

# RYSA FIELD NOTES

*A Guide for Coaches and Team Managers to Things Related to Soccer Fields in Richmond*



*Boyd Oval*

## Field Contacts & Web Sources

**RYSA Field Scheduler** and 4 District Scheduler:

Contact Dave Weber at

[field\\_4dscheduler@richmondsoccer.com](mailto:field_4dscheduler@richmondsoccer.com) or  
[DavidWeberRYSA@gmail.com](mailto:DavidWeberRYSA@gmail.com)

**RYSA Website** – on the left sidebar on the homepage click on “Field Status/Locations” to view a list of fields in Richmond with links to information on field closures and sport field locations and layout: [www.richmondsoccer.com](http://www.richmondsoccer.com)

**BC Soccer Central Website** - on the homepage click on “Fields” to see an alphabetic listing of all soccer fields in the lower mainland with addresses and links to Google Maps:

[www.bcsoccercentral.com/Fields.htm](http://www.bcsoccercentral.com/Fields.htm)

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*"If you're in the penalty area and don't know what to do with the ball, put it in the net and we'll discuss the options later."*

## RYSA Practice Fields – Fall / Winter Season

The RYSA is fortunate to be able to provide artificial turf fields for all practices and training sessions. Richmond has 6 full-sized artificial turf fields and 2 mini turf fields located at Hugh Boyd Park, Richmond High School, Minoru Park and King George Park. In addition, there are numerous quality grass fields available around the City.



*Minoru 2*

With few exceptions, practice fields are assigned weeknights from Monday through Friday in one of two 90-minute time slots. The early time slot is from 6:00 to 7:30 pm and the late time slot is from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Generally, practices and programming at U14 and below falls into the early time slot and U14/U15 to U18 practices and programming falls into the late time slot.

No more than 3 teams are assigned to a full-sized field for training / practice purposes during any given time slot. If you find yourself sharing a practice field with 2 other teams, there is an expectation that the three coaches will be able to come together to arrange a reasonable rotation so that all 3 teams will have an equal opportunity to share the field space and nets fairly during the course of season.

## RYSA Game Fields – Fall / Winter Season

Except for those that specifically request natural grass home fields, all RYSA home games (MSL and 4 District) are scheduled on artificial turf fields on Saturdays (the only exception is the U18 Metro team which plays its home games on Sundays). 4 District and MSL League game schedules are posted on the BC Soccer Central website (<http://www.bcsoccercentral.com>).

Away games in the Metro/Select League and in the 4 District League are usually played on Saturdays, however, there are many instances of Friday evening and Sunday away games in other districts. If you find that one of your away games is inconveniently scheduled, just plan ahead and deal with it as best you can. Informal requests to other soccer districts to change away game schedules are rarely acknowledged. The 4 District League has a formal process to request schedule changes in rare circumstances (refer to the 4District Guide for details) requiring advance notice, an application, and consideration by the 4 District Board.

Teams officials are required to be in contact with each other by the Thursday before a scheduled game to touch base and to confirm details of the upcoming game.

There is no better feeling  
than stepping out on that field  
and stunning them all by doing what  
none of them thought you could.



## Reporting Game Scores

Following each game, the home and away coach or team manager must report the game scores as soon as possible to your Divisional Liaison (for 4 District games) or to Stewart MacPherson and John Gattens (for Metro Select games). Once all scores are received the league standings are updated and posted to the BC Soccer Central website. Late scores and scores that go unreported result in inaccurate standings for the entire division.

## Ad Hoc Schedule Changes

**4 District:** Schedule changes for Richmond *home games* are rare (only usually due to conflicts with other events or cup games). However, this is not always the case with away games played in other soccer districts. At the beginning of each week, changes to the posted game schedule are communicated to the Divisional Liaisons through the 4 District Scheduling Committee. The Divisional Liaisons then communicate these schedule changes to the teams that are impacted. On



*Hugh Boyd Park*

average there are at least several dozen schedule changes each week. In addition to receiving word of these schedule changes through the Divisional Liaison, impacted Richmond teams will also usually receive a “heads-up” email from the Richmond 4 District Scheduler (Dave) about the schedule change.

**Metro Select League:** The Metro Select League game schedule is quite stable and has very few schedule changes during the course of the regular season. Any schedule changes impacting Richmond Metro teams will be communicated and arranged through the Richmond Field Scheduler in conjunction with the MSL Scheduler.

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## 4 District Thanksgiving Re-Alignment

During the week of Thanksgiving, the 4 District Scheduling Committee meets to consider the promotion or relegation of teams and the consequential re-alignment of divisions. If your team has performed exceptionally well or exceptionally poorly during the first four weeks of league play and you do not anticipate a significant change in your team’s level of competitiveness vis-à-vis your current division, please speak to your Age Group Coordinator and the Richmond 4 District Scheduler about a possible change in divisions.

Please note that not every request is necessarily accepted, as the overall viability and competitiveness of each division must be taken into consideration. Refer to the 4 District Guide for further details regarding changes in standings as a result of promotion or relegation. Coaches should also be aware that in some instances, home game schedules might change as a result of divisional re-alignment.

**4 District Tip:** *Do you know what to do when the referee is a no-show or if a game is abandoned due to extreme field or weather conditions? Knowing the answer could mean the difference between picking up some points for the game or not. Be sure to get a hardcopy of the 4 District League Guide and have it on-hand in case an uncommon situation arises. Put the Guide into a plastic bag and carry it with you to games with your equipment so that you are always prepared with the answer when you need it.*

## Friendly / Exhibition Games

Teams that arrange to play friendly/exhibition games are strongly encouraged to request the use of the artificial turf fields that are already booked and available as part of the usual RYSA inventory of fields. Several field spaces are kept in reserve during the fall/winter and spring seasons for this purpose and should be considered first for any friendly games. If none of the pre-booked fields are suitable, another turf or grass field may be booked if available and as long as adequate notice is provided. Teams are discouraged from booking exhibition game fields on speculation. Once booked, the cost of a game field (\$50) is often non-refundable even if the game does not take place.

**Game Officials:** Costs for game officials (Referees and ARs) for friendly/exhibition games are the responsibility of the team that organized the game. Teams may book game officials by making a request through the RYSA field scheduler. Game officials booked through the field scheduler will be paid cash at the field by the team that organized the game in accordance with the usual pay rates as shown on the RYSA website. Teams have the option of arranging for their own volunteer game officials (friends, team parents, etc.) as a cost saving measure.

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## Planning for the Following Fall/Winter Season

During the late spring or summer, RYSA coaches will be contacted about their game and practice field preferences for the following fall/winter season. Reasonable efforts will be made to incorporate coaches' preferences into the fall/winter game and practice schedule, however, due to conflicting requests and other considerations, it is not always possible to meet everyone's expectations. For this reason, it is best to remain as flexible as possible and to provide many options for the scheduler to work with. If you are contacted by the scheduler regarding your field preferences or for clarification on various options you have provided, please respond in a timely manner, as the fall/winter schedule must be prepared within very tight timeframe. If, in the end, the field scheduler has not been able to incorporate your requests fully, please be assured that best efforts have been applied in meeting your requests as much as possible.

Just prior to the beginning of the fall/winter season, each coach will be notified as to his or her assigned practice and game field assignments.

## DID YOU KNOW?



The RYSA annual budget for field rentals is \$106,000

Richmond Youth Soccer Association benefits from a reduced hourly rate of about \$23 for turf field rentals (which is a lot less than the unsubsidized rate of \$58 per hour)



Approximately 215 soccer games are played each weekend in the 4 District and Metro Select Leagues

RYSA has 5 teams playing in the MSL (out of a total of 60 teams in the boys league) and 30 teams playing in the 4 District League (out of a total of 370 teams in the 4 District league)

## Off-Season Field Space

From the end of the spring season to the beginning of fall/winter season (approximately July to mid-August), RYSA has no regularly booked field space.

The only field space that RYSA will book during the off-season is for exhibition games, tournaments, or other special events. Contact the field scheduler for field bookings for friendly games during the off-season and also refer to the “Exhibition Games” section of this guide.

During the off-season, RYSA does not book field space for practices, training sessions or ad hoc kick-arounds. There are plenty of fields available around the City during the summer months for informal practices.



*Coastal Cup Finals Hosted in Richmond*

## Pre-Season Field Space

In the weeks leading up to the beginning of the fall/winter season (starting about mid-August), a small amount of pre-booked practice and game field space will be made available to RYSA teams on a first come, first served basis. The field scheduler will send out an announcement to all coaches – you just need to send your request to the field scheduler and you will be added to the pre-season schedule. Teams will be advised by email of the pre-season bookings at the beginning of each week.

## Snow Days

Although rare, we do get the occasional snow day here in the lower mainland and, as usual, things are thrown into a state of chaos including soccer schedules. If you wake up on a snowy Saturday morning, watch the RYSA website and your email for information about field closures and cancelled games in Richmond and in other municipalities. And if your game is cancelled, head to the nearest field with your team for a snow-ball fight!

*Questions? Contact Dave Weber, RYSA Field Scheduler at field [4dscheduler@richmondsoccer.com](mailto:4dscheduler@richmondsoccer.com) or at [DavidWeberRYSAGmail.com](mailto:DavidWeberRYSAGmail.com)*



*Boyd Under a Blanket of White*

