

The Comox Valley United Soccer Club has spent considerable time and effort in discussions, both through meetings and via e-mail exchange to come to position with regards to the High Performance League Proposal being presented to the BCSA for approval at a Special Annual General Meeting in Vancouver on January 22nd 2011.

1. Our club understands the HPL proposal as laid out below:

The High Performance League (HPL) is part of BCSA's Wellness to World Cup response to CSA's Long Term Player Development Plan.

1. In order to enter the HPL you must enter a team in all 10 divisions (Boys and Girls U13, U14, U15, U16 and U18).
2. Only 8 franchises will be awarded, with the expectation that there will be one from the Island and one from the Interior.
3. The criteria are still being confirmed for how the 8 franchises will be awarded, but it is accepted that partnerships with other districts will be required. This will create teams of a higher calibre than previously developed.
4. HPL will be a year-long program, with a March to November playing season but year-long programming (training, etc). It will replace the current Metro/Select and Super Y programs.
5. There is expected to be a competitive "Tier 2" that will support HPL through a flow of players back and forth. In the Lower Mainland this will likely be referred to as "Metro/Select".

The impact on the competitive youth component of our club is unclear at this point. Section 7 of the HPL proposal very briefly discusses the tiering process that will be of direct impact on the remaining clubs in British Columbia playing youth soccer. Our club, based in the Comox Valley, has approximately 1800 youth playing soccer during our spring and fall seasons. Included in that number is approximately 250 players in our B Cup Select(Gold) program and another 15-20 players in the Metro program playing with the UVI Metro club.

The current HPL proposal being voted on gives no definitive outline of how the current Metro program(A Cup) and Select/Gold (B Cup) program will be impacted.

Questions for BC Soccer arising from our club include:

- 1) Will the current B Cup competition continue to be a Province wide, inclusive program with a Provincial Championship played in July or will the B Cup program become a Metro program dominated by primarily Lower Mainland clubs(the current A Cup program)?
- 2) Will the tiers below HPL - Metro/Select and Gold league(Current B Cup) soccer, be expected to transition to a corresponding spring-fall season?

3) Will the current Boys Select/Girls Metro league continue if the HPL is approved?

Questions for UISA arising from our club include:

1) Will UISA use their entire voting block to vote either Yes or No to this proposal?

2) Can UISA ask for more information regarding the format for B Cup competition moving forward prior to voting on this proposal?

3) Should the HPL be approved will UISA be able to gain a commitment from the Island HPL franchise to ensure there is an opportunity for Upper Island involvement(including regular practice sessions north of the Malahat, HPL games in Nanaimo, try-out sessions north of the Malahat)?

Current Position of the CVUSC: With the information provided to date, our club cannot recommend that UISA vote in favor of the HPL proposal. Our position is based on the lack of clarity in regards to the impact on competitive youth soccer at our club. The potential for much of the province to be eliminated from a competitive youth soccer program if there is not a third tier added to Youth Cup competition is major concern and not something our club can blindly ignore at this point.

BC Soccer proclaims "[Our Mission: Developing the game by inspiring British Columbians to lifelong active, inclusive and team play](#)". Our club wants BC Soccer to stay true to their mission and consider the impact of this proposal on all clubs not just those that will be directly involved in the HPL.

Submitted by:

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