

## **PDL update for U-11 to U-14 Emerald City FC parents:**

### **How come we only have schedules going to mid-October?**

PDL coaches and coaching directors are constantly striving to ensure that each team is competing against teams of like ability. That requires some degree of trial and error and constant refinement. Once results from the first part of the fall season start to come in then the divisions can be “rebalanced” for the rest of the fall season.

### **How come our young team has to travel to play an opponent xxx miles away?**

The PDL has 21 clubs that are members. Whenever possible, divisions are grouped geographically, HOWEVER, playing teams and players of same ability level important AND it’s important that PDL is inclusive and that players in Spokane, Bellingham, Vancouver, etc also have the opportunity to play opponents of “like quality”.

### **Why does our team have to go to XYZ town, but the other team doesn’t?**

Not all clubs in the PDL have two teams, and so will only have teams in one division, while ECFC has 2 in each age group. The PDL committee coaching directors have worked hard to place all teams in the appropriate division.

### **Why do we have some games on Saturdays and some on Sundays?**

Field availability may have been an issue, but Sunday games might also be scheduled so teams that have to travel long distances can play two games on the same weekend. The PDL committee also sought to have all teams in each division play all other teams within each division in the first part of the fall season, which in some age groups created a bit of a crunch.

### **How come we don’t have game times and locations for all of our games, only a date?**

The SYSA (and by extension ECFC) has the best scheduler in the state, Phoebe Russell, who worked almost 24x7 for days in order to schedule all SYSA select games in all divisions in all age groups as far forward as possible. Unfortunately not all clubs or associations either need to or choose to schedule their games so far in advance. ECFC coaching director Bobby Howe hopes to convince the PDL committee to create an environment whereby all clubs would schedule AND communicate home game schedules as far in advance as possible. Part of the problem is that historically one only had to give 72 hours advance notice in the “old” WSYSA league rules. Your managers will be hustling to gather the information and get it to you as soon as possible.

### **What’s a player pass? What’s a club pass?**

In the context of the PDL they are the same thing -- effective immediately all PDL players will be able to move “sideways” (to the other team in their age group) and “up” (one year only) to temporarily play with another team within the club during the regular season (not during state cup). No player can play more than 3 halves in a weekend (ie one full game, plus one half of a 2<sup>nd</sup> game). This freedom to move players around will be a useful tool for coaches to ensure that their players can be appropriately challenged and to allow them to test themselves. (It’s also a physical laminated card with your player’s picture and essential info that your manager will keep and bring to games)

**What changes might be coming in the future for PDL?**

There is a proposal under consideration to move the PDL annual schedule to: July tryouts--fall season--winter break--spring season--May state cup. Bobby Howe and others on the PDL committee and the WSYSA are working hard to develop the best possible developmental environment for our players, but there will be some uncertainty and experimentation for years to come. You will have multiple opportunities to offer feedback on these issues at team meetings in Nov/Dec and in parent survey at the end of the fall season.

**How do I learn more about the PDL?**

Look for information in future editions of the ECFC E-News and explore the <http://www.d4soccer.org/pdl> website for list of members, and occasional news updates.