



## **PGYSA/BVSS/PRYSA Build Partnership to Meet New Soccer Membership Standards & Guidelines**

Tuesday August 24, 2021,

At the BC Soccer Annual General Meeting in November 2020, a change to the BC Soccer membership guidelines now ensures compliance with Canada Soccer. As a result of this change, Districts (Governing Bodies) are required to be implemented throughout British Columbia.

To ensure our region meets the new membership guidelines by the August 31, 2021, deadline, the Northern Interior Youth Soccer Association (NIYSA) has been established. Emphasising the regionalized vision for this new District, several presentations were made in the first half of 2021. Core to the NIYSA philosophy, is a model that aligns Clubs and works to provide joint support to all players, coaches, and referees.

In addition to the new membership requirements mentioned above, Canada Soccer has released the Club Licensing Program and the Grassroots Standards initiatives. As stated by Canada Soccer, all Soccer Clubs in Canada are “defined as being any organization that is a member of Canada Soccer either directly or affiliated through membership with a MA that registers players and coaches and delivers soccer programming”.

All member Clubs are required to meet minimum standards and implement “best principles for organizational development both on and off the field”. Within the Canada Soccer Club Licensing Program for example, four distinct levels of Club Licensing “set clearly defined standards and expectations”. Club Licensing’s entry level (Quality Soccer) has been mandated as the minimum standard that all Clubs must hold by the start of season 2023. Through the implementation of the Club Licensing and Grassroots guidelines, Canada Soccer is driving change within the national soccer system. With Prince Rupert (PRYSA), Bulkley Valley (BVSS), and Prince George (PGYSA/IMPACT) working together to implement the “best principles for organizational development” region wide, Club alignment ultimately results in more opportunity and a heightened soccer experience.

Leah Germain (BVSS) – “It is an exciting time for youth players and coaches in the North. With the creation of the NIYSA, not only will BVSS be able to provide new engaging opportunities and progressions for our players but will also have the means to help our players attain higher levels and accomplishments in their own soccer pathways, both amateur and professional. Through this united district, we will build our connections with other clubs, gain valuable resources for our players and coaches, and have a stronger, more noticeable presence provincially. This positive, forward-thinking District is something we are proud to be a part of not only for the future of our club, but for the future of soccer in the North.”

William Gye (PRYSA) – “We are excited to join the NIYSA and take a more regional approach to player development. In building connections within our northern communities, we will share resources to encourage player development, and see our youth take part in further amateur, collegiate and professional opportunities.”



Terrol Russell (PGYSA/IMPACT) – “With updated standards and criteria required by our governing bodies, an innovative approach to programming and development is now required. By taking a regionalized approach, all NIYSA Clubs can align their calendars, share resources, coordinate programs, and work together to implement best principles. In building a pathway for all, the future of soccer looks bright, and our Club is honored to be part of it.”

With the PGYSA, BVSS, and PRYSA building a joint development system, every District player, coach, and referee will have access to a collaborative development pathway. Additional information will be shared by each Club to their members and communities within the coming weeks. A presentation(s) will also be conducted to the northern soccer community this fall, where a more defined outline and framework can be provided.

- For any information on our Provincial Sport Governing Body (BC Soccer), please visit the following website: <https://bcsoccer.net/home>
- For more information on Canada Soccer’s Club Licensing Program or Grassroots Standards, please visit the PLAY tab on the Canada Soccer website (<https://canadasoccer.com>).
- For more information on the NIYSA, please contact Terrol Russell ([terrolrussell@gmail.com](mailto:terrolrussell@gmail.com)).