



## U16-U18 Age Group Report

### **Background:**

This age group represents teams ranging from Bronze to Gold. Each team was represented by quality volunteer coaches, who were dedicated to the squad and the Richmond FC program. Technical coaches were assigned to the teams, and they worked to develop the player's skills during their training sessions. Technical coaches attended many of their squad's home games and worked with the volunteer coaches to develop lacking skills.

### **Season:**

The early part of the season had issues with player placement, roster size and communication. There were several teams which struggled to have sufficient players for game days and training sessions at the older age bracket.

Some of the "confusion" from last season regarding the direction of Richmond FC's technical training plan was not an issue. In most cases, the Technical Coaches and the Volunteer coaches worked seamlessly and both groups were delivering similar messages.

There were strong concerns and opinions on new league alignment and the communication of game schedules and field allocations. Much of this was outside the control of Richmond FC. The Board, Steve and Emad work hard to assist the coaches in getting clarity around scheduling.

### **Coastal Report:**

The u18 Gunners finished well in the season and continued into the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Coastal Cup play, finally being knocked out in the Quarter Finals.

The u17 Wolves had some early issue with their game play, but finished strong and despite being knocked out in the first round of Coastal Cup play, had a successful season.

The u16 Renegades developed through a strong season. The eventually fell in the first round of Coastal Cup play.

### **Rosters & Parents:**

For the most part, the all the teams in this age group were successful and the players enjoyed being part of their teams and Richmond FC. The parent groups remain a challenge in some instances, however through transparent communication and strong leadership, these instances were held to a minimum. Several players received discipline from the league and additional resources were outlaid by Richmond FC and the TAC to assist with addressing concerns on the field. These were considered minor and were “typical” growing pains associated with the age group.

### **Conclusion:**

The Richmond FC has a strong membership of committed players, Volunteer and Technical Coaches. The vision of Richmond FC continues to move in the direction of LTPD and building synergies between competitive play and soccer for life mentality. Many teams in this age group had very successful seasons, and for the most part, players were happy and engaged.

Going forward it is my recommendation that Richmond FC continue to strengthen its development programs in line with BC Soccer’s LTPD. Both the Technical Director and the Technical Leads have recognized the benefits and needs of the volunteer coaches and have developed synergies to include them in the vision of Richmond FC.

The introduction of SLACK as a communication tool has been very valuable in keeping all the coaching staff cohesive. Additions online tools introduced this past season (such as a database of training drills and instructions) has been well received.

The main issues still revolved around communication and transparency. In this regard, Richmond FC has taken strong strides to be inclusive and engage all stakeholders in the overall Vision.

Thank you.

Terry Dowle  
u16-u18 Age Group Coordinator