



# VANCOUVER ATHLETIC FC

## Head Coach Report 2012-2013

### The Season

With the coming together of 3 clubs and with approx. 1600 players at VAFC, yes! It has certainly been a very busy time, but at the same time a very enjoyable time. It is a privilege and a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with so many new players, new coaches and to meet so many new parents.

I managed to work with most teams and age groups, but a greater emphasis of my time was allocated to the minis and the U11 and U12 Divisional boys and girls. Going forward to next season, as I now know the players and coaches within these younger age groups, I can look at prioritizing work with the older divisional players and coaches.

As a club we already have a solid group of players at the U11, U12 and U13 age group. With many of them capable of challenging for metro and BCPL spots over the coming season, the exciting news is that such as the strength and depth of our 2004 born players we are playing a younger team up at U11 gold next season.

### Player Development

Again this season a lot of my time was spent on player development for a lot of the younger house players. Saturday sessions for the U6/7/8 players were held on a 4 week rotational basis between Douglas Park, Garden Park, Clinton Park and John Hendry Park. Improving early ball control skills and having fun with a variety of non-game activities was the main focus of these sessions.

Free Player development for the younger age groups U8/9's was available on 2 separate evenings at Hamber turf and on a Sunday morning at McSpadden Park. Paid player development for U10-U13 was available at Trillium and McSpadden Park. In all we had over 150 players attending the development sessions.

Next season:

1. All player development will be available for all age groups at 2 different locations on 2 different days.
2. Goalkeeper development for the U10-12 and U13 plus
3. Team player development with the support of a professional coach



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## Coaching the Coaches

The following certified coaching courses were offered for all VAFC coaches in 2012. We had over 90 coaches attend these courses:

- Learning to Train (Coaching the U9-12)
- Active Start x2 (Coaching the U4-6)
- FUNdamentals (Coaching the U6-9)

For 2013 VAFC will offer the following courses. Exact times, dates and locations will be available by the end of May:

- All Grass roots for all new coaches Sept. 2013
- Active Start x2 for all new coaches Sept. 2013
- FUNdamentals Sept. 2013
- Learning to Train July 2013
- Soccer for Life Oct. 2013

Coming in September, there will be monthly, on-field coaching for all coaches of all age groups. This gives an opportunity to share ideas, philosophies and most of all see new faces and network as well all learn together.

VAFC recognizes that the club needs to support the coaches as much as possible by offering certified coaching courses at no cost to the coach. Without the excellent work of the volunteer coaches the players would not develop.

## Coming Soon

Increased online coaching resources, video links and coaching data base.

## Referee Development

In October 2012 the mini referee development course was well attended by 20 young VAFC referees. All new referees passed the course and applied those new skills on the field for the U8-U10 age groups. This course will be repeated again in the fall of 2013. Any player 12 years of age can attend.

For next season the club recognizes that we need to provide an Entry level referee course to enable the 14 plus age group to be available to referee the U11/12 age groups. The club will look to offer this in the fall.

## Fields

VAFC has had more access to the central and east side city turf fields resulting in almost all divisional games being taken off of Douglas Park and Clinton Park and played on the turf fields at Andy Livingstone, Trillium, Van Tech and Memorial South Parks. Yes, the younger teams have had some early 8:00 am games but playing on the turf greatly improves the passing and ball movement, and even better, has taken us off of the alternate gravel fields when the grass is unplayable.



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## Summary

I would like to thank the board of Vancouver Athletic FC for their continued support, and to all players, coordinators, managers, and coaches, not only for their support, but for their total dedication and incredible energy to the club and its players.

I thank the players for their commitment, enjoyment and continued pursuit of improving their technical skills and ability within this beautiful game.

My consistent aim is that every player, at whatever level, enjoys having the ball, has confidence in their dribbling, passing and possession. The player remains challenged in practices and games, and most of all continues to have total enjoyment for this great game.

Yours in Soccer

Steve Weston

***Head Coach and Technical Director***

***Vancouver Athletic FC***