



BC SOCCER

2025 ADULT PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS REGULATIONS

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

September 2024

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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 match 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 following the qualification process and number of requested spots submitted by each participant league by December 1st of the year preceding the Provincial Championship

- ii. Leagues must confirm they will fulfill their allocations by January 15.
- 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 match day.

d. League Qualifying Competitions

- i. All team entries to a BC Soccer Provincial Cup Competition must have been received by no later than March 15th, or no more than 48-hours after qualification into to Provincial Cup, whichever comes first.
- ii. Each Adult League shall determine their own qualifying processes into the Provincial Championship to fill their yearly allocations.
- iii. 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 by December 15th 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.
- v. All league qualifiers must be completed by March 31, 2025. League qualifiers held after this date may result in a fine and/or disqualification from the competition at the discretion of the BC Soccer Competitions Committee.

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. Players are registered to the age category and calibre of competition that they have competed in/declared for during the current season.
- iii. No team entering an Adult Provincial Cup competition may register a new player after March 1st of the current playing season.
- iv. League approved New Player Registrations may be submitted for consideration after March 1, but before March 15, and will only be permitted to replace a rostered player and to allow teams to have enough players to compete. It is not designed to allow teams to strengthen their roster by dropping players to register stronger players. Any team proven to be abusing this privilege will be subject to discipline as determined by the BC Soccer Competitions Committee.
- v. Any team proven to have played an ineligible player shall be disqualified from further participation in the competition and subject to fines and discipline.
- vi. Youth registered players may play in the Adult Provincial Cup on a match-

by- match 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.
- vii. Teams are allowed to Permit a maximum of three (3) Youth-to-Adult Player Permits into the Open Age division per competition.
- viii. 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 handled in accordance with BC Soccer Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Procedures.
- ix. 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 and payment to BC Soccer on behalf of their respective teams no later than January 31st. This date is to be determined annually.
- ii. Any League that does not submit entry forms to BC Soccer on behalf of their respective teams will be fined \$250 per team that was not received.

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 upload player/official photos into the competition management system which will be checked by the referee before each match.
- ii. Electronic forms of ID cards must be officially validated by the league the team participates in.

4) Team Rules

a. Roster

- i. A complete Provincial Cup Roster must be submitted with uniform colours specified and players clearly identified by uniform number. These roster submissions must be verified on COMET by league officials and are due to BC

Soccer no later than March 31st, or 24 hours of qualification, whichever comes first.

- ii. A maximum of thirty (30) players may be entered on each Adult Provincial Championships roster. Players may not be changed after the submission of the Provincial Cup Roster.
- iii. For open age, teams may dress a maximum of twenty-two (22) players at each match.
- iv. Masters and Over 40's/45's can dress up to twenty-five (25) players.
- v. Only players listed on the match day Provincial Cup Match Roster on the BC Soccer Competitions Management System for the match in question are eligible to be seated on the team bench or in the team technical area.

b. Team Officials

- i. A team roster can include a maximum of five (5) team officials. Only team officials listed on the team roster on COMET are eligible to be seated on the team bench and technical area during the match.
- ii. 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 change 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. Unless a conflict is identified by the Match Officials and a change is required, uniforms allocated by BC Soccer no less than 48 hours before each match must be used.
- iii. Where the uniform colours of competing teams are similar, the home team must change.
- iv. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other players and the officials.
- v. 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 matches 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 competitions, a maximum of five (5) substitutions shall be allowed during match play.
- ii. Players that are substituted off may be substituted back on later in the match.
- iii. Unlimited substitutions may also be made at halftime.
- iv. 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 match shall be two (2) halves of forty-five (45) minutes each.
- ii. In the event of a draw at the end of the regulation time of ninety (90) minutes, the match will be decided by penalties in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

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 match to BC Soccer by Tuesday at noon of that week. If the match 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 match.
- iii. The home team for any round of Provincial Cup, except the finals, must schedule the match for a date/time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday if it involves two lower mainland teams or two island teams. The home team must schedule a date/time on Saturday or Sunday that kicks off between 12:00pm and 4:00pm if the match involves one Lower Mainland team and one Vancouver Island team/Sunshine Coast/Interior. Once confirmed with BC Soccer, the schedule will not be changed.
- iv. Fields must be scheduled for a minimum of three hours per match.
- v. Where matches 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 and corner flags.

b. Format

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

c. Ball

- i. The home team must supply two suitable match balls. The away team must

be able to supply one.

d. Official Match Reports

- i. The Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster on BC Soccer's competition management system (COMET) is the official record of each Provincial Cup match. A match is not finalized until confirmed on the competition management system.
- ii. It is the referee's responsibility to finalize the completed Match Report/Roster forms on *COMET* for each team and each match within 12 hours of the completion of the match.
- iii. If a team fails to complete or produce the appropriate *COMET* submissions 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 match 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 matches. However, if the suspension is from All Soccer Related Activity, this will carry over to Provincial Cup matches.
- ii. For match related offences, any suspensions must be served during the player's next Provincial Cup match or primary season league match, whichever comes first.
- iii. Suspended players may not sit on the bench or be present in the technical area while serving a suspension.

d. Red Cards

- i. Expulsion or Red Cards during Provincial Cup play shall result in an automatic one (1) match suspension and additional matches if warranted based on the Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer. At BC Soccer or the accused request, 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 match is cause for dismissal plus an automatic one match suspension
 - 2. Accumulation of two (2) cautions (Yellow Cards) over the course of the tournament is cause for an automatic one match 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 quarterfinals 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 or Interior for Provincial Cup matches and Finals are eligible for a travel grant of \$500.00 per team for every eligible match 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 \$120 for each home match their teams host 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. For the purpose of these Regulations, protests or objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, facilities, and equipment.
- ii. Any protest arising out of any match must be made in writing to the BC Representative appointed to the competition within 1 hour of the match report having been finalized online.
- iii. The protest fee for any match is \$250.00.
- iv. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the BC Soccer Representative may impose a sanction.
- v. The referee's decision regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final. There can be no protests against a decision of the referees as outlined in the Laws of The Game.
- vi. Protests or challenges in respect to player eligibility not ruled upon, or requiring further investigation, will be dealt with by the appropriate BC Soccer Judicial Committee and may result in the overall standings or results being amended.
- vii. After the completion of the Provincial Championships, any protest in regard to player eligibility already ruled on by the appropriate authority, will not change the results of the Competition.
- viii. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations is not met, such protests shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once

the final match in the respective Provincial Championship has ended, no further protests under this article will be received.

ix. All protest decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

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. Gold medal winning teams will receive a 'keeper trophy'.

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 Masters Championships held each year.
- iii. Teams must notify BC Soccer within fourteen (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.
- v. 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-Cup Men's and Women's, and Masters A-Cup Men's and Women's). Teams failing to attend a National competition will be fined.
- vi. Competition details shall be released and communicated annually by both BC Soccer and Canada Soccer annually.

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. A League fails to fulfill berth allocation by the deadline
Penalty: \$1,000 fine.
2. Team fails to appear for a scheduled match without just cause
Penalty: Forfeiture of the match, up to \$1,500.00 fine, plus field and match official costs
3. A Team fails to comply with all pre-match requirements without just cause, including line-up submissions
Penalty: \$100.00
4. Failure to return a trophy after awards presentation
Penalty: \$500.00, plus the cost of replacing the trophy (if necessary).
5. Team fails to commence a match or withdraws from the match after it has started
Penalty: Forfeiture of the match, \$1,500.00 fine plus field and match official costs
6. Team or teams held to be at fault for abandonment of a match
Penalty: Forfeiture of the match, up to \$1,500.00 fine plus field and match 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 competition roster by the deadline
Penalty: Each league is fined \$100 per team found in non-compliance
10. Breach of competition regulations
Penalty: \$100.00 fine
11. 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.
12. Team fails to fulfill Provincial or Club National commitment
Penalty: \$3,500.00, 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 match in hand except for the officiating of the match 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-match protocol and that the match 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.

Appendix 3: 2025 Key Dates

Date	Item
December 1, 2024	League qualification process and berth allocations requests due to BC Soccer
December 15, 2024	BC Soccer to announce berth allocations
January 15, 2025	Leagues must confirm fulfillment of berth allocations
January 31, 2025	League Entry Forms/Team Declarations and payments due
March 1, 2025	New Player Registration Deadline
March 15, 2025	Provincial Championship team roster entries due
March 31, 2025	Adult League qualifiers must be complete and reported to BC Soccer
April 4-6, 2025	Preliminary Round
April 11-13, 2025	Quarter-Finals
April 25-27, 2025	Semi-Finals
May 3-4, 2025	Finals