

Pemberton Youth Soccer Association

PARENT HANDBOOK



Dedicated to promoting sportsmanship and fellowship by offering youth in Pemberton a positive, fun and safe soccer environment at recreational and competitive levels.





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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- PYSA's core programming includes Fall and Spring seasons, offered together as a combined registration. Families who register in the Fall are automatically enrolled for Spring, and no additional sign-up is required. A limited number of Spring-only spaces may be available.
- Depending on coach capacity, PYSA also offers Summer Camps and Winter Futsal as optional seasonal programs.
- Throughout the year, PYSA hosts a variety of community-focused events, including our annual Jamboree, Gear Swap, and Bike to Soccer. These events support player development, promote sustainability, and strengthen connections among local families. For more information on our events, visit the [Events Page](#) on our website.



AGE GROUPS

- Soccer birth years are coordinated using a universal “calendar-year” system, where players are grouped by the year they were born (January–December), ensuring consistent age divisions across all clubs, districts, and leagues.
- When you register for Fall, you are automatically registered for both the Fall and Spring seasons, so your child’s birth year determines their age group for both seasons, even though Spring occurs in the following calendar year.
- Please ensure you know which age group your child belongs in before arriving so we can place them correctly. Their group will appear on their schedule in the TeamSnap app. You can also use the quick formula:
Current Year (Fall) – Birth Year = Age Group



LOCATION

PYSA acknowledges that we gather, play, and compete on the unceded territory of the Lil'wat Nation, honouring the language, culture, and history of the Lil'wat7ul people.

Den Duyf Park is the primary home for PYSA programming, with on-site washrooms and a water fountain for families.

We aim to share program start and finish dates as early as possible, however, field operations depend on weather, seasonal conditions, and required maintenance. Den Duyf soccer fields are owned and managed by the Village of Pemberton, and opening dates are determined at their discretion. These decisions are made to ensure the fields are safe, ready for use, and in strong enough condition that regular play won't cause damage. At times, maintenance methods or seasonal challenges mean certain fields need a little extra time to establish healthy turf and reach the durability needed for play. When this happens, opening dates may shift with short notice to protect the long-term quality of the fields and ensure a safe playing surface for all participants.

When weather or maintenance affects access to Den Duyf Park, sessions may shift to the Pemberton Meadows Field.





PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Power up

- Ensure your child has eaten and is hydrated before arriving at the field. Snacks are discouraged on the field and sidelines.

Sun Smart

- Apply sunscreen as needed prior to entering the field.

Washroom Ready

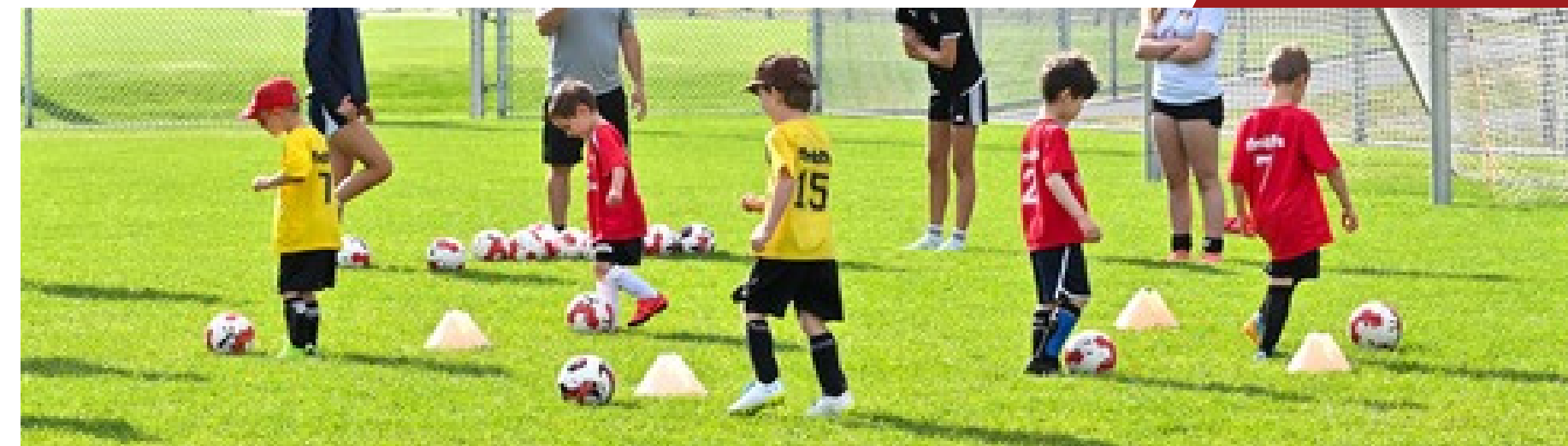
- PYSA does not have staffing capacity to assist children with washroom trips during sessions. Please ensure your child has used the washroom before arriving. Parents of younger children are encouraged to stay on the sidelines to assist if needed.

To keep soccer safe and fun for all:

- Arrive on time.
- No unregistered siblings or parents (other than coach volunteers) on the field.
- No climbing on fences or goals.
- Take all belongings and trash with you.

Help your player succeed by:

- Talking about respect, listening, and following directions.
- Reminding them to stay with their team.
- Letting coaches lead without sideline advice.
- Volunteering to help.
- Encouraging your child to thank their coaches.





GEAR

- We aim to support all U5–U9 players with jerseys, shorts, and socks through our Timbits sponsorship, with uniform pieces provided based on available sizes.
- The closest local retailer for soccer gear is Source for Sports in Squamish.
- PYSA hosts a Gear Swap each Fall and Spring. Families are welcome to take items even if they don't have anything to bring. It's a community-driven, cash-free exchange focused on kindness and supporting one another.
- Any unclaimed items are kept by PYSA to support families in need throughout the year or to help stock future Gear Swap events.
- For more information on the Gear Swap, visit the [Events Page](#) on our website.



WHAT TO BRING



Soccer Cleats

Double-knotted for safety.



Shin Guards

Must be worn under soccer socks.



Long Hair Tied Back

To keep vision clear and safe during play.



No Jewelry

Including necklaces, earrings, bracelets, or rings.



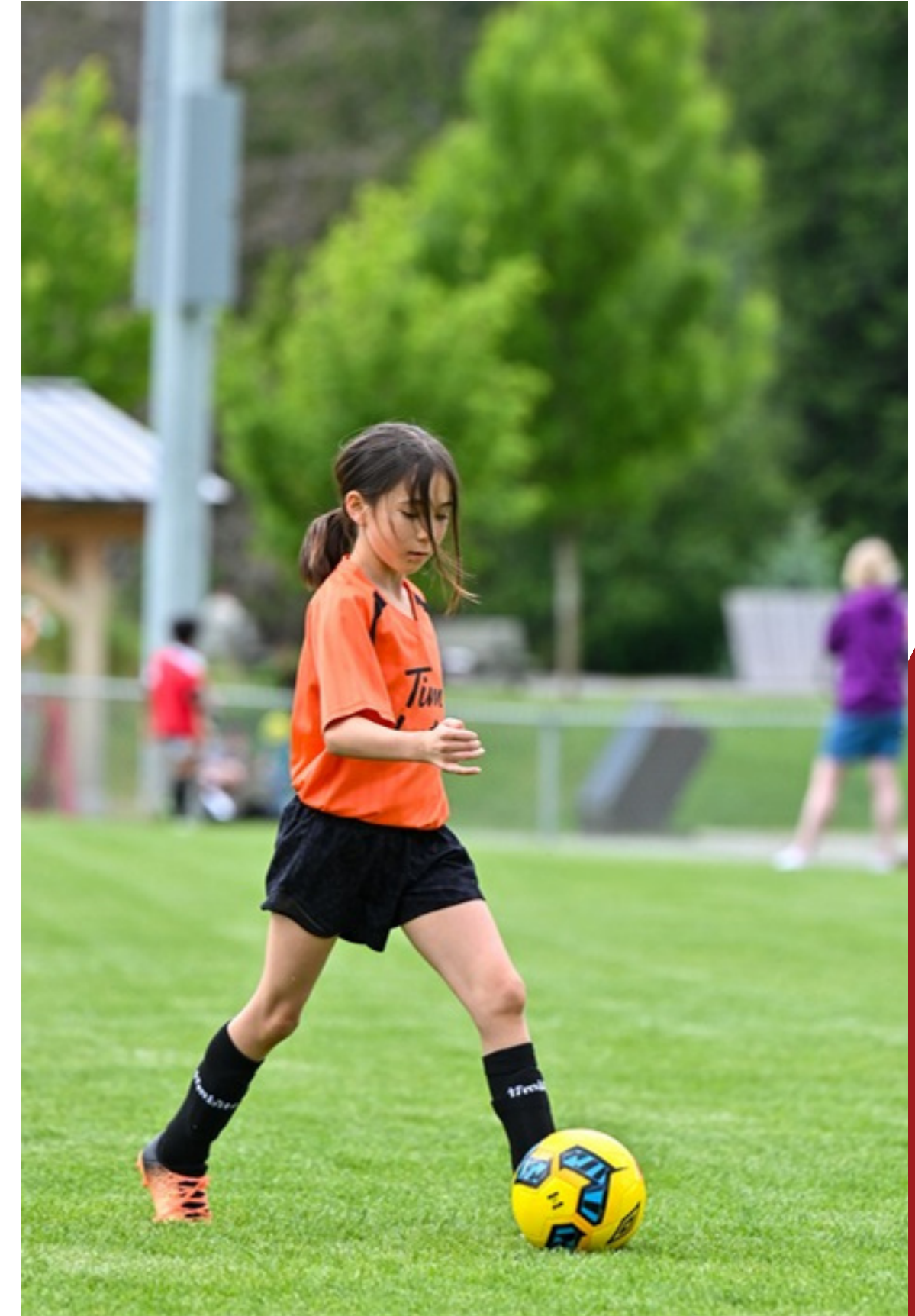
Water Bottle

Snacks are discouraged on the field and sidelines.



Dress in Layers

To stay comfortable in changing weather.





ILLNESS & ABSENCE

- Children should not participate if they have developed cold or flu-like symptoms within the past 24 hours that are not related to a known chronic condition such as allergies or asthma.
- Please keep your child home if they have a fever, if mild symptoms remain unchanged or have worsened after 24 hours, or if anyone in the household is currently unwell.
- Mark your child as 'going' or 'not going' for each session in TeamSnap and keep this updated so coaches know who to expect and can plan training sessions appropriately.





PICK UP

- Please arrive 5 minutes before your child's session ends. With sessions running back-to-back and many players transitioning on and off the field, having parents arrive a few minutes early helps the evening run smoothly.
- If you are running late, we ask that you coordinate with another parent to supervise your child until you arrive, as coaches will be welcoming the incoming group and getting the field ready for the next session.
- Let your child know where to wait for you, and teach them how to seek support from their coach if they are unsure of your whereabouts.
- If your child is young or new to the game, we encourage you to stay on the sidelines in case they need a little extra support.
- If your child is permitted to make their own way home, please communicate this with their coach in person or through the TeamSnap chat. This helps us support your family's routine and ensures your child knows when they are expected to leave.



TEAMSNAPONE

- TeamSnap One is the team-management app used by PYSA to streamline scheduling and communication for all programs.
- Families can access team schedules, messages, and updates directly through the app.
- If you're prompted to subscribe when opening the TeamSnap app, simply tap "Cancel" to skip. A subscription or free trial is not required for participation in PYSA programs.
- Tap Schedule in TeamSnap One to view your child's upcoming sessions, sync events to your personal calendar, and access the latest updates on player availability and team assignments.
- Mark your child as 'going' or 'not going' for each session in TeamSnap and keep this updated so coaches know who to expect and can plan training sessions appropriately.
- For guidance on using TeamSnap One, visit our [TeamSnap Webpage](#).





COMMUNICATION & EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- Each season, families must log in to their TeamSnap One account and ensure their child's contact information is current.
- Please include a Primary Contact and two alternate contacts for emergencies.
- PYSA understands that children are still developing communication and emotional-regulation skills. If your child is working on specific strategies at home or school, sharing this with their coach can help us support them effectively.
- Families are encouraged to communicate any support, tactics, or approaches that work well for their child so we can make their time on the field as positive as possible.
- Personal, sensitive, or support-related information can be shared confidentially with Head Coach, David Pareja, and Administrator, James Linklater.





STAY CONNECTED



Website

pembertonsoccer.com



Newsletter

pembertonsoccer.com/stayconnected/



Email

pembertonsoccer@gmail.com



Facebook

[@pembysoccer](https://www.facebook.com/pembysoccer)



Instagram

[@soccer.pembertyouth](https://www.instagram.com/soccer.pembertyouth)





ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Pemberton Youth Soccer Association runs on community support. We are a volunteer-driven organization with only a couple of part-time paid roles to keep operations organized. Teen coaches receive a small wage, but board members, parent coaches, and adult volunteers all give their time to make soccer possible for local youth. With soccer being the largest sport turnout in town, keeping the program affordable and thriving truly takes a village.





STAFF CONTACTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parent involvement can take many forms. Every role matters, and every contribution strengthens the program. To express interest in volunteering, please email the appropriate staff member, outlining your areas of interest.

STAFF CONTACTS

James Linklater - Administrator

pembertonsoccer@gmail.com

Oversees registration, general enquiries, Interlock and Coastal League liaison, and field operations.

David Pareja - Head Coach

pysaheadcoach@gmail.com

Mentors, supports, and oversees staffing, volunteers, and field operations.

Maddy Hepner - Community Engagement Coordinator

connect.pysa@gmail.com

Leads communications across the website, social media, and newsletters. Manages grant funding and event planning and coordination.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CLUB & LEAGUE SUPPORT

Equipment Support

Organizing storage, managing uniforms and gear.

Board Participation

Contributing to governance, planning, and club direction.

League Support

Confirming match details, coordinating team logistics, managing jerseys, and handling pre and post-game communications with PYSA families.

COACHING & TEAM SUPPORT

Coaching

Leading weekly sessions and games.

Assistant Coaching

Supporting coaches during practices and games.

Team Parent

Assisting with team organization and communications.

Field Operations

Lining fields, maintaining goals, supporting field setup.

EVENTS & COMMUNITY

Photography & Media

Capturing photos, within consent guidelines, and supporting communications.

Event Committees

Planning and organizing seasonal events such as Opening Day, Gear Swap, Jamboree, and year-end celebrations.

Event Support

Assisting with setup, check-in, signage, and general coordination.

Children's Entertainment

Helping run small activities (craft tables, simple games, face painting, etc.) at PYSA events.

Fundraising

Supporting raffles, sponsorship outreach, donation tables, or community fundraising events.





PYSA VALUES & POLICIES

- Pemberton Youth Soccer Association is committed to fostering sportsmanship, fellowship, and a positive, safe soccer environment for youth at both recreational and competitive levels.
- For more information about PYSA's mission, vision, and values, visit our [About PYSA Webpage](#).
- PYSA updates its Fair Play Code of Conduct for Players in alignment with BC Soccer guidelines.
- Links to BC Soccer, Canada Soccer, and PYSA's own Codes of Conduct can be found on our [Important Documents Webpage](#).
- BC Soccer's safety parameters guide all decisions related to fire, smoke/air quality, lightning, rain, and other conditions. TeamSnap will be used for updates when required, and the Head Coach will make onsite safety decisions when applicable.



FAIR PLAY CODE FOR ATHLETES

I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.

I will play by the rules & in the spirit of the game.

I will manage my emotions and avoid fighting or "mouthing off," as these behaviours disrupt the activity for everyone.

I will respect my coaches, teammates & opponents.

I will do my best to be a true team player.

I will remember that winning isn't everything - that having fun, improving skills, making new friends & doing my best are also important.

I will acknowledge all good plays / performances - those of my team & of my opponents.

I will remember that coaches & officials are also there to help me. I will accept their decisions & show them respect.

I will support my teammates and contribute to a positive, inclusive, and respectful team environment.





FAIR PLAY CODE FOR PARENTS

I will not force my child to participate in sports.

I will remember that my child plays sports for their enjoyment, not mine.

I will encourage my child to play by the rules & to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game/event.

I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly & trying hard.

I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.

I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays & performances by both my child's team & their opponents.

I will never question the officials' judgement or honesty in public.

I will support all efforts to remove verbal & physical abuse from children's sporting activities.

I will conduct myself respectfully on the sidelines, including refraining from foul, abusive, or offensive language, and will model positive behaviour for all players.

I understand that failure to meet this Code may result in being asked to leave the field.

I will show respect & appreciation for the volunteer coaches that give their time to provide sports activities for my child.





FAIR PLAY CODE FOR COACHES

Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.

Coaches must place the well being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.

Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down within the Constitution and the Rules of BC Soccer.

Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.

Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.

Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behavior and performance.

Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate is appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.

Coaches should set clear expectations for players and, as needed, outline expectations for parents, including the standards they can expect from their coach.

Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.

Coaches must always promote the appropriate Code of Conduct and positive aspects of the sport to players, parents and spectators alike.

Coaches must consistently display high standards of behavior and experience and be a role model for players, parents, and spectators.

Coaches must not give preferential treatment to any player, including their own child, and will ensure all athletes are supported and developed equitably.

Coaches must complete a Vulnerable Sector Check before starting in their role and understand its importance for child safety.

Coaches are expected to uphold this Code, and failure to do so may result in dismissal from their role as a staff member or volunteer with PYSA.





REFUND POLICY

- A full refund is issued if the Pemberton Youth Soccer Association cancels a program (prorated if applicable).
- A prorated refund may be issued when a program is not suitable for the participant (e.g., ability, safety, or maturity concerns), at the discretion of the administrator.
- A prorated refund may be issued for injury, illness, or other extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the administrator.
- A prorated refund, minus a 5% administration fee, is issued if the participant is moving out of town.
- A full refund, minus a 5% administration fee, is issued if a participant withdraws more than 7 days before the program start date.
- A prorated refund, minus a 10% administration fee, is issued if a participant withdraws within 7 days of the program start date or at any time during the season.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- PYSA offers flexible payment options for Fall season registration. Families may pay the full fee upfront or secure a spot with a \$75 deposit, followed by three equal monthly installments.
- For details on financial assistance, visit our [Financial Assistance Webpage](#).





AGM

- PYSA invites all parents and community members to attend our Annual General Meeting, typically held in March. The AGM is a valuable opportunity to learn more about how the club operates, share your ideas, and help shape the future of community soccer in Pemberton.
- During the meeting, members vote to elect or re-elect board directors for the coming year. The AGM also provides an opportunity to outline current volunteer needs and highlight key organizational priorities.
- To learn more and view current opportunities, visit our [Employment Webpage](#).



FEEDBACK

- PYSA releases a post-season survey each season to gather input from families and continually improve our programs. Your thoughts help us grow and better serve the community.
- Any feedback related to coaches, players, parents, governance, or correspondence can be directed to Administration at pembertonsoccer@gmail.com, where it will be brought forward to the Board for review or consideration.





LEAGUE PARTICIPATION

- PYSA enters teams into two leagues each Fall, giving players the opportunity to compete regionally and develop their skills in a structured, challenging environment. Our developmental soccer program is designed for players who are passionate about the game and eager to take their abilities to the next level. Open to both new and returning players, the program emphasizes technical improvement, tactical awareness, and overall player growth, with league games providing valuable match experience throughout the Fall season.
- PYSA participates in the Interlock League for U10-U12 and the BC Coastal Soccer League (BCCSL) for U13-U16, with both boys' and girls' teams competing. Boys typically play on Saturdays and girls on Sundays. These leagues create the game schedules, and due to the large number of teams they coordinate, schedules may be released at the last minute. PYSA strives to share league communications as quickly as possible once received. Come watch and cheer on your Pemberton Rapids during home games. Your support makes a difference!



BC Coastal Soccer League (BCCSL)

<https://bccsl.ca/>

Coastal League is the largest youth soccer league in British Columbia, welcoming teams from Metro Vancouver, Whistler/Pemberton, the Sunshine Coast, and the Fraser Valley. The regular season begins in September after Labour Day and continues through February, with cup play extending into March and beyond depending on the competition.



Interlock (Intra-District) League

<https://nsysa.ca/>

Interlock is organized by the North Shore Youth Soccer Association (NSYSA), and includes U8-U10, and Div 3 teams for U11-U12. It involves clubs within their district, with game formats varying by age. The Interlock season runs at the same time as the BCCSL.



FREEDOM TO PLAY

- Each Fall and Spring, we welcome Bart Choufour back to Pemberton. As the founder of Freedom to Play, Bart brings a player-centred coaching approach rooted in creativity, skill development, and joy. His methodology emphasizes small-sided games, game-based learning, visualization, and embracing mistakes as part of growth.
- Bart leads a week of coach training followed by on-field mentorship with players. In addition to his in-person support, PYSA coaches have access to online modules, animated curriculums, coaching plans, and educational content through the Freedom to Play SportsShare Channel. Bart's energy and expertise continue to strengthen our volunteer coaching community and support the development of our youth players.

THANK
YOU!

