



Lakehill Soccer Association

1359 McKenzie Ave

Victoria BC

V8P 2M1

April 25th, 2018

Dear Parents, Players and Members:

I am writing to you about the subject of VIPL next season. We understand that there is a lot of uncertainty in the soccer community about what is happening for the coming season. This letter aims to address that uncertainty.

VIPL (Vancouver Island Premier League) is what we call Tier 2 Soccer on Vancouver Island (BCSPL better known as Wave is Tier 1, Gold and Silver are Tier 3 and 4 respectively). These levels correspond to the playing tiers in the Lower Mainland and to the Premier Cup (BCSPL), A Cup (VIPL) and B Cup (Gold).

Last year, the 10 clubs that make up the Lower Island Soccer Association chose to move to a regional model for VIPL starting at U14. This change was made to bring players from all clubs into VIPL, and create more robust and competitive teams. Indeed, the strength of the regional model is that it allows players from all clubs to be involved in VIPL and gets more players playing at the appropriate level. The plan was for 6 teams (3 boys, 3 girls) to be created by pooling players from all the clubs and locating the teams at host clubs, based on the geographic proximity of the players. The teams last season were primarily located at Saanich Fusion, Bays and Juan de Fuca, although other clubs did share the burden by providing practice space and hosting some games.

The regional model was largely successful, with two of the teams qualifying as the Island reps for the Provincial A Cup Championships. The VIPL Policy Committee oversees the regional model and continues to work to tweak the model to address concerns of the member clubs. Current issues the committee is considering include adequate resourcing, and maintaining club identity and connectivity.

For the coming season, several clubs advised LISA that they are not willing to commit club resources to the regional model. The remaining clubs have agreed that they are willing to step up and provide the resources to host the teams. This is very much in line with how the regional model was originally envisioned, as there was never a plan to locate teams only at certain clubs. Players from 9 of the 10 LISA clubs took part in player assessments for this coming year's VIPL teams (the exception being Salt Spring).

The final details of the teams' makeup and locations are now in the process of being determined. Players are being invited for final assessments although the last of the teams will not be confirmed until after B Cup provincials in July, as several U13 teams are participating and we do not wish to disrupt their cup runs with distractions about next season.



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We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through the remaining details for next season. Rest assured that we are doing our best to ensure that there is a tier 2 soccer option for players in the Lower Island Soccer Association for the coming season. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at president@lakehillsoccer.com.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Mannall-Fretwell
President, Lakehill Soccer Association