



Excellence through Development

207-1097 Langford Parkway
Victoria, British Columbia, V9B 0A5
Phone: (250) 382-7489, Fax: (250) 382-7480
www.lowerislandsoccer.com

President: Mike Synnuck

LISA League Structure Update – Enhancing Flexibility, Development, and Competitive Alignment

Lower Island Soccer Association (LISA) is pleased to share minor updates to the league structure and seasonal framework, designed to better support team development, appropriate competition levels, and meaningful player experiences across all ages and divisions.

Guiding Philosophy

LISA's updated approach prioritizes player development, competitive balance, and flexibility throughout the first half of the season while seeking to build on the established club-based Spring Competitive structure:

- League division do not dictate cup declarations. Teams may compete in divisions appropriate to their competitive needs prior to December and independently declare for A-Cup or B-Cup following a set deadline in December.
- This model promotes flexibility, competitive balance, and player development, while ensuring teams play at an appropriate level throughout the season.
- A unified Island approach and alignment with BCSA. All Island teams are expected to align with shared deadlines, West Coast League (WCL) commitments, and A/B-Cup competition rules and regulations.

Season Structure Overview

Division 1 (formally Tier 2) – Composed of competitive teams, wanting to play A-Cup and transition to West Coast League in Spring, or strong B-Cup teams. Includes Cross-District play with interested UISA teams.

- **September:** 2–4 weeks of seeding matches to determine competitive grouping.
- **Fall (Sept–Dec):** District Development League play; Teams confirm competitive level and cup intentions for A/B-Cup by mid December.
- **January:** Winter break or optional training. Teams opting for B-Cup transition to Division 2 in January (see Division 2 – Winter)

- **Spring (Feb–May):** A-Cup declared teams transition to West Coast League with regular fixtures and official standings beginning in February. UISA teams may enter West Coast League in February with the expectation they have declared for and are competing for A-Cup qualification. All declared teams will play at minimum home and away against all other teams to determine playdown seeding.
- **June:** West Coast League playdowns and finals completed in early June. West Coast League playdown winners advance to BCSA A-Cup Provincials in July.

Division 2 (formally Tier 3) – Primarily composed of teams intending to compete in B-Cup, offering a balance between competition and development.

- **Fall (Sept–Dec):** District Development League play; Cup declaration by December. Teams may declare for A-Cup and West Coast League participation
- **Winter (Jan–Mar):** B-Cup playdowns begin in January, District Cup, and continued fixtures to Spring Break. B-Cup Island Playdown winners (versus UISA) advance to BCSA B-Cup Provincials in July
- **Spring (April–May):** B-Cup winners may enter friendly matches against A-Cup teams in the West Coast League.

Division 3 (formally Tier 4) – Composed of recreational or developmental teams

- Continues with the current seasonal format, emphasizing participation and inclusion.
- Includes Tim Satterford Cup playdowns, District Cup, and continued fixtures from September to Spring Break

Key Enhancements & Recommendations

1. **Transparent Seeding**
Seeding based on early-season matches, past performance, and club input from Technical Directors.
2. **Divisional Formation**
Where numbers permit, divisions may be split into Pool A and Pool B to better reflect strength tiers. Age banding may be utilized as needed to develop competitive divisions.
3. **Cross-District Play**
Encouragement for competitive teams to expand opportunities through tournaments or friendlies, not limited to UISA.
4. **Blackout Dates (No Games Scheduled)**

- Thanksgiving weekend
- Family Day
- Spring Break
- May Long Weekend