



UPPER ISLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION

UISA –PLANNING ROUNDTABLE

Saturday, April 5, 2014

Quality Inn Bayside, Parksville - 11 AM

Present: Sean Arbour (UISA), Carl Neibel (UISA), Dave Ried (Gabriola), Glen Murphy (Gabriola), ???? (Gabriola), Scott Saywell (HCFC), Tony Zuccaro (HCFC), Jason Coates (HCFC), Joel Butler (HCFC), Cam Miller (Powell River), Lisa Wigard (Comox Valley), Barrie McDonald (Powell River), John Lee (Oceanside), Butch Gayton (Oceanside), Brad Berry (Alberni Valley), Willow Hartig (Mid-Isle), Shel Brodsgaard (Riptide), Darrin McLeod (UISA).

Guest: Christine Carson, UISA Administrator

MINUTES

- 1) **Welcome – Sean** – Discussion of Tier III and house, how to strengthen development league and how to tie in with VIPL. Introduction of members attending.

- 2) **Club reports:**
 - a) **PRYSA – Barrie and Cam.** House system runs on Sat, B-Cup players also play house (mandatory up to U16-18, optional after that), keeps numbers strong in both levels. House works well up to U12, can get 4 teams per division, but must combine all ages for U13-18 to get teams, where most of the kids also play B cup. Run a combined team house practice for kids not in rep soccer, and a separate practice for B cup kids. Have been recruiting at younger ages (by U12) in order to get a cohort of 30, which will give a decent U14 B-Cup team of 18. Also work very hard to individually recruit/encourage kids to come out. DO find that rep hockey takes kids at Atom (9-10) away from soccer due to the travel commitment. Once a B-cup team established tends to stay active throughout the U14-18 years. Expect a limit to VIPL players from PR on any team due to travel constraints – would leave VIPL teams without sufficient numbers on bad weather weekends. Need B cup in order to develop kids –will not be able to feed talented kids up to VIPL without this pool of players with higher skills. Do not feel that travel to Vancouver Island would be worthwhile for house games only, absolutely want B cup to continue and be strong, makes playing with Vancouver Island teams worthwhile. **Discussion/questions** – how to get more, stronger teams involved in B cup, should we limit VIPL teams/participation to keep talent pool for B Cup strong, how to build up teams when 2-3 players leave for VIPL and team weakened – working on coach development, but also player development, i.e. more consistent practices for younger age groups (8-12) by having spring season with better weather and light, also working on increasing recruitment. Would a MWC tournament for older ages of house help? – Cam feels lots of tourneys available for U13 and up. Do house teams take advantage?

 - b) **OYSS – John and Butch.** OYSS does not participate in B cup because it disturbs house pool of players, does not leave functional teams. Play Sept-Mar for older house, fall and spring seasons for U11 and under. Know that without B cup team, kids who don't make VIPL do not stay in house. Support keeping Tier 3, but need to operate more like PR, with kids playing both, so that house league remains strong. Anticipate that playing B cup less often than every week, as two game days per week is an over commitment. Like the idea of not declaring B cup teams until Jan deadline, but still need those players

accessible to house teams until March. Current development – supporting coach development with Shel-led sessions, and have Mon night academy (entirely club-funded, no extra charge) night for all motivated kids (U6 and up) to support their development in addition to their weekly team practices – attracts lots of younger kids under U12, work hard to attract coaches to development sessions and coaching clinics, but participation limited. Also have high-school based academy for older kids. Shel believes older kids would be motivated to play for the activity and the social event/identity with a trained coach, and that parent-coach limitations may be a negative factor. **Discussion** – Cam feels that there are groups of more social players and groups of more competitive players, and that you have to offer the competitive players more opportunity. If B-Cup competition not weekly, feels that opportunity to play up against VIPL on off weekends would be valuable. **Shel/Cam** – discussion of setting up matches with merit across leagues. **Bill/Barrie discussion**- careful to offer players opportunity to play at the highest level they can vs. limiting development by a coach-driven team model, where kids retained from opportunities in other leagues. This is more challenging in isolated communities like PR, where loss of 2-3 players from a team may destroy it.

c) **Gabriola – Dave R. and Glen M.** Finally have LTPD model that is player-centered, lifelong but still talking about “our” players. Challenge to support so many levels of soccer with demographics of Upper Island. Is competition the only form of development? Yearly uncertainty about upcoming structure has been a recurring challenge – hopefully step forward today. Most important priority to develop house/grassroots, and most kids younger in Gabriola. Looking for opportunities to participate in events for motivated kids, but cannot support Tier 3 teams. Best U13 experience was with kids playing house who were selected for development group which met once/week and looked for games 1-2x per month plus tournaments. Produced strong cohorts for VIPL tryouts. **Shel discuss** – benefits of that model for current VIPL teams and leading coaches in the communities evident. Supports the model and sees it as the challenge for the district - to work together on a system to keep participation high and still encourage kids to develop. **Gabriola discuss** – concerned about keeping house strong, open to ideas that allow rep development without depleting house. Collaboration is necessary and flexibility will be needed to make tier 3 work – a league of single age teams has limited potential in UI due to geography and numbers – Tier 3 is the challenge requiring new solutions. Should format be 8 v 8? Review of numbers of kids in VIPL and Tier 3 – small number vs. total registration. **Darrin discuss** – could development year be split onto development phase and competitive phase? Could we use 8 aside development at U13 to keep numbers up? Play 11 aside with rostered team only after Jan 15. Could you have tourneys to play 11 aside squads spaced throughout the year – ie start of season, Thanksgiving, Island cup.

d) **HCFC – Tony and Scott.** Season starts with 2 week mandatory coaches’ orientation session – must complete before can get gear and coach. Younger kids have mass practice overseen by TD. Have pony league, plus combined house league with OYSS and Mid-Isle, play double-sided soccer. Have lots of players for different tiers. Do not want to lose Tier 3 because keeps players who does not make VIPL motivated and involved. Want to promote individual player development and coach development. Would like to see more support for HPL players from district. **Discuss** – Support Tier 3 and have enough numbers to support single age Tier 3 teams but understand that other clubs do not. Feel technical director has limited ability to work with kids in Tier 3 and Tier 2. Feels club could support all tiers themselves. **Clarification** – now VIPL thoroughly franchised and all teams

region-based. -HCFC expressed interest in Strom regional franchise and now participating in steering committee. Discuss strength in pooling, experience of U17B Riptide in 2013-14. **Question** – what are HCFC plans for Tier 3 teams next year? Would combined Tier3/house work for HCFC? – **Answer** - Teams and tryouts not set – plans on hold until after today’s meeting. Concern that mixed house/Tier 3 commitment would lose some players. No real HPL presence in Upper Island. **Shel** – review current HPL experience with U14s this year.

e) **Comox – Lisa.** Saw and liked setup for house soccer – banners, music - at HCFC, thought it was well done. Lots of players but Tier 3 pool of players impacted by large involvement in VIPL from the club. Supports Tier 3, but needs change in format. Have co-operated with Campbell River at house and tier 3 and supports cooperation. Some concern with large pooled age groups for development excluding kids who would join late due to intimidation and social limitation of established groups. Club working hard on training coaches. Have separate fall and spring house seasons. Have good participation at younger ages. But still have big bottleneck after U12. Take smaller numbers at U13, lose lots of kids. Also concerned about moving individual kids for development having a negative effect on remaining kids in group/team. Need Tier 3 for players legitimately at that level, and need to see it as a valid and valuable achievement. **Discuss** – need plan/coordinate as opposed to ad hoc cooperation, last-minute solutions, need to consider impact of club decisions on district, which has not always happened in the past, requires a regular forum/structure – would hopefully bring in older kids from communities which cannot support single-age teams.

f) **Port Alberni – Brad.** Similar to Powell River – rep kids play in house, some geographic isolation. Have great facilities. Like to implement double-sided soccer. Do not have development team to support club and coaches. Would like to improve recruitment and decrease attrition of kids. Trouble getting coaches out for development opportunities, but have had several technical experts visit and generated more interest. Had trouble with house and Tier 3 recently, getting back on track, support Tier 3, will lose kids without Tier 3 players to motivate others to stay in soccer. **Shel/Dave R/Bill**– supportive of double-sided soccer, need some consistency –HCFC implemented in younger age groups only to minimize parental resistance, Port Alberni tried a number of double-sided games and lost kids when they went to full-sided. Expect Tier 3 could be improved but will not grow. **Shel discuss** – Campbell River example of how to incorporate part-time technical direction suitable to the club size.

g) **Mid-Isle – Willow.** Some similarity to Oceanside. Runs U9 and under house and then combined house for U10 and above with HCFC, Gabriola and Oceanside. Strong focus on player development, have recently started participating in Tier 3. Real trade off when kids move up due to limited club size and would really benefit from kids playing house and Tier 3. Would like consistency in recruitment for Tier 3 between clubs (all allow house as well or not). Mix practices for Tier 3 and house – lets kids know each other and play together for special events. Real focus on coach development and all coaches certified.

3) **Direction moving forward– Sean.** Agreement on a level between house and Tier 2, but also agreement that supporting Tier 3 puts pressure on house. Need to confer with BC Soccer re: rules.

Need to think about schedule for Tier 3 – how many games are enough, separate game day from house best? jamborees for house teams on tier 3 day? HCFC supports regular house game on different game day rather than jamboree.

Shel – biweekly schedule may allow time for other types of training that get short changed in our current system (for coaches and players) – ie video feedback, physical training, mental training

U13 bottleneck – trying to find enough players for U14 VIPL and Tier 3 U14 difficult after U13 year with only one level (tier 3) 11 aside. Would the group consider 12 aside for U13 tier 3? Not good in CR and PR, where not enough players for 2 x 12 aside squads, but too many (18) for only one. Cam would support 8 aside for some play, but need to learn 11 aside to be competitive.

Parent resistance a real issue – need supporting information for the change.

Other discussion: Could the district consider mixed gender teams?

Could the district run in a development phase (Sept – Dec) followed by a competitive phase (Jan on)? What will the limits imposed by Coastal Cup be?

Could the district establish a Tier 3 steering committee?

4) **Conclusion – Sean.**

- a) UISA will immediately establish a Tier 3 steering committee. Carl Neibel to head the committee and all clubs encouraged to participate.
- b) Discussion with BC soccer re: Tier3 and house double level players already initiated.
- c) What can we implement for 2014-2015, or season after? Likely to move forward as 11 aside for next year.
- d) Consider implementing biweekly schedule for the fall.

Future Meeting Dates:

UISA Executive Meeting:

Monday, April 7 at CVUSC Clubhouse, Courtenay – 7:00pm

Monday, May 5 at CVUSC Clubhouse, Courtenay – 7:00pm

Monday June 9 at CVUSC Clubhouse, Courtenay – 7:00pm

Monday August 11 at CVUSC Clubhouse, Courtenay – 7:00pm

Monday September 8 at CVUSC Clubhouse, Courtenay – 7:00pm

Monday October 6 at CVUSC Clubhouse, Courtenay – 7:00pm

Monday November 3 at CVUSC Clubhouse, Courtenay – 7:00pm

Monday Dec 1 at CVUSC Clubhouse, Courtenay – 7:00pm

UISA General Meeting dates:

Saturday April 26, 2014 at Quality Inn Bayside, Parksville– following AGM

Saturday August 23, 2014 at CVUSC Clubhouse, Courtenay – 11:00am

Saturday November 22, 2014 at Quality Inn Bayside, Parksville – 11:00am

UISA Annual General Meeting date:

Saturday April 26, 2014 at Quality Inn Bayside, Parksville– 11:00am