

VUL:SUSTAIN

SPIRIT SPORT CULTURE ECOLOGY

where spirit lives

The Vancouver Ultimate League A sustainable society

By its very nature, spirit of the game embraces a sustainable attitude toward our immediate environment, the fields, and to all of the areas that we as players touch upon. Our footprint is already light: by acknowledging sustainability of the game and the environment as an organizational goal, we look to be more successful to that end, and become leaders in the sports community.

Sustaining the sport

Although growth is not necessarily a component of every sustainable structure, it is likely that it will be necessary for the VUL. The number of young players, a vital part of any sustainable organization, shows continued growth and indeed is being encouraged by the VUL, as part of both its sustainable efforts and its general mandate to promote ultimate. In order to sustain both the incumbent membership and the young players coming into the league, we need to develop strategies and facilities that will accommodate their needs.

Our continued efforts in finding new fields opportunities and building funds that will allow us to capitalize upon them is a necessary ingredient in the sustenance of the sport.

An offshoot of this may also be the shift to **artificial turf fields**. These surfaces, which are becoming accepted as suitable for play by the ultimate world as a whole, offer not only consistent quality under almost all weather conditions but increased programming opportunities. By being flexible enough to adapt to non-traditional playing times, ultimate can position itself for the growth that is part of a sustainable model, and also begin to offer programming alternatives that address the needs of a changing demographic – this may entail age and/or gender specific leagues.

By the same token, the success of **touring teams** provides exposure for the sport beyond its own community, which enhances the above fields opportunities. And the existence of a strong core of touring players here ensures that the skills and spirit of the game are sustained.

Acting with awareness and responsibility

Already, the VUL prides itself on the level of **responsibility** that it takes toward the fields on which games are played.

A commitment to a sustainable approach should reduce our impact on the environment and increase awareness of the issue and our response to it among our membership. We need to walk and talk it.

This will entail **policies** regarding procurement of supplies and equipment; regarding what services and amenities we provide and how we provide them; regarding scheduling of games and tournaments; regarding specific events. This may also entail stronger **partnerships** with like and complimentary organizations, i.e. BEST, that will allow us to promote and enable better environmentally sustainable practices amongst our membership. Likewise, this may entail a need to provide alternatives to less sustainable practices that have been used to date, i.e. durables to replace disposables, recycling options at all events and fields, etc.

Integration of spirit and sustainability

Acting sustainably toward the sport, the community and the environment is at its essence a **spirited approach**. The importance of this is perhaps most significant in delivering the message to the membership. It provides not only a reasonable rationale for our organizational commitment, but an opportunity to **promote, grow** and, yes, **sustain spirit** within the league.