

## *LUYSA Grassroots Soccer FAQ (updated June 2013)*

### **When does the season start & end?**

Parents will receive the initial contact in Late August. Training begins the first week of September. At the U6 to U9 level, the program involves one weeknight training session and one weekend game day per week. At the U10 level, if field allocations permit, training may be increased to 2 practices and 1 game per week. The club and teams take a winter break around the first week of December, resuming in early January. The season continues until early-March, including a year-end windup Mini-World Cup Tournament Event.

### **How and when are teams formed? Are there different tiers of play?**

LUSA's Grassroots (Mini) Soccer program is based upon the Canadian Soccer Associations guidelines & recommendations under the "Wellness to World Cup" and LTPD (Long Term Player Development) programs.

At the **U6** level, registered players will be placed onto teams based upon school-catchment/home address, and player requests. We try to honour all requests, but it is not guaranteed.

Moving into the **U7** level, players will be grouped into two like-minded "Streams" in each age group via an initial "live evaluation" by LUYSA's technical staff. Keep in mind that these are **NOT** tryouts. The teams within each stream (Development & Community) will then be formed based upon a) school catchment, then b) player requests. Priority is to keep teams balanced and to avoid powerhouse teams. Coaches and players will be assigned and parents notified shortly there-after.

For the **U8-U10** levels, teams are carried over from the previous season with minor changes based upon the development of players and the changing registration of players (new players, and players leaving the game).

<b>Age Group</b>	<b># Players (on field)</b>	<b>Tiers</b>
U6	4 aside	None
U7	4 aside (*+GK)	Development & Community Streams
U8	4 aside (*+GK)	Prospects, Development & Community Streams
U9	7 aside (6 plus gk)	Prospects, Development & Community Streams
U10	7 aside (6 plus gk)	Prospects, Development & Community Streams

### **Can my child play up a year with a sibling or friend?**

LUSA will consider parental requests for their children to play up in an older age group for TECHNICAL development, not for social purposes. This must be approved prior to registration by the technical department. The player must be of the required technical, emotional, and athletic level. We also reserve the right to move the child back to their own age group at any time during the season for any reason but most specifically if they don't have the skill level to compete at the older age group or if they are having trouble fitting in. Safety and well-being of the child is of paramount concern.

### **My child is small and born late in the calendar year, can he play down on a younger team?**

No. Due to insurance provided by BC Soccer through your registration fees, guidelines prohibit LUSA from allowing this. Every child must play in their birth year age group. Playing up one year may be considered on a player to player basis only and must be approved by the LUSA Technical Department. Changes to the LUSA Player Development Program are designed in part to eliminate the need for players to play “up” a year to develop at a higher pace. Medical exceptions as approved by BC Soccer are the only exclusion to this rule.

### **Will my child play close to home?**

Games are generally held at Willoughby Community Park (beside Langley Events Center). Training for U6 to U8 teams move indoors to assigned school gyms during the wet/cold months. As the first consideration (after the “streams” evaluations) is to try and place each player in their school catchment area. The earlier a child is registered the easier it is for the Club to facilitate the player placement. Waitlist players are not guaranteed location preferences; they will be placed where space is available.

### **What days are the games and practices?**

Game days for Boys are Saturdays. Girls play on Sundays (pending field allocations). Practices are outdoors (unassigned – coaches discretion) until October then move indoors to gyms (U6 – U8). Practice days are determined by the coach and the gym time available, usually Mon – Friday and only one per week. The gym times are given to our club mid-September when the principals of the school release all extra time to the community. We request our needs but confirmation is not received until the schools needs are met first. The Director of Gyms, a volunteer, works very hard to manage and accommodate all players in U6 – U8 but with over 50 teams to allocate, it's obvious not all needs / requests can possibly be met. Players will not be permitted to switch teams due to practice/gym time conflicts. Please inform your coach(s) of any issues, and they can relay information to the Gyms coordinator.

### **Who coaches and manages the teams?**

You! LUSA's Grassroots program is primarily volunteer-driven. From the coaches, team managers, age group coordinators, and board members. LUSA holds preseason coaches' meetings, provides a Coaches Guidebook, equipment, and runs BCSA Coaching Clinics throughout the year to help support and guide volunteer coaches through the season. LUSA staff coaches and experienced volunteers are always available as resources to learn from and provide guidance.

### **Can we request a coach or team?**

Requests are always considered but not guaranteed. Efforts are made to recreate teams year over year, but with movement between streams as well as new players joining, there is always some movement from roster to roster.

### **At what age can a player start?**

In order to participate in the full season program, the player must be 5 or turning 5 before Dec 31st. U6 stands for Under 6 years old, U7 = under 7 years etc.

We also offer a U5 Parent & Tot program for children 4 years of age or turning 4 before Dec. 31st. This program is run 3 times a year, Fall, Winter, and Spring. It is an 8 week parent participation program run by our staff coaches and experienced youth players. Children are not placed on specific teams until the Spring U5 program, where parent volunteers are assigned to run and coach teams under LUSA staff coach guidance. This acts as a transition for players and parents (volunteer coaches) into the full season U6 program the following Fall.

### **My son would like to get extra training, are there other programs available?**

In addition to our regular soccer program, LUYSA offers advanced ACADEMY programs open to all players for a separate fee. The Academy program schedule is released and available prior to the upcoming season. Please refer to the LUYSA website for more information. It is run by LUYSA's Technical Head Coach, and staffed by our qualified Academy coaching staff.

### **Whom do I contact with more questions and to get more information?**

All LUSA contacts can be found on the LUSA website ([www.langleyunited.com](http://www.langleyunited.com)) under the "CONTACTS" tab. Each division has its own volunteer Coordinator, as well as the various Directors in charge of programs and club operations. Please see the website and contact the appropriate person.

Regards,

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