



**British Columbia Soccer Association**

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<b>Rule</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Definitions a)	Change adult from 18 to 19 years	Aligns with our bylaws and the law
Rule 18 f)	Change to require team lists for U11, U12, and U13	Team lists were previously not required but the Small Sided Development policy allows for sanctions can be issued so team lists are needed.
Housekeeping	Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer and BCHPL to BC SPL	Reflects current language



**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 May 2024**

## DEFINITIONS

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

- a) "Adult" shall mean an individual who has reached the age of 19 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) "Affiliate's" shall mean all members and affiliated organizations;
- c) "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;
- d) "Association Football" shall mean the game controlled by FIFA and organized in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game;
- e) "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;
- f) The word "BC Soccer" shall mean the British Columbia Soccer Association;
- g) "BC Soccer Registered Referee" or "Referee" shall mean a person registered as qualified under these regulations who may be engaged as a Match Official;
- h) "BC Soccer Short-Term 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
  - i) "Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of BC Soccer;
  - j) "Bona fide" shall mean authentic and true, presented in good faith without deception or fraud;
  - k) "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);
  - l) "Canada Soccer" shall mean the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA);
- m) 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;
- n) "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);

o) “Designate” shall mean a person or organization appointed to carry out a specific action;

p) “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;

q) “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;

r) “Exhibition match” shall mean a match played which does not count in league standings or in cup competition;

s) “Fee Schedule” shall refer to the current BC Soccer Programs/Service Fee Schedule;

t) “FIFA” shall mean International Federation of Association Football/Fédération Internationale de Football Association;

u) “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 individual;

v) “Inter-district” shall refer to soccer activity that takes place across two or more Youth District Associations;

w) “International Transfer Certificate” shall mean approval of a player registered at one national association to be registered at a new national association;

x) “Inter-provincial” shall refer to soccer activity that takes place across two or more CSA member provincial or territorial associations;

y) “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;

z) “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;

aa) “Loco Parentis” shall mean a person who is acting as a temporary guardian or caretaker of a child, taking on all or some of the responsibilities of a parent.

- bb) "Match" shall mean any Exhibition Match, International Match or Competition Match;
- cc) "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;
- dd) "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;
- ee) "Playing down" shall be defined by BC Soccer's current Playing Down Policy;
- ff) "Playing up" shall be defined by BC Soccer's current Playing Up Policy and Regulation;
- gg) "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;
- hh) "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;
- ii) "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;
- jj) "Small-sided soccer" shall mean soccer played by teams of less than 11 – a-side (excluding Futsal)
- kk) "Soccer related activity" shall mean activities that include administering, coaching, managing, playing or officiating in any Sanctioned Soccer event or activity;
- ll) "Societies Act" shall mean the Societies Act of the Province of British Columbia from time to time in force and all amendments to it;
- mm) "Standards-Based Leagues": Designation approved by BC Soccer, for competitions designed with clear standards of operations to provide developmentally appropriate environments of training and matches in alignment with Long Term Player Development, with clear stage by stage purpose and in adherence to guidelines for stage-by-stage training and competition ratios.

- nn) "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;
- oo) "Team Official" shall mean the coach, assistant coach, manager or other person registered with BC Soccer who oversees the operation of a team;
- pp) "Transfer" shall mean a player who transfers his/her registration from one club to another club;
- qq) "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;
- rr) "Youth" shall mean an individual who has not reached the age of 18 years;
  - i) "Youth Player" shall mean a player registered with a club within the youth age categories;
  - ii) "Youth Team" shall mean a team that is affiliated with BC Soccer within the youth age categories;
- ss) "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 Youth District Boundaries Policy.

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## **RULE 1 - General**

- a) Member Organizations may submit requests for dispensation to BC Soccer's Rules & Regulations to the BC Soccer Board of Directors via the BC Soccer office. A rationale must be provided. Dispensation may or may not be granted at the discretion of the BC Soccer Board of Directors.
- b) BC Soccer may make temporary rules governing specific cases not provided for in the Rules & Regulations and/or 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, clubs, teams and players playing in variations of association soccer indoors or outdoors.
- c) A copy of every change to the Rules and Regulations approved by the BC Soccer Board of Directors shall be forwarded by the Chief Executive Officer (or designate) of BC Soccer to the membership within fifteen (15) business days after approval.

### **Neutrality and Non-Discrimination**

- d) BC Soccer, its members and affiliated organizations shall be neutral in matters of politics and religion.
- e) Discrimination of any kind, as defined by BC Human Rights Legislation, is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

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

- a) A player's age category is determined by the year in which the player was born and registers for.
- b) The current Coastal registration year is the year in which registration ends.
- c) The current Interior registration year is the year in which registration begins.
- d) The current Calendar registration year is the year in which registration ends.

### **Youth**

- e) 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 registration year.

- f) 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 registration year, unless permission is granted as defined in the BC Soccer Playing Down Policy.

### **Adult**

- g) Adult age categories shall comprise of players outside the youth age categories defined in paragraph “f” of rule 2 Player Age Limits.

### **RULE 3 - PLAYING SEASON**

- a) The Coastal Winter playing season commences on September 1<sup>st</sup> and terminates on March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.
- b) The Coastal Summer playing season commences on April 1<sup>st</sup> and terminates on August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- c) The Interior Summer playing season commences on April 1<sup>st</sup> and terminates on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- d) The Interior Winter playing season commences on November 1<sup>st</sup> and terminates on March 31<sup>st</sup> the following year.

### **RULE 4 - CLUB AFFILIATION**

#### **General**

- a) BC Soccer or any affiliate shall have the power to prohibit the club and players under its jurisdiction from playing with or against any club 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) Club 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) Clubs 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. Where a male player is assigned to 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 clubs, a player may be assigned to the gender team with which the player identifies. All identifications of gender identity by athletes shall be considered to be made in good faith and shall not require further disclosure or documentation. If a player does not identify with one gender specifically, the player may be assigned to the team wherein they feel most comfortable.
- h) No team shall be permitted to be assigned more players at any given time than either the defined or approved maximum. Any team having been assigned the maximum number of players and desiring to add additional players must first release such of its players so that the team's list does not exceed the maximum allowable number of 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 Procedures of the Association and current fee schedule.
- 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.

U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13+
3	4	4	7	7	8	8	8

- m) The number of players permitted to be assigned to a team shall be defined by the Youth District, Inter-District Youth League, Adult League, or BC Soccer competition rules as 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 club 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 club 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 as outlined in BC Soccer's Constitution and Bylaws. Such suspension or expulsion will be under the terms as defined by the Board of Directors and shall remain in effect until the matter has been rectified to the satisfaction of the Board.
- h) No player will be permitted to register for more than one club at any one time.
- i) 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 BC School Sports and post-secondary institutions as recognized by BC Soccer.
- i) A player is bound to the club for which the player is signed, unless transferred or released as provided for in these rules, until the end of their assigned team's current playing season.
- j) The Coastal registration year is September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> the following year.
- i) Within the Coastal registration year, a player may register to one club for the Winter Playing Season and a different club for the Summer Playing Season provided they fulfill obligations to their Winter Playing Season club, per league and/or cup competition rules.
- k) The Interior registration year is April 1 to March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

- i) Within the Interior registration year, a player may register to one club for the Summer Playing Season and a different club for the Winter Playing Season provided they fulfill obligations to their Summer Playing Season club, per league and/or cup competition rules.
- l) The Calendar registration year is January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - i) For registered youth players in the U18 age category, the registration year shall commence on January 1<sup>st</sup> and terminate on July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- m) A club 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 club on the day when the club wins the right to represent the Province of British Columbia.
- n) 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.
- o) Registration is good only for the current season.
- p) 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.
- q) Proof of registration rests with team officials and proof of age, where required, rests with the player.
- r) All players must be registered seven (7) days before taking part in any cup competition.
- s) All players must be registered one (1) day prior to taking part in any league match.
- t) All players must be registered with BC Soccer in the format approved by BC Soccer.
- u) All persons desiring to become team officials on any team are required to register with BC Soccer.
- v) All individuals residing in the Province of British Columbia shall be eligible for registration as a player in BC Soccer.
- w) If required by the competition rules, the following individuals will be issued with a photo (taken within 24 months) identification, in physical or digital form, once they have been registered with BC Soccer's Registrar or designate:
  - All youth players in the U14 to U18 age categories
  - All youth team officials
  - All adult players and team officials in divisions that will participate in provincial cup.

- x) The photo identification, if required by the competition or league rules, must include the player or team official's: Surname, Given Name(s), Club Name, Birth Year, Player ID# and the year in which the playing season ends.
- y) 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**

- x) 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.
- y) 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.
- z) 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**

- aa) An adult age player shall be recognized as a registered player of BC Soccer once BC Soccer or designate validates the individual's application for membership, providing the applicant has met all eligibility requirements.

### **Associate Members**

- bb) Adult teams forming a league may apply to register under the category of Associate Member. This category shall not be allowed to participate in any provincial or national competitions. 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) Associate Member Adult Leagues must register players in accordance with the BC Soccer Registration Procedures. Payment for all registration is due as per the BC Soccer Registration Procedures and Fee Schedule.
- cc) 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 allowed to participate in any provincial or national competitions. Applications to BC Soccer under this category must be made annually. Adult Amateur teams must register players in accordance with BC Soccer's Registration Procedures. Payment for all registration is due as per the BC Soccer Registration Procedures and Fee Schedule.

## **RULE 6 – PLAYER RECRUITMENT AND SOLICITATION**

- a) Recruitment refers to the practice of deliberate and proactive persuasion or enticement of a registered player by an individual or individuals associated with another team or club, intended to convince the player to join their team or club and leave their current team or club during the current playing season.
- b) Any recruitment or offer to join a team or club must be initiated by a club Technical Director or Head Coach to the club's Technical Director or Head Coach that the player is currently registered.
- c) Unless contact is initiated by the player or parent/guardian seeking to move, no other contact will be made with players from other teams or clubs while the player is properly registered.
- d) All clubs and teams are responsible for the conduct of their staff, players and parents regarding recruitment and solicitation.
- e) Any team and/or club, which, through its responsible officers or representatives, attempts to directly 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, will be deemed to have committed an offence.
- f) 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.
- g) 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 Body.

## **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 club, district or league.
- b) A player is entitled to a transfer as hereinafter provided, by January 15th of the current year for the coastal/winter-playing season, except as provided below, and by June 30th 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 club 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 to another club 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 club 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 club after December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current Coastal/Winter playing season unless their current team has completed its playing obligations for that season.
- iv) Players are not permitted to transfer to or from a BCSPL or equivalent club 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 current team has completed its playing obligations for that season.
- v) Player transfers with the BCSPL may only occur between January 1 and March 31.
- c) A player who has been registered with BC Soccer by a club for the current playing season shall not be allowed to transfer to any other club unless first having given the club seven (7) days notice by BC Soccer transfer form, of intention to transfer. A club official 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 club as provided by these rules.
- d) A player being refused a transfer by the player's club shall be allowed to apply, without fee, to BC Soccer for review. If the releasing club 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 club 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 club 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 club 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) A player moving from one province to another (inter-provincial transfer) must receive written clearance from the Provincial Association with which the player 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 the player was last registered.
- h) When a club, 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 club shall be entitled to transfer without fee to any other club, 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 club producing the player's signed application. BC Soccer may, at its discretion, transfer a player of a club that has been declared defunct after the transfer deadline.

- i) Any player registered with a club, which has declared the player surplus to the club's requirements may be granted a release from that club 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 club.

### **Youth**

- m) A player transferred to a youth club, to be considered eligible for youth district cup, inter-district cup, regional cup or provincial cup must first play at least one league match in a properly constituted youth league for the club to which they transferred.
- n) District approval is required for all transfers.
- o) The transfer of youth players to one club in the U-13 or older age groups during any one season shall be limited to three, except in the case of BC SPL clubs which shall have an unlimited number of transfers to/from other clubs. Clubs who transfer players to BC SPL are entitled to the equivalent number of player transfers who shall not count towards the limit of three (3) transfers in one season.

### **RULE 8 - PERMITS**

- a) Youth Districts, affiliated clubs and/or organizations, and Youth Inter-District Leagues may administer youth to youth permits at their discretion.
- b) Adult Leagues may administer adult to adult permits at their discretion.
- c) Adult Leagues may administer youth to adult permits at their discretion, provided the player has the consent of the affiliated youth club 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.

- i) All permits issued by an Adult League must be made available to BC Soccer if required.
  
- d) A youth-aged player who has been registered in an Adult League shall be allowed to permit any number of times with a youth club for a sanctioned tournament or exhibition in any one season provided the player has the consent of the affiliated Adult League and the approval of the Youth District and the approval of the Youth District and the Adult League or designate.
  
- e) A youth-aged player who has been registered in an Adult League shall be allowed to permit to a youth club for sanctioned league play a maximum of 5 times in any one season provided the player has the consent of the affiliated Adult League and the approval of the Youth District or designate.

## **RULE 9 – JUDICIAL MATTERS**

- a) All Discipline, Complaints and Appeals administered by an independent Judicial Body of BC Soccer, a club, district, league or association in membership shall be performed under the Policies of BC Soccer as approved by the Board of Directors of BC Soccer.
  
- b) A Judicial Body of BC Soccer will 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 a Judicial Body of BC Soccer to be unbecoming of a member registered with BC Soccer;
  
  - iv) Behaved in a manner considered by a Judicial Body 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 club, player or players of any other club, 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.

- ix) Where a Judicial Body of BC Soccer has made a determination pursuant to paragraph “b” above the Judicial Body of BC Soccer will reprimand, suspend and/or impose a fine and/or bond per BC Soccer’s Policies.
- c) A Judicial Body of BC Soccer will 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 9-Judicial Matters.
- d) In addition to the powers under paragraphs “b” and “c”; Rule 9-Judicial Matters; a Judicial Body of BC Soccer may make any other disciplinary decisions that they consider just.
- e) No player or member of any such club, match official, District, League or affiliated association so removed or suspended will be eligible for membership in any other club, District, League or association affiliated with BC Soccer without special permission of a Judicial Body of BC Soccer.
- f) A Judicial Body of BC Soccer may delegate and authorize Panel Chairs to perform the functions and exercise the disciplinary powers vested to a Judicial Body of BC Soccer under Rule 9 - Judicial Matters.
- g) Every team, club, district, league or affiliated association is responsible to the Judicial Bodies of BC Soccer for the actions of its players, officials and spectators.
- h) All changes to BC Soccer’s Policies document shall be forwarded by the Chief Executive Officer or designate to the Membership within 15 business 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.

## **RULE 10 - SANCTION AND CONTROL OF LEAGUES**

- a) Matches will 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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. Match Officials shall neither ask for nor receive a larger fee than that fixed.
- d) The number of players permitted to be assigned to a team will be defined by the competition in which the team is involved.
- e) Youth Districts forming an inter-district youth league will make an application annually for sanction to BC Soccer 45 days before commencement of the season. The inter-district league will 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.

## **RULE 11 - 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.

## **RULE 12 - MATCHES WITH TEAMS OF A FOREIGN ASSOCIATION**

- a) 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 13 - 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 club shall remit a cheque for a transfer fee (club 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 club/team. BC Soccer's Registrar shall forward the transfer fee to the amateur club involved.

**Youth**

iii) A registered youth player will be allowed to play a six (6) match trial period with a professional club without affecting its amateur or youth status.

**Adult**

iv) A registered Adult amateur player will be allowed to play three trial matches (league matches only) with a professional club providing a permit to play for a professional club 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 club 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 14 - 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 or maintain their BC Soccer registered referee status must complete the appropriate referee course as delivered by BC Soccer.

- a. Referees who are 19 years of age or older must also comply with the Association's Criminal Record Check Policy requirements in order to become a referee or maintain their registration status.
- 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 or team official who is also on the official list of referees shall not officiate in any division of 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) 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.
- l) 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 \$150.00 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 15 - TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- a) For the purposes of this section, a tournament shall be defined as a Competitive Event spanning a timeline of no more than 10 calendar days. The competitions committee will have final authority to determine the status of any event.
- b) 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. A refund policy must be provided with the tournament application and made publicly available upon BC Soccer's approval of tournament sanctioning. 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 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 club, shall first obtain written permission from the club & 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 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 clubs, districts, leagues or affiliated associations shall prepare for submission to BC Soccer, a report on the tournament, including discipline, within fifteen (15) business days of the conclusion of the tournament. Upon request, the event organizers shall provide a tournament financial statement to BC Soccer.

## **RULE 16 - 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 Organization shall display tobacco, vaping, liquor or cannabis advertising.
- f) Team officials of any team with rostered youth players, will 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.

#### **RULE 17 – SAFE SOCCER**

- a) All directors and every volunteer, employee, or contractor of BC Soccer or an affiliated BC Soccer organization aged 19 years or older must have a clear and/or completed Criminal Record Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check or Enhanced Police Information Check on file in accordance with BC Soccer’s Criminal Record Check Policy.
- b) All member organizations, affiliated clubs and registered individuals involved in soccer must contribute to provide a safe and inclusive environment, free of abuse, harassment, discrimination and enforce the policies and directives related to Safe Sport, inclusive of, but not limited to:
  - a. DEI Policy
  - b. Concussion Policy
  - c. Criminal Record Check Policy
  - d. Rule of Two Policy
  - e. Small Sided Development Policy
  - f. Conduct & Ethics
  - g. Screening Policy

#### **RULE 18 - 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 40 minutes each

- c) All soccer organizations operating soccer in BC must administer Small Sided Soccer leagues and programs under BC Soccer's Small-Sided Soccer Development Policy as produced and published by BC Soccer's Soccer Development Department.
  - i) All changes to the policy shall be forwarded to Member Organizations within 15 business days of receiving approval.
- d) 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 U10 and below,, 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

#### **RULE 19 - RULES FOR PROVINCIAL CUP PLAY - YOUTH**

- a) All youth Provincial Competition rules shall be outlined by BC Soccer's Youth Provincial Championship Rules and Regulations

#### **RULE 20 - ADULT CUP COMPETITION RULES**

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) Each league shall submit in writing to BC Soccer, how many teams are eligible for each Provincial Cup Competition each year.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) Any team proven to have played an ineligible player in a competition shall be disqualified from further participation in the competition.



- g) 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.
- h) BC Soccer or Adult League as the case may be, having jurisdiction over a cup competition shall decide on the venue of all matches.
- i) All matches are to be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees.
- j) BC Soccer, or the Adult League as the case may be, having jurisdiction over a Cup competition shall appoint the referee and referee assistants.
- k) 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.
- l) 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.
- m) 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 21 - RULES FOR THE OPERATION OF BC SOCCER STANDARDS BASED LEAGUES**

- a) BC Soccer shall oversee and/or operate youth and/or adult BC Soccer Standards-Based Leagues.
- b) Any BC Soccer Standards-Based 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, the League rules shall be consistent with the balance of the rules and regulations of BC Soccer.
  - iii) Leagues will operate under the principles of Long Term Player Development as amended from time to time.

- iv) The rules of the competition must outline the playing season the league will follow.
- c) For the purposes of development only, a technical staff member of a club shall be permitted to approach the Technical Director responsible for any other club to request permission to contact players 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 Standards Based Leagues shall pay Association fees on behalf of the players as specified in BC Soccer's fee schedule as modified from time to time.
- e) BC Soccer Standards Based Leagues shall be deemed to be compliant with Rule 10 by following the provisions of Rule 22.

#### **Youth**

- f) Organizations that participate in the BC Soccer Standards Based League must have the Canada Soccer National Youth Club License and receive approval to participate in the league from BC Soccer's board of directors.
- g) Youth teams playing in a BC Soccer Standards Based League shall only be permitted to register for the Provincial Premier Cup.
- h) A youth BC Soccer Standards Based League is granted variance from the Rules of BC Soccer as follows:
  - i) The rules of the youth BC Soccer Standards Based League may contain a provision for Youth to Youth Permits for League and the Provincial Cup Rules for Provincial Cup, however commitments to a player's registered club will have priority in all cases.

#### **Adult**

- i) Adult Players of a BC Soccer Standards Based 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 Procedures.