

EVALUATION & SELECTION POLICY

Player movement consists of **evaluation, selection, invitation, and transfer** and is guided by the 2025–26 BC SPL Evaluation and Selection Guidelines, in conjunction with the 2024 BC Soccer Rules & Regulations and the 2025 BC SPL Operations Manual (available on the BC Soccer website).

This policy is designed to provide transparency and clarity to families and players, ensuring that all decisions are made fairly, consistently, and in alignment with BC Soccer standards.

1. THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER PREMIER LEAGUE (BC SPL)

The British Columbia Soccer Premier League (BC SPL) is a standards-based, high-performance development environment for players aged U14 to U18. It represents the highest level of youth community soccer in British Columbia. The purpose of the BC SPL is to:

- Support long-term player development
- Provide high-quality training and competition environments
- Identify players for advanced pathways, including:
 - Provincial Programs
 - University and College soccer
 - League1 BC
 - Professional and National Team pathways

The BC SPL operates within the [Development Stream](#) of Canada Soccer's [Long-Term Player Development](#) (LTPD).

BIRTH YEAR AND SEASON MATRIX

BIRTH YEAR	BCSPL SEASON 2025-2026	BCSPL SEASON 2026-2027
2018	U8	U9
2017	U9	U10
2016	U10	U11
2015	U11	U12
2014	U12	U13
2013	U13	U14
2012	U14	U15
2011	U15	U16
2010	U16	U17
2009	U17	U18

2. THE EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Players may be evaluated through the following pathways:

- ❖ **PLAYER REQUEST** - Players may formally request an evaluation through the club's online submission process. [Link to Request evaluation](#).
- ❖ **REFERRAL** - A recommendation made by a coach or technical director to the club's technical staff.
- ❖ **TALENT ID PATHWAY** - A structured identification process designed specifically for players entering the BCSPL pathway (U14 age group).
- ❖ **SCOUTING** - Club staff observe players within their current club or competitive environment.

Note: All evaluation pathways (excluding Talent ID) require:

- A minimum of two (2) weeks
- At least six (6) training sessions



U14 GROUPS - EVALUATION & SELECTION PROCESS

The U14 age group represents the formal entry point into the BCSPL.

While many BCSPL clubs operate grassroots programs, professional clubs such as Pacific FC are not permitted to operate full grassroots teams. As a result, Pacific FC has developed the Talent ID Pathway to identify and evaluate players prior to U14 entry. This pathway ensures:

- Fair access to evaluation
- Collaboration with local clubs
- A clear development pathway into BCSPL

TALENT ID PATHWAY – PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Pacific FC Talent ID Pathway is designed to identify players from local clubs who aspire to compete at the BCSPL level.

Age Groups

- U13 – Primary intake group for upcoming BCSPL teams
- U12 – Developmental identification stage
- U11/U10 – Early engagement and skill identification

TALENT ID PATHWAY – PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Tier 1 ID Program (U13)

- 4 ID sessions open to local players
- Fall/Winter & Spring phases for identified players
- Final player selection for Pacific FC U14 teams

Youth ID Program (U12–U10)

- Smaller training groups
- Focus on technical development
- Strengthening club-to-club collaboration

THE STAGES

❖ *ID SESSIONS (U13)*

- 4 (four) identification sessions open to the local community players
- Identified players invited to the next stage

❖ *FALL-WINTER*

- U13
 - Approximately 25 selected players from the ID sessions
 - 14 weeks
 - 20 players per gender will be selected to form the Pacific FC U14 Teams to train as a group in the Spring Phase
- U12
 - 10 weeks (2 blocks of 5 weeks)

*This program is focused on talent identification for players aspiring to play at Tier 1 level. As part of our commitment to transparency and respect to the local soccer environment, the club reserves the right to provide families with honest, respectful feedback regarding a player's fit within the current competitive level. This includes situations where we may recommend that a player continue their development at their grassroots or community club and not continue in our environment at that moment.

❖ *SPRING*

- U13
 - 10-week Program
 - Pacific FC U14 teams practicing 3x/week to resemble the BC SPL season programming
 - Exhibition games against local clubs and BC SPL clubs
- U10/U11
 - 4-5 week program
 - Practices 1/week (focus: ball mastering/technique)



EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS FOR U15-U18 AGE GROUPS

For teams already competing in the BCSPL, the evaluation and selection process is more streamlined than the Talent ID Pathway. The process applies to two categories of players:

- Players seeking to join a BCSPL team prior to the start of the season
- Players seeking to join a BCSPL team after the season has begun

Regardless of the category, and in accordance with BC Soccer regulations, all players must complete a minimum two-week evaluation period consisting of at least six (6) training sessions within the BCSPL environment. Wherever possible, this evaluation period should not conflict with the player's current club commitments.

- The timelines for a player to be assessed and potentially selected to join the team **in the new season** are:

EVALUATION: AUG 01 to DEC 07; FEB 01 to APR 30
INVITATION: APR 01 to JUNE 27*
BCSPL START: SEPTEMBER

*June 27 = Team Declaration Deadline with BC Soccer (always 3 weeks after the BCSPL Finals, meaning it might vary from year to year)

- The timelines for a player to be assessed and potentially selected to join the team **with the season in progress** are:

EVALUATION: AUG 01 to DEC 07; FEB 01 to APR 30
INVITATION: UP TO DEC 15
BCSPL START: IMMEDIATELY AFTER INVITATION

[LINK TO REQUEST EVALUATION](#)

IN-SEASON TRANSFERS AND PLAYER PERMITS

TRANSFER DEADLINE

As per BC Soccer Rule 7 – Transfer of Players (b)(iv), December 15 is the deadline for transfers into or out of the BCSPL. After this date, a player may only transfer if:

1. Their current team has completed its playing obligations for the season, or
2. They just moved to the city (international players included)
3. The transfer meets the conditions outlined in the player permit section below.

PLAYER PERMITS

A player may be permitted from a lower division or league to a BCSPL team for a maximum of eight (8) matches per season. Once a player has reached this limit, they must choose to:

1. Remain registered with their current club, or
2. Register with the BCSPL team in order to continue participating in BCSPL matches.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

Our club recognizes that an increasing number of international players choose Canada for their development, often with the goal of playing at a high competitive level while pursuing their education.

International players are evaluated by Pacific FC technical staff either prior to arrival in Canada or after, to ensure they meet the club's standards to participate in the BCSPL. In addition to the sporting evaluation, all international players must complete the appropriate administrative process to be eligible to play in Canada, including obtaining an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) when applicable.

There is currently no limit on the number of international players permitted on a team roster. That said, Pacific FC remains strongly committed to the development of local players. The composition of each team may vary from year to year based on technical needs and



player availability. When international players residing in Canada seek opportunities within our club, they are evaluated and treated equally, without distinction from domestic players.

FEMALE PLAYER PATHWAY – ST. MARGARET’S SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

In 2025, Pacific FC partnered with St. Margaret’s School to launch the Football Academy program. Both domestic and international student-athletes attending the school may participate in this program, which is delivered by Pacific FC technical staff.

Participation in the Football Academy provides players with an opportunity to be observed and potentially recommended for further evaluation by the club’s technical staff. However, participation in the academy does not guarantee selection or placement on a BCSPL team, and all players must meet the same technical and performance standards as any other candidate.

3. FAQ

What’s the minimum and maximum roster size in BCSPL?

As of the 2025-2026 season, the minimum is 14 and the maximum is 22 players.

Will age groups have 22 players?

Not necessarily. There is no fixed or ideal number that applies to every team. Roster size is determined based on the technical needs and development stage of each group.

While very small rosters can be challenging, particularly due to injuries or absences, having the maximum number of players is not always the best solution either. The club’s priority is to build rosters that best support player development rather than targeting a specific number.

If a player is selected, is their place guaranteed until U18?

No. Selection is reviewed annually. Players must continue to demonstrate commitment, development, and performance each season to retain their place within the program.

When are current players informed about selection for the following season?

At the conclusion of each season, players and families will be notified whether the player has been invited to continue with the club for the following year.

These decisions are made collaboratively by the coaching staff and senior technical leadership and are based on commitment, technical and developmental considerations.

Can players be added during the season?

Yes, in accordance with BC SPL and BC Soccer regulations and within the timelines outlined in this policy. However:

- A player may only be added if the roster is not full (maximum of 22 players).
- Any addition must make sense from a technical and developmental perspective.
- The club is not obligated to add players simply because space is available.

All decisions regarding player movement are made jointly by the coaching staff and senior technical leadership.

If the roster is not full, will the club automatically add players?

No. Additional players are only considered if the technical staff believes the addition would benefit both the team and the individual player. Roster size alone does not determine whether new players will be added.

If a player is not selected, can they be evaluated again in the future?

Yes. Players are encouraged to continue developing and may request future evaluations.

Player development is not linear, and decisions are never final. Previous evaluations do not prevent a player from being reassessed at a later date.

Can a player be released during the season?

Yes, but this is considered a last resort. The club's philosophy is to support & develop players throughout the full season. A release would only occur under exceptional circumstances.



How does the club communicate player development?

In addition to ongoing communication with coaches, players participate in two formal development reviews per season through the Individual Development Plan (IDP). Players are assessed across multiple areas, including:

- Technical
- Tactical
- Physical
- Mindset

Families receive a copy of the evaluation for reference.

Can a player leave the program during the season?

Yes. Players may withdraw from the program at any time. However, voluntary withdrawal may have financial implications, as outlined in the club's Refund Policy. In most cases, program fees are not refundable once the season has begun.