



Bowen Island Football Club

5-A-Side League

Ethos and Purpose

The Bowen Island Football Club is a community-based football club which aims to undertake the following mission:

- A life-long love for the beautiful game
- Positive attitudes, constructive and reflective of good sportsmanship on and off the field
- A safe playing environment
- Development of all players to their maximum potential by providing positive opportunities for all participants
- Gender-equal opportunities to participate
- Respect for fellow players, teams, game officials and for the laws of the game.

These principles are essential to the club because they reflect essential qualities we wish to see in our community. We strive at every level and in every activity to embed these principles into the club's activities.

This is our ethos, and it is central to the 5-A-Side League.

The League's purpose is:

- Provide a fun and safe environment for adult players of intermediate to advanced level.
- Players are encouraged to play in the Adult Rec league as well.
- Instill in every participant a pride at being a part of Bowen Island Football Club and what it stands for in the community.
- Celebrate the game, each other and our community.
- Teams will be made up of 8 players with 5 players on the field at one time.

League Structure

Age limits

We will be setting the age limit for the 5-A-Side League to 16.

Captains

The role of captains will be changing to reflect the ethos of the league and more details about the captains roles can be found below. The Club will be extending an invitation to individuals to serve as captains. These invitations will be offered based on the person's embodiment of the ethos of the club and the league and their willingness to help support and enforce these principles on a game by game basis.

Selection of players

All players who have registered and paid by a predetermined registration deadline will be entered into a draft. The draft will be public, and will be structured in the following way:

- Captains meet to review registrants prior to the draft and create a one or two tier structure reflecting players of high skill.
- Players wishing to play at least one half of each game in goal will form a goalkeepers tier and will be distributed randomly and evenly between the teams.
- The names of these players will be entered into a blind draft and distributed evenly across the teams for that season
- Once the top tiers are drawn (in a blind draw), all other players are entered into a pot and a blind random draw will take place.
- Couples, spouses or family members may choose to be entered as a pair in the draft.

The draw will take place in a public place and will be hosted as a fun evening of celebration and community.

During the season, teams may be rebalanced based on results and the performance of players whose abilities were unknown at draft time, based on decisions made by the captains and League commissioner.

Substitutes

Substitutes will be permitted. The two captains will meet prior to kickoff to decide on a fair use of available subs. Captains are encouraged to replace a missing player with a sub of equal ability whenever possible. The hope here is common sense will prevail. If a team shows up with fewer than six players on the night, the captains will be encouraged to share players between teams and play the game anyway. The game may be played with fewer than five a side, using small nets in goal in place of keepers, or choosing to use mini nets, as long as the captains agree on the terms of the match.

League structure

The league will be structured around a balanced schedule round robin tournament. There will be no playoffs. Scores and results will be kept and a lack of parity in the table will be addressed by a rebalancing of players and teams. At the conclusion of the spring season a tournament will be held with a final. It is to be stressed that this tournament will be conducted within the ethos of the 5AS League.

Role of the captains

The captains will have increased responsibility for maintaining the ethos of the league and supporting the developmental purpose. Captains will:

- Create a supportive and welcoming environment for all team members.
- Reminding all players of the ethos and purpose of the league.
- Ensure that their teams develop supportive relationships and that all players are encouraged to play, try new things and not be afraid of failing and making mistakes.
- Meet at least once during the season to discuss league parity and any issues with game play and quality of experience.
- Ensuring that the disciplinary process is adhered to during matches.
- Captains are responsible for appointing alternates if they cannot make it out to a match.

Game play

1. There will be a zero tolerance policy for aggressive play. Aggressive play is defined as:

- Slide tackling is not allowed and can result in a free kick awarded to the opposition team;
- Tackling a player from behind their line of vision is not allowed and can result in a free kick awarded to the opposition team;
- Close quarter hard kicks on goalkeepers are not friendly and can cause injury, please go easy;
- Disrespectful behaviour towards opponents or teammates

2. The responsibility for eliminating aggressive play lies with every player. Team captains will be empowered to settle disputes and will have access to a card system for dealing with particularly egregious incidents or repeated behaviour. Opposition captains will be allowed to produce a yellow card for reckless and aggressive play. The protocol for addressing reckless and aggressive play shall be:

- In the case of no injury, a verbal warning from opposition captains not to repeat the action
- In the case of an action that produces a minor injury or is in danger of producing an injury, or in the case of a second offense after the verbal warning, the opposition captain can book a player with a yellow card and the offending player must immediately sub off the pitch.
- In the case of an injury, the offending player must sit out the same amount of game time as the injured player.
- A second yellow card in a game will result in a red card and a suspension from the game.
- A straight red card can be produced for violent conduct or conduct resulting in a serious injury.
- Any player receiving two yellow cards during the season or one red card will meet with a three person tribunal composed of the two League Commissioners, the BIFC President and a long standing player not involved in the situation to discuss their actions and consequences.

Club oversight

The 5-A-Side League is a program for Bowen Island FC. This league represents the best of who we are and serves as an important statement about the club's commitment to its values. We invite players to join the league because they too support these values and wish to grow the club for children, youth and adults along these lines. What happens on the pitch reflects our club and its role in the community. Holding the 5-A-Side League up to the highest standards allows our club to engage in more active growth with the support of non soccer playing residents of Bowen Island. We want all of our programs to be something we are proud of.

As a BIFC program the club will oversee the league with two appointed Commissioners who will be responsible for setting up and overseeing the captains, draft system and tribunal process. The Commissioners will also be able to rule on questions of rules to enforce the ethos of the club throughout the season. The Commissioners will be empowered to take a zero tolerance approach to reckless and aggressive play, because not doing so allows this behaviour to continue. We want this role to be a light administrative role, but an important role in protecting the values and purpose of the Club.

Ultimately the quality of the experience lies with every player that straps on boots and joins their neighbours in good spirited competition to learn and grow the game.

BIFC