

U10 Parent Information Frequently Asked Questions and Information

The purpose of this document is to provide information to parents of players who are currently in the U10 age group and moving to the U11 in the next season.

Up until U11, kids play on balanced teams at the House level, which provide a community-based approach that allows players to develop.

At and after U11, players move to a tiered approach, teams are based on ability, so kids at a similar level of development, skill and commitment play together. Not all players develop and the same rate, so our boys' and girls' programs offer different levels of play.

On the Boys side we have Gold, Silver and Bronze Levels and on the Girls side we have Gold, Silver 1 and Silver 2. These levels are not set by us but by BC Soccer.

Your child's evaluation dates can be found on the Clubs website at the following location:

<http://vafc.ca/assessments/assessment-times-locations/>

How are kids evaluated ?

All current coaches from U10 evaluate their own players during December and in February.

This is used primarily to rank kids within a team. (this is for existing members of VAFC)

Head Coach Steve Weston also evaluates each player throughout the season, either through attending practices, games and tournaments.

Players are then asked to attend an evaluation in February and in March. There are two in total where they will be assessed objectively by coaches from other age groups.

The scores from each evaluation is used to rank the players and form the teams.

CURRENT COACHES OF U10 PLAYERS WILL NOT BE SCORING AT THE EVALUATIONS.

Players will be evaluated with other members within their team as well as new players joining the Club so that a fair and balanced evaluation can take place.

The evaluations are meant to be fun and not a pressured environment for the players. There will be a number of stations where the children will be divided into teams and will rotate through each station. The field will likely be split in half and although the player may only get evaluated on one half in the first evaluation they will be on the second half of the field for their final evaluation.

What if my child can't attend the evaluations?

There are two evaluations for U11 players, if you are an existing VAFC member and can only attend one or no evaluations do not worry your child's placement will be based on the in-season evaluations carried out by Coach Steve and the players Coaches. Please ensure that you register even if you can not attend as this will ensure that an offer is sent out to you.

If a player is new to the Club they will have to attend an evaluation session as we are unable to assign a player to a team that we have never seen play. For this reason new players who can not attend the assigned evaluation dates should write to the Club Coordinator (vafclubcoordinator@gmail.com) and advise that they can not make the evaluation date and an alternative will be provided for you.

How are teams formed?

The Club's Head Coach, assisted by the Age Group Co-ordinator form teams based on player ability as demonstrated during coaches' evaluations and performance at the evaluation sessions.

These teams will contain kids from all of the Club's inhouse leagues, as well as those who have joined from outside the Club.

What if my child wants to play a specific position?

At this age we encourage children to rotate on the field and gain experience learning the game and understand all positions. We do not evaluate a specific position. We will be holding Goal Keeper evaluations at this age group, this allows us to ensure balanced teams and ensure that one particular team doesn't get too many players with a strong Goal Keeping skill set. That said at this age group we encourage our coaches to rotate the Goal Keepers on the field to ensure they understand all the roles of the game and gets to improve other abilities.

What if my child doesn't make a Gold team?

The purpose of the evaluation sessions and the process is to try to ensure that your child continues to enjoy playing soccer with their peers at the level that is most appropriate for them.

The goal is to find the right team for your child; one that challenges them as well as maintaining a sense of fun.

As a club, we do not believe in "cutting" players. Kids develop as players at different rates, and one who is a Bronze player at U11 can very well grow into being a Gold player at U13.

What day of the week are divisional games played?

Starting at U11, girls play on Sundays and boys continue to play on Saturdays. The level of play (Gold, Silver or Bronze) will determine which league your child's team will play in, and how much travel is involved.

When do Divisional teams practice?

Teams practice on turf or gravel; coaches and parents will have some input on practice day and time. This is always a difficult topic as with the rest of Vancouver, there is never enough turf time to take care of everyone's requirements. This year an attempt will be made to have all teams of the same age practice at the same time. Your team's coach will let you know when and where your team's practices are however for the U11 age groups practices will likely be 5pm – 6pm.

Unfortunately practice allocations can not be confirmed until August as this is when we receive our allocation of fields from the Parks Board.

How often do Divisional teams practice?

Every team no matter what level is offered two practices a week, however depending on the coaches' availability a team might only practice once a week. Some players are not able to attend practices a week which is fine in the Silver and Bronze teams, but Gold players are asked to attend both practices and the coaches will look for that commitment.

What if my child doesn't want to play in the position offered?

If your child is unhappy with the position offered please let us know, sometimes we may offer a child a position higher than they want to play, if you let us know we will place them in to a lower level. If a child believes they should be offered a higher position they should respond to the offer in writing to the Head Coach and Club Coordinator (vafclubcoordinator@gmail.com) who will review at their earliest convenience.

When will my child know what team they are on and who the coach is?

We can not provide a date or time other than as soon as a team is finalised we will let you know. A lot of detail goes into the team formation, first we have to receive all the responses back from the offers sent out and then look at the number we have. Sometimes we will offer a player up a level from a lower team if the number of acceptances are not enough to form teams. Once the players are finalised we look at assigning the coaching staff based on availability and the teams skillsets. Only when a team is finalised can we confirm with the player and this will usually be done via the Coach when they introduce themselves.

Can my child choose to be with a friend?

Unfortunately we can not take friend requests at this age group, we do however do our best to try and group players together geographically and based on previous teams if the players are of the same level and it ensures teams are balanced.

What does U11, U12 etc mean?

Just like school, the year your child is born determines which age group your child should play in. Because the playing season overlaps the new year, the U number refers to the age that a player will turn after December 31st of the current season. For the 2018-19 season, these ages are given below:

Birth Year	Program
2008	U11
2007	U12
2006	U13
2005	U14
2004	U15
2003	U16
2002	U17
2001	U18

Kids play with players their own age.

Where are Divisional games played?

U11 and U12 teams play 8-aside games on half of a full-sized field. Currently, our club's home games are played at Douglas Park, Trillium Park and Memorial South Park. We have also used Andy Livingstone Park and Van Tech High School as home fields in the past. Teams will typically alternate home and away games, although not always.

The only fields are DPK and Trillium

Boys League

U12 Gold = BC Coastal Soccer League
U12 Silver = BC Coastal Soccer League
U12 Bronze = BC Coastal Soccer League
U11 Gold = BC Coastal Soccer League
U11 Silver = VYSA
U11 Bronze = VYSA

Girls League

U12 Girls = BC Coastal Girls League
U12 Silver A = VYSA
U12 Silver B = VYSA
U11 Gold = VYSA
U11 Silver A = VYSA
U11 Silver B = VYSA

Teams that play in the Boys' BC Coastal Soccer League or the Girls' BC Coastal Girls' Soccer League (those shown in the table above and all teams from U13-U18) play away games against teams from other clubs in Vancouver and from outside the city as well. Teams that play in the VYSA play only against teams from other clubs in Vancouver.

What if my child wants to play in a Bronze team?

This is fine, we want your child to be happy and enjoy the game, if a child would like to play in a Bronze team and does not want to attend an evaluation they must still register for the season and then follow up with an email to the age group coordinator and club coordinator with a request to play in a bronze team.

Process overview

The following provides the high level process on evaluations and registrations that will take place for the U11 age group.

Feb 1st – Registration will commence for all age groups. All players must be registered to attend the evaluations. When registering for the evaluation you will be asked to enter your credit card details however you will not be charged at this time. Any players who attend the evaluation without registering will not be allowed on the field until they have completed paperwork and then the electronic registration must take place before the child's second evaluation to receive the offer.

Evaluations will take place on the dates provided. When your child attends the evaluation they will be asked to register at the desk providing their name and current team. A photo copy of the players Canadian Passport or Canadian birth certificate must be provided and will be held by the Club Coordinator for insurance registration with VYSA. If your child does not have a Canadian Birth Certificate or Canadian Driving License a photo copy of their Permanent Resident Card must be provided (Both front and back).

Your child will be given a colored and numbered pinnie and will be asked to go on to the field to warm up. The Head Coach will confirm when the session starts and will assign the player to the stations. At the end of the session the Head Coach will have a short debrief and players will be asked to leave the field handing in their pinnie.

At the second evaluation the process is exactly the same, please note that the players pinnie should be the same as day one and if it is not please query this at the registration desk.

After the second evaluation your child will receive an offer email from their Age Group Coordinator within 5 – 10 days. This will be an offer of a level rather than a team. You have 48 Hours to accept or decline the offer and at this point your credit card will be charged and your child will be confirmed as playing on a VAFC U11 team. (Please note a child can not be registered with two Clubs at the same time). If we do not hear from you within 48 Hours or if you decline the offer will be given to another child and you may contact us at a later date to join a team but will not be guaranteed the same offer. If you have an issue with the offer please still respond to the offer letter so that we can deal with your request accordingly.

After this time we will be working to create the teams and will next be in touch when we have recruited a coach and the full team has been accepted. This is when the coach will introduce themselves to you and confirm who is in the team.

Offer within 5 – 10 days
48 hours only to accept decline
Contact us within 48 hours