



2022 – U8 PROSPECT DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Age Group Realignment/Structure and Assessment Recommendations

Program Overview

The Development Program is our more competitive soccer level and requires a higher level of commitment and skill level than our club/recreational program. This program starts at the U8 age group and carries on until U18. The number of development teams and formed each year and age group may vary based on the pool of players and their skill level.

The purpose of a development team is to provide an opportunity for qualified players to compete at a higher level of competition with players that are like-minded. Playing at any development level will involve a greater commitment of time, travel, and additional costs by the player. It is also highly recommended that players participate in a core conditioning or related skills session once a week, in addition to NDFC training sessions.

- As this would be their first exposure to this environment players are scouted and recommended over the course of their U7 season as well as **possible** end of season assessment sessions in March before spring break.
- Player identification is managed by the club technical staff, appointed group head coaches and community house team coaches through constant communication on identified players.
- Depending on numbers vs quality, anywhere between 12 to 36 players may be invited into the program to create 1 to 3 groups (Real, Inter, Juve for example).
- Groups will be **balanced** at U8.
- These groups will attend 1 midweek club coach led session (with technical staff oversight) and 1 **technical staff** led session in the clubs Prospects Academy Programming (with club coach assistance) plus a weekend game (club and development coach participation).



- These groups will participate in a Fall/Winter Development Series (games) which consists of competition from several lower mainland development programs such as Coastal FC, Surrey United, CMF, Surrey Youth and Vancouver Utd etc.
- These identified players will **not** participate in the NDFC club programming.
- Final group selections are completed by the **club technical staff**.
- **Players not identified at this time will participate in the NDFC club team programming.**
- These groups will attend 1 midweek club coach led session and 1 weekend game day environment. **These groups would receive technical oversight as part of their regular club programming.**
- Individual players will have the opportunity to attend additional sessions in the club's Academy.
- Player movement **between** programs can happen at any time over the course of the U8 season via the ongoing player identification process.
- **All** groups can participate in NDFC club spring programming or additional **balanced** outside environments such as competitive spring league, tournaments and travel programs during their U8 season. **These opportunities would be at an additional cost to the players.**

Difference between a Club/Recreational Team and a Development Team

	CLUB TEAM		DEVELOPMENT (PDS) TEAM
1 Academy Training Session per week. <i>(Option to register for the Club Academy Program is available for an additional fee)</i>		1 Academy Training Session per week	✓
1 Training Session per week with Club Team	✓	1 Training Session per week with Development Team	✓
1 Game per week with Club Team	✓	1 Game per week with Development Team	✓
Possible tournaments throughout the season		Possible tournaments throughout the season	✓