



## BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION AND VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC ANNOUNCE HIGH PERFORMANCE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PLANS FOR 2008/2009

As part of our ongoing joint efforts to support the recognized Player Development Pathway for high performance players in British Columbia, the British Columbia Soccer Association and the Vancouver Whitecaps FC are pleased to announce our coordinated player development program plans for the 2008/2009 cycle.

Together, the BCSA and Whitecaps FC are committed to providing a clear understanding of the Player Development Pathway and to enhancing high performance player development opportunities for the province's top players.

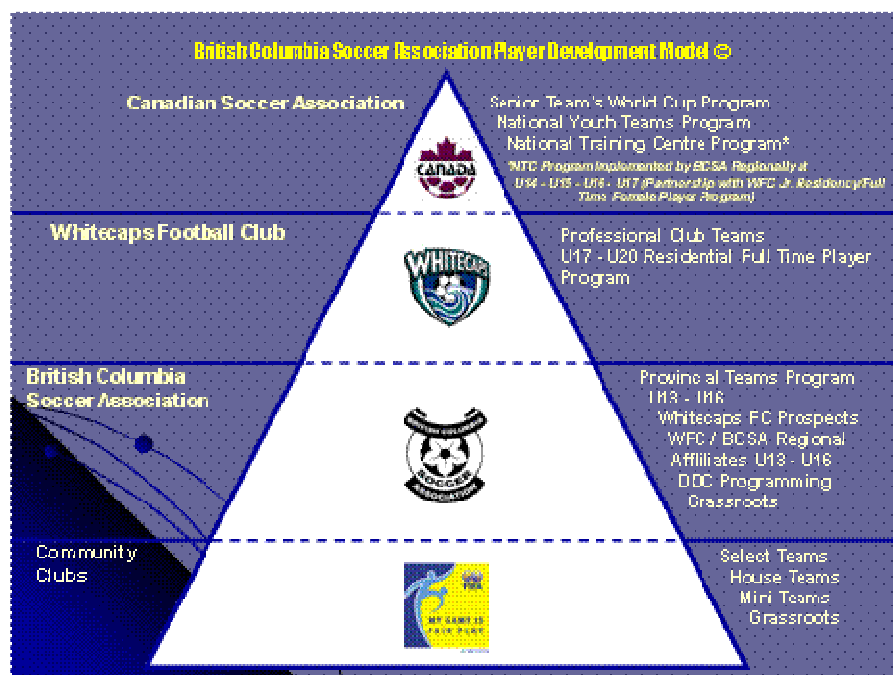
This is another important step forward in the collaboration of the BCSA and Whitecaps FC to further streamline and harmonize programming in support of National Training Centre, Provincial Teams and Club activities.

This communiqué outlines details for the following 2008/2009 programs (September 2008 through July 2009):

- CSA National Training Centre West Program (U14-U16)
- Whitecaps FC men's residency, full-time boys' and girls' programs and girls' transition (U17-U19)
- BCSA Provincial Teams Program (U13-U16)
- Whitecaps FC Prospects Program (U11-U16)
- Whitecaps FC/BCSA Regional Affiliates (U13-U16)
- BCSA Club and District Programs

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The recognized BCSA Player Development Pathway is supported by the Vancouver Whitecaps FC and is aligned with key national developmental initiatives, most notably the strategic framework for the Canadian Soccer Association's "From Wellness to World Cup" Long Term Player Development plan and its National game structure. It is also reflected in the British Columbia Soccer Association's five year strategic *Game Plan*.





## 2.0 MISSION AND VISION

The British Columbia Soccer Association and the Vancouver Whitecaps FC have a common interest in the growth and development of the sport of soccer in British Columbia.

The BCSA is committed to the development of the game by inspiring all British Columbians to lifelong active, inclusive and team play. High Performance Player Development programs are important elements in the promotion of these values of soccer.

Specifically, the BCSA will work with its membership and strategic partners to develop the highest levels of **Active Play** (promoting lifelong physical activity and healthy living to all British Columbians), **Inclusive Play** (promoting respect and harmony through access to soccer by boys and girls, men and women and people of all origins and backgrounds) and **Team Play** (promoting collaboration, cooperation and coordination in the pursuit of excellence in soccer and all aspects of life).

The Whitecaps FC are one of the top professional soccer franchises in Canada and include in their British Columbia sports legacy four United Soccer Leagues (USL) men's and women's championships since 2003, along with the 1979 NASL Soccer Bowl and four Canadian Soccer League (CSL) championships. The Whitecaps FC mission is to:

- Be one of the best small market sports franchises in the world;
- Help grow the sport of soccer in British Columbia and Canada;
- Be a significant community asset.

Working with its membership of clubs, districts and leagues province-wide and strategic partners such as Whitecaps FC, the BCSA's vision is to create Canada's foremost integrated soccer development system built upon club, school, varsity and professional team excellence.

The Whitecaps FC supports the governing principles of the BCSA, which are Professional Leadership, Passionate Service and Progressive Collaboration. The latter is particularly important in coordinating our own High Performance Player Development programs, working with leading clubs throughout the province and, in general, aligning our collective resources in the best interests of our membership.

## 3.0 2008/2009 HIGH PERFORMANCE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

### 3.1 CSA / BCSA NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE WEST PROGRAM – MALE AND FEMALE

- **Age Groups:** U14, U15 and U16 male and female
- **2009 eligibility:** 1995, 1994 and 1993 birth years
- **2009 program:** September 2008 through March 2009.
- **Scope:** On field sessions: two (2) per week / strength and conditioning sessions: one (1) per week delivered through SportMedBC / Off field sessions on rotation
- **Player Assessments:** Four (4) official CSA NTC West Scouting Visits

The CSA / BCSA National Training Centre West program is part of the official national player development strategy designed to provide a clear, structured path along which young players can move from introduction to International soccer at the age of 14 to developmental maturity between the ages of 18-20 under the direction of a qualified group of professional coaches. The primary goal of the NTC Program is to produce International players for the Canadian National Youth U17 and U20 Teams.





### 3.2 WHITECAPS FC U18/U19 MEN'S RESIDENCY

- **2009 eligibility:** 1990 and 1991 birth years.
- **2009 program:** September 2008 through July 2009.
- **Scope:** Daily school and training with tournament play, European trips and PDL play.
- Grade 12 boys program currently at Burnaby Central.
- For BC and selected players from across the country.
- Players are with the Whitecaps FC and not a BCSA member youth club.
- Provides preparation for Whitecaps FC Men's team, European club and National Team opportunities.

### 3.3 WHITECAPS FC U18 BOYS' & U18 GIRLS' FULL-TIME PLAYER PROGRAMS

#### Male:

#### Female:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2009 eligibility:</b> 1991/1992 birth year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2009 eligibility:</b> 1991/1992 birth year</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2009 program:</b> September 2008 through July 2009.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2009 program:</b> September 2008 through July 2009.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scope:</b> On and off field sessions totaling five (5) per week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scope:</b> On and off field sessions totaling five (5) per week</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Player Assessments:</b> Four (4) official CSA NTC West Scouting Visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Player Assessments:</b> Four (4) official CSA NTC West Scouting Visits</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 11 and 12 boys program at North Delta Secondary (pilot in partnership with BCSA).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed to bring together the top players of distinction in BC to train them and support the pursuit of Youth National team, Vancouver Whitecaps FC Women's team and university scholarship opportunities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players are with the Whitecaps FC and not a BCSA member youth club.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players are with the Whitecaps FC and not a BCSA member youth club.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides U17/U18 preparation for Whitecaps FC Residency or scholastic opportunities.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play with the Whitecaps PCSL team in the summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transitions to either a Whitecaps FC travel team, Whitecaps FC PCSL or Whitecaps FC Women.</li> </ul>

### 3.4 WHITECAPS FC U17 GIRLS' TRANSITION PROGRAM

- **2009 eligibility:** 1992 birth year.
- **2009 program:** September 2008 through July 2009.
- **Scope:** This is limited to one session per week (with one scheduled event to target exposure for the players).
- Supports transition of players to college/university opportunities.
- Integrates Whitecaps FC resources for recruiting.
- Players continue to play with their youth club.
- Transitions to one of the following in the spring: Whitecaps FC travel team, Whitecaps FC PCSL team or Whitecaps FC Women's team.

The British Columbia Soccer Association supports these Whitecaps FC implemented player development programs for both males and females, as they will provide the players involved with the most conducive age specific development environment possible in alignment with the BCSA Player Development pathway.





### 3.5 BCSA PROVINCIAL TEAMS PROGRAM/ BCSA REGIONAL AFFILIATES PROGRAMS

- **Age Groups:** U13, U14, U15 and U16 Male and Female
- **2009 eligibility:** 1996, 1995, 1994 and 1993 birth years
- **2009 program:** Evaluation camps September 2008 through March 2009 and Training March through July 2009.

The goal of the British Columbia Soccer Association and Whitecaps FC is to implement a recognized province-wide High Performance Player Development strategy, which includes the BCSA Provincial Teams Program and Whitecaps FC/BCSA Regional Affiliates Programs.

Throughout the year, BCSA full-time staff coaches, Provincial Team Program coaches and Whitecaps FC/BCSA Regional Affiliate coaches are responsible for scouting, evaluation, training and final selection of players for the BCSA Provincial Teams Program and Whitecaps FC/BCSA Regional Affiliate Program for the U13 to U16 age groups. The final selection of players for all levels of this program is conducted through:

- *Club Team Scouting*
- *BCSA District Development Centre monitoring program*
- *Evaluation Camps*
- *CSA / BCSA - NTC Programming*
- *WFC Prospects Programming*
- *Player recommendations*

### 3.6 WHITECAPS FC PROSPECTS

- **Age Groups:** U14/U15 and U15/U16 male and female (16 to 18 players per group)
- **2009 eligibility:** 1995, 1994 and 1993 birth years
- **2009 program:** September 2008 through March 2009.
- **Scope:** On field: one (1) per week. (scheduled on weekends)
- There will be a reduction of programming in the U14-U16 age groups to just one session per week (scheduled on weekends). This is so as not to conflict with demands from NTC and regular club programming.
- There will be no travel projects scheduled for U14-U16.
- In the spring of 2009, these players will be encouraged to participate in the BCSA Provincial teams and WFC/ BCSA Regional Affiliate Super Y League programs.

### 3.7 WHITECAPS FC PROSPECTS U11-U13

- **Age Groups:** U11 to U13 (16 to 18 players per group)
- **2009 eligibility:** 1998, 1997 and 1996 birth years
- **2009 program:** September 2008 through March 2009.
- **Scope:** Limited to maximum two (2) sessions per week (1 weekday and 1 weekend) for each age group from U11 to U13.
- There will be occasional exhibition games, none of which will conflict with club training.
- In the spring of 2009, players in U11 and U12 would move into a team phase that will include training and selected tournaments/ regional jamborees.





#### 4.0 2008/2009 BCSA-RECOGNIZED PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Players who are not currently members of the CSA/BCSA National Training Centre West Program, who aspire to participate at the highest levels of programming, are encouraged to register with programs offering professional training and match competition during the September to March period.

It is essential that aspiring players are involved in one of the following recognized and monitored developmental programs:

- *BCSA Member Club Academy / High Performance Programs*
- *BCSA District Development Centre Programs*
- *Vancouver Whitecaps FC Prospects Programs*

#### 5.0 SPORTMedBC

The BCSA and Vancouver Whitecaps FC will work closely with industry leaders and partner SportMedBC to enhance and complement the technical on field training with a Sport Science program encompassing elements of nutrition education, mental training, strength and conditioning and physical testing.

#### 6.0 CLUB COMMUNICATION

The British Columbia Soccer Association and Vancouver Whitecaps FC will work closely with member BCSA clubs and districts in communicating the invitation of players for these various High Performance Player Development programs for 2008/ 2009.

#### 7.0 MORE INFORMATION

For more information on all British Columbia Soccer Association and Vancouver Whitecaps FC Player Development Programming:

(a) Visit the links below

[www.bcsoccer.net](http://www.bcsoccer.net)  
[www.whitecapsfc.com](http://www.whitecapsfc.com)

OR

(b) Call or email us

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