



MEMO

TO: BCCSL Member Districts, Clubs and Teams
FROM: Matt Holbrook, BCCSL General Manager
RE: RETURN TO PLAY PLANNING

June 8, 2020

The BC Coastal Soccer League has been monitoring the current covid health crisis, and has the philosophy that we will get back on the field as soon as possible based on approvals and guidelines from BC Soccer, Canada Soccer and the Provincial Health Authority.

On June 3rd, BC Soccer released their "[Return to Play](#)" guidelines, including documents that guide sanctioned soccer in BC during this important period of returning to the field. This was released on the heels of VIASport's "[Return to Sport](#)" guidelines, released on June 1st.

The BCCSL board has since met and discussed the plan and its impact on when league play can resume. While we don't know that exact date of league play starting again, we know that it will be based on the ongoing new covid cases in BC and the proper application of the phase 1 of the return to play guidelines. We will support our clubs, and take direction from them (through their district chairs) relating to the progress being made in the coming summer months.

The BCCSL board is taking the hopeful and positive stance that we can return to BCCSL game play in September. While some may see this as extremely optimistic, the fact that clubs can get back in this first phase from June 12 through to September, means we are encouraged that the next phase after this period recognizes "*interclub or regional game play may be considered*". BC Soccer has attached no timeline to that next phase, yet the BCCSL needs to operate on a best case scenario with preparations and a schedule in place that we could return to play on the September 11-13 weekend. If that isn't possible, we will simply remove games from the schedule and delay the restart of play until we know when we can actually move forward with BCCSL game play.

To support the preparations required, and to acknowledge the difficult period that clubs may have in securing player/family commitments to play in September, we have extended our team submission timelines to the following:

- **May 1 - Metro team submission deadline** - *this has already occurred*
- **July 15 - Div 1-2 team submission deadline** - *this has been moved to July 31*
- **August 1 - Div 3 team submission deadline** - *this has been moved to August 15*

SCHEDULES WILL BE RELEASED FOR ALL DIVISIONS ON AUGUST 22ND.

Once August 15th comes and goes, teams may be dropped/added by districts/clubs without penalty until October 1st. Teams added past when the initial schedule is completed and posted, will be added into the schedule during the Thanksgiving break. And where possible within the schedule and division sizes, teams may be added after these dates on a case by case basis.

We trust this process will support clubs in forming their teams throughout July and August in the hopeful plans to resume BCCSL play in September. As some clubs may not be able to get on-field to determine team formation, the BCCSL's Technical Advisory Committee chair has provided the ideas on the following page to assist with the team formation process.

In addition, the league has decided not to have a League Championship format for the 2020-21 season due to the uncertainty of when normal play will begin. All divisions will play a full scheduled season from September 2020 through to the beginning of March 2021, with the usual holiday breaks. The website has a calendar page that will be updated with the full weekends of play.

We look forward to working with all to get through this difficult period in a positive manner.

Regards,
Matt Holbrook
BCCSL General Manager
matt@bccysl.ca

Sample Select Team Formation Template

**This team formation template is intended as a rough guideline for Clubs should we find ourselves in a situation where we cannot run on field evaluations to form Select teams in June and then run into the summer months and BCCSL Deadlines for affiliation. The below refers to any age groups where a Club did not run evaluations/team formations before the COVID shut down. IE some Clubs may have finished new U11/U12/U13 Select teams pre spring break and only have U14 and older left to form.*

Step 1: Clubs/Districts should make offers to returning or new players to their Metro teams and ask each player to register to confirm their place on the team. This may be District led, Club led, or cooperation among Clubs depending on the model of Metro Team Program delivery in your district. Generally this should be based on in season play of returning players and performance of Div 1 call ups or knowledge of in season progress of Div 1 players. One consideration is to offer a payment plan option to families as you make offers and ask for registration. Ideally, all Metro teams have their rosters confirmed to about 85-90% by end of May.

Step 2: Clubs should email all their last season Select Div 1 and Div 2 players asking them to register by a set deadline if they wish to be considered for a spot in Select again next season. IE: June 15th. Again, a consideration is to offer a payment plan option to families as you push people to register.

Step 3: Technical Staff should take the Select players that have re-registered and make skeleton/draft teams based on what level the players were playing at last season. Remember to take out any players moved out to Metro and add in any dropped down from Metro. Look at the total number across all Div 1 and Div 2 returning players to guide your decision on number of teams to affiliate. IE, if you had one Div 1 team and three Div 2 teams last season but only 52 returning players it would be more prudent to make 3 teams of 16/17, ie one Div 1 and two Div 2, instead of keeping with 4 teams of 13 and “hoping for more registrations”. This would put your Club at risk of folding a team later in the summer or leading up to the season. Something we want to avoid.

Step 4: Technical Staff should then organize an online meeting with the Select coaches in each age group and go over the draft teams. At this meeting staff and team coaches can discuss any obvious movements of players up/down between Div 1 and Div 2. If this process is a departure from your usual on field process for team formation operating by putting most players back where they were last season is recommended. If there are obvious special cases where a player should move up or down from Div 1 or Div 2 and both Technical Staff and Team coach agree then they can be dealt with on a case by case basis via an email or phone call to the player about their placement for next season.

Step 5: After the Technical Staff and Select Team coaches for the age group are in agreement, a final team list should be emailed to each coach and that coach can contact their players with an introductory email. By this time any players moved up or down will have already been contacted (see end of step 4).

Step 6: Clubs may have players that played House last season that may be ready for a move up. Some of these players may be obvious move ups based on performance via the FRP during the season and fit nicely into team sizes during steps 1 thru 5. Other players on the verge of a move up from House to Select but not placed on a Select team should be notified by Club staff that due to the COVID situation, the Club cannot run an on field evaluation and that their names will be on a short list for the Div 2 Select coaches to call into training/games once play resumes. Ideally, each Div 2 team at your Club has one or two spots open and these borderline House/Select players can be assessed/managed in the early part of the playing season and a determination to move them or not can be made at that time.

Steps 7: Repeat steps 1 thru 6 for each age group that you were unable to form Select teams for throughout the month of June so that we can all stay on track to meet the BCCSL affiliation deadlines.

Step 8: House teams are generally not formed via evaluations so can be formed in July based on the registration numbers at that time for a more accurate decision on number of teams for each age group leading up to the BCCSL affiliation deadlines.