

Nov 12th, 2025

Technical Directors Report - Andrew Moyst & Victor Dray

Although the 2025 soccer season was our first year in the role as Technical Directors we felt that we hit the ground running. Being both life long members of this amazing club we felt honoured that the executive placed their trust in us to lead all things technical at MPSA. We would like to thank the executive, staff and our massive team of volunteer coaches and managers that make our club such a special place to be. The volunteer community has always been the backbone of MPSA and we will continue to work with and for our club members to continue the club on its upward trajectory for years to come. As we look ahead at a promising future we feel it is fitting to reflect on some of the highlights of the past season.

Spring Metro Evaluations (March)

These were hosted at the Powerplex and the main focus was to evaluate and then place players in the appropriate groups for their development. Over a period of 3 sessions per age group we managed with the help of our incredible coaching group to assess all players and place them in teams for the season. Coaches were open to the process and very helpful evaluating players

Spring Camp / Fall camps (May/September)

Our Spring and Fall Skill Camps had 2 divisions U7-U10 and U11-U13. In the younger age group we had 70 players in each camp and in the older age group both camps had 40. The camps were well organized and overall an incredible success and the players were wonderful to deal with. Shout out to our amazing summer staff who ran the stations and kept it fun for everyone!

Vancouver Whitecaps Camp (July)

The biggest Whitecaps Camp in Canada! Over 200 Players - 120 Players (AM Session), 80 Players (PM Session). It was an Incredible week of activities, learning and practical

experience for our many coaches. Whitecaps Coaches Mike Ayyash and Chris McKaig ran on field sessions with our GU15 PL Team and our BU13 PL team. They also led some classroom sessions for our coaches and overall were excellent to work with during the week. We look forward to working with the Whitecaps again next summer!

Player Development

We spent many days and nights this summer at the fields both home and away watching and working with players and coaches. It has been an incredible journey so far and it has only just begun. We have incredible talent on the girls and boys side and with our player pathway becoming much clearer each season we look forward to continuing to work with ALL players no matter the level to help them reach their potential in the space they are most suited.

Coaching Development

The MPSA Google Classroom is being updated weekly with full session plans, activities, SSGs, warm ups, LTPD, grassroots and other relevant coaching materials. (We currently have 64 Students!)

In March we hosted 4 coaching workshops for various youth age levels. These were well attended considering it was such a busy time of year and were beneficial not only for the coaches but also for us as TDs in order for us to engage with the coaching community and further assess our needs and strengths as a club.

In 2025 we have six Canada Soccer C Diploma Candidates from MPSA and we hope to get several others to start the course next year. Coaching education is paramount and at our club we will support and guide you along the way.

NLSA Grassroots Guidelines

We have adhered to and implemented the new NLSA Grassroots guidelines. In many ways as a club we were well positioned to make these adjustments already as we are an inclusive club by nature with a youth first mentality. That being said the process was not without its issues as we were being asked to make considerable changes in the U10 to U13 age groups across all levels. Our members were consulted on many occasions and we provided information on our website and through email updates and links to documents provided by NLSA as they became available. Our club coaches obviously had many questions and we did our best to make sure they were as informed as possible heading into the Fall ID and tryout sessions. We had 2 coaches meetings which addressed many of these concerns through a presentation and then a Q and A. By no means did we have all the answers at the start of the process however through much discussion and conferencing with other clubs and the NLSA technical staff we feel we are well on our way to ensure the new guidelines are in place and adhered to at our club.

Fall ID / Tryout Process (September / October)

For ages U7-U9 we offered 2 player ID sessions after which players were divided into balanced pools for winter training. These groups will then be split into balanced teams for the season at the end of the winter training season. Every age group from U7-U9 has two pools of players and the final number of teams and the size of those rosters will be formulated prior to the end of winter training. For ages U10-U13 we offered 3 player ID sessions. After these sessions players were placed into balanced pools for U10 and tiered but open pools for U11. For U12 and U13 players were placed into Lighthouse and Compass pools which have open rosters. Every age group from U10-U13 has two pools of players and the final number of teams and the size of those rosters will be formulated prior to the end of winter training.

For ages U15-U17 we offered 3 tryouts for each age group. They were well attended and very competitive. Our club will have a GU15 PL team and the possibility of 2 GU15 CL teams or 1 CL and 1 Metro team. In the BU15 we will have 1 PL team and 1 CL team. In GU17 for the first time in a few years we will have a PL team! We will also have a BU17 PL team and a BU17 CL team. We have doubled the number of MPSA teams in these age groups going from 4 in 2025 to 8 in 2026! It is certainly a very positive indicator of our club's overall health and we could not be more excited about what the future holds for the players and coaches in these spaces.

Other than a few minor logistical issues these ID sessions went smoothly and were well attended. A massive thank you to all our volunteer coaches who stepped up and especially to our All Star Director Phil Quann and our Office Administrator Rob Comerford for their unwavering support and dedication during these busy few weeks.

Winter Training / New Training Model (November)

Our Winter Training has begun and we have introduced a new training model that we hope will be well received and help our players and coaches develop to a higher standard. Coaches were informed of this new model earlier in the fall and a formal presentation was given during the coaches meeting prior to the commencement of winter training. We believe the new model allows for more flexibility for coaches and continued player growth but it also allows us as a club to maximize the facility spaces we have. This year for the first time we have ages U11-U17 with access to Techniplex time. We have managed to have regular weekly times for ages U12-17 with a portion reserved for our U11 groups and GK Coach to rotate in on a monthly basis.

We will continue to seek feedback on this new model from the community and in particular our players and coaches. We will adapt and pivot as deemed necessary however early signs are that it is being well received and holds promise to be a very positive step in the club's journey forward.

Grass Fields

Although this is not a Technical issue specifically we need as a club to create some sort of plan to address how to have the <u>Ed Moyst Field</u> either resurfaced completely or at the very least maintained outside of just mowing, lines and throwing fill in the massive holes that currently litter the penalty areas and middle of the field. The <u>Lower Smallwood</u> and <u>Central Field</u> are also in poor shape so the idea of maybe rotating fields each year to reduce directional wear and tear might be something to be looked at. We also have the <u>Morris Academy Field</u> which has little use outside of training but could be an option to host club league and metro weekends for younger age groups. We are very blessed at MPSA with access to several fields in our community so strategically we definitely have options to explore. We must make these grass fields safer for kids to play on and we will undoubtedly need assistance from all stakeholders and in particular the City of Mount Pearl.

2025 Season - Honourable Mention

Congratulations to our MPSA 2025 NLSA Canada Games Players who were part of the program over the past 3 years and always represented the province with class, commitment and pride. We look forward to seeing you in our senior spaces in the coming years. Well Done!

- Male Canada Games Jamieson Nash, Harry Luff
- Female Canada Games Baleigh Andrews, Victoria Tuff

Congratulations to all of our club, metro, CL and PL teams for another great season of soccer and a special congratulations to our teams that were medalists this year in competitive tournaments. Special shout out to our Girls U15 PL team who represented our club and province at the National U15 Tournament in Charlottetown PEI. Way to go team!

Final Comments

Lastly, a sincere thank you to everyone at the club for your support this year. It was our first year in this role and with everyone pulling together we've seen amazing growth in our short time already. The future for MPSA certainly looks very bright.