



BC SOCCER

ADULT PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES AND REGULATIONS

A Cup, B Cup, Masters, Men's OVER-45, and Women's OVER-40.

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1) Introduction

a. Application

- i. These rules shall apply to the Provincial Championships managed by the British Columbia Soccer Association (BC Soccer). Any variances for specific competition shall be as noted in these Rules.

b. Management of Competitions

- i. BC Soccer shall control the operation of these competitions. The draws and the scheduling of matches up to the time League winners are declared may be delegated to the associations having jurisdiction.
- ii. The Competitions Committee shall have the authority to order any game that has been suspended or abandoned replayed or played to a finish.
- iii. Within the constraints of 1) c. i., BC Soccer, through its Competitions Committee, may make such temporary rules governing specific situations not otherwise provided for, as are necessary to achieve the objectives of BC Soccer. *Such changes shall be communicated to all affected teams and their Leagues, and whenever possible prior to the commencement of the competition so altered.*

c. BC Soccer Constitution/Rules and Regulations Precedence

- i. In the event of any discrepancy between this document and the rules and regulations of the British Columbia Soccer Association, the latter shall have precedence.
- ii. All matches shall be played under BC Soccer's Competition Rules and Regulations as adopted by the Board each year.

d. BC Soccer Representatives

- i. BC Soccer, through its Competitions Committee, shall appoint a BC Soccer Representative to the competition whose decision at the competition, on any matter not covered in the rules, bylaws and policies of BC Soccer, shall be final and binding on all parties. Unless otherwise stated, this person shall be the Chair of Adult Competitions for BC Soccer.

e. Risk Management and Harassment

- i. Participants in any BC Soccer Provincial Championship must adhere to BC Soccer's Criminal Record Policy.

2) Team Eligibility

a. Performance Bonds

- i. The Competitions Committee shall have the power to place performance bonds on teams, clubs or leagues as they see fit as a result of Adult Provincial Championship administrative non-compliance.

b. Team Allocation

- i. Provincial Cup allocations will be determined by the Competitions Committee.
- ii. Leagues must confirm they will fulfill their allocations by January 15 each year.

- iii. A league will lose a berth in a provincial competition if a team from that league withdrew from that competition past the allocation declaration deadline (January 15) without a replacement team in place and a fine may be issued.
- iv. Team names are to remain as they are declared on the team roster forms.

c. Coaching Qualifications

- i. For A Cup, the Head Coach must, at a minimum, hold a valid "Soccer for Life" Coaching License.
- ii. Teams failing to meet this qualification will forfeit the match.
- iii. A qualified team official must be present on each game day.

d. League Qualifying Competitions

- i. All team entries to a BC Soccer Provincial Cup Competition must have been received by BC Soccer on or before March 31st.
- ii. Each Adult League shall determine their own qualifying processes into the Provincial Championship to fill their yearly allocations. Each League is required to submit to BC Soccer which competition(s) are designated as that association's qualification process for a corresponding category of Provincial Cup competition and which of the league's divisions are eligible for each competition.
- iii. Qualification process must be submitted by December 15 of the year preceding the Provincial Championship.
- iv. A team may only be entered in the division and age category which matches the League age division that the team is playing in.

3) Player Eligibility

a. Registration

- i. No player shall be allowed to play for more than one team in any one Adult *Provincial Cup* competition under the jurisdiction of this Association in one competition season.
- ii. Any team proven to have played an ineligible player shall be disqualified from further participation in the competition and subject to fines and discipline.
- iii. Youth registered players may play in the Adult Provincial Cup on a game-by-game basis using the Youth-to-Adult Player Permits per BC Soccer Rule 8-c:
 - 1. 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.
- iv. Any disciplinary action applied while playing in a game under permit shall apply to all future games of the team for which the player is registered and shall be handled by a BC Soccer Provincial Cup Discipline Panel per the Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer.

1. A copy of the discipline decision shall be forwarded to the District Association where the player is registered and to the team official of the team to which the player is registered.

b. Declarations/Entry Forms

- i. Each League is required to submit entry forms to BC Soccer on behalf of their respective teams no later than seven (7) days prior to the Adult Provincial Cup draw. This date is to be determined annually.

c. Age

- i. Provincial Men's A & B and Women's A & B competitions are for Open Age players who are currently competing in BC Soccer full member Adult Leagues.
- ii. Men's Masters A & B Provincial competitions are for male players who have reached 35 years of age before January 1 of the current playing season.
- iii. Women's Masters A & B Cup competitions are for female players who have reached 30 years of age before January 1 of the current playing season
- iv. Over-45 Men's Provincial competitions are for male players who have reached 45 years of age before January 1 of the current playing season.
- v. Over-40 Women's Provincial competitions are for female players who have reached 40 years of age before January 1 of the current playing season.

d. ID Cards

- i. All players and team officials will be required to have a Photo Identification Card which will be checked by the referee before each game. Electronic forms of ID cards are permitted if they are officially validated by the league.

4) Team Rules

a. Roster

- i. A complete Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster form must be submitted with uniform colours specified and players clearly identified by uniform number. These forms require League signature of approval and are due to BC Soccer no later than 12:00pm on the date of the Adult Provincial Cup draw, or within 24 hours of qualification.
- ii. For open age, teams may dress a maximum of twenty-two (22) players at each game.
- iii. Masters and Over 40's/45's can dress up to twenty-five (25) players.
- iv. Only players listed on the game day Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster form for the match in question are eligible to be seated on the team bench or in the team bench area.

b. Team Officials

- i. A team roster can include a maximum of five (5) team officials.

- ii. Only team officials listed on the team roster are eligible to be seated on the team bench and technical area during the game.
- iii. One (1) member of the team officials must be the same gender as the team. This team official must always be present on the bench and in the changing rooms. This team official cannot be a player.

c. Adult Player Pick Ups

- i. Adult player pick ups are not permitted for any BC Soccer Adult Provincial Cup competition.

d. Uniforms

- i. Teams participating in Provincial Championships are required to have two sets of uniforms (including socks and shorts) of different colours to avoid colour conflict.
- ii. Where the uniform colours of competing teams are similar, the home team must change.
- iii. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other players and the officials.
- iv. In case of conflicts, the Match official shall determine any changes.

e. Meetings

- i. All teams must have at least one team official attend a pre-competition meeting, if applicable. Failure to attend will result in a fine.

f. Events and Ceremonies

- i. If there are any social, civic and official functions associated with the competition all teams must attend. Each team must also have in attendance one (1) team official from those listed on the Team Roster. Failure to attend an official function will result in a fine.

5) Game Rules

a. Laws of the Game

- i. All games are to be played in accordance with Federation International de Football (IFAB) Laws of the Game.

b. Substitutions

- i. In Provincial Men's A and Women's A Cup competition a maximum of five (5) substitutions shall be allowed during game play (including any extra time). Players that are substituted off may be substituted back on later in the game.
- ii. Unlimited substitutions may also be made at half time or at full time before any extra time.
- iii. In Masters, Over 40's/45's, and Adult B competitions unlimited substitution shall be allowed.

c. Duration of Play

- i. The duration of each game 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, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark, as per the FIFA rules.

6) **Competition Rules**

a. Scheduling

- i. After the Adult Provincial Cup Draw, the top team listed on the official cup bracket is deemed the Home Team.
- ii. Teams are required to schedule their own fields for all rounds leading up to the Finals of Provincial Cup play. Teams must schedule and communicate the time, date and location of the game to BC Soccer by Tuesday at noon of that week. If the game details are not submitted to BC Soccer by Tuesday at noon, the Away team will become the Home team and is given the option of scheduling the game.
- iii. The home team for any round of Provincial Cup except the finals must schedule the game for a date/time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday if it involves two lower mainland teams or two island teams. Alternatively, the home team must schedule a date/time on Saturday or Sunday that kicks off between 12:00pm and 4:00pm if the game involves one Lower Mainland team and one Vancouver Island team/Sunshine Coast. Once confirmed with BC Soccer, the schedule will not be changed unless otherwise agreed to by both teams.
- iv. Fields must be scheduled for a minimum of three hours per game.
- v. Where games are played on open parks, the first named (i.e. home) team shall be responsible for marking out the grounds.
- vi. The home team must be able to provide two nets for the goalposts.

b. Format

- i. All Adult Provincial Cup Competitions are Single Elimination format.

c. Ball

- i. The home team must supply two suitable game balls. The away team must be able to supply one.

d. Official Match Reports

- i. Each team shall be required to bring 2 completed and signed copies of their Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster form. These must be provided to the referee one hour prior to the start of each game.
- ii. The Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster is the official record of each Provincial Cup game, and each team shall be entitled to receive a copy of the completed form from BC Soccer after it has been duly signed and submitted by the referee.
- iii. For Championship matches, each team is required to bring 3 completed and signed copies of their Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster Form.
- iv. It is the referee's responsibility to forward copies of the completed Match Report/Roster forms for each team and each game within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

- v. If a team fails to complete or produce the appropriate paper work for a match, it may result in a fine and/or disqualification from the competition at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.

7) Discipline

- a. Any disciplinary offence during Provincial Cup play will be handled as required by the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer. Team officials will be notified if a player is required to appear before a BC Soccer Judicial Panel for a hearing.
- b. For simple game related offences, automatic sanctions will be sent to the team and individual based on the referee report, and the Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer. Individuals always have the right to request an in-person hearing for any offence or sanction. In this case the result of the hearing will override the automatic sanction.
- c. **Suspended Players**
 - i. Suspensions carried over from league play do not apply to Provincial Cup games. However, if the suspension is egregious or from All Soccer Related Activity, this will carry over to Provincial Cup games.
 - ii. For game related offences, any suspensions must be served during the player's next Provincial Cup game or primary season league game, whichever comes first.
- d. **Red Cards**
 - i. Expulsion or Red Cards during Provincial Cup play shall result in an automatic one (1) game suspension and additional games if warranted based on the Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer. If BC Soccer or the accused requests, a disciplinary hearing will be conducted.
- e. **Cautions**
 - i. Cautions (Yellow Cards) received during all rounds of the Adult Cup Competition will accumulate and apply during that competition only and are as follows:
 - 1. Two cautions (Yellow Cards) in one game is cause for dismissal plus an automatic one game suspension
 - 2. Accumulation of two (2) cautions (Yellow Cards) over the course of the tournament is cause for an automatic one game suspension
 - 3. Accumulation of further cautions (Yellow Cards) is cause for performance review and additional disciplinary action as determined by the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer
 - 4. Upon the conclusion of the quarter finals of all categories of Provincial Cup, and prior to the commencement of the semifinals, all Cautions (yellow cards) shall be removed from the record of all participating players. Note that any suspensions earned must still be served, but any/all accumulated cautions to that point are removed from the player's record.

8) Administration of the Competition

a. Travel Assistance

- i. All teams travelling between the Greater Vancouver Region and Vancouver Island for Provincial Cup games and Finals are eligible for a travel grant of \$500.00 per team for every eligible game you participate in.
- ii. Travel grants will be paid to the team's league upon completion of the Provincial Championship.

b. Field Rental Grant

- i. BC Soccer will reimburse leagues \$80 for each home game their teams play during the Provincial Championships.
- ii. Field rental grants will be paid to the team's league upon completion of the Provincial Championships.

c. Protests

- i. The protest fee for any game is \$250.00. Protests must be filed in accordance with the BC Soccer Rules and Regulations - Rule 9 – Judicial Matters

d. BC Soccer Match Commissioner

- i. BC Soccer will appoint one (1) Match Commissioner to act on BC Soccer's behalf for each final match of the Provincial Cup Finals.
- ii. The Match Commissioner's duty and authority is specified in Appendix 2 – Match Commissioner.

e. Trophies

- i. Annual trophies presented to teams at the Provincial Championship are the property of BC Soccer and are not to be kept after the medal ceremony.
- ii. Teams will receive a 'keeper trophy' to bring home.

9) National Championships

a. Club Nationals

- i. Men's and Women's A Cup Provincial Champions qualify for the Canada Soccer Club Nationals held each year.
- ii. Masters Provincial Champions qualify for the Canada Soccer Club Regional Championships held each year.
- iii. Teams must notify BC Soccer within 14 days of winning Provincials if the team cannot meet its commitment to attend either Canada Soccer competition.
- iv. It is the responsibility of all Adult leagues to ensure that its member teams fulfill all Championship commitments once they have entered Provincial Championships up to the time a Provincial Champion is declared and the Canadian Club Championship is held. It is also a league's duty to monitor the progress of any member team(s) which qualifies as a result of their victory in the Provincial Championship for the Canadian Club Championships (Adult A Men's and Women's and Masters and Classics).

- v. Teams failing to attend a national competition will be fined.

10) Competition Location and Schedule Information

- a. The location of the Provincial Championship Finals weekend is determined on an annual basis by the Competitions Committee.
- b. Every third year, Vancouver Island will be the location for the finals.
- c. Schedule and location of the finals is to be determined each year by the Competitions Committee.

Appendix 1: Schedule of Fines

This section provides an outline of some general infractions that may be dealt with by the BC Soccer Competitions Committee, made up of no less than 3 persons or an adjudicating body appointed by the Committee. This section does not cover all instances in which a fine may be assessed or a bond imposed upon a player, team, team official or spectator for a violation of the BC Soccer Rules and Regulations. BC Soccer reserves the right to independently review each situation and use their discretion regarding all fines listed below.

- 1) Team fails to appear for a scheduled game without just cause**
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, up to \$750.00 fine, plus field and game official costs
- 2) A Team fails to comply with all pre-game requirements without just cause.**
Penalty: \$100.00
- 3) Failure to return a trophy by the deadline**
Penalty: \$500.00
- 4) Failure to return a trophy**
Penalty: \$500.00 plus the cost of replacing the trophy.
- 5) Team fails to commence a game or withdraws from the game after it has started**
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, \$500.00 fine plus field and game official costs
- 6) Team or teams held to be at fault for abandonment of a game**
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, up to \$1500.00 fine plus field and game official costs. May be referred to the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer.
- 7) Team fails to send a representative to pre-competition meeting**
Penalty: \$200.00 fine
- 8) Team fails to have a team official with sufficient coaching qualifications**
Penalty: \$100.00 fine
- 9) Team fails to provide a team roster or team Profile form 24 hours prior to the start of the draw.**
Penalty: Each league is fined \$100 per team found in non-compliance
- 10) Team is at fault for losing or damaging an Annual Provincial Cup trophy.**
Penalty: The cost of the repairs, or to replace the trophy, whichever is less.
- 11) Team fails to fulfill Provincial or Club National commitment**
Penalty: \$3500.00, plus the CSA fines that are assessed to BC Soccer

Appendix 2: Match Commissioner

BC Soccer will appoint a Match Commissioner for each match to act on behalf of BC Soccer at the Provincial Cup Finals or any other designated match that they feel appropriate. The duties of the Commissioner are:

To be responsible to report any issues involving the game in hand except for the officiating of the game which will be the responsibility of the referee coordinator.

This will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Briefing the players and coaches of the conduct that is required for them before, during and after the match.
2. Ensuring that the field is appropriately prepared prior to referee inspection
3. Ensuring that all parties are aware of the pre-game protocol and that the game starts on time.
4. Provides the necessary feedback to the Competitions Committee regarding any outside interferences that may be evident and possible solutions.
5. Acts under the direction of the BC Soccer Competitions Chair with regards to any issues not covered under the Rules and Regulations.