



**BC SOCCER**

## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

The Rules and Regulations contained herein are of the **BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION** and the **BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION SOCIETY. SOCIETY #S0040361**

**REGISTERED IN THE  
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
AUGUST 18, 1999**

**BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

Revised January 26, 2019

## DEFINITIONS

In these Rules & Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a) "Adult" shall mean an individual who has reached the age of 18 years;
  - i) "Adult Player" shall mean a player who is registered with an adult team;
  - ii) "Adult Team" shall mean a team that is affiliated with BC Soccer outside the youth age categories;
- b) "Amateur soccer" shall mean all non-professional soccer related activities governed by BC Soccer within the province of British Columbia;
  - i) "Amateur player" shall mean any person other than a professional player;
- c) "Association Football" shall mean the game controlled by FIFA and organized in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game;
- d) "Association Official" shall mean any person appointed, volunteering for or employed by a Member or Affiliated Organization participating in Sanctioned Soccer in BC, excluding Team Officials and Match Officials;
- e) The word "BC Soccer" shall mean the British Columbia Soccer Association;
- f) "BC Soccer Registered Referee" or "Referee" shall mean a person registered as qualified under these regulations who may be engaged as a Match Official;
- g) "BC Soccer Short-Term Event Player Permit" shall mean a permit which enables a player to participate in a BC Soccer sanctioned event that lasts no longer than 10 days
- h) "Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of BC Soccer;
- i) "Bona fide" shall mean authentic and true, presented in good faith without deception or fraud;
- j) "Books and Records" shall mean the Listing of officers, the Rules and Regulations, the Constitution and Bylaws, the Board Meeting Minutes, the General Meeting Minutes and Financial statements (current and previous);
- k) "Canada Soccer" shall mean the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA);
- l) Club - "youth club" shall mean an organization operating a minimum of four affiliated youth soccer teams having not less than 44 players and, under the jurisdiction of a Youth District Association; "adult club" shall mean an organization operating one or more teams under a common executive;
- m) "CONCACAF" shall mean The Confederation of North, Central American, and Caribbean Association Football; "Confederation" means a group of Associations recognized by FIFA and belonging to the same continent (or similar geographic area);

- n) "Designate" shall mean a person or organization appointed to carry out a specific action;
- o) "Director" shall mean a member for the Board of Directors of BC Soccer; "Directors" shall mean all members of the Board of Directors of BC Soccer;
- p) "Examine" shall mean to supervise written and oral examination of Referees and Trainee Referee candidates to the requirements and standards determined by Canada Soccer from time to time;
- q) "Exhibition match" shall mean a match played which does not count in league standings or in cup competition;
- r) "Fee Schedule" shall refer to the current BC Soccer Programs/Service Fee Schedule;
- s) "FIFA" shall mean International Federation of Association Football/Fédération Internationale de Football Association;
- t) "Fines" shall mean a non-refundable monetary amount assessed for breach of the rules and regulations by BC Soccer or in accordance with district or league policy, however, shall not be levied against any youth age player;
- u) "Inter-district" shall refer to soccer activity that takes place across two or more Youth District Associations;
- v) "International Transfer Certificate" shall mean approval of a player registered at one national association to be registered at a new national association;
- w) "Inter-provincial" shall refer to soccer activity that takes place across two or more CSA member provincial or territorial associations;
- x) "Laws of the Game" shall mean the codified rules that help define soccer. They are the only rules of soccer subscribed to by the sport's governing body FIFA;
- y) "League" shall mean Leagues- in-Membership, primarily established for the purpose of organizing and operating open age soccer as defined by BC Soccer or a sanctioned league operating under rules and regulations approved by BC Soccer;
  - i) "In-District League" shall mean a league comprising of only one Youth District Association;
  - ii) "Inter-District League" shall mean two or more Youth District Associations operating a league under rules and regulations approved by BC Soccer;
- z) "Match" shall mean any Friendly Match, International Match or Competition Match;
- aa) "Match Official" shall mean a registered individual who performs as, but not limited to, referee, assistant referee, fourth official, referee assignors, Match commissioner, referee

inspector/assessor or person in charge of the safety, and other persons appointed by Canada Soccer to assume responsibility in connection with a Match;

- bb) "Official" shall mean any person, excluding players and Spectators, performing an activity connected with soccer with a Member or Affiliated Organization regardless of title, the type of activity (administrative, sporting or any other) and the duration of the activity. Officials include, but are not limited to, all Directors, Officers, committee members, coaches, trainers, referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, Match commissioner, referee inspector, diversity officer, the person in charge of safety, field marshals, event personnel, and any other person responsible for technical, medical and/or administrative matters as well as all other persons obliged to comply with BC Soccer's Rules and Regulations, and Policies;
- cc) "Playing down" shall be defined by BC Soccer's current Playing Down Policy;
- dd) "Playing up" shall be defined by BC Soccer's current Playing Up Policy and Regulation;
- ee) "Professional soccer" shall be defined per Canada Soccer's constitution;
  - i) "Professional player" shall mean a person who receives or has received payment for playing or who signs a professional registration form of the Canada Soccer;
- ff) "Registered Address" of a member shall mean the address as recorded in the register of members;
- gg) "Registered Player" and/or "player" shall mean a person whose application for registration with BC Soccer has been validated by BC Soccer or designate for the current playing season;
- hh) "Rules & Regulations" shall mean those rules and regulations that are set from time to time by BC Soccer or a member organization that govern the rules of play for sanctioned soccer;
- ii) "Small-sided soccer" shall mean soccer played by teams of less than 11 – a-side (excluding Futsal)
- jj) "Soccer related activity" shall mean activities that include administering, coaching, managing, playing or officiating in any Sanctioned Soccer event or activity;
- kk) "Societies Act" shall mean the Societies Act of the Province of British Columbia from time to time in force and all amendments to it;
- ll) "Team" shall mean a soccer team with not less than eleven registered players, (except for small sided teams that may not have less than 3 (players) plus team officials, whose application for affiliation has been validated by the BC Soccer or designate for the current playing season;
- mm) "Team Official" shall mean the coach, assistant coach, manager or other person registered with BC Soccer who oversees the operation of an affiliated team;
- nn) "Transfer" shall mean a player who transfers his/her registration from one team to another team;

- oo) “Unsporting” shall mean not adhering to the standards of moral, ethical or good sporting behaviours expected of persons involved in the game; not acting for the good of the game;
- pp) “Youth” shall mean an individual who has not reached the age of 18 years;
  - i) “Youth Player” shall mean a player registered with a youth team;
  - ii) “Youth Team” shall mean a team that is affiliated with BC Soccer within the youth age categories;
- qq) “Youth District Association” shall mean an association primarily established for the purpose of organizing and administrating youth age soccer in a defined area as per the current constitution.

# **BC Soccer Rules and Regulations**

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## **RULE 1 - REGULATIONS REGARDING VARIATIONS OF THE GAME OF SOCCER**

### **General**

- a) BC Soccer may enact rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the By-laws, Rules and Regulations of the Canadian Soccer Association, for the sanction and control of districts, leagues, teams and players playing in variations of association football indoors or outdoors.
- b) A copy of every proposed and/or approved change to the Rules and Regulations shall be forwarded by the Executive Director (or designate) of BC Soccer to the membership within fifteen (15) days after receipt and/or approval. These decisions must be submitted for ratification by the membership at the next General Meeting.

## **RULE 2 - PLAYER AGE LIMITS**

- a) A player's age category is determined by the age a player attains on or after the first day of January (January 1) of the current calendar year.
- b) The current calendar year is the year in which play ends.

### **Youth**

- c) Youth age categories shall comprise players who have not attained their:

18 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-18	10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-10
17 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-17	9 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-9
16 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-16	8 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-8
15 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-15	7 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-7
14 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-14	6 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-6
13 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-13	5 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-6
12 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-12	4 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-6
11 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	U-11		

before the first day of January (January 1) of the current calendar year.

- d) Youth players are ineligible to play in an age category for which they attain the limiting age before the first day of January (January 1) of the current calendar year, unless permission is granted as defined in the 2014 BC Soccer Playing Down Policy.

### **AGE ELIGIBILITY CHART**

Using January 1 Cut-Off Date

Born in or after the current calendar year (Current calendar year is the year in which play ends)



<b>SEASON</b> (Year in which play ends)	<b>U-18</b>	<b>U-17</b>	<b>U-16</b>	<b>U-15</b>	<b>U-14</b>	<b>U-13</b>	<b>U-12</b>	<b>U-11</b>	<b>U-10</b>	<b>U-9</b>	<b>U-8</b>	<b>U-7</b>	<b>U-6</b>
<b>2018</b>	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>2019</b>	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>2020</b>	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>2021</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>2022</b>	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>2023</b>	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>2024</b>	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>2025</b>	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019

*EXAMPLE: A player born in 2001 would be in the U18 age category for the season ending in the year 2019*

### **Adult**

- e) Adult age categories shall comprise players outside the youth age categories defined in paragraph "d" of rule 2 Player Age Limits.
- f) Adult U21 age categories shall comprise of affiliated teams whose players have not attained their twenty-first birthday prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current calendar year.
- g) Men's MASTERS age categories shall comprise of affiliated teams whose players have attained (at a minimum) their thirty fifth (35) birthday prior to January 1st of the current calendar year.
- h) A women's MASTERS age category shall comprise of affiliated teams whose players have attained their thirtieth (30) birthday prior to January 1st of the current calendar year. For Coastal BC the current calendar year is the year in which play ends.

## **RULE 3 - PLAYING SEASON**

### **General**

### **Youth**

- a) For youth players, the "coastal" playing season shall commence on the 1st day of August and terminate on the 31st day of July in the following year.
- b) For youth players, the "interior"-playing playing season shall commence on the 1st day of April and terminate on the 31st day of March in the following year.
- c) For youth players, the "calendar"-playing playing season shall commence on the 1st day of January and terminate on the 31st day of December of the same year.

- i) For youth players registered at the U18 age level, the "calendar" season shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January and terminate on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July of the same year.

### **Adult**

- d) For Adult players, the "winter" playing season shall commence on the 1st day of September and terminate on the 31st day of March in the following year.
- e) For Adult players, the "summer" playing season shall commence on the 1st day of April and terminate on the 31st day of August in the same year.

## **RULE 4 - TEAM AFFILIATION**

### **General**

- a) BC Soccer or any affiliate shall have the power to prohibit the teams and players under its jurisdiction from playing with or against any team which is not a member of the Canadian Soccer Association or an affiliated association.
- b) Only properly affiliated teams shall be eligible to participate in competitions under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer.
- c) Teams shall be allowed to retain the players registered to it until their respective league and/or cup competition commitments have been fulfilled, and the defined playing season is completed, subject to rule 7.
- d) Teams may not register new players for league and/or cup competitions after the expiry date of the playing season for which league and/or cup play is still in progress.
- e) Females are permitted to compete for a place on and play on otherwise all male teams. In order to maintain and encourage girl's/women's soccer program, BC Soccer shall be permitted, at the Board's discretion, to deny permission for males to play on otherwise all-female teams. Where a male player is registered with a team, the team for the purposes of competition shall be considered a male team unless given special designation by BC Soccer.
- f) In instances where males and females play on the same team, all players shall be granted all the rights and privileges afforded by the Constitution and Bylaws of BC Soccer.
- g) For the purposes of registration on gender-based amateur teams, a player may register with the gender team with which the player identifies, and confirmation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held, and part of a person's core identity. Documentation satisfying the herein stated standard includes, but is not limited to, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider, counsellor, or other qualified professional not related to the player.
- h) No team shall be permitted to register more players at any given time than either defined or approved by BC Soccer. Any team having registered the maximum number of players and

desiring to register an additional player, or players, must first release such of its players so that the team's roster does not exceed the maximum allowable number of registered players.

- i) All teams must be affiliated in the format authorized by BC Soccer.
- j) Affiliation fees are non-refundable.
- k) Adult Leagues and Youth districts are required to complete and submit to BC Soccer all registration data and full registration fees as provided in the Registration Policy Manual of the Association.
- l) A "small-sided team" shall be recognized when a minimum of the number of players specified in the table below are registered with BC Soccer Registrar or Designate under one team name.

<b>U-6</b>	<b>U-7</b>	<b>U-8</b>	<b>U-9</b>	<b>U-10</b>	<b>U-11</b>	<b>U-12</b>	<b>U-13+</b>
3	4	4	7	7	8	8	5

### **Youth**

- m) Youth teams aged Under 13 to Under 16 shall not be permitted to register more than eighteen (18) players. BC Soccer Board may grant seasonal dispensation to Rural or Remote Districts for players/teams within the Rural or Remote District.
- n) Youth teams aged Under 17 and Under 18 shall not be permitted to register more than twenty (20) players. BC Soccer Board may grant seasonal dispensation to Rural or Remote Districts for players/teams within the Rural or Remote District.

### **Adult**

- o) Adult league teams shall be permitted to register the number of players as defined by league rules approved by BC Soccer.

## **RULE 5 - PLAYER REGISTRATION**

### **General**

- a) No player registered with BC Soccer shall be entitled during the valid period of such registration to compete in any competition for any club outside Canada without first obtaining permission from BC Soccer. Any violation of the Rule will immediately cancel the registration and render the player ineligible to compete again in Canada during the current playing season.
- b) An amateur player:
  - i) Shall not receive any remuneration or consideration directly or indirectly from playing soccer except as provided in these rules;
  - ii) May, if injured while playing soccer, with the consent of the association having jurisdiction is entitled to receive payment for medical bills or proceeds of any benefit match, subscription

- or collection;
- iii) May receive necessary hotel and travelling expenses and may, in special cases, receive expenses for equipment, physical preparation and insurance against accidents during play and while travelling;
  - iv) Shall give a receipt in writing for any moneys received and shall produce a copy of the receipt whenever required to do so by the association having jurisdiction;
  - v) May be required, by the association having jurisdiction, to prove that any remuneration paid to the player is fair and proper remuneration for employment in any other capacity with the team for which the player is registered.
- c) An amateur player shall lose amateur status whenever:
- i) The player receives remuneration, payment or consideration not authorized by these rules;
  - ii) The player is registered as a professional.
- d) An amateur player is permitted to register with a professional team as an amateur, but such player shall also have registered with the Provincial Association.
- e) BC Soccer shall be the final authority in determining when a player is properly registered with BC Soccer.
- f) Any player or official not registered with BC Soccer shall be determined to be ineligible to participate in league and cup competition under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer and not eligible for any benefit from membership in BC Soccer. For the purposes of this section registration shall cease at the end of the playing season as specified in Rule 3.
- g) Failure to register all players by any district, league or affiliated association shall result in a directive from the Board leading to the expulsion and/or suspension of that district, league or affiliated association from BC Soccer. Such suspension or expulsion shall not commence for 10 working days from the date that the directive is delivered in writing to the district, league or affiliated association and shall remain in effect until the matter has been rectified to the satisfaction of the Board.
- h) No player shall be permitted to register for more than one team at any one time, or play in more than one provincial, district or inter-district cup competition under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer without first receiving written permit from BC Soccer. (Exceptions are BC Soccer player programming and school teams, as well as Associate Member Adult League teams. School is defined as those schools affiliated with the B.C. Schools Sports Federation and post-secondary institutions as recognized by BC Soccer).
- i) A player is bound to the team for which the player is signed, unless transferred or released as provided for in these rules, until the end of the team's current playing season.

- j) Subject to competition rules, a player whose team has completed its playing season, and who wishes to play for the same team or a different team in another league or competition, must be registered again as per the Registration Policy Manual.
- i) Youth players may register for a different team for a secondary season in the current registration season after April 1 (Coastal Season) and August 1 (Interior season) provided they fulfill their obligations to their current team. Cup tied rules apply.
- k) A team representing the Province of British Columbia in a Canadian Soccer Association National Cup Competition, shall retain, for the purpose of that competition only, those players registered with the team on the day when the team wins the right to represent the Province of British Columbia.
- l) In all cases where a player has last been registered outside the Province of British Columbia, documentary evidence must be produced that the player has been cleared by his previous association and must state whether this prior registration was as an amateur or professional, before the player shall be allowed to register in the Province of British Columbia.
- m) Registration is good only for the current season.
- n) Where a person other than BC Soccer is authorized to receive any registrations, the date such registrations or transfers are submitted or mailed (the post-mark will be the accepted date of mailing) to the authorized person shall be recognized as the date covering such registrations. In such cases, the District or League shall forward the registrations to BC Soccer in accordance with the time limits as set.
- o) Proof of registration rests with team officials and proof of age, where required, rests with the player.
- p) All players must be registered seven (7) days before taking part in any cup competition.
- q) All players must be registered one (1) day prior to taking part in any league match.
- r) Players who wish to register with BC Soccer must do so in the format approved by BC Soccer.
- s) All persons desiring to become team officials on any team are required to register with BC Soccer and comply with Rule 21.
- t) All individuals residing in the Province of British Columbia shall be eligible for registration as a player in BC Soccer. The Board may grant special permission to non-residents upon written request.
- u) The following individuals shall be issued with a photo (taken within 24 months) identification card once they have been registered with BC Soccer's Registrar or designate:
- All youth players in the U13 to U18 age categories
  - All youth team officials
  - All adult players and team officials in divisions that will participate in provincial cup

The photo identification card shall include the player or team official's: Surname, Given Name(s), Club Name, Team Name, Birthdate, Player ID# and the year in which the playing season ends. Where required, team officials are required to present photo identification cards of the players and team official to the referee prior to any league or cup matches.

### **Youth**

- v) A youth age player shall be recognized as a registered player of BC Soccer once BC Soccer or designate validates the youth's application for membership, providing the applicant has met all eligibility requirements.
- w) The youth age player shall be required when first applying for membership as a registered player, to provide proof of age, such as a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, citizenship papers, passport or other evidence acceptable to BC Soccer. Documented proof of age may also be necessary from time to time. Affidavits may only be considered with multiple pieces of corroborating documentation acceptable to BC Soccer.
- x) A grace period shall be allowed until September 30<sup>th</sup> of the coastal playing season and May 31<sup>st</sup> of the interior playing season.

### **Adult**

#### **Active Full Members**

- y) Active (Full Member) Adult Leagues may obtain the Adult Player Registration Form from BC Soccer for distribution to registering players or collect the required information via an alternative format. Registrations shall be completely filled in and submitted to the League Registrar who will in turn record each registration and return the various portions of the form and/or electronic confirmation to the players and submit the registration data to BC Soccer as per the Registration Policy Manual. The cost of the registration is determined and circulated by BC Soccer to the membership prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season. Payment for all registration is due as per the Registration Policy Manual and current fee schedule.
  - i) Active (Full Member) Adult Leagues with open age divisions wishing to participate in the provincial championships which lead to the national championships must register all open age players with BC Soccer in the category known as Form "A".
  - ii) Active (Full Member) Adult Leagues with open age divisions wishing to participate in the provincial championship that does not lead to the national championships must register all open age players with BC Soccer in the category known as Form "B".
  - iii) Active (Full Member) Adult Leagues with Graduate divisions, players Under the Age of 21, wishing to participate in the provincial championship that does not lead to the national championships must register all players in a Graduate division with BC Soccer in the category known as Form "B under 21".

- iv) Active (Full Member) Adult Leagues with Masters Divisions wishing to participate in the provincial championships which lead to the Western Canadian championships may register Masters Players/Divisions with BC Soccer on either an A form, B form or M form.
- v) Active (Full Member) Adult Leagues with Over 40 Divisions must register all players with BC Soccer in the category known as Form "O".
- vi) Active (Full Member) Adult Leagues with divisions that operate in Secondary Season must register all players with BC Soccer in the category known as Form "SEC".

### **Associate Members**

- z) Adult teams forming a league may apply to register under the category of Associate Member. This category shall not be provided with, and shall not be allowed to participate in any provincial or national competitions. Applications to BC Soccer under this category must be made seasonally and registration under this category shall not be granted to applicants qualifying under Categories "A", "B", "M", "O" or "SEC" of Adult registrations. Eligibility for registration under this Associate category is at the discretion of the Board and is intended for unique circumstances such as short-term community leagues, developmental leagues and geographically isolated leagues.
  - i) Notwithstanding the above, associate adult leagues that run futsal specific programming or league play may participate in futsal specific provincial or national competitions.
  - ii) Upon submission to BC Soccer for membership under the Associate category, the application must include a copy of the league operating rules and regulations, a financial report, identification of league officers and a tentative league schedule.
  - iii) Associate Member Adult Leagues in this category may obtain the Adult Player Registration Form from BC Soccer for distribution to registering players or collect the required information via an alternative format. Registrations shall be completely filled in and submitted to the League Registrar who will in turn record each registration and return the various portions of the form and/or electronic confirmation to the players and submit the registration data to BC Soccer as per the Registration Policy Manual. The cost of the registration is determined and circulated by BC Soccer to the membership prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season. Appropriate payment for all registration is due as per the Registration Policy Manual and current fee schedule.
  - iv) Associate Member Adult Leagues must register all players with BC Soccer in the category known as Form "C".
- aa) Single Adult amateur teams wishing to play in an international amateur league may apply to register under the category of Associate Member. This category shall not be provided with, and shall not be allowed to participate in any provincial or national competitions. Applications to BC Soccer under this category must be made seasonally and registration under this category shall not be granted to applicants qualifying under Categories "A", "B", "M", "O" or "SEC" of Adult registrations. Eligibility for registration under this Associate category is at the discretion of the

Board and is intended for unique circumstances such as developmental leagues and geographically isolated leagues.

## **RULE 6 - POACHING**

Any team and/or club, which, through its responsible officers or representatives, attempts to induce a registered player of a team under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer to leave the team before the completion of the team's league, cup or provincial cup commitments, shall be deemed to have committed an offence. If the alleged offence involves two teams that are members of the same Youth District or Adult League the matter shall be addressed by that Youth District or Adult League. If the alleged offence involves two teams that are members of separate Youth Districts or Adult Leagues, the matter shall be addressed by BC Soccer's Judicial Committee.

## **RULE 7 - TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

### **General**

- a) A player is entitled by these rules, to a transfer provided the player has complied with all provincial, district or league rules and regulations and is not indebted to the current team, district or league.
- b) A player is entitled to a transfer as hereinafter provided, by January 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year for the coastal/winter-playing season, except as provided below, and by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year for the interior/summer-playing season, except as provided below. A player shall not be allowed to transfer during the team's playing season without the consent of the team for which the player is registered. A player currently under suspension and seeking a transfer is not eligible to play until the suspension has been served.
  - i) Once a team plays its first league match in the current playing season any player movement thereafter would be subject to the transfer regulation.
  - ii) Transfer fees do not apply to transfers received by BC Soccer prior to the registration submission deadline.
  - iii) Players registered on teams in the Under 12 and younger age groups may transfer at any time within their own age group during their playing season.
  - iii) Players are not permitted to transfer to or from a MSL or equivalent team after December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current Coastal/Winter playing season unless their currently registered team has completed its playing obligations for that season.
  - iv) Players are not permitted to transfer to or from a BCHPL or equivalent team after December 15<sup>th</sup> of the current Coastal/Winter playing season or after August 15<sup>th</sup> of the current Interior playing season unless their currently registered team has completed its playing obligations for that season.
  - v) However, notwithstanding the above, player transfers may occur between BCHPL teams only between January 1 and May 31.



- c) A player who has been registered with BC Soccer by a team for the current playing season shall not be allowed to transfer to any other team unless first having given the team seven (7) days notice by BC Soccer transfer form, of intention to transfer. A team and/or club official of the team must respond to the application to transfer within seven (7) days of receipt of such notice. Such permission, when received by BC Soccer or Designate, shall entitle the player to be transferred to any other affiliated team as provided by these rules.
- d) A player being refused a transfer by the player's team and/or club shall be allowed to apply, without fee, to BC Soccer for review. If the releasing team official refuses to sign the application form without just cause, BC Soccer shall have the authority to approve an application to transfer without the releasing team official's signature, subject to paragraph "a", Rule 7 - Transfer of Players.
- e) A player shall be entitled to the benefits of the Transfer Rule as follows:
  - i) Within the jurisdiction of BC Soccer, only two (2) transfers shall be permitted during the current playing season; but a player once transferred cannot be transferred back to the original team until a period of thirty (30) days has elapsed.
  - ii) One inter-provincial transfer, except that, a player having been transferred and finding it necessary to return to the original registration jurisdiction, shall be allowed to return to the team from which the player was last transferred.
- f) Every authorized youth player transfer application form and payment shall be sent immediately to BC Soccer. All authorized adult player transfers shall be submitted with appropriate payment to BC Soccer within 7 days of the transfer deadline.
- g) Players moving from one province to another (inter-provincial transfer) must receive written clearance from the Provincial Association with which he/she was last registered. A player moving from one Country to another (international transfer) must receive an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) from the Country with which he/she was last registered.
- h) When a team, with the written consent of the district or league having jurisdiction, has ceased to operate, or has been declared defunct, then the players registered on this team shall be entitled to transfer without fee to any other team, upon making application to BC Soccer. Having satisfied itself of the bona fide of the application, BC Soccer shall have the power to transfer the player to a team producing the player's signed application. BC Soccer may, at its discretion, transfer a player of a team that has been declared defunct after the transfer deadline.
- i) Any player registered with a team, which has declared the player surplus to the team's requirements may be granted a release from that team by filing a completed transferor player release form with BC Soccer. Transfer submission shall be subject to the transfer deadline as specified in paragraph "b", Rule 7 - Transfer of Players.

- j) All transfers (excluding full member internal transfers) shall be subject to a transfer fee, to be determined and circulated by the Board, prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season, due and payable to BC Soccer, before the transfer can be completed.
- k) Transfer fees are non-refundable.
- l) Players must be transferred seven (7) days before taking part in any provincial cup competition. This rule shall not apply to league matches. A player, after being transferred, may compete in league matches as provided by the rules of such leagues. All player transfers for league matches must be made at least one (1) day prior to the match-taking place. The grace period commences from the date the completed application and fee is filed with BC Soccer. The transfer application shall be authorized by BC Soccer prior to the player taking part in any competition with the new team.

### **Youth**

- m) A player transferred to a youth team must play at least one league match before playing in Provincial Cup competition for the team to which he has been transferred unless under exceptional circumstances the BC Soccer Youth Competitions Committee may grant an exception to this requirement.
- n) Youth player transfers are subject to Rule 22 - Youth Players, Zoning.
- p) District approval is required for all transfers.
- q) At the discretion of BC Soccer, and only in special circumstances, i.e., the case of a player having moved residence from one district to another, a youth player transfer may be permitted after the transfer deadline(s) specified in paragraph "b", Rule 7 - Transfer of Players.
- r) The transfer of youth players to one team in the U-13 or older age groups during any one season shall be limited to three, except in the case of:
  - i) teams given special dispensation by BC Soccer for the purposes of Provincial Cup competition (see paragraph "h", Rule 24 - Rules for Provincial Cup Play), or
  - ii) BC Soccer approves the exception resulting from a defunct team pursuant to rule 7i, or
  - iii) BC Soccer High Performance League (BCHPL), as refined in Rule 26, team may be permitted to transfer an unlimited number of players to/from other teams. Such transfers shall not count toward any team's limit of three transfers in a season. All transfers must adhere to all requirements of Rule 22 Youth Player-Zoning where applicable. Regardless of the forgoing, no player shall be permitted to play for more than one team in any Provincial Cup.
  - iv) Teams who transfer players to BCHPL teams are entitled to an equivalent number of player transfers who shall not count towards the limit of three (3) transfers in one season. All transfers must adhere to all requirements of Rule 22 Youth Player-Zoning where applicable. Regardless of the forgoing, no player shall be permitted to play for more than one team in any Provincial Cup.

- s) Youth age players, to be considered eligible for youth district cup, inter-district cup, regional cup or provincial cup must have played at least one league match in a properly constituted youth league for the team to which he/she was transferred unless under exceptional circumstances the responsible cup committee may grant an exception to this requirement.

## **RULE 8 - REINSTATEMENTS**

- a) Any registered Adult player of youth age wishing to be reinstated to youth status must apply to the Association to be reinstated on forms supplied by BC Soccer.
- b) BC Soccer shall have the authority to approve or deny a player's application for reinstatement.
- c) Reinstatement of youth aged registered Adult players to youth status may be granted by BC Soccer subject to Rule 7 Transfer of Players.
- d) A player may only be reinstated to youth status once per every 12 months.
- e) The reinstatement fee, per application, shall be determined and circulated by BC Soccer prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season.
- f) Reinstatement fees are non-refundable.
- g) A youth-aged player who has been registered as "Adult amateur" shall be ineligible to play in any youth competitions unless said player has upon request, been reinstated to youth status by BC Soccer, subject to rule 7.

## **RULE 9 - PERMITS (YOUTH TO ADULT)**

- a) BC Soccer BC Soccer shall grant a registered youth player permission to play up any number of times with an Adult team in any one season providing the player has the consent of the affiliated youth team and the approval of the Youth District and the Adult League or designate and the Adult League has received the completed Permit and Parental Liability Form prior to the match. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. A copy of the authorized permit must be presented with the team list at the match.
- b) A permit shall allow a registered youth player to play for an Adult team in a league or Adult cup match without affecting the player's youth registration status.
- c) Any player wishing to play on a permit with an Adult team must apply for permission to do so by completing a permit form supplied by BC Soccer.
- d) A permit is valid only for the day and match stated on the permit application form.
- e) Any disciplinary action applied while playing in a match under permit shall apply to all future matches of the team for which the player is registered, and shall be subject to:

- i) Disciplinary decisions shall be the responsibility of the discipline committee or panel for the association or league governing the competition where the permitted player was charged with an offence.
- ii) Said discipline committee or panel shall forward a copy of the discipline ruling to the district association where the player is registered and to the team official of the team to which the player is registered.

## **RULE 10 - DISCIPLINE**

- a) The Judicial Chair of BC Soccer shall have the power to inquire into the conduct of any person or organization that relates in any way to soccer activities sanctioned by the Association and may take disciplinary action where it is determined that a person or organization has:
  - i) Violated FIFA Laws of the Game and/or FIFA, Canadian Soccer Association and / or BC Soccer statutes, laws, bylaws, rules/regulations and/or policies;
  - ii) Violated rules established from time to time by BC Soccer governing the conduct of members on and off the field;
  - iii) Behaved in a manner considered by the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer to be unbecoming of a member registered with BC Soccer;
  - iv) Behaved in a manner considered by the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer not to be in the best interest of the game of soccer or BC Soccer;
  - v) Bet on any soccer match;
  - vi) Attempted to offer, either directly or indirectly; any consideration whatsoever to another team, player or players of any other team, with a view to influence the result of the match;
  - vii) Accepted consideration pursuant to clause vi);
  - viii) Committed any act or made any statement either verbally or in writing, or been responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any other matter which, could be unsporting, insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the game into disrepute.

Where the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer has made a determination pursuant to paragraph “a” above the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer shall reprimand, suspend and/or impose a fine and/or bond per BC Soccer’s Judicial Code & Policies.

  - ix)
- b) The Judicial Chair of BC Soccer shall have the power to impose an interim suspension with respect to a person, member or affiliated organization pending a final determination pursuant to paragraph “b” Rule 10-Discipline.

- c) In addition to its powers under paragraphs “b” and “c”; Rule 10-Discipline; the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer may make any other disciplinary decisions that they consider just.
- d) No player or member of any such team, match official, District, League or affiliated association so removed or suspended shall be eligible for membership in any other team, District, League or association affiliated with BC Soccer without special permission of the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer.
- e) The Judicial Chair of BC Soccer may delegate and authorize Judicial Panel Chairs to perform the functions and exercise the disciplinary powers vested in the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer under Rule 10-Discipline.
- f) Every team, club, district, league or affiliated association is responsible to the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer for the actions of its players, officials and spectators.
- g) All Discipline administered by a Judicial Body of of BC Soccer, a club, district, league or association in membership shall be performed under the Judicial Code and Policies of BC Soccer as approved by the Board of Directors of BC Soccer.
- h) All changes to BC Soccer’s Judicial Code and Policies document shall be forwarded by the Executive Director or designate to the Membership within 15 days of receiving Board approval.
- i) BC Soccer and member organizations may publicly post discipline decisions and sanctions imposed on organizations and adult Registrants or other adults under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer.
- j) Associations, leagues, clubs, teams, their officials and/or players may have legal representation.
  - i) If a communication to the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer is received from legal representation requiring a legal response, any and all associated fees will be incurred by the association, league, club, team, team official or player who initiated the legal representative.
  - ii) If a communication to a BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league is received from legal representation requiring a legal response, any and all fees will be incurred by the association, league, club, team, team official, referee or player who initiated the legal representative.
  - iii) If an association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player wish to have a legal representative attend a discipline hearing of BC Soccer, they must advise the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer, of this in writing a minimum of 10 business days prior to the hearing.
  - iv) If an association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player wish to have a legal representative attend a BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league hearing, they must advise that BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league of this in writing a minimum of 10 business days prior to the hearing.

- v) If an association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player wish to have a legal representative attend a BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league hearing, the association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player are required to attend said hearing.

## **RULE 11 - PROTESTS**

- a) A protest will only be considered on the grounds of misinterpretation of F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game, on the eligibility of players, or on breaches of Competition Rules & Regulations.
- b) Any protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances shall not be entertained by the association having jurisdiction, unless notice of particulars has been given to the referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible teams to remove the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without delaying the commencement of the match. When an objection has been lodged with the referee, a protest must be made in writing to the district, league or BC Soccer and no objection or protest can be withdrawn except by leave of the association having jurisdiction at a regular meeting.
- c) No protest will be considered if, in the opinion of the referee, the objection lodged did not seriously affect the outcome of the match. This clause pertains only to paragraph "b", Rule 11 - Protests.
- d) In dealing with any protest, the association having jurisdiction may take into consideration the possession by the protesting team of any prior knowledge, which, if properly used, might have obviated the protest.
- e) Any team playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to its opponents, provided the protest is upheld.
- f) An affiliated team may lodge a protest with a district, league or inter-district league arising out of any league or district cup match scheduled by a district, league or inter-district league. Such protest must be in writing, stating the grounds upon which the protest is lodged.
- g) An affiliated team may be entitled to lodge a protest with the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer care of the BC Soccer office, arising out of any provincial cup competition, as defined in Rule 24 - Rules for Provincial Cup Play - Youth & Rule 25 - Adult Cup Competition Rules. Such protest must be in writing, stating the grounds upon which the protest is lodged.
- h) A protest of any league or district cup match must be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours of the date of the match to which it relates. The protesting team official shall be responsible for proof of meeting this time line.
- i) A copy of the protest shall be forwarded by the association having jurisdiction to the opposing team within two (2) business days after the receipt of the protest. Upon receipt of the protest the opposing team shall have a maximum of 48 hours to supply a response to the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer care of the BC Soccer office, failing which the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer may render their decision based solely on the information provided by the protesting team.

- j) The protest shall be signed by the team coach or manager, club or member association official.
- k) The protest fee must be received by the association having jurisdiction within 48 hours of the protest being filed.
- l) The fee (payable to the association having jurisdiction) shall be determined and circulated by the Association.
- m) In the event that a protest is upheld by the association having jurisdiction, the protest fee shall be refunded. In the event that the protest is denied, the protest fee shall be retained.
- n) The Judicial Chair of BC Soccer is required to provide to all parties affected by a decision, a written ruling which shall include the rationale for the decision and the associations appeal procedures, within five (5) business days of notification of the opposing team.
- o) A decision on a discipline and/or protest from any provincial cup competition match played under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer shall be subject to BC Soccer Rule 12.

## **RULE 12 - APPEALS**

- a) Appeals from the decision of a League under the jurisdiction of a District shall be made to such District.
- b) Appeals from the decision of a League where no District exists, or where a League is directly under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer, shall be made to the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer care of the BC Soccer office.
- c) Appeals from the decision of a District shall be made to the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer BC Soccer care of the BC Soccer office.
- d) Appeals from the decision of an inter-district League shall be made to the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer care of the BC Soccer office.
- e) Any party may, with leave to appeal, granted from the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer, appeal the decision of a District Association or League in Membership or BC Soccer Committee, Protest, Ethics, or Discipline Panel made against that party, provided that the said appeal involves only an interpretation of the By-Laws or Rules and Regulations of BC Soccer or the District Association or League in Membership.
- f) In all other cases the decision of the District Association or League in Membership shall be final and binding, except when that decision was made, in the first instance, by the Board of Directors or Executive of the District Association or League in Membership.
- g) Any party may, with leave of the Canadian Soccer Association's Appeals Committee, appeal a decision of the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer or BC Soccer Appeals Panel, provided that the said appeal involves only an interpretation of the By-Laws or Rules and Regulations of BC Soccer.
- h) The applicant for "leave to appeal" shall:

- i. Make written application to the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer care of the BC Soccer office within ten (10) business days after issuance of the District's, League's or Committee's decision, setting out:
  - ii. The decision sought to be appealed;
  - iii. A concise statement of the facts; and
  - iv. A concise submission stating the By-Law, Rule or Regulation that has been contravened and setting out clearly in what respect the decision is alleged to be wrong.
  - v. Forward the said written application signed by the affiliated team coach, manager, or official; registered player or registered match official (referee, assistant referee)
  - vi. Forward with the written application and the appropriate fee. The Board of Directors of BC Soccer shall set the appeal fee annually. The Appeals Chair of BC Soccer may determine if the appeal fee from an application is returned.
- i) The Appeals Chair of BC Soccer or designate shall forward a copy of the written application for "leave to appeal", to the District Association or League in Membership or BC Soccer Committee within ten (10) business days of receipt of the application, and that District/League/Committee shall within seven (7) business days after receipt thereof, file all documents used in the rendering of the District's/League's/Committee's decision to the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer care of the BC Soccer office.
  - i. If leave to appeal is granted, the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer shall notify the appellant, the respondent District Association, or League in Membership.
  - ii. If "leave to appeal" is not granted the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer shall notify the appellant, District Association or League in Membership giving reasons for their decision and returning the appeal fee minus any administration fee determined.
  - iii. The application for leave to appeal and the appeal may be abandoned with leave of the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer and on such terms and conditions, as it may deem proper.
  - iv. The Appeals Chair of BC Soccer shall cause written notification of its decision to the appellant; the District Association/League in Membership; and all relevant parties, not later than fifteen (15) business days after receiving all paperwork required by the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer pertaining to the appeal.
  - v. Associations, leagues, clubs, teams, their officials, referees, and/or players may have legal representation.
    - a) If a communication to the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer is received from legal representation requiring a legal response, any and all associated fees will be incurred by the association, league, club, team, team official, referee or player who initiated the legal representative.



- b) If a communication to a BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league is received from legal representation requiring a legal response, any and all fees will be incurred by the association, league, club, team, team official, referee or player who initiated the legal representative.
- c) If an association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player wish to have a legal representative attend an appeal hearing of BC Soccer, they must advise the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer of this in writing a minimum of 10 business days prior to the hearing.
- d) If an association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player wish to have a legal representative attend BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league hearing, they must advise that BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league of this in writing a minimum of 10 business days prior to the hearing.
- e) If an association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player wish to have a legal representative attend a BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league hearing, the association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player are required to attend said hearing.
- i) Pending the hearing of the appeal, the original decision under appeal shall not be suspended unless the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer so orders.
- j) If the submitted evidence is felt by the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer to be insufficient to the rendering of a disposition, then a hearing of the matter shall be ordered and the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer or an Appeals Panel shall determine, if any, by whom the expenses of an appeal shall be borne.
- k) The Appeals Chair of BC Soccer may reaffirm, revoke or amend a decision against which an appeal has been lodged. It shall not be bound by the petition of the parties concerned. A decision may be amended to the disadvantage of the party lodging the appeal.
- l) A member of an Appeal panel may not sit on the panel if the case being dealt with concerns themselves or players, clubs, officials or any other members of any associations or leagues to which they belong.
- m) In dealing with any appeal, an Appeals Panel may take into consideration the possession by the appeal party of any knowledge, which if properly used, might have obviated the appeal.

Appeals from a decision of the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer or an Appeals Panel of BC Soccer, may be made to the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA).

### **RULE 13 - SANCTION AND CONTROL OF LEAGUES**

- a) An Adult league shall make application for sanction to BC Soccer. The league, once sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer. A league must be composed of a minimum of four (4) teams.
- b) Matches shall not be played until the league constitution, league rules and regulations and league member teams are approved by BC Soccer, Adult League or Youth District having jurisdiction.
- c) A league is not entitled to alter its constitution or rules and regulations without the consent of the Association and/or Youth District(s) having jurisdiction.
- d) Leagues shall pay match fees as are approved of by the Association, Adult League and/or Youth District having jurisdiction, to referees and assistant referees officiating in their matches. Officials shall neither ask for nor receive a larger fee than that fixed.
- e) Youth Districts forming an inter-district youth league shall make application annually for sanction to BC Soccer 45 days before commencement of the season. The inter-district league shall be under the jurisdiction of the districts in whose areas they will operate. An inter-district youth league must be comprised of a minimum of four (4) teams.
- f) A league or competition for Adult Category "A" amateur players shall allow to participate, only players who are registered as Adult Category "A" amateur players and registered youth players in accordance with the provision of Rule 9 - Permits.
- g) A league or competition for Adult Category "B" amateur players shall allow to participate; only players who are registered as Adult "Category "B" amateur players and registered youth players in accordance with the provision of Rule 9 – Permits.

### **RULE 14 - CHARITY COMPETITIONS**

- a) In charity competitions not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the gross receipts of each match shall go to charity. If the receipts are not sufficient to cover ground expenses of the match, the percentage shall not be taken. Ground expenses shall not include any expenses of the competing teams.
- b) A salary or honorarium shall not be paid to an official of a charity competition.
- c) Every charity competition shall, not later than thirty (30) days after close of the competition, forward a final financial statement for that competition to BC Soccer.

### **RULE 15 - MATCHES WITH TEAMS OF A FOREIGN ASSOCIATION**

There must be strict adherence to the Federation International de Football Association (F.I.F.A.) regulation that each national association is the supreme ruling body governing soccer in its country, and consequently the only body empowered to deal with matters concerning soccer in the international

field; therefore, associations, leagues or clubs under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer wishing to play associations, leagues or clubs of a foreign national association are not permitted to enter into negotiations with any association, league, club or representative thereof, under the jurisdiction of a foreign association with a view to arranging a match, without the prior permission of the Canadian Soccer Association. Application for permission, as hereinbefore mentioned, must be made to the Secretary of the Canadian Soccer Association in accordance with the rule and regulations of that body, with a copy of such applications filed with BC Soccer. Sanction will not be given to any match organized or sponsored by individuals where it appears that the match is being undertaken for the personal gain of an individual.

## **RULE 16 - PROFESSIONAL SOCCER**

- a) Professional soccer, as provided for by the Canadian Soccer Association Constitution, is sanctioned and approved by BC Soccer, and professional clubs in affiliation with BC Soccer shall observe the rules and regulations of BC Soccer and the Canadian Soccer Association.
- b) Reinstatement of Professionals to Amateur Status:
  - i) Any player registered as a professional with the Canadian Soccer Association, wishing to be reinstated by the Canadian Soccer Association as an amateur, shall make application for such reinstatement to BC Soccer on a form to be supplied by the Canadian Soccer Association. A fee as determined by the Canadian Soccer Association must accompany all applications for reinstatement.
  - ii) A professional player requesting reinstatement as an amateur shall be granted a permit to play as an amateur by BC Soccer pending reinstatement by the Canadian Soccer Association. The player shall have been released by the professional club with which the player was last signed and must provide documentary proof of such release to accompany the application for reinstatement.
  - iii) A professional player requesting reinstatement as an amateur shall not be eligible to play as an amateur until a period of 31 days has elapsed from the date of that player's last match as a professional player. Per CSA regulations.
  - iv) If the application for reinstatement as an amateur is approved by BC Soccer, BC Soccer shall forward the application to the Secretary of the Canadian Soccer Association with a recommendation to grant reinstatement.
- c) Trial Matches and Permits - Professional Players
  - i) BC Soccer will provide the permit form for the trial period. The permit shall be valid for a period of forty-five (45) days from valid date of issue.
  - ii) The professional team shall remit a cheque for a transfer fee (team fee plus BC Soccer fee) to be determined and circulated prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season, along with the trial permit, following the signing of the permit by the amateur team. BC Soccer's Registrar shall forward the team transfer fee to the amateur team involved.

## Youth

- iii) A registered youth player shall be allowed to play a six (6) match trial period with a professional team without affecting his amateur status or his youth status.

## Adult

- iv) A registered Adult amateur player registered with an Adult amateur team shall be allowed to play three trial matches (league matches only) with a professional team providing a permit to play for a professional team has been duly completed.
- d) Challenge Trophy Playoffs - Professional Players
  - i) An amateur team which has reached the provincial finals of the Canadian Challenge Trophy Competition shall retain the rights to the services of an Adult player who has been claimed by a professional team through the three matches' trial permit providing such team has reached such finals prior to or during the period of the thirty (30) days trial.
  - ii) The amateur team shall retain priority rights to the services of a player who is playing under permit without the necessity of a transfer.

## **RULE 17 - REFEREES**

- a) All referees classified as "Provincial", "Regional", "District", "Youth" or "Small Sided" Referees shall be under the control and jurisdiction of BC Soccer.
- b) All individuals wishing to become a BC Soccer registered referee shall be examined as to their suitability for duty by BC Soccer 's Referees' Committee. Such examinations may include oral, written and field test.
- c) No person shall officiate as a referee in any competition under the sanction or jurisdiction of BC Soccer who is not on the official list of BC Soccer, but if for unforeseen circumstances a referee on the official list is unable to act, the teams affected shall agree on some other person in the emergency.
- d) Referees, officiating in non-affiliated leagues, cup competitions or tournaments, without permission from BC Soccer, may be removed from the Registered Referee list of BC Soccer.
- e) District, league and affiliated associations under the sanction or jurisdiction of BC Soccer may appoint referees to their own matches, provided the appointments are made from the official list of the BC Soccer registered referees.
- f) Registration on BC Soccer 's official list of referees does not guarantee match appointments from districts, leagues or affiliated associations.
- g) Complaints regarding conduct by or against referees shall be made in writing to the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer.

- h) BC Soccer has the power to remove from its official list of referees, or require being re-examined, any referee when deemed advisable.
- i) A registered player who is also on the official list of referees shall not officiate in any league or competition in which the player's team is entered.
- j) The referee shall have the power to decide the fitness of the grounds in all matches and the decision shall be final.
- k) Referees, within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of a provincial cup match in which they officiate, shall forward a written report with the result of the match, any discipline misconduct and the team lists to the Judicial Panel for the competition assigned by the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer.
- l) Unless otherwise specified in competition rules, referees, within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of a match in which they officiate, shall on a form provided for this purpose, forward to the Association/League or disciplinary committee of the association having jurisdiction as the case may be, the name of any individual charged with misconduct. Any referee not conforming with this rule is liable to suspension.
- m) For all youth district (including inter district league), adult league and affiliated associations under the sanction or jurisdiction of BC Soccer, the maximum match fee payable to a match official shall be \$100.00 per match. This amount includes any additional expenses, excluding pre-approved travel expenses that may be paid to a referee for travel.
  - i) Youth District (including inter district league), Adult League and affiliated associations shall provide to their membership and BC Soccer notice, at a minimum of 60 days' prior to the first match of their upcoming playing season, their match fees for that season.

## **RULE 18 - TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- a) For the purposes of this section, a tournament shall be defined as a Competitive Event spanning a time line of no more than 10 calendar days. The competitions committee will have final authority to determine the status of any event.
- b) Teams, clubs, Youth Districts, Adult Leagues and associations affiliated with BC Soccer desiring to host a tournament shall then submit a tournament application form provided by BC Soccer, requesting permission to stage the tournament and containing necessary tournament information. Tournament applications shall be approved prior to the announcement of the tournament and shall be signed by the district, league or affiliated association having jurisdiction. A copy of the approved tournament application shall then be sent to the applicant, the responsible Youth District, Adult League or the affiliated association.
- c) Entry into an approved tournament(s) shall be limited to teams, which are properly affiliated with this Association and/or other Provincial/State Associations. Teams participating from outside the jurisdiction of BC Soccer must first receive the written approval from the Provincial or State Association of which they are affiliated. Only properly registered players, or those

players who have been granted a BC Soccer Short-Term Event Player Permit and are in good standing shall be permitted to participate in the tournament.

- d) Teams participating in an approved tournament, wishing to use the services of a player registered with another team, shall first obtain written permission from the team & Youth District and/or Adult League with which the player is registered
- e) Only those referees on the Registered Referees list with BC Soccer shall be appointed to officiate.
- f) Hosting teams, clubs, districts or leagues shall be responsible for deciding disciplinary matters arising from the tournament. Discipline procedures shall be in accordance with the directives of BC Soccer. All incidents of referee assault shall be reported, in writing, to BC Soccer.
- g) BC Soccer shall not be responsible for any financial losses incurred by hosting team, club, district, league or affiliated association by a tournament participant.
- h) At the request of BC Soccer, hosting teams, clubs, districts, leagues or affiliated associations shall prepare for submission to BC Soccer, a report on the tournament, including discipline, within fifteen (15) days of the conclusion of the tournament. Upon request, the event organizers shall provide a tournament financial statement to BC Soccer.

#### **RULE 19 - GENERAL MANAGEMENT RULES**

- a) All competitions leading to qualification for BC Soccer regional and provincial cup competitions take precedence over all other competitions except matches under the direct control of the Canadian Soccer Association.
- b) No team, club, district, league or affiliated association shall make a grant or honorarium to any amateur player without first obtaining the sanction of BC Soccer.
- c) Teams and players shall not compete in any match or competition that has not been approved by BC Soccer.
- d) Any player selected to play in any match arranged by BC Soccer, and, without sufficient cause, refusing to comply with arrangements for playing the match, or failing to play in such match, may be judged to have been guilty of misconduct. Any player, official, team, club, district, league or affiliated association who may have encouraged or instigated such player to commit a breach of this rule, shall be judged guilty of a similar offence.
- e) No Youth Team shall display tobacco, liquor or cannabis advertising.
- f) All affiliated teams must comply with BC Soccer travel requirements when participating in soccer activity outside of British Columbia.

## **RULE 20 - PROVISIONAL**

The Board may, from time to time, make temporary rules governing specific cases not provided for in the Rules and Regulations, but which may be necessary to carry out the objectives of BC Soccer. A copy of every proposed change to the Rules and Regulations shall be forwarded by BC Soccer to the membership within fifteen (15) days of board approval. These decisions must be submitted for ratification by the membership at the next General Meeting and are in effect immediately upon receipt of notification.

## **RULE 21 – CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS**

All BC Soccer directors and every volunteer or employee of BC Soccer or an affiliated BC Soccer organization aged 19 years or older must have completed a Criminal Record Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check on file in accordance with BC Soccer's Criminal Record Check Policy.

## **RULE 22 - YOUTH PLAYERS – ZONING**

- a) Youth aged player, to retain youth status, must register and play within the district which administers soccer for the area in which that player resides at the time of their first league match of the season except as specified in Rule 22 b) and d) and Rule 26.
  - i) The residency of the player is determined by the residence of the parent/legal guardian. For the purposes of regulations, paragraph "a", Rule 22 – Youth Players – zoning, the parent of the player is:
    - a) Either parent where both parents/legal guardians have a common residence or if there is only one surviving parent, such surviving parent and,
    - b) In the event that the parents/legal guardians are living apart, the parent/legal guardian who has custody of the player, or if both parents/legal guardians have custody, the parent/legal guardian with whom the player habitually resides or if the player does not habitually reside with either parent/legal guardian, then either parent/legal guardian, and,
    - c) In the event both parents/legal guardians are deceased, the person who is in loco parentis to the player.
  - ii) Loco parentis means: one who has taken a position in reference to a child of that lawful father, assuming the office of a father and the obligation of supporting the child, assuming a parental character and discharging duties, although not the parent.
- c) Players participating in provincial and/or national programming will register with the Youth District where they reside via BC Soccer.
- d) A player wishing to play Out-of-District will be granted a release from the district in which he/she resides, upon request and receipt of a completed District Release Application Form from that district's registrar or designate.

- i) The receiving district upon acceptance of a player must also give written permission for acceptance of the player by completion of the District Release Application Form. Having received such authorization a player then qualifies for Rule 22.d).
  - ii) The Accepting Youth District must provide a copy of the validated Out-Of-District form(s) upon request of BC Soccer.
- e) If challenged, the district is responsible for verifying residential qualifications of a player to BC Soccer for the purpose of Rule 22. Youth Players-Zoning.
- i) Affidavits may only be considered with multiple pieces of corroborating documentation, acceptable to BC Soccer.
- f) A youth aged player may register and play outside of the district in which he/she resides providing that no affiliated team of youth aged registered players shall register and/or play more than five (5) Out-of-district players.
- i) Those districts whose boundaries are limited by geography and player registration of less than 1000 players may apply to BC Soccer for special exemption from Rule 22 d)
- g) Breach of these rules shall lead to disciplinary action as set out in Rule 10-Discipline and as defined in BC Soccer’s Discipline Policy & Procedure Guide.
- h) Each district association shall have the option to establish zoning within its district.
- i) The Provincial Association shall have the final say in the event of any disputes.
- j) Those players on any existing teams in the U-13 or higher age categories as registered in the 2011-2012 season and whose District Boundaries were changed at the June 2011 AGM of BC Soccer shall not be considered to be Out-of-District for the purposes of this rule, unless they were deemed to be so during the 2011-2012 season. Players leaving their team following the 2011-2012 season shall no longer be covered by this section.

**RULE 23 - RULES OF PLAY - YOUTH**

- a) All matches shall be played under the By-laws and Rules and Regulations of BC Soccer.
- b) The duration of the matches shall be as follows:
 

U-18	2 equal halves of 45 minutes each
U-17	2 equal halves of 45 minutes each
U-16	2 equal halves of 40 minutes each
U-15	2 equal halves of 40 minutes each
U-14	2 equal halves of 35 minutes each
U-13	2 equal halves of 35 minutes each



- c) All Districts shall administer Small Sided Soccer leagues and programs under the Small-Sided Soccer Development Manual as produced and published by the BC Soccer Soccer Development Department, and approved by the Board of Directors of BC Soccer.
  - i) All changes to this document shall be forwarded by BC Soccer to the Membership within 15 days of receiving Board Approval.
  - ii) The Small-Sided Soccer Development Manual shall be subject to review by the membership at any General Meeting of BC Soccer.
- d) All Youth Districts shall administer the retreat line for the U13 age group in all playing environments under the U13 Retreat Line Guidelines as produced and published by the BC Soccer Soccer Development Department, and approved by the Board of Directors of BC Soccer.
- e) A regulation size five (5) soccer ball shall be used in all U18, U17, U16, U15 U14 and U13 division matches. A regulation size four (4) or size five (5) soccer ball may be used in U13 division small-sided matches.
- f) All teams, except small sided soccer teams, shall furnish a complete list of those eligible players available for use in the match for which the list is to be submitted. The list shall be completed in duplicate, both copies of which shall be given to the referee before commencement of the match. The team list shall bear the name of the team, date of the match, the name of the opposing team, the name of each player and the unique jersey number of each player. The team list shall not contain the name of players currently under suspension and therefore ineligible to take part in the match. The team list must contain the signature of a team official in charge of the team
- g) Team officials of any youth team shall consist of a minimum of one member of the same gender as the players on the team. This team official must be present on the bench and in the changing rooms.
- h) Head Coaches of any youth team shall complete the appropriate Canadian Soccer Association / BC Soccer coaching course respective to the age group of the team(s) they are currently coaching. (Note: compliance with this rule will be as of June 1, 2016).
  - i) Head Coaches shall comply with this requirement within six (6) months of their Head Coach appointment. CSA foreign equivalency may be applied. Upon seasonal application, only in special circumstances, and reviewed on a case by case basis, the BCSA Board may accept other coaching certification designations solely for the U13-U18 High Performance category and will provide a designated expiry date for that certification.

<b>TEAM AGE GROUP</b>	<b>U6</b>	<b>U7</b>	<b>U8</b>	<b>U9</b>	<b>U10</b>	<b>U11</b>	<b>U12</b>	<b>U13-U18 Grassroots</b>	<b>U13-U18 High Performance</b>
<b>COACHING COURSES</b>	<b>ACTIVE START</b>	<b>FUNDAMENTALS</b>		<b>LEARN TO TRAIN</b>			<b>SOCCER FOR LIFE (or higher)</b>	<b>B NATIONAL Trained</b>	

## **RULE 24 - RULES FOR PROVINCIAL CUP PLAY - YOUTH**

- a) Youth age players, to be considered eligible for youth district cup, inter- district cup or provincial cup play, must have played at least one league match in a properly constituted youth league.
- b) BC Soccer shall operate three levels of youth provincial cup competitions: Premier Cup, Provincial "A" Level Cup competition; and Provincial "B" Level Cup competitions, for boys and girls.
  - i) Teams qualify for and must enter the Premier Cup and the Provincial Cup Competition at the age level of the league in which they participate.
- c) The Premier Cup shall be open to all youth teams registered, as declared on entry forms submitted according to the registration dates specified by BC Soccer provided the teams are not under suspension.
- d) The provincial "A" Level championships shall be open to all youth teams, except BC Premier League teams, under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer, declared on entry forms submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup> in the current coastal playing season and by June 1<sup>st</sup> in the current interior playing season, each year, provided the team, or teams have played in properly constituted league matches and are not under suspension from district or authorized leagues. A properly constituted league shall consist of no less than four teams. The Board may grant special permission for a team or teams to participate otherwise, upon written request.
- e) The Provincial "B" level competition shall be open to any affiliated youth team except BC Premier League teams, Metro Select Level teams, or Vancouver Island Premier League teams as declared on entry forms submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup> in the current coastal playing season and by June 1<sup>st</sup> in the current interior playing season, each year, provided the team, or teams have played in properly constituted league matches. A properly constituted league shall consist of no less than four teams. The Board may grant special permission for a team or teams to participate otherwise, upon written request.
- f) BC Soccer shall control the operation of these competitions. The draws and the scheduling of matches up to the time regional (Premier Cup & "A" Cup) and District ("B" Cup) winners are declared may be delegated to the associations having jurisdiction.
- g) The format of the *Premier Cup*, Provincial "A" and "B" Cup playdowns shall be determined by the Board each year.
- h) In provincial cup competitions, the venue of the regional and provincial final matches shall be determined by the Board.
- i) Districts whose boundaries are limited by geography may apply to BC Soccer for special permission to enter selected teams in provincial "A" or "B" Cup competitions. Written request must be made annually before October 15th in the case of the coastal districts and by May 1st in the case of the interior districts. Consideration will only be given to teams formed from properly registered players, selected from affiliated teams only.

- j) Rules governing play:
  - i) All matches shall be played under the Competition Rules and Regulations of this Association, as adopted each year.
  - ii) All matches shall be played under BC Soccer 's Rules Governing Youth Provincial Cup Playdowns and Finals as adopted by the Board each year.

## **RULE 25 - ADULT CUP COMPETITION RULES**

- a) An Adult Category “A” amateur team affiliated with BC Soccer shall be eligible to enter any open Adult Category A Cup competition or Masters A Cup competition provided the players meet the age requirement as defined in Rule 2 – Player Age Limits.
- b) An Adult Category “B” amateur team affiliated with BC Soccer shall be eligible to enter the open age, or age defined Category B Cup competition or Masters A competition provided the players meet the age requirement as defined in Rule 2 – Player Age Limits.
- c) An Adult Category “M” amateur team affiliated with BC Soccer shall be eligible to enter a Masters Cup competition.
- d) All entries to an association run cup competition must have been received by BC Soccer on or before the date approved by the Board as the entry deadline for the competition. All entries to a league run cup competition must have been received by the league Secretary on or before the date approved by the Adult league as the entry deadline for the competition.
- e) Each league shall report in writing to BC Soccer, which competition(s) the Adult league is designating as being that association's qualifying playdowns for a corresponding category of provincial cup competition.
- f) BC Soccer or Adult league, as the case may be, having jurisdiction over a cup competition shall retain the right to exempt leading teams from the preliminary rounds of a cup competition.
- g) Players must be registered or transferred at least seven (7) days prior to taking part in any cup competition match, with the exception of youth player participation as covered in paragraph "c" and paragraph "g" of Rule 9 - Permits.
- h) No player shall be allowed to play for more than one team in any one provincial cup competition. No team shall be allowed to enter more than one provincial cup competition.
- i) Any team proven to have played an ineligible player in a competition shall be disqualified from further participation in the competition.
- j) All questions relating to qualifications of competitors, of the interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest whatsoever, shall be referred to BC Soccer or league as the case may be, having jurisdiction over the Cup competition.

- k) BC Soccer or Adult League as the case may be, having jurisdiction over a cup competition shall decide on the venue of all matches.
- l) All matches are to be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees.
- m) The duration of each match shall be two halves of forty-five (45) minutes each. In the event of a draw at the end of the regulation time of ninety (90) minutes, overtime shall be played consisting of two halves of fifteen (15) minutes each for a total of thirty (30) minutes. If after regulation time, the match is still tied, then a winner shall be decided by the application of the applicable CSA Rule.
- n) BC Soccer, or the Adult League as the case may be, having jurisdiction over a Cup competition shall appoint the referee and referee assistants.
- o) The first charge against receipts from all matches after payment of the referees and referees' assistants' fees and park rental, shall be ten percent (10%) of the gross gate or collection, payable to BC Soccer. This charge shall be forwarded with an event financial statement within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match(s). The balance of the remaining funds shall be retained by the host league to cover any subsequent expenses.
- p) A player who has registered with an Adult amateur "summer playing season" team, who then signs with a "winter playing season" team, must obtain a release pending the formation of the "summer playing season" team, on or before the transfer deadline of January 15th of the current season.
- q) An Adult amateur player who registered with a "summer playing season" team who then signs with a "winter season" team and continues to play for the "winter playing season" team after the transfer/release deadline, will be ineligible to play for a "summer playing season" team that participates in an inter-league competition for the provincial cup.

## **RULE 26 - RULES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE BC SOCCER HIGH PERFORMANCE LEAGUES**

- a) BC Soccer shall oversee and/or operate youth and/or adult BC Soccer High Performance Leagues.
- b) Any BC Soccer High Performance League shall create such rules as necessary for the operation of the league subject to the approval of BC Soccer, such rules to be submitted to BC Soccer a minimum of 90 days prior to their implementation for approval of the Board of Directors of BC Soccer.
  - i) The Board of Directors of BC Soccer may waive the 90-day provision without prejudice and solely at their discretion.
  - ii) Unless specifically stated in Rule 26, the League rules shall be consistent with the balance of the rules and regulations of BC Soccer.

- iii) Leagues shall operate under the principles of the CSA/BC Soccer Long Term Player Development program as amended from time to time.
- c) For the purposes of development only, a technical staff member of a BCHPL team shall be permitted to approach the Technical Director responsible for any other teams to request permission to contact players of that team to offer an opportunity for promotion, such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any other contact shall be deemed as poaching as described in Rule 6.
- d) BC Soccer High Performance Leagues shall pay Association fees on players' behalves specified in BC Soccer's fee schedule as modified from time to time.
- e) BC Soccer High Performance Leagues shall be deemed to be compliant with Rule 13 by following the provisions of Rule 26.

### **Youth**

- f) Youth Players will register with the Youth District where they reside via BC Soccer.
  - i) Residency shall be determined by the relevant sections of Rule 22 a i, and 22 a ii
- g) The playing season and registration period for the shall be from January to December of each year regardless of Coastal or Interior residency.
- h) Youth teams playing in a BC Soccer High Performance League shall only be permitted to register for the Provincial *Premier Cup*.
- i) A youth BC Soccer High Performance League is granted variance from the Rules of BC Soccer as follows:
  - i) Rule 22 shall not apply to the BCHPL except as noted in d) above.
  - ii) The rules of the youth BC Soccer High Performance League may contain a provision for Youth to Youth Permits for League and the Provincial Cup Rules for Provincial Cup, however commitments to a players registered team shall have priority in all cases pursuant to Rule 26.

### **Adult**

- j) Adult Players of a BC Soccer High Performance League will submit registration to the League Registrar who will in turn record each registration and submit the registration data to BC Soccer as per the Registration Policy Manual.
- k) The playing season and registration period shall be the "summer" season as defined in Rule 3.