



**BCPFA**  
British Columbia Provincial  
Football Association

# British Columbia Regional Academy & League Program

Completing the high-performance pathway for 3  
down football in BC (Grade 9 to 12)

# Vision

- ▶ To launch a new regional academy and league that completes the high-performance pathway for 3 down football in BC (Grade 9 to 12)



# Preamble

- ▶ All BCPFA programs will follow the requirements of the Provincial Health Officer and the approved BCPFA Return to Sport Guidelines
- ▶ The BCPFA has previously requested and received feedback from key stakeholders in both the minor and junior football community regarding a regional academy/league
- ▶ We fully anticipate that this document will change based on further feedback from our affiliated clubs and leagues
- ▶ The BCPFA is committed to Football Canada's Long-Term Athlete Development model
- ▶ The BCPFA is committed to the development of 3-down football
- ▶ The first draft of this document was produced in December 2019

# Background & Current Environment

- ▶ The BCPFA is required through its affiliation to Football Canada to enter teams into national competitions (e.g. Canada Cup)
- ▶ National competitions mainly target football players in grade 9 to 12
- ▶ The BCPFA wishes to facilitate the development of these players without conflicting with the regular season for community or junior football
- ▶ The "regular season" for tackle football operates from September to the Early December
- ▶ The BCPFA wishes to encourage greater participation in club football at all ages
- ▶ The BCPFA is a membership-based organization
- ▶ Our affiliated leagues and clubs play 3-down football
- ▶ BC High School Football (BCHSFA) is not affiliated to the BCPFA
- ▶ The high school system plays 4 down football
- ▶ The geography of BC supports a regional development strategy for the identification and development of athletes who wish to play post secondary football (e.g. BCFC, U-sport, NCAA)

# Regional Acadamies

Completing the high-performance pathway for 3  
down football in BC (Grade 9 to 12)



## Objectives of a Regional Academy

- ▶ To support the development of players within a standards-based football development environment (Academy & League)
- ▶ To ensure the effective development of players from grade 9 thru grade 12
- ▶ To prepare athletes for post secondary playing opportunities (Junior Football, U-sport, CFL, etc.)
- ▶ To function as the primary player evaluation & identification system for teams representing BC
- ▶ To support the development of 3 down (Canadian) football in BC
- ▶ To support the development of regional and local coaches
- ▶ To support the growth of football in all regions of BC

# BCPFA Regional Academies

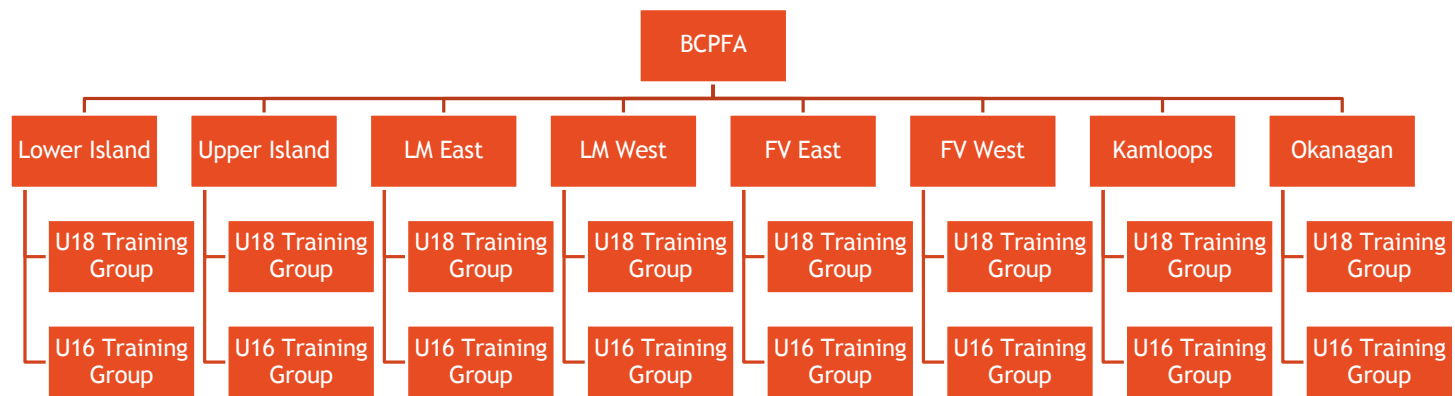
- ▶ The BCPFA wishes to partner with currently affiliated football clubs in the formation of new regional academies
- ▶ A regional academy can be operated by either:
  - ▶ a minor football club
  - ▶ a group of minor clubs formed as a district or zone
  - ▶ a junior football club
  - ▶ the BCPFA
- ▶ The academies would support the development of players who aspire to play post secondary football (BCFC, U-sport, NCAA)
- ▶ Participation in the academy would be a pre-requisite for players wishing to be selected to represent BC
- ▶ The academy will initially be funded through participant fees
- ▶ The BCPFA will source additional funding from grant funding and sponsorship
- ▶ Each academy will have a defined territory
- ▶ The BCPFA will establish standards for academy operations
- ▶ Each academy will operate teams in a new regional league

# Academy Locations

- ▶ The following communities have been identified as likely location for academies
  - ▶ Lower Island
  - ▶ Upper Island
  - ▶ Okanagan (Kelowna, Vernon, Shuswap)
  - ▶ Thompson/Nicola
  - ▶ Lower Mainland East
  - ▶ Lower Mainland West
  - ▶ Fraser Valley East
  - ▶ Fraser Valley West
  - ▶ North (Prince George, Vanderhoof)
  - ▶ North West
  - ▶ Kootenays



# Regional Academy Structure



# Regional League

Completing the high-performance pathway for 3  
down football in BC (Grade 9 to 12)



## Objectives of a Regional League

- ▶ To provide an effective competition structure for athletes training in regional academies
- ▶ To help prepare athletes for post secondary playing opportunities (Junior Football, U-sport, CFL, etc.)
- ▶ To function as the primary player scouting opportunity for all provincial teams operated by the BCPFA
- ▶ To support the development of 3 down (Canadian) football in BC
- ▶ To support the development of regional and local coaches
- ▶ To support increased participation in club football by athletes in grade 9 to 12

# BCPFA Regional Football League

- ▶ The league will provide a high-performance pathway for players (grade 9 to 12)
- ▶ The league will play 3 down football & operate from January to March
- ▶ BCPFA will establish standards for league operations
- ▶ An academy (or group of academies) will operate at least two teams (U16 and U18) in the league
- ▶ Academies will have the option to operate additional teams (U15 and U17)
- ▶ The league will focus on skill development **NOT** league standings
- ▶ Only club's operating a Regional Academies will be able to enter teams into the league
- ▶ The league will be developed in consultation with all clubs and use a mixture of game formats and competitions; this will help ensure a positive playing experience, higher levels of skill development and lower operating costs.
- ▶ The league structure will need to conform to the respective governing bodies (BCCFA, BCPFA, Football Canada)

# Age Groups

- ▶ Each Regional Academy will form teams in the following age groups:
  - ▶ U18
  - ▶ U16
- ▶ Subject to player registration levels in each community, each regional academy will have the option to form additional teams in the following age groups:
  - ▶ U17 (plus a maximum number of U18s)
  - ▶ U15 (plus a maximum number of U16s)

# Age Groups

- ▶ Athletes competing on teams in the above age groups would be eligible for selection to the following BCPFA teams:
  - ▶ Grade 12 - U18 Canada Cup Team
  - ▶ Grade 11 - U18 Canada Cup Team or U18 Selects
  - ▶ Grade 10 - U16 Western Challenge
  - ▶ Grade 9 - U16 Selects

# Academy/League Partners

- ▶ Potential Partners
  - ▶ British Columbia Community Football Association
  - ▶ British Columbia Football Conference (BCFC)
  - ▶ British Columbia Football Officials Association (BCFOA)
  - ▶ BC Lions
  - ▶ Football Canada
  - ▶ Canadian Sports Institute
  - ▶ UBC Thunderbirds



# Standards Based League Operations

- ▶ In order to ensure effective player development, the league will establish minimum standards and mandatory requirements in various aspects of franchise operations:
  - ▶ Mandatory playing time for all players
  - ▶ Coaching Development (certification & professional development)
  - ▶ Formats of play consistent with football's LTAD principles
  - ▶ Match day operating standards (facilities, athlete care, risk management etc.)
  - ▶ Training and playing environments
  - ▶ Standardized Playbooks
  - ▶ Websites and social media
  - ▶ Uniform and equipment supply
  - ▶ Online broadcasting





# Formats of Play

- ▶ In order to ensure effective player development, the league will adopt different formats of play:
  - ▶ Adapted rules that encourage player development
  - ▶ League Play
    - ▶ 6-man football
    - ▶ 9-man football
    - ▶ 12-man football
  - ▶ Festivals & Tournaments



# Annual Timeline for Regional Academies

- ▶ Registration opens for fitness and condition program (July)
  - ▶ BCPFA adds athletes to Sportlyzer (athlete tracking software)
- ▶ Academies deliver fitness and conditioning program (August to November)
- ▶ Community & High School Scouting by Regional Coaches (September to November)
- ▶ Regional Academies invite players regional academies (Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> week of December)
- ▶ Player Registration Opens for Regional League (2<sup>nd</sup> week of December)
- ▶ Regional League Play - 8 Weeks (January to March)
- ▶ Regional 6 Man Tournament Hosted by BCPFA (February 13<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021)
- ▶ BCPFA Scouting of players in (January to March)
- ▶ Team BC Final Selections (April)
- ▶ Regional Academies Submit Final Player Evaluations to BCPFA (March)
- ▶ BCPFA Final Evaluations and Combine (April)

# Athlete Selection to Provincial Teams

- ▶ Athlete selection to a provincial team will include 6 separate elements/stages:
  - ▶ **Phase 1:** Regional team head coach evaluations (completed online in March)
  - ▶ **Phase 2:** BCPFA Head Coach scouting reports from league play (Jan to March).
  - ▶ **Phase 3:** Athlete performance at BCPFA Combine (April)
  - ▶ **Phase 4:** Preferences of coaches appointed to coach the specific provincial team for the upcoming projects
  - ▶ **Phase 5:** Athlete fitness level
  - ▶ **Phase 6:** Athlete selections will be reviewed by a selection committee appointed by the BCPFA
- ▶ Only athletes participating in a regional academy will be eligible for selection to a provincial team
- ▶ Athletes will be required to meet minimum fitness standards to remain eligible for selection to provincial team
- ▶ Adherence to the athlete code of conduct is required

# Coach Development

- ▶ Coaches will be required to meet minimum certification standards
- ▶ Coaches will be required to complete professional development each year
- ▶ Coaches will be required to attend the annual BCPFA coaches conference

# Referee Development

- ▶ Referee development will be a key component of the BCPFL. Referees that officiate in the BCPFL will be throughout the season and provided with professional development opportunities



# Technology

- ▶ The BCPFA will use technology to help ensure the league operates to the highest level of efficiency/effectiveness:
  - ▶ Registration
  - ▶ Scouting
  - ▶ Athlete Health and Wellness
  - ▶ Athlete Strength and Conditioning
  - ▶ Scheduling

