

MEMO

To: Vermont Soccer League Division 1 Member Clubs

From: Vermont Soccer League Officers

Date: August 25, 2008

Re: Updated Information for 2009 Schedule

In our state, the limitations of a short spring season and the sometimes significant travel distances required for Division 1 team play, led to the development of a schedule format that has become more challenging to implement as the number of teams in the Division grows and the level of play increases. These are wonderful indicators of how successful soccer is in our state. These are also indicators that it is time to make adjustments to accommodate this growth, as well as align with national best practices and prepare for the next level of growth and achievement.

With this in mind, the VSL Board has decided to make the following changes to the Division 1 schedule for Spring 2009.

- **The 2-match-per-day format will be eliminated.** Over the last year, the VSL Board has been looking at the national trends and best practices for player development, as well as talking with Division 1 Clubs to hear their thoughts about moving to a 1-match-per-day schedule. After careful consideration, we will be eliminating the 2-match-per-day format beginning in Spring 2009, and move to a 1-match-per-day format in a schedule that will include 5-6 matches. We are developing an initial play date schedule, taking into consideration the restrictions around certain weekend, and will be sharing it shortly.
- **A Division 1 Placement Committee will be formed.** We will continue to provide a two-tier format for Division 1, and in order ensure the quality of match experiences we will be appointing a Placement Committee that will review team applications from each Club to help determine the optimum team placement and schedule. A list of criteria will be drafted to guide these decisions, and it is our goal to keep Division 1 clubs engaged and involved and the process visible.
- **Clubs will assume responsibility for scheduling fields for home matches.** Feedback from around the state about the changing landscape of venues and fees led to this change, which we expect to make a more equitable share for Division 1 Clubs. Details about this home field stacking process will follow.

We feel strongly that moving to a schedule with fewer matches that are of a consistent high quality will provide a better development path for our players, retain more value for the Clubs, and best serve soccer in Vermont.