



“Our Cups Runneth Over”

A Guide to the various Cup Competitions for Douglas Park Divisional Teams

Rick Taylor

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Girls (U13 and up) and boys (U12 and up) play in the *BCCGSL* and *4 District* leagues, respectively. In addition to this league play there are a number of “single game elimination” cup tournaments that take place within the regular season (and can extend past it) that make “seasons within a season” and add great excitement. This is a brief guide to them for co-ordinators, coaches, and managers. The reason for the guide is to try and alleviate confusion and (sometimes!) stress that accompanies multiple schedules arriving at different times via email. Generally, the club registrar and/or lead co-ordinators pass on information to team officials about deadlines, etc, but it is the team officials that have the ultimate responsibility for making sure the deadlines are met and that coaches have the correct qualifications.

Boys (U12 and up only)

The boys have the opportunity to play in up to two different cups: the *4D League Cup*, and the *Provincial/BCSA cup*.

1. **4D League Cup.** This is the league cup restricted to members of the Boys’ 4D League (VYSA, Richmond, North Shore, Burnaby). ENTRY IS AUTOMATIC. There are three cups within this general cup competition based on tiering levels in league play. The *Burrard Cup* (for Bronze teams), *Commonwealth Cup* (for Silver teams), and the *Pioneer Cup* for Gold teams. This cup starts in mid-season and finishes by the end of the season (March).
2. **Provincial/BCSA Cup.** This cup competition also has different levels, but both are sometimes referred to generically as “Provincial Cup” competitions. The *Provincial A Cup* is for all U12 and U13 teams at the GOLD level. Any team that enters (ENTRY IS NOT AUTOMATIC – YOU MUST APPLY) that is U12 or U13 and is playing in their league at the GOLD level MUST enter the Provincial A Cup. Teams that play U14 and up at the Gold level (or silver, bronze) in the leagues MAY enter the *Provincial A Cup*, but this is generally not advisable because Metro (“Selects”) teams begin at the U14 level and they enter the A Cup. Consequently, only exceptionally strong Gold teams at U14 and up would probably be competitive in the A Cup.

The Provincial B Cup (aka “BCSA” Cup) is for all teams U14 and above at any level. Again, ENTRY IS NOT AUTOMATIC – YOU MUST APPLY – and information concerning entry is sent to teams in mid-season.

Note that all coaches who wish to enter teams in *Provincial A* or *BCSA B* cups must have CCY coaching certification at a minimum otherwise entry will be denied (and the coaching qualifications are checked by the league).

For both these A and B cups, typically, games begin in the second half of the season and can extend into July if your team makes the provincial tournament. Typically, the initial rounds of this tournament involve the same teams as in the *4D League Cup*. The winner of those rounds then becomes the “4D rep” for inter-district rounds of play (around March, e.g. 2006 U12 *Blue Devils* and *Rangers*) where you may play teams from Surrey, the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, etc. If you win those rounds, then this leads to the “*Coastal Cup*” finals that are usually in April. The winner of all this then is the “coastal rep” for the provincial tournament finals that are held in July. The champions in the *Provincial A Cup* in the U 14 and U16 boys’ and girls’ categories qualify to attend the National Club Championships (in October). See the BCSA website for more info (<http://www.bcsoccer.net/bcsa/COMPETITIONS/tabid/74/Default.aspx>).

Girls.

For girls it is a bit simpler, but not much.

1. **Coastal Classic Cup**. This cup competition is restricted to Silver teams: Silver A (U14 and up), Silver B (U12 and up). Again, entry is AUTOMATIC, schedules are sent out, and the finals are in late March. It is a cup competition all on its own exclusive to silver teams. Winners in the A and B team rounds are each declared “District Champions”. Each champion (one in A, one in B) from each of the 5 Districts plus teams from Vancouver Island playoff to determine the *Classic Cup* finalists.
2. **BCCGSL (aka Inter-District Cup)**. This operates much like the boys’ 4D cups above. ENTRY IS AUTOMATIC and finals are typically near the end of March. It is for all teams U12 and up (Silver A and Gold).
3. **Provincial A and B Cups**. This cup competition also has different levels, but both are sometimes referred generically as “Provincial Cup” competitions. The *Provincial A Cup* (“*Premier A Cup*”) is for all U12 and U13 teams at the GOLD level. Any team that enters (ENTRY IS NOT AUTOMATIC – YOU MUST APPLY) that is U12 or U13 and is playing in their league at the GOLD level MUST enter the *Provincial A Cup*. Teams that play U14 and up at the Gold level (or silver) in the leagues MAY enter the *Provincial A Cup*, but this is generally not advisable because Metro teams begin at the U14 level and they enter the A Cup. Consequently, only exceptionally strong Gold teams at U14 and up would probably be competitive in the A Cup.

The Provincial B Cup (aka “Challenge” B Cup) is for all teams U14 and above at any level. Again, ENTRY IS NOT AUTOMATIC – YOU MUST APPLY – and information concerning entry is sent to teams in mid-season.

Note that all coaches who wish to enter teams in Provincial A or B cups must have CCY coaching certification at a minimum otherwise entry will be denied (and the coaching qualifications are checked by the league).

For both these A and B cups, typically, games begin in the second half of the season and can extend into July if your team makes the provincial tournament. Typically, the initial rounds of this tournament involve the same teams as in the 5D League Cup. The winner of those rounds then becomes the “5D rep” for inter-district rounds of play (around March) where you may play teams from Surrey, the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, etc. If you win those rounds, then this leads to the “Coastal Cup” finals which are usually in April (this is not to be confused with the “*Coastal Classic Cup*” above under 2.). The winner of all this then is the coastal rep for the provincial tournament finals which are held in July. The champions in the Provincial Cup A division in the under 14 and under 16 boys and girls categories qualify to attend the National Club Championships (later in October). See the BSCA website for more info (<http://www.bcsoccer.net/bcsa/COMPETITIONS/tabid/74/Default.aspx>).