

NELSON SOCCER ASSOCIATION

REP Program Policy and Procedures

POLICY:

PURPOSE:

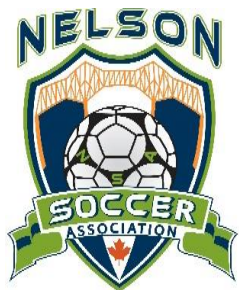
This policy provides guidance to the Nelson Soccer Association (NSA) in the administration of the NSA REP Program.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- To allow players to develop skills at a higher level of competition
- To provide players the opportunity to experience personal growth both mentally and physically.
- To include as many players as possible while remaining competitive at Provincial Cup play.
- To develop coaches by ensuring they have the opportunity to attend workshops and clinics
- To improve the overall level of soccer in the community by supporting and developing players and coaches for future years.
- To promote good sportsmanship and emphasize fair play at all times.

LEGISLATION:

As a charter member, NSA adheres to the constitution, bylaws and rules/regulations that govern the British Columbia Soccer Association (BCSA).

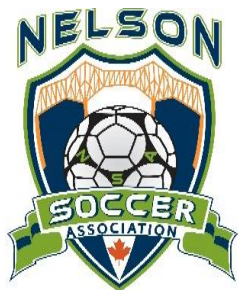


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REP DIRECTOR:

The NSA membership will elect, (or the elected board will designate) a director responsible for the REP program at the NSA annual general meeting each October. This director will work with a volunteer committee that oversees the administration of the REP program. The REP director is responsible for recruiting committee members, developing policy recommendations for board approval, establishing an annual budget, monitoring the REP program, and providing an overall assessment of the program at the close of the season. The Executive Director will also maintain financial records in such format as to allow regular reporting of financial status of the REP program to the board. The REP director can be reached at rep@nelsonsoccer.ca The Executive Director can be reached at nsa@nelsonsoccer.ca.

AGE GROUPINGS:

The NSA Board decides the age groupings for REP play on recommendations from the REP committee. Every effort is made to ensure players have a fair and equitable opportunity to play on a year-to-year basis. The NSA Board reserves the right to alter age groupings based on interest and registration numbers. Age groupings of two or three years may be combined if necessary, to field a team. Age groupings for the REP program season are reviewed each year.

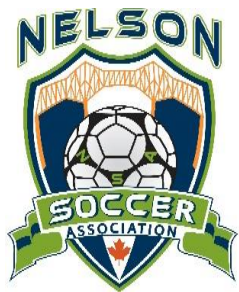
All parents and players must be made aware of the cost and additional time commitment of the REP program before team selection. They must also be aware that US travel may be required, and that as such they will require a passport.

PLAYING UP:

No players can play in younger divisions. Play ups are at the discretion of the Technical Director, who will abide by BC Soccer's Playing Up Policy.

Rep players must try out in their own age group. Players may only try out in the older division if there is no team in their own age group. In certain cases, NSA may make decisions to have players play up a division, even if there is an existing team in their age group. There are two distinct scenarios where NSA may implement the play up rule: "Technical Development" and "Insufficient Team Numbers." It is important to differentiate between these two scenarios, as the criteria and process are different.

Minimum age for participating in REP soccer is children turning 10 years of age in the calendar year.



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U10-U13 – Will be deemed “Development Only.” All players will have the opportunity to develop their skills, and no cuts will be made at these ages.

REP Development players U10-12 must play recreational house league soccer.

REP U14-U18 – Will be the only ages able to compete for Provincials.

- U14 – U16 teams shall be allowed eighteen (18) players on their roster as per BC SOCCER rules and regulations.
- U17 & U18 teams shall be allowed twenty (20) players on their roster as per BC SOCCER rules and regulations.

Coaches may choose to carry a greater number of players than the set BC Soccer roster sizes for training purposes with approval from the rep committee.

EVALUATIONS U14-U18

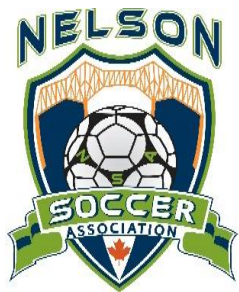
Depending on registration numbers, player evaluation sessions (try-outs) may be necessary. Locations and times will vary depending on age division. Efforts will be made to schedule evaluation dates and locations to accommodate the greatest number of players.

Players interested in participating in the REP program are encouraged to consult the NSA website, or contact the REP Director or NSA Rep Committee. Any registered player is entitled to try out in their correct age group. If no team is available in the correct age group a player may try out in the next higher age group available.

REP coaches will each organize their own player try-outs in consultation with the REP Director, who will provide coaches with lists of eligible, registered players as soon as possible. The Technical Director will develop and provide the format for the evaluations.

Only players who have registered and paid soccer fees are eligible to participate in evaluation sessions. Players not selected will be refunded fees. Administration and try-out fees are non-refundable.

Player selection is based on the evaluation sessions and ongoing evaluations and scouting of players throughout the year by the coaches and club technical resources. Discussion with previous coaches may be used to assist with the evaluations process as



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well. Players will be evaluated on individual skills as well as team and game playing abilities. Commitment, attitude and mental/ social attitude are also important factors.

REP coaches retain sole authority for team selection. Inappropriate behaviour by a player or their parent may make a player ineligible for a REP team. Parents are expected to be aware of the BCSA Fair play code for Parents / Spectators and the BCSA Competition Rules and Regulations (found attached to the end of this policy).

REP Players must also adhere to NSA Fair Play codes and BCSA Competition Rules and Regulations (found attached to the end of this policy). If a player does not abide by these codes, rules or regulations it could result in loss of games or his or her future in the rep program.

COACHES:

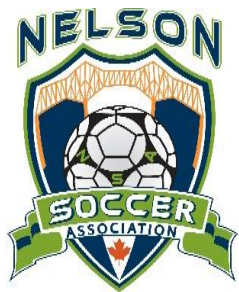
The NSA Board, on recommendation of the REP committee, selects coaches on the basis of their technical qualifications, coaching experience, leadership qualities, availability, commitment and willingness to travel to tournaments and play down games, including provincial cup tournaments regardless of location.

Coaches are required to have completed Soccer For Life, rule of 2, making ethical decisions, safe sport. They must also be fully aware of FIFA Laws of the Game, B.C Soccer Association Rules, Regulations and Policies, the NSA Handbook, and the Rep policy. Coaches must also complete a current risk management form prior to commencing duties.

Coaches are expected to be generous with their praise and encouragement, and set an example of fair play at all times. Ridiculing or yelling at players for making mistakes or losing a competition will not be tolerated. Reports of inappropriate behavior by coaches will be forwarded to the NSA Board for possible further disciplinary action.

Coaches are responsible for Parents and Players, and must adhere to the Coaches Code of Conduct and BCSA Competition Rules and Regulations found attached to the end of this policy.

NSA teams have established a reputation for fair play. Coaches are expected to develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of officials. Players are expected to play within the rules and parents must not publicly question the judgment of the officials or ridicule opponents.



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Coaches who are not a parent of a player will be paid a stipend to be set by the NSA Board, for each tournament attended, to defray their travel and accommodation costs. Stipends will be paid after each tournament and are funded through player fees. Advertising for REP coaches takes place in November for the following season. The NSA Board selects coaches. Directors applying for a coaching position are not eligible to participate in the selection process.

The coach and manager of each team are responsible for submitting all required forms related to team registration and tournament entry, within deadlines set by BC Soccer and various tournament organizers. The REP Director will inform coaches and managers of form requirements and deadlines.

Because participation in house play by all REP players ages 12 and under is a fundamental part of Nelson Soccer, coaches must respect house practice and game schedules when setting extra practices, exhibition games and any tournaments.

MANAGERS:

Coaches will appoint their team managers. Suitable individuals will have administrative skills, a good working relationship with the coach, and a willingness to work with the REP committee and the overall REP program.

Once a player's spot on the NSA provincial team has been confirmed. Managers must collect from each player a signed form allowing NSA to charge their visa \$400.00 to cover the BC soccer penalty fee

Managers are expected to maintain accurate records (team finances, jersey numbers, player info, etc.)

Managers need to have e-files of Medical Release Forms for all tournaments.

Managers follow direction from the team coach, and Rep Director. Managers will register for tournaments that the coach has selected.

ALL VOLUNTEER TEAM OFFICIALS MUST HAVE A CURRENT CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK ON FILE

PRACTICE TIMES:

REP coaches will sign up for available one-and-a-half-hour practice times twice a week. (U10-U11 Intro one practice per week). Coaches are expected to be reasonable in their



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demands on the players' time, energy and enthusiasm. Coaches are also expected to respect the commitment of REP players to the house program and avoid conflicts where possible.

TOURNAMENTS

U12-U18 REP teams will compete in four tournaments each season, these are included in the rep fees. Tournaments will be determined by the coaches of each team in consultation with the REP committee. Additional tournaments will be an extra fee collected by team managers.

U10-U11 Development teams will compete in three tournaments. Recreational house games that might be missed will be re-scheduled during mid week practices. If more tournaments/exhibition games are desired they must be during long weekends or on Sundays to avoid Recreational house soccer disruption, and extra fees will need to be collected by the manager.

All teams must have at minimum one team official of the same gender as the players on the bench during games as per BC Soccer rules.

PLAYING TIME:

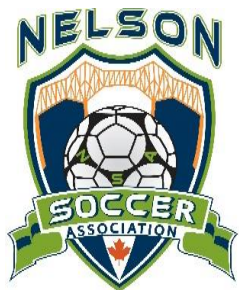
There is no minimum playing-time rule in REP team play.

Keeping in mind that injuries or illness may occur at any tournament, coaches should avoid taking players to out-of-town competitions if they are unlikely in any circumstance to get a reasonable amount of playing time. Likewise, coaches are expected to avoid over-playing of players.

When determining playing time, coaches should balance the short-term objectives of winning the current game, with the longer-term objectives of developing skilled players for the future games, future tournaments, and future years.

Under Canadian Soccer Association rules, it is mandatory that players wear shin guards at all practices and games.

It is mandatory that players remove all jewelry before all practices and games.



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HOUSE PLAY:

It is required for Rep Development U10-12 players to play Rec/House league soccer. Unreasonable failure to honor house team obligations without permission from their house coach could result in a player being suspended from the REP program.

The house coach should contact the player's parent to discuss the reason for missing the house game. If it is determined that house obligations are due to a conflict, then:

1. The house coach contacts the House Coordinator and the Rep Director.
2. The Rep Director will contact the Rep coach to resolve the issue.

Should the situation continue, rep game playing time will be affected.

BC PROVINCIALS (U14-U18):

One of the expectations for Rep players is to go to Provincials regardless of where they are being played in the Province. Therefore, a signed form will be required by all players allowing NSA to charge the visa on file \$400.00 to cover BC soccer's penalty fee. This fee will only be charged should the player not attend Provincials for any reason other than an injury, which will require a doctor's note.

A player may be excused from the Provincial tournament provided they submit a request in writing to the team coach and REP Director prior to April 1st

EQUIPMENT:

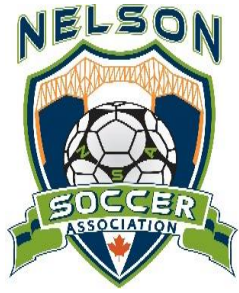
The team manager is responsible for distribution of jerseys, shorts and socks. Game jerseys are expected to be returned at the end of the Rep season.

Responsibility for equipment (balls, cones, pinnies, first aid supplies, etc.) lies with the head coach for each team.

It is recommended that each team selects an "equipment manager" to oversee the transportation of the team tent, bench, cooler, etc. The equipment manager (or team manager) is responsible for ensuring the complete return of all equipment in good condition and within the fall deadlines set by the rep committee.

FEES:

The cost of the REP program is covered entirely by the players participating in the program. All fees must be paid prior to the first REP tournament. Uniforms are not to be distributed to any player who has not paid their REP fees.



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Note that the cost is subsidized by profits from the Lakeside Concession.

REFUNDS:

Cancellations must be made in writing prior to the **May 1st** deadline.

All cancellations are subject to \$25 admin fee.

BC Soccer fee is non-refundable.

Rep gear (socks, shorts and jerseys) is also non-refundable.

Cost for any tournament attended is non-refundable.

After May 1 - No refunds

(Note: in the case of a season ending injury from an NSA event, refunds will be evaluated by the Rep committee on an individual basis).

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

All parents of players participating in the REP program are expected to volunteer throughout the season. Volunteer hours include coaching, team manager, equipment manager, concession shifts, duties associated with away tournaments such as transportation of team tent, bench, or the team cooler. Additionally, all teams are expected to volunteer during the home tournament in May.

SPONSORSHIP:

Nelson REP soccer teams are currently sponsored by Nelson Auto Wreckers for the 2023/2024 season.

FUNDRAISING:

We hope these guidelines will be helpful in your planning. Any questions regarding team fundraising should go through the Rep Director

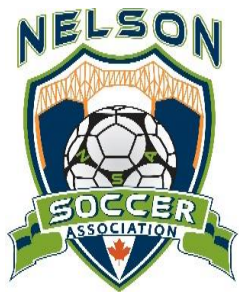
- No team, coach, parent, or individual, may fundraise for a specific Nelson Selects team or use the Nelson Selects name or logo without permission and approval from the Rep Coordinator. No fundraising effort may duplicate or infringe upon the fundraising of another Nelson Selects team.



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- A written request to fundraise for a specific item(s) must be presented to the Rep Director. The request must detail the item(s) needed and the specific manner(s) in which funds are to be raised. Teams may raise money to support their individual team's expenses and normally these expenses are minor in nature and cover things such as t-shirts, transportation, and award or end of season functions.
- All team fundraising financial transactions MUST be done through the Nelson Soccer Association account system. NO separate chequing or savings accounts may be held for a team in the name of a parent, individual, or group. Any surpluses in the Team Fundraising line items at the end of the season will be "rolled into" general Nelson Rep Soccer finances (i.e. team balances will not be carried over year to year).



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SOCCER PARENT/PLAYER EXPECTATIONS FOR NSA REP PLAYERS

Practice is the most important element in soccer development. Parents/guardians and players are expected to ensure players:

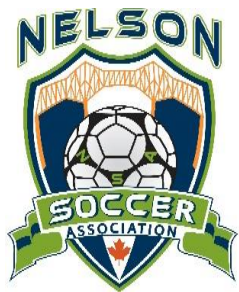
- Notify the coach of an anticipated absence well in advanced of the practice, whenever possible;
 - Are at the field ready for practice no less than 10 minutes before the start time;
 - Are prepared (this includes proper training gear including shorts, t-shirt, soccer socks, shin pads, soccer shoes and appropriate apparel for colder weather, as well as a water bottle).
- Whether for a legitimate reason or not, if a player misses practice, they may have reduced playing time in games and tournaments. To stay sharp and at the top of their game and to be aware of their team's playing style requires practice.

Games and Tournaments

The focus of the season is the team's performance in games. It is crucial for the team to be properly warmed up and briefed by the coach prior to the kick-off of the game. As such parents/guardians and players are expected to:

- Notify the coach of absence well in advanced of the game in order that the proper adjustments to strategy and player roster can be made.
- Be at the field no less than 45 minutes, ready to play, and prior to kick-off. Note that the coach may ask you to be there earlier.
- Be prepared (this includes proper game gear including shorts, t-shirt, soccer socks, shin pads, soccer shoes and Appropriate apparel for colder weather, as well as a water bottle);
- Arrive fresh and ready to play (sleep overs, outdoor activities and camps should be tempered on game days)
- Parents/guardians be accountable for players' actions* in restaurants, stores, hotels/motels/campgrounds in town. and out of town.

* We Represent "ALL OF NELSON"; our actions speak for "ALL OF NELSON"



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A player's playing time will depend on the factors listed below and is up to the complete discretion of the coach:

- Effort;
- Practice attendance;
- Practice performance;
- Player's physical state;
- Discipline; and
- Ability.

Team Meetings

Parents/guardians and players are expected to attend every team meeting as requested by the coaching staff and/or REP committee.

Sideline Behaviour

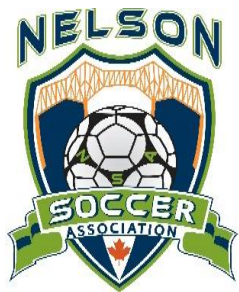
In particular, parents/guardians are expected to adhere to the following rules when attending a game or practice. This includes before, during and after the session.

- **DO** encourage your child.
- **DO** encourage the team.
- **DO** treat the other team, the referee and other parents with respect.
- **DO** set a good example for the players. Refrain from smoking or other inappropriate activities in the vicinity of the field.
- **DO NOT** instruct the players.
- **DO NOT** speak to or question the referee.
- **DO NOT** use foul or abusive language.
- **DO NOT** question the player choice or tactics of the coach.
- **DO NOT** criticize the coach or the players.

On Field Behaviour

Players are expected to:

- Treat their coaches, teammates, referees and parents/guardians with respect;
- Come prepared to work hard and learn;
- Refrain from using foul and abusive language; and
- Play as a team.



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Consequences

If parents/guardians or players cannot follow these guidelines, the coach or the Club may take any one or all of the following steps:

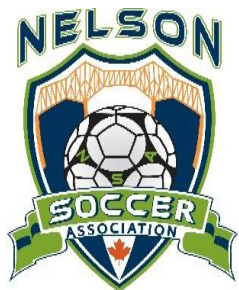
- Warn the parent/guardian/player about their behaviour; have them re-read the expectations and Fair Play Code;
- Ask the parent/guardian to no longer attend games and practices;
- Reduce the playing time of the player; and/or
- Remove the child from the team.

Concerns/Incidents

NSA REP Soccer has an open-door policy for concerns. Problems should be identified and dealt with at the earliest possible time. Concerns should be voiced to the following:

- Manager
- NSA Rep Committee (coaching issues)**

****Incident report forms can be found on the NSA website and submitted to the manager and/or REP committee. Any concern may then be brought to the NSA board and incident committee for further review**



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FAIR PLAY CODES

Fair Play Code for Players

- I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
- I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- I will control my temper – fighting and “mouthing off” can spoil the activity for everybody.
- I will respect my opponents.
- I will do my best to try and be a true team player
- I will remember that winning isn't everything – that having fun, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
- I will acknowledge all good plays/performances –those of my team and my opponents.
- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.

Fair Play Code for Coaches

- I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young players have other interest and obligations.
- I will teach my players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
- I will ensure that all players get equal instruction, and support.
- I will not ridicule or yell at the players for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that children play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- I will ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the player's ages and abilities.
- I will remember that children need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.

Fair Play Code for Parents

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that my child plays sport for his or her enjoyment, not mine.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will teach my child that doing ones' best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of the game/event.



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- I will make my child feel like winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing competitions.
- I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
- I will never question the official's judgment or honesty.
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting events.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to provide sport activities for my child.