



March 10, 2021

To all Vancouver Youth Soccer Association ("VYSA") Grass roots Clubs (the "Clubs")

Re: Fusion Football Club Soccer Association (Fusion FC.) the club formed by the amalgamation of Vancouver FC Football Club ("VFC") and Fusion FC.)

This letter is to advise VYSA affiliated Clubs that at this time the VYSA will only affiliate Fusion FC teams for play in the grandfathered U14-U18 Metro Divisions for the 2021/2022 season.

The VYSA has the stated and explicit purpose of fostering, developing, and growing the game of soccer within Vancouver and its motive is to act in the best interests of youth soccer. On February 8, 2021 the VYSA board, after a meeting with representatives of all the Clubs passed the following resolutions:

For the 2021/2022 season only to affiliate Fusion FC teams in the grandfathered Metro Division if the Fusion FC teams were affiliated though VFC to play in the Metro Divisions in the 2020/2021 season. This affiliation continues to be subject to the review and approval of the Metro Oversight Committee of the VYSA that was established when the District moved from a single club model to a multi club model.

No other Fusion FC teams including U13 Division 1, will be affiliated for the 2021/2022 season.

Fusion FC was notified of these decisions on February 16, 2021.

All Clubs and the VYSA Board members who voted were unanimous in supporting these decisions. Some of the reasons underlying these decisions were and are:

- a. VFC was created and affiliated for the limited and specific purpose of operating Metro Division teams, as a non-partisan club to support VYSA Clubs. Fusion FC was not affiliated with the VYSA;
- b. Fusion FC did not consult with the VYSA Board or the Clubs before amalgamating and unilaterally commencing expanded operations;

- c. Fusion FC did not apply to the VYSA to expand its operations in the Vancouver District;
- d. Fusion FC has presented no evidence to the VYSA of the need for them or their expanded programs in the Vancouver District;
- e. The current Club structure is sufficient to service the district's demand for divisional soccer at the present time. Based on the information available to the VYSA. Fusion FC intends derive its Vancouver based players from the Clubs' player pool and not by increasing Vancouver based registrations;
- f. The Clubs are already concerned about declining registrations across the District and the potential impact of Fusion on their Clubs;
- g. It is unclear how return to play after Covid will roll out this coming year;
- h. The Canadian Soccer Association, the BC Soccer Association and the BC Coastal Soccer League are making rapid changes to the structure of organized soccer and the grass roots Clubs need time to adjust their operations to this new environment. At least three Clubs have indicated their intention to field high performance divisional teams now or in the near future. Allowing Fusion FC at this time will likely undermine those efforts;
- i. Fusion FC historically has operated only to field BC SPL high performance teams. It is unclear how they intend to operate as a true grass roots Club and the VYSA is concerned that the stress on grass roots Clubs may result in the accelerated decline in registrations;
- j. Fusion also operates BC SPL teams some of whose players come from out of district and would or may put increasing pressure on VYSA fields, referees and other resources;
- k. The VYSA has not been afforded an opportunity to further consider the impact of Fusion FC's activities on the Clubs; and
- l. Fusion has presented no evidence to the VYSA that they will benefit soccer in the VYSA. Further, Fusion FC has not provided a plan of operation that demonstrates its intended operations or the effects of promoting exclusive high-performance teams without reasonable regard for grass-roots development

Fusion has appealed this VYSA decision to the BC Soccer Association. Although VFC was created and affiliated for Metro purposes as a non partisan club to support the Clubs and Fusion FC was not affiliated with the VYSA, the new Fusion FC is asserting that it has the legal right to operated VYSA affiliated teams at all levels including house and divisional teams and is entitled to all the benefits of a member club of the VYSA.

It is unclear when BC Soccer will render its decision in this matter or when it will be finally resolved. In the meantime, the VYSA will enforce its decision not to affiliate Fusion teams other than in the grandfathered Metro Divisions.

Directors, VYSA