

LOWER ISLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the 2018/19 season

League play for all Silver leagues (Under-14 to Under-18/17) begins the weekend of September 15/16.

All league schedules and contact updates are posted on the LISA website <https://www.lowerislandsoccer.com/>. Go to “Competitions” and in the drop-down box select either “Full Field – Boys” or “Full-Field – Girls” and then click on the schedule for your league.

By clicking on a team name in the standings you will be taken to that team’s contact information. Also by clicking on a team name in the standings you will be able to see the league schedule just for that individual team.

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 and have your club registrar inform the LISA office. In addition you will need to 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 your club registrar with his or her contact data – and have your club registrar 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 so it is important that the LISA office has the correct contacts for each team.

SCORE REPORTING

Scores and standings will be posted on the LISA website.

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 you need to ***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.*** All too often score recorders get reports that have important information missing and therefore can not identify the game that was played. Just naming the two clubs is not sufficient as those two clubs could be playing each other in other leagues – and in some cases within that same league as clubs can have more than one team in a schedule.

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 necessarily know when fields are closed or on what field you were scheduled to play.

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 correctly identified 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 standings and scheduling software system all teams require a nickname and 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. One round is a series of games during which each team is scheduled to play one game (and only one game) against each and every opponent. The last date listed on your schedule only reflects the date of that round's completed numbering sequence. For competitive league play *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, such as 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: This year LISA will *not* continue to schedule *regular* weekly league games or District Cup matches during the following spring break weekends, March 16/17 and March 23/24 and March 30/31. 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 9/10.

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 for some school districts.

The District Cup finals are scheduled to take place over the weekend of April 6/7 at Sooke. The semi-finals will be March 9/10 and the quarter-finals (for District Cup draws of five to eight teams) will take place the March 2/3 weekend. If more than eight teams are in a District Cup draw their opening round will take place February 23/24.

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. It could also mean that a team has a bye (no game) two weekends in a row or two out of three weekends.

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.*** The retreat line rule can be found in Chapter 3 of the rules and regulations on the LISA website.

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.
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- There is no "retreat line" in the U14 through U18 divisions. It is only used at U11, U12 and U13.

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. Usually only Gold level teams enter the B Cup competition, but it is open to Silver and Bronze teams if they want to compete against the Gold teams. However, any Silver or Bronze team that competes in the B Cup will not be eligible for the LISA Cup (*see further below*).

In addition, any Silver or Bronze team that competes in the B Cup will be promoted to the Gold District Cup, if that team is eligible for the Lower Island District Cup competition. (Exception: if a club only has one team playing in an age division for that gender that team can enter the B Cup and still compete in the District Cup at the level of its league play if it meets all other requirements as listed in the Lower Island rules.)

The Provincial B Cup and the Coastal B Cup are two different competitions however in order to compete in the Provincial B Cup you also have to participate in the Coastal B Cup. And if you compete in the Coastal B Cup then your team also has to compete in the Provincial B Cup if you qualify. That is, even though the Provincial B Cup and Coastal B Cup are two separate competitions the Coastal B Cup serves as the qualifying route for the provincial tournament.

In other words, if you have entered “the B Cup” your team has entered two B Cup competitions and your team is now committed to following through as far as your team progresses in both competitions.

So if you are entering “the B Cup” make sure your team (e.g. players, parents) will be able to meet all the Provincial B Cup and Coastal B Cup commitments which could include travel, overnight stays and the associated costs. It also involves being able to field a team for all your coastal and provincial matches. If your team advances all the way through to the Coastal B Cup final that means your team will be playing through the spring into early May. If your team qualifies for the Provincial B Cup tournament that means your team will also be playing during the summer in early July and that will require travel and hotel/motel accommodation.

The Lower Island competes in the B Cup in the U14 to U18 divisions, both Boys and Girls. Even though U17 and U18 teams compete against each other in a combined U18/17 Lower Island league with only one league champion recognized, U17 and U18 teams have their own separate B Cup divisions.

The dates for our Lower Island B Cup playdowns have not yet been set.

The Vancouver Island/Powell River regional finals between the Upper Island reps and the Lower Island reps are scheduled for the weekend of February 23/24.

The teams that win the Vancouver Island/Powell River B Cup regional final (Lower Island rep vs. Upper Island rep) automatically qualify for their Provincial B Cup tournament in July.

Both teams that compete in the Island regional final continue on in the Coastal B Cup playdowns. The winning team, known as the Vancouver Island rep, and the losing team, known as the Island runner-up, advance to the quarter-final round of the Coastal B Cup where they will play Lower Mainland teams. If the Island runner-up wins its quarter-final, semi-final and the Coastal B Cup final that team also qualifies for the Provincial B Cup tournament in July.

NOTE: It does not matter if the Vancouver Island rep loses in the Coastal B Cup quarter-finals, semi-finals or finals as that team has already guaranteed itself a berth at the provincial tournament. That is, if the Vancouver Island rep loses in the Coastal B Cup quarter-finals, semi-finals or finals the Island rep is eliminated from the Coastal Cup competition but retains its berth in the Provincial B Cup tournament.

The Coastal B Cup finals are tentatively scheduled for May 4/5, and all of the coastal finals will take place on the Lower Mainland (host TBA).

The Boys Provincial B Cup tournament will tentatively take place July 4-7 (host TBA).

The Girls Provincial B Cup tournament will tentatively take place July 4-7 (host TBA).

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

LISA CUP

The sixth 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 20/21 weekend. The LISA Cup is a random-draw single-elimination cup competition offered in the following age groups: 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 20/21. Round 2, the quarter-finals, will take place November 17/18. Round 3, the semi-finals are set for January 19/20. All LISA Cup finals will be scheduled for the February 9/10 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 20/21, except if there is an odd number. If there is an odd number entered the “odd team out,” based upon the random 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 20/21 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 20/21 – your LISA Cup play will

begin with the quarter-final round (which will be Round 2 for everyone else) November 17/18.

The LISA office will conduct the draw and distribute the schedule for the opening round in early October. In the LISA Cup competition there is a separate draw for each round.

ISLAND INVITATIONAL CUP

The Island Invitational Cup is also known as the Tournament of Champions and is the official championship for Vancouver Island/Powell River. 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 55th annual Island Invitational Cup will be hosted by the Lower Island, April 6/7, at Peninsula.

The Vancouver Island Invitational Cup is *not* part of the Provincial/Coastal B Cup or associated with it in any way. Even though it might involve some of the same teams it is an entirely separate competition. The winner of the Island Invitational Cup does not advance to any other competition.

Please note that there will be Island Cup finals in *both* Girls U17 and Girls U18 as well as for *both* Boys U17 and Boys U18 if both the Upper and Lower Island have a representative that qualifies. So even though in the Lower Island district U17 and U18 teams play in a combined league for which there will only be one official *league* champion recognized, two teams – one U17 and one U18 – will represent the Lower Island at the Island Invitational Cup. One of those reps will be the U18/17 Gold league champion and the other will be the highest-finishing team (based upon LISA's rules for determining league champions) in the other age group. Games between the two age groups count in determining both the U18/17 league champion and the two (U17 and U18) Island Cup reps.

LOWER ISLAND DISTRICT CUP

The District Cup is the final competitive program of the *Lower Island* in-district season. **It is NOT a league playoff.**

It is a single-elimination, random draw, cup competition for Lower Island teams that are *not* Lower Island representatives that go on to play in an *inter*-district competition

(e.g. the B Cup, Island Invitational Cup). The winner of the District Cup does not advance to any other competition.

For the Lower Island District Cup Silver and Bronze league champions are promoted to a higher level of play. The Bronze league champion competes in the Silver District Cup and the Silver league champion competes in the Gold District Cup as those teams have, over the course of the season, proven themselves to be the best team in their league.

The Gold league champion is not eligible for the District Cup. The Gold league champion represents the Lower Island in the Island Invitational Cup and will play against the Upper Island rep for the Island championship.

The start date for the District Cup playdowns depends upon the number of teams in each draw. If there are more than eight teams entered in a draw they will start their playdowns the weekend of February 23/24. Draws with five to eight teams entered will start with the quarter-final round March 2/3. The semi-finals (and draws with three or four teams) will take place March 9/10. All District Cup finals will be hosted by the Sooke Soccer Club the weekend of April 6/7.

When teams lose in the District Cup playdowns they are eliminated from the competition and LISA stops scheduling for them. In other words, their 2018/19 Lower Island season is over.

In regards to outstanding league games, no team once it has played a District Cup match can play any outstanding league game. Once a team is in the District Cup competition their league play has ended – it does not matter how many league games that team has outstanding.

NOTE: 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.

Make it a fun season
LISA scheduling committee