



BC SOCCER

BC Soccer Primer League (BCSPL) Age Group Changes 2023+

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The New Intake Age Group in the BCSPL will be the U14 Intake (2011 Birth Year) for September 2024

In September 2023*, across the province, all U13 age groups will commence 9v9 small side game formats which is aligned with the direction from Canada Soccer. This change impacts the BCSPL as this standards-based level of play is based on 11v11 game formats. Therefore, in September 2023 the U13 Intake age group (2011 Birth Year) will not be participating in the BCSPL. This age group's selection process will be delayed by one year until September 2024 at the U14 Intake age group within the 11v11 game format. The 2011 born players will continue to participate in their regular soccer environment with their club teams utilizing the 9v9 small-sided game format.

*Some leagues in BC already use 9v9 or smaller sided game formats for the U13 age group.

Why is BC Soccer making this change?

There are many benefits for children to remain playing small-sided soccer for a longer period, including more 1v1 and 2v2 attacking and defending experiences, more opportunity for touches on the ball as well as more focus on technical player development rather than the team tactical side of the game in an 11v11 game format which should occur as players age.

Further and very importantly, this change delays early player selection and supports more players in a wider pool to continue to play together and develop in small-sided games formats and in local league soccer. This change delays selection for a further year, allowing the player to continue to develop at their own rate and ability to be more appropriately placed in the right playing environment for the Under 14 age group and above. This shift also provides for one more year of growth, socially and emotionally, thus hopefully better supporting the player as they are introduced to the selection process into the BCSPL (a wider provincial league).

Ultimately, this change puts the player and their development at the decision-making forefront and is in alignment with Canada Soccer recommendations of the Under 13 age group playing 9v9.

Who does this change impact?

In the first instance, the 2011 birth year group of players are impacted as their entry into the BCSPL is delayed by one year. This also impacts future years with the same situation.

What does this change mean for the 2011 Birth Year player?

For the 2011 birth year group it means that instead of joining the BCSPL in September 2023 at the U13 (intake), they will join the league in September 2024 at the U14 (Intake) level.

When and how will this be implemented?

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		U12						U13			
		2011 Birth Year						2011 Birth Year			
		9v9 or below						9v9			
		Local District League						Local District League			
2024											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		U13						U14 (Intake)			
		2011 Birth Year						2011 Birth Year			
		9v9						11v11			
		Local District League						BCSPL			

