go back and officially make up any outstanding league games.

## **LEAGUE PLAY**

All teams need to be aware that there is a limited number of weekends available for full league play, especially during the final few months of the season. Labour Day, the winter break, spring break and Easter can all have an impact upon the length of the league season. In addition some teams will not be available for league play during the BCSA 'B' Cup and LISA Cup playdowns. Teams that advance through these cup competitions will have fewer weekends of league play. Some of these teams could be in contention for league titles or might miss league games against contenders.

Therefore it is important that teams play their league games as scheduled whenever possible (i.e. when fields are open, and not agreeing to postpone). Of course, teams can always make up outstanding games “on their own time” (outside of the time for which LISA schedules) but that can be easier said than done. Teams with outstanding games heading into the winter break should make up those games during the break as once weekly play resumes in mid-January there is very little time left before league play ends and the District Cup playdowns begin.

**Please be aware that after the winter break LISA distributes re-scheduling notices on a weekly basis until the end of the Lower Island season.** This is done in order to accommodate teams that are involved in cup competitions (e.g. LISA Cup, ‘B’ Cup, District Cup) and therefore unavailable for league play that weekend. That means your game, opponent and home/away designation might change.

It also means that teams that were originally scheduled for a bye could end up with a game and teams that originally had a game scheduled might end up with a bye.

Depending upon the placement of teams in cup draws and the outcome of those cup matches some teams might end up playing the same opponent two or three weeks in a row because of the limited number of opponents in their league.

***So please inform your players and their families that their game schedules are likely to change week-by-week throughout the last part of the Lower Island season.***

### **Under-13 RETREAT LINE**

A “retreat line” for goal kicks will be in effect for the U13 division (boys and girls, all levels of play) ***for the entire season.*** This new rule can be found in Chapter 3 of the rules and regulations on the LISA website.

The retreat line is to be used for all Boys and Girls U13 games in Gold, Silver and Bronze including all league games, all LISA Cup matches, all District Cup matches and all ‘B’ Cup matches including the provincial tournaments in July.

Here is an *abridged* version of the retreat rule for the Under-13 division (please view the more detailed explanation: see Chapter 3 on the Lower Island website’s Rules and Regulations page):

- For goal kicks all players from the opposing team will retreat back behind a line marked by cones or a corner flag that separates the attacking third from the rest of the field (the “retreat line”). Players from the opposing team may not

pass the retreat line until the ball has been touched by the player receiving the goal kick. If the goal kick is kicked directly from the goal kick past the retreat line, the ball is deemed "in-play" as soon as it crosses the retreat line. In case of a violation of this rule the restart will be a retake of the goal kick.

## **CUP PLAY**

Attached is a handy visual chart of some of the cup competitions your team could play in this season.

## **'A' and 'B' CUP COMPETITIONS**

Lower Island teams that want to enter the 'B' Cup (entering this competition means committing yourself to *both* the Coastal 'B' Cup and the Provincial 'B' Cup competitions) do so through their clubs. It is assumed all Gold level teams want to enter, if this is not the case speak to your club representatives.

The Lower Island competes in the 'B' Cup in the U13 to U18 divisions, both Boys and Girls.

The dates for our Lower Island 'B' Cup playdowns have been tentatively set for January 27/28 (quarter-final rounds; for draws of five to eight teams), February 3/4 (semi-final rounds) and February 17/18 (finals). Please note that while February 10/11 is the Family Day long weekend league games are scheduled for that weekend and, if necessary, it will be used for 'B' Cup make-up games. If more than eight teams are entered in a particular draw a preliminary round will be scheduled prior to the winter break in order to reduce the number of teams still alive in that draw to eight.

The winning teams in the Lower Island 'B' Cup playdowns will play the Upper Island winners the weekend of February 24/25 (tentative date).

In the past the winning teams in this Lower vs. Upper Island showdown would qualify for their Provincial 'B' Cup tournament (held in July) and also advance to the semi-final round of the Coastal 'B' Cup playdowns. However the playdown format for the Coastal 'B' Cup, including at what round teams from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland will play each other and the provincial qualification process, is under review.

The Coastal 'B' Cup finals are tentatively scheduled for May 5/6, and all of the coastal finals will take place on the Lower Mainland.

The Boys Provincial 'B' Cup tournament will take place July 5-8 (host TBA).

The Girls Provincial 'B' Cup tournament will take place July 5-8 (host TBA).

Teams playing in the VIPL are not eligible for the 'B' Cup. The VIPL teams compete in the 'A' Cup.

**LISA CUP** *(for teams not entering A or B Cup i.e. generally silver and bronze only)*

The fifth annual LISA Cup competition for *non-Provincial Cup* teams (i.e. for Silver and Bronze teams *that do not enter* the 'A' or 'B' Cup) will begin with Round 1 the October 14/15 weekend. The LISA Cup is a random-draw single-elimination cup competition offered in the following age groups: U13, U14, U16/15 and U18/17, for both girls and boys. The declaration deadline for LISA Cup is October 1.

The LISA Cup will be played throughout the regular league season. Round 1 (if more than eight teams are entered) will be, as listed immediately above, October 14/15. Round 2, the quarter-finals, will take place November 18/19. Round 3, the semi-finals are set for January 20/21. All LISA Cup finals will be scheduled for the February 17/18 weekend at PISE. *Please note that for the finals your game start time and game day will likely not be the same as your weekly league games.*

As long as more than eight teams are entered, all teams will be drawn into action for the opening round, October 14/15, except if there is an odd number. If there is an odd number entered the "odd team out," based upon the draw, will receive an opening round bye. In other words, at most, there will only be one bye in the opening round. Additional byes might be necessary in the quarter-final round in order to reduce the number of teams advancing to the semi-finals to four. If a team received a bye in the opening round it will not be one of the teams receiving a bye in the quarter-finals.

As mentioned, if more than eight teams are entered your first match in the LISA Cup will be on the weekend of October 14/15 on your usual game day. If more than eight teams are expected in your LISA Cup competition then your league schedule will have *no* league games scheduled for that day as all teams (except for one "bye team" if there is an odd number) will be playing a LISA Cup match.

If only eight or fewer teams are expected in your LISA Cup competition then your league schedule will list league games for October 14/15 – your LISA Cup play will begin with the quarter-final round (which will be Round 2 for everyone else) November 18/19.

The LISA office will conduct the draw and distribute the schedule for the opening round in early October.

## **ISLAND INVITATIONAL CUP**

The Island Invitational Cup is also known as the Tournament of Champions and is the official championship for Vancouver Island. It is a one-game winner-take-all final between the Upper Island rep and the Lower Island rep. The Lower Island rep for the Island Invitational Cup is the Gold league champion. The host for all the finals in the Island Cup alternates between the Upper and Lower Island.

The 54th annual Island Invitational Cup will be hosted by the Upper Island and is tentatively scheduled for April 28/29 in Powell River. Please note that the U13 Island Invitational Cup final for both Boys and Girls will be a 8v8 competition. At U13 age division the Upper Island plays 8v8 so, as they are the host, the U13 final will be an 8v8 match.

*In regards to the scores, standings or any other issue concerning league or cup play all questions, concerns or comments are to be submitted by a team official, club rep or club director.* If your players and/or parents have any such questions or concerns they are to contact the appropriate team or club official.

Have fun on the field!

*LISA scheduling committee*