



## Four players announced as recipients of the 2016 EA SPORTS BC Soccer Premier League Scholarships

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The EA SPORTS BC Soccer Premier League is pleased to announce the four players who will each receive \$1000 scholarships from the BCSPL. The 2016 scholarships were made available by the financial support of EA SPORTS and SignBoom, and the league thanks those great partners for their outstanding contributions to BCSPL athletes. BCSPL President Alex Barnetson noted, “the ongoing support of EA SPORTS has allowed us to provide substantial funding to student athletes from the BCSPL over the last four years. Since its inception in 2013, the EA SPORTS BC Soccer Premier League Scholarship program has awarded \$24,000 to graduating BCSPL players, with these 2016 awards bringing that total to \$28,000. The four chosen recipients all exhibited the combination of academic standards, leadership, giving back to the game and volunteering in their communities.” All of the recipients will also be pursuing their post-secondary education in BC which was a requirement of the scholarship.



### Elizabeth Hicks – Surrey United SC

Elizabeth will be attending Trinity Western University with plans of becoming an educator and impacting others in a positive way. Having played in the BCSPL since its inception in 2011, Elizabeth is also a multi-sport high school athlete competing in many sports including basketball, cross country and volleyball. She is also an outstanding Spanish student to go along with her commitments to the school’s Recreation Leadership program. She also regularly gives back to the game by coaching in the Surrey United youth program.



### Rachel Kordysz – Mountain United FC

Rachel will be attending the Sauder School of Business at UBC, with possible career interests in business management or international marketing. Rachel has played in the BCSPL since it began, and along the way has captained her Mountain United team. Her commitment to the game has included refereeing in Canadian Tire’s Jumpstart program for underprivileged kids, and she has collected soccer equipment for children in Africa. Having also received Mountain United’s Player of Distinction award, she also represented the BCSPL at a National Championship.



### Nicholas Reitsma – Thompson Okanagan FC

Nicholas will be attending UBC Okanagan, with a future plan to attend medical school. During Nicholas’ three years playing with TOFC, he’s regularly been selected for the Provincial program. A student council member, Nicholas was also elected school Captain where he also spoke at assemblies and served as a school ambassador. He also attended the Canadian Student Leadership Conference in 2015., and regularly gives back to the game by coaching youth in the Kelowna area.



### Christopher Damian – Mountain United FC

Christopher will be attending UBC in the fall, and will be starting with a Mathematics focus at UBC. As a referee since 10 years of age, Christopher has also coached youth on the North Shore along with maintaining top grades, working part time, and also tutoring others in Calculus at Windsor Secondary. Having competed in the US and Europe with youth teams, Christopher feels playing in the BCSPL with Mountain United gave him amazing opportunities over the last five years to develop as a player and person.