



EA SPORTS BC Soccer Premier League Update

The EA SPORTS BC Soccer League's founding franchises were announced on February 17, 2011. Since then significant progress has been made on a number of fronts as the league works toward its pilot mini-season this September and its first full season of competitive play in March 2012.

The following provides an update on current league developments. Further details are available on BC Soccer Premier League's new website: www.bcsoccerpremierleague.net

- Announcement of EA SPORTS as title sponsor of BC Soccer Premier League.
- Development of venue, brand and technological support from EA SPORTS for the league including hosting the League Board of Governors meetings at the EA SPORTS Canada campus in Burnaby.
- Establishment of the League Board of Governors incorporating representatives from eight franchises with bi-weekly meetings initiated.
- Interim formal Board positions finalized.
- Establishment of League Technical Sub-Committee which meets bi-weekly and incorporates Technical Directors for each of the eight franchises.
- Agreement to host league-wide coaches' meeting prior to the kick-off of each section of the league season (commencing prior to mini-season Sep 2011).
- Development of the league constitution.
- Establishing League 'Game Day Operations' procedures.
- Mini-season playing schedule plan in place.
- Franchise player evaluations undertaken with team rosters being finalized.

- Launch of a new league website www.bcsoccerpremierleague.net
- Four new franchise logos launched.
- Updated league 'Frequently Asked Questions' section, posted on new league website

"As a league, we've made tremendous progress since announcing the eight inaugural franchises in February," said David Haber, interim president of BC Soccer Premier League's Board of Governors. "The franchise representatives and BC Soccer staff have all made significant contributions to maintaining the momentum that we have created since the league was established. Clearly there is still a great deal of work ahead of us"

"While there have been and will be challenges for a new league of this nature, it's a very exciting time for the league and for the franchises," said Steve Allen, BC Soccer Director and Chair of the BC Soccer High Performance Committee, which oversees and monitors progress and standards of the league and its Board of Governors. "We have franchises establishing and designing new club identities, player evaluations underway, and some very progressive debate taking place about how this league could become a template for youth soccer across Canada."

"The progress the EA Sports BC Soccer Premier League is making is indicative of the momentum and excitement that soccer is creating right now British Columbia," commented Paul Barber, chief executive officer, Vancouver Whitecaps FC.

Matt Bilbey, Vice President and GM of Soccer, EA SPORTS said "We are already playing an active role in supporting the establishment of the league and will work closely with BC Soccer and the Board of Governors to engage stakeholders and continue the growth of soccer throughout the province."

For information about the league, links to franchises, frequently asked questions and contact details please go to www.bcsoccerpremierleague.net

EA Sports BC Soccer Premier League

The EA SPORTS BC Soccer Premier League was designed to create a new high performance level of competition and support player development at the Provincial, Professional and National team level. It will simplify scouting of top young players, provide an elevated level of competition and increase the chance for players fulfilling their potential and creates a dynamic new commercial property at the pinnacle of youth soccer in BC.

Eight founding franchises were announced on February 17, 2011.

- Coquitlam Metro Ford
- Fusion FC (Vancouver/Richmond)
- Magnuson Ford Mariners FC (Abbotsford)
- Mountain United FC (Burnaby/North Shore)
- South Fraser Soccer Club
- Surrey United FC
- Thompson Okanagan FC
- Vancouver Island Wave

The first full season of competition will begin in March 2012 and continue through November. It will feature male and female divisions at the U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, and U-17/U-18 levels, equating to approximately 1600 players.

A “mini-season” will run from September through November to prepare for the full season commencing in March 2012. Details about the fall 2011 schedule will be released shortly.

For information about EA Sports BC Soccer Premier League please contact:

Paul Mullen
BC Soccer
Director of Operations
paulmullen@bcsoccer.net
604-299-6401 x 2355
604-317-9451 (cell)



