

RICHMOND FC JUNIOR PROGRAM (U13 – U18)

January 2015

I. THE PROGRAM

The Richmond FC Junior Program (the “Program”) is comprised of the RFC U13 – U18 teams that play at the Gold, Silver and Bronze levels in the “Four District (a league, as the name suggests, comprised on 4 soccer districts – Richmond, Vancouver, Burnaby and the North Shore).

II. BASIC OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

The general design of the Program is to permit participants differing playing options based on, amongst other things, playing ability, participant expectations and participant level of commitment. Within this design, the Program’s objectives include the following:

- continued participation in soccer
- wellness and fitness
- social development *via* team experience
- permitting latecomers
- better (than at the BCSPL or Metro Select levels) ease of participation in other activities

The Program has structured on the basis of how teams are created:

- **Gold and Silver Levels:** teams are constituted (and reconstituted) by season-long assessments and annual assessments (“try-outs”). Players wishing to play on a Gold or Silver team are required to attend annual try-outs.
- **Bronze Level:** teams are not formed *via* annual assessments. Once formed at U13, subject to player movement into other tiers or players not continuing to play soccer, Bronze teams will tend to stay intact from year to year.

The number of Gold, Silver and Bronze teams varies each year and at each age group. Being created *via* try-outs, Gold and Silver teams will settled in February/March. Bronze teams are confirmed in August.

III. BASIC ELEMENTS

The Program’s basic elements are set-out and discussed below:

- **Player Registration Fees** – player fees commensurate with Program cost resulting in the Gold and Silver tier of the Program being more expensive than the Bronze tiers. Fees for 2015 – 2016 will be posted on the RFC website in late April. Current fees are \$410 for Gold/Silver (\$450 for U13) and \$225 for Bronze.
- **Game Format:** 11 v 11
- **Location:** home games are in Richmond and away games are in Vancouver, Burnaby, and the North Shore in a League called “Four-District”.
- **Frequency** – frequency purposely varies amongst the tiers in the Program so as to permit participants different options:
 - Gold/Silver: 3 sessions per week (two practices and a game)
 - Bronze: 2 sessions per week (one practice and one game)
- **Player Responsibility and Playing Time** –clearly players derive the most benefit from soccer and teams function the best when players regularly attend practices and games; therefore whatever the

tier, we strongly encourage full participation. At the same time, we also recognise that participants, because of varying levels of commitment/expectations and/or other obligations and commitments, may want to play soccer, but may not be able or willing to attend all sessions. The Program's minimum playing time rules are developed to reflect a balance between encouraging participation and permitting flexibility. RYSA minimum playing time rules are as follows:

Players at the Gold and Silver tiers are, subject to "all things being equal", and entitled to a minimum of 30 minutes playing time per game.

"All things being equal" means that:

- at training sessions and games, players consistently exhibit the determination and the desire to become the best soccer players that they can be
- players adhere to prescribed rules in respect to attendance, punctuality, communication and training gear
- **Coaching** – volunteer coaching with some professional coaching assistance at the Gold/Silver tiers. The RFC provides our volunteer coaches with support by way of coaching certification (without cost to the coaches) and age appropriate practice plans
- **Assessments** – "try-out" format evaluations, taking place in February/March (participants will be advised of exact dates, times and locations), are applicable to all Gold and Silver teams. There are no annual assessments for Bronze teams.

