As some of you may be aware, COYSA has decided that the current system of Div A (Competitive House League) and Div B (Recreational House League) for our U11 to U16 age groups will come to an end at the end of this season.

In its place, COYSA has developed a tiered system to be implemented in 2016, where teams will be moved up or down throughout the season to try to have teams with similar abilities playing against each other.  The system is outlined below:

*• Clubs will assign a rating between 1 and 5 to the teams formed with 1 being the highest ability level and 5 being the lowest. This is to be done for all teams formed for both genders and ages U11 – U16.*

*• The Divisional Committee (U11 – U16) and the COYSA Administrator will prepare schedules that align teams of like ratings to create multiple groups per division, depending on the number of teams declared. Smaller divisions may be created to keep like teams playing each other.*

*• At least twice per season the Divisional Committee (U11 – U16) will review game results using statistics (standings and high/low goal differentials) where scores are recorded. Where scores are not recorded, Coach ratings for games won/lost shall apply. Based on these reviews, groups within a division may be adjusted to better align teams of similar results (teams may be moved up or down). The level for the majority of the teams in the grouping is to take precedence over that of a single team. When adjustments are made to groups within a division where scores are recorded, the points for teams in the different groups will be reset to zero.*

*•This proposal will be adopted as normal practice on a yearly basis. Changes can be made by the COYSA Tiering Committee at least 6 months prior to the start of the new season, by a majority vote.*

The Board has decided that OMYSA will be forming balanced teams throughout all our age/gender groups next season.  We will be doing our best to form teams with a mixture of stronger and weaker players.  The board discussed the various merits and drawbacks of forming teams composed of all “strong” or “weaker” players versus balancing our teams.  For every argument that players of like-ability should play together, there was an equally passionate argument for less skilled players to learn and develop by playing with more skilled-players.

We know that each club (KYSA, RYSA, WYSA, LCYSA) is going about this re-alignment in different ways, with some clubs still having evaluations and forming specific Div 1 teams and others following the model we have chosen.  Please remember that OMYSA is a grass-roots, house league soccer association with a mandate to provide soccer to as many children in our community as possible.  Kelowna United and TOFC have the mandate to provide an opportunity for children to play soccer at a “higher” level if they choose.

We hope that our members can support the board’s decision, but we are not naive enough to think that there will be full support.

For those of you that are upset with our new direction, we offer two things:

1. The board has agreed that this is to be a one-year trial and is committed to evaluating the success of the new system after the season and will adjust if it does not work as we hope.
2. If you are invested enough in your child’s soccer to form a strong opinion about this system, you should strongly consider joining the OMYSA Board where you can affect future decisions and have a say in how things are done.  I can tell you that the vote was very close on this issue and one or two more votes may have swung our club in a different direction