

## **Cowichan Valley Soccer Association (CVSA):** **Assessment Process**

**Goal:** The goal of assessments is to maintain a fair, objective and thorough process for assessing each player's abilities and skills in order to place each player onto a team that will best challenge their current level of play.

**Process:** The CVSA uses a four-part process to place players on the appropriate team. Information from each part of the process is used to assist the Technical Staff in forming the teams. While no process is perfect, the CVSA believes this four-part process provides a fair and unbiased evaluation of each player's current abilities and skills and provides the right information for proper placement within the Club's teams.

### **1 - Evaluations by Current Coach**

- Written and/or verbal evaluations from a player's current coach are invaluable in the CVSA's assessment process, as these coaches have watched their players during every practice and every game throughout the player's season.

### **2 - Game Observations**

- The CVSA Technical Staff also watch players during regularly scheduled games during the season to add more information to the process.

### **3 - Training Observations**

- The CVSA Technical Staff visit team training sessions throughout the season to work on players' skill development and observe player development.

### **4 - Formal Assessment Sessions**

- After the conclusion of the season, players are then evaluated during two or three formal assessment sessions conducted by the CVSA's Technical Staff. The process is designed to provide an unbiased view and opinion of a player's capabilities relative to their peers. Please continue reading for further information regarding formal assessment sessions.

#### **4.1 Player Requirements for Formal Assessments:**

1. Players must be registered for the upcoming season before attending the formal assessment sessions. Players are expected to try and attend as many of the assessments as possible. Players must attend at least one of the formal assessment

sessions to be considered for a Tier 3 level team, unless special circumstances (such as an ongoing illness or injury, prior important commitments, etc.) are communicated in writing via email to the Technical Director at [tyler@cowichansoccer.com](mailto:tyler@cowichansoccer.com) at least a week in advance of the first day of formal assessments. Non-compliance with this communication deadline will be permitted in the presence of extenuating circumstances (such as sudden illness, injury, family emergency, etc.).

2. All players must attend assessments, regardless of their preferred tiered level of play. Exceptions can be made for those who moved into the area after formal assessments for their age group have already taken place; team placement in this case will be at the sole discretion of the Technical Director.
3. Players must wear shin guards, soccer boots/cleats and bring water to assessment sessions.

## **4.2 Formal Assessment Sessions: Process**

1. The dates and times for the first round of formal assessments are typically posted on the CVSA website in early March. The general assessment periods aimed for by the Technical Staff are as follows:
  - mid-April until late May/early June starting with:
    - U13 mid-April;
    - U14-U15 between late-April and late-May; and
    - U16 late May/early June; and
  - end of August/early September for:
    - U11 and U12 Tier 3 teams; and
    - U17/U18 teams.
2. On assessment day, players are checked in and given a numbered pinnie. That number is the player's identification for that day's assessment session. This process is repeated for all following assessment sessions.
3. Players will then go through a group warm-up and randomly be divided into teams. These teams then participate in scrimmage games so the evaluators can see them in real game situations. These games will be held in an age-appropriate structure (U11-U13 plays half-field, 8 a-side games and U14+ plays full field, 11 a-side games).
4. The evaluators at the first session will be the Technical Staff (minimum two) and any other member of the CVSA that the Technical Staff feel has the knowledge to assist them in their evaluations. No family member/guardian of a player being assessed will be permitted as an evaluator at the first formal assessment session of an age group. Due to the nature of a small, community, volunteer-run soccer association such as the CVSA, the family member/guardian of a player who is a strong coaching candidate for an age group may be asked by the Technical Staff to attend further assessment sessions should their family member/charge demonstrate the likelihood of making the team. This is solely at the discretion of the Technical Director. Family members/guardians of players are to remain off the field when assessments are occurring.
5. The goal is to have communication of any information coming out of the assessments sent via email to the players and their families/guardians within two weeks of the second

assessment. This information will *ideally* contain the list of teams for that age group. However, please note that such communication may also be an email advising players and their families/guardians that the Technical Staff require more time to decide on team formations, potentially including the need for a further assessment session.

#### **4.3 The following are player attributes evaluated by the CVSA Technical Staff during formal assessments:**

- **Dribbling** – ball control, inside/outside foot control, pace of dribbling, feinting, inside/outside cutting skills, acceleration and deceleration with ball, head up while dribbling.
- **Passing** – technique with both feet (inside/outside of foot), crisp/accurate passing to feet and to space, pace of pass, movement after passing.
- **First Touch/Ball Control** – trapping and receiving ball in front of body, positioning to field when receiving ball, head up and field awareness after controlling ball.
- **Shooting/Finishing** – technique of driving shot with laces/inside of foot, body position on shot, follow-through, decision on when/if to shoot, following shot for rebound.
- **Defending** – marking opposing player, pressuring opposing player without over-committing, body position when defending, stopping forward progress, tackling/gaining control of ball, knowing when to clear ball vs. dribble/pass.
- **Shielding** – body position when under pressure, “showing the ball” or shielding from defender, back to defender or side to defender.
- **Heading** – attacking/striking ball with forehead, heading for control, passing or clearing (U13 and up).
- **Speed** – quickness off/to ball, acceleration to ball/space, change of direction and deceleration.
- **Strength** – standing ground and/or winning position.
- **Aggressiveness** – attacking and going to the ball on defense, attacking and dribbling around/through defenders on offense, attacking and finishing shots.
- **Coachability** – a player’s ability to take direction and implement what is asked of them without complaint (i.e., trying out a non-preferred position); this is distinct from asking a coach questions to better apply their direction.
- **Communication** – calling for the ball, directing players to space.
- **Field/Game Awareness** – heads up view of the entire field/game, awareness of other players, knowing when to pass vs. dribble or shoot, seeing plays materialize and moving to position.
- **Attitude** – are they having fun? are they positive to other players/referees? not giving up on plays, sportsmanship, overall potential.
- **Goal Keeping** – proper positioning, movement within the goal, understanding pace of play control, proper ball distribution, ability to play with their feet, communication with their team.