



Excellence through Development

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Tier 2 Soccer is Coming!

You've probably heard the rumours about Tier 2 soccer, and of course you have questions... well keep reading for the answers!

What is Tier 2 Soccer?

Tier 2 soccer is the U14-U18 level that was formally known as Vancouver Island Premier League (VIPL). Tier 2 will be played in the spring to better align with Tier 1 soccer (the BC SPL – Wave team on the island). It is an additional opportunity after Tier 3-4 club soccer is done for the season. This gives players with aspirations of playing at a higher level an opportunity to showcase themselves and develop their skills with like-minded players. Lower Island soccer and Upper Island soccer are partnering to create this island-wide league for Tier 2. Teams will play 8-10 games against local and upper island teams over a 13-week schedule, as well as a Tier 2 tournament to determine the Vancouver Island 'Provincial A Cup' representatives.

Who can play Tier 2 soccer?

Tier 2 soccer players can come from anywhere on the island, and they can be associated with any club or academy. The Tier 2 soccer program is regionally based with teams selected from pools of players from all clubs and academies. Anyone who wants to try out for Tier 2 soccer can attend the open assessments, which will take place on February 28, March 1, March 9 and March 10 at Braefoot Park. There will be two assessments for each age group, and exact times and details will be announced shortly. Registration for assessments is required and will be through the LISA website.

How will teams be created?

The goal of Tier 2 soccer is to promote player development, therefore teams will be created to be as viable and balanced as possible. Teams will be created at the U14, U16 and U18 levels with players at U15 and U17 mixed in with the older age groups. These "banded" levels will allow for the creation of stronger teams and better development opportunities for the players. Select U13 players **may** be invited by technical directors to attend assessments for play at the U14 level, and can only do so with a specific invitation from their technical director. After assessments Lower Island technical staff and club technical directors will work together to create teams at each level for boys and girls, to form divisions with teams from Upper Island.



What clubs will be hosting Tier 2 teams?

All lower island soccer clubs are participating in Tier 2 soccer. Clubs will be pooling resources and facilities to make Tier 2 soccer a success, so teams may not be based out of a single club but instead may practice and play games at facilities across the region. This is similar to other high-level sports leagues on the island and in the province.

Who will be coaching Tier 2 teams?

Team coaches will be selected after team assessments are completed and teams are assembled. Our goal is to have coaches with a significant level of certification for every Tier 2 soccer team. The clubs and lower island soccer are setting a minimum standard for coaching at this level, and all head coaches will be compensated for their time.

What if my child wants to stick with their current team?

Tier 2 soccer teams only exist from April through June. All players will return to their club Tier 3-4 teams in the fall and winter sessions before the next Tier 2 soccer season starts the following spring. So all players can have their cake and eat it too! They can play on their same team with their same friends in the fall, and then they'll take their soccer to the next level in Tier 2 in the spring.

Can I play with my friends or the coach of my choice?

Tier 2 soccer is for players who wish to push themselves to improve and develop as soccer players. It is a step up from the recreational soccer that is played in fall and winter in the lower island. Players will be placed on a regional team based on that team's needs to create a competitive balance so the league is a success for everyone.

Can anyone participate in Tier 2 Soccer?

All players at the eligible ages can register to try out at the Tier 2 soccer assessments. Players who are uncertain whether they are Tier 2 caliber or potential should consult with their club's technical director. The only players ineligible to play Tier 2 soccer are players already in Tier 1 soccer (BCSPL Wave) or players on a team that is representing their age group for the Island at the Tier 3 Provincial B cup championships. This means that if your team declared for Tier 3 B cup, and becomes the Island B cup representative, the players on that team are "cup tied" to that team and cannot compete in Tier 2 soccer. As Tier 2 assessments are scheduled during the current Tier 3 B cup playdowns it is encouraged that all players interested in Tier 2 attend assessments regardless of the current status of their Tier 3 team.

What will Tier 2 soccer cost?



Fees for Tier 2 soccer are still being established, however the planning group is hoping to keep them below \$500 for the season. Fees will cover professional, credentialed coaching staff, uniforms, equipment and a 13-week season including two weekly practices, games and a Provincial A Cup qualification tournament. Teams will be encouraged to attend at least one additional tournament that is not part of the Tier 2 season (e.g. Starfire, Baker Blast, etc.), but any costs incurred for these tournaments will be outside of the Tier 2 soccer season fee structure. Travel costs are not included in Tier 2 fees.

