

**BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

**RULES & REGULATIONS
2004-2005**



Dedicated to Development

The Constitution and Bylaws contained herein are of the BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION and the BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION SOCIETY.
SOCIETY #S40361

REGISTERED IN THE
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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RULES & REGULATIONS - B.C. SOCCER ASSOCIATION

RULE 1. REGULATIONS REGARDING VARIATIONS OF THE GAME OF SOCCER

General

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

RULE 2. PLAYER AGE LIMITS

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

PLAYER AGE CATEGORIES

Youth

- c) A youth team is one that is affiliated with the Association within the youth age categories defined herein. A youth player shall refer to a player registered with a youth team. Youth age categories (divisions) shall comprise players who have not attained their:

- 18th Birthday U-18 Division
- 17th Birthday U-17 Division
- 16th Birthday U-16 Division
- 15th Birthday U-15 Division
- 14th Birthday U-14 Division
- 13th Birthday U-13 Division
- 12th Birthday U-12 Division
- 11th Birthday U-11 Division

before the first day of January (January 1) of the current calendar year. For Coastal B.C. the current calendar year is the year in which play ends.

- d) Under – 10, -9, -8, -7 and under – 6 age groups are considered “mini-soccer” divisions. These shall be comprised of players who have not attained their:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 10 th Birthday | Under – 10 Division |
| 9 th Birthday | Under – 9 Division |
| 8 th Birthday | Under – 8 Division |
| 7 th Birthday | Under – 7 Division |
| 6 th Birthday | Under – 6 Division |

before the first day of January (January 1) of the current calendar year. For Coastal B.C. the current calendar year is the year in which play ends.

- e) With the permission of the Association, District Associations may extend the rules and number of players for mini-soccer to higher age youth divisions.
- f) Youth players are ineligible to play in an age division for which they attain the limiting age before the first day of January (January 1) of the current calendar year.

AGE ELIGIBILITY CHART
 (Using January 1 Cut-Off Date)
 Born in or after the current calendar year
 (Current calendar year is the year in which play ends)

| SEASON (Year in which play ends) | U-18 | U-17 | U-16 | U-15 | U-14 | U-13 | U-12 | U-11 | U-10 | U-9 | U-8 | U-7 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 2005 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
| 2006 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2007 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
| 2008 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| 2009 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2010 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| 2011 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| 2012 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2013 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |

EXAMPLE: AGE CATEGORIES

A player born in 1989 would be in the U16 age category for the season ending in the year 2005

Senior

- g) A senior team is one that is affiliated with the Association outside the youth age categories defined in paragraph "c" of rule 2 Player Age Limits. A senior player shall refer to a player registered with a senior team.
- h) A men's MASTERS age category shall comprise of affiliated teams whose players have attained their thirty fifth (35) birthday prior to January 1st of the current calendar year.
- i) A women's CLASSIC age category shall comprise of affiliated teams whose players have attained their thirty third (35) birthday prior to January 1st of the current calendar year. For Coastal BC the current calendar year is the year in which play ends.

RULE 3. PLAYING SEASON

General

- a) Teams shall be allowed to retain their players until their respective league and/or cup competition commitments have been fulfilled, *and the defined playing season is completed*, subject to rule 7.
- b) Teams may not register new players for league and/or cup competitions after the expiry date of the playing season for which league and/or cup play is still in progress.

Youth

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

Senior

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

RULE 4. AFFILIATION

General

- a) The Association or any affiliate shall have the power to prohibit the teams and players under its jurisdiction from playing with or against any team which is not a member of the Canadian Soccer Association or an affiliated association.
- b) Only properly affiliated teams shall be eligible to participate in competitions under the jurisdiction of the Association.
- c) A team shall usually consist of players of one sex only.
- d) Females are permitted to compete for a place on and play on otherwise all male teams. In order to maintain and encourage girls/women's soccer program, the Association shall be permitted, at the Board's discretion, to deny permission for males to play on otherwise all-female teams. Where a male player is registered with a team, the team for the purposes of competition shall be considered a male team unless given special designation by the Association.
- e) 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 the Association.
- f) No team shall be permitted to register more players at any given time than either defined or approved by the Association. Any team having registered the maximum number of players and desiring to register an additional player, or players, must first release such of its players so that the team's roster does not exceed the maximum allowable number of registered players.
- g) All teams must be affiliated in the format authorized by the Association.
- h) Member affiliation fees shall be determined annually by the Board of Directors and approved in principal at a semi-annual general meeting to be held no later than February 15th of each year. Members shall be notified of the fee by March 15th each year, in advance of the forthcoming season.
- i) Affiliation fees are non-refundable.
- j) A "team", U-11 through senior, shall be recognized when a minimum of eleven (11) players unless the team is an approved mini team as specified in Rule 2 e are registered with the Association's Registrar or designate under one team name.

Youth

- k) No youth team shall be permitted to register more than eighteen (18) players at any given time.
- l) A "mini-team" shall be recognized when a minimum of six (6) players (U6-U10, or as approved under 2 e) are registered with the Association Registrar or Designate under one team name.
- m) Youth districts are required to complete and submit, to the Association, a team affiliation form and registration fees by October 15th each coastal playing season and by June 1st each Interior-playing season.

Senior

- n) Senior league teams shall be permitted to register the number of players as defined by league rules approved by the Association.
- o) All senior league and team affiliation fees and player registrations shall be paid by:
 - i) June 1st annually for summer season play and;
 - ii) October 15th annually for winter season play.

RULE 5. PLAYER REGISTRATION

General

- a) No player registered with the Association 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 the Association. Any violation of the Rule will immediately cancel the registration and render the player ineligible to compete again in Canada during the current playing season.
- b) An amateur player:
 - i) Shall not receive any remuneration or consideration directly or indirectly from playing soccer except as provided in these rules;
 - ii) May, if injured while playing soccer, with the consent of the association having jurisdiction is entitled to receive payment for medical bills or proceeds of any benefit match, subscription or collection;

- iii) May receive necessary hotel and travelling expenses and may, in special cases, receive expenses for equipment, physical preparation and insurance against accidents during play and while travelling;
 - iv) Shall give a receipt in writing for any moneys received and shall produce a copy of the receipt whenever required to do so by the association having jurisdiction;
 - v) May be required, by the association having jurisdiction, to prove that any remuneration paid to the player is fair and proper remuneration for employment in any other capacity with the team for which the player is registered.
- c) An amateur player shall lose amateur status whenever:
 - i) The player receives remuneration, payment or consideration not authorized by these rules;
 - ii) The player is registered as a professional.
- d) An amateur player is permitted to register with a professional team as an amateur, but such player shall also have registered with the Provincial Association.
- e) An amateur player may be insured by the player's team against accidents, which may occur during play. The insurance must be effected in a manner approved by the association having jurisdiction.
- f) The Association shall be the final authority in determining when a player is properly registered with the Association.
- g) Any player not registered with the Association shall be determined to be ineligible to participate in league and cup competition under the jurisdiction of the Association.
- h) Failure to register all players, including mini-soccer age 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 the Association. Such a suspension or expulsion shall remain in effect until the matter has been rectified to the satisfaction of the Board.
- i) No player shall be permitted to register for more than one team at any one time, or play in more than one provincial, district or inter-district cup competition under the jurisdiction of this Association without first receiving written permit from the Association. (Exceptions are Provincial All-star and school teams, as well as Associate member teams with the consent of the Associate member league. School is defined as those schools affiliated with the B.C. Schools Sports Federation and post-secondary institutions as recognized by the Association).

- j) A player is bound to the team for which the player is signed, unless transferred or released as provided for in these rules, until the end of the team's current playing season.
- k) Subject to competition rules, a player whose team has completed its playing season, and who wishes to play for the same team or a different team in another league or competition, must be registered again and shall complete and sign the appropriate registration form.
- l) A team representing the Province of British Columbia in a Canadian Soccer Association National Cup Competition, shall retain, for the purpose of that competition only, those players registered with the team on the day when the team wins the right to represent the Province of British Columbia.
- m) 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.
- n) Registration forms are good only for the current season.
- o) In instances where the application for registration is mailed to the Association's Registrar (and/or a designate), the post-mark will be the accepted date of mailing and the official date of registration once validated.
- p) Where a person other than the Association is authorized to receive any registrations or transfers, the date such registrations or transfers are submitted or mailed to the authorized person shall be recognized as the date covering such registrations or transfers. In such cases, the District or League shall forward the registrations or transfers to the Association 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.

Youth

- t) All youth (U-6 through U-18) residing in the Province of British Columbia shall be eligible for registration as a youth player in the Association. The Board may grant special permission to non-residents upon written request.

- u) A youth age player shall be recognized as a registered player of the Association once the Association's Registrar or designate validates the youth's application for membership, providing the applicant has met all eligibility requirements.
- v) 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 the Association. 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 the Association.
- w) Youth players who wish to register with the Association must do so in a form approved by the Association
- x) A registered youth player may sign for a senior team between the date of completion of the youth team's league and cup commitments and the end of the playing season, as outlined in paragraphs "a & b", Rule 3 -Playing Season, upon written consent of the Association.
- y) All persons desiring to become team officials on youth teams are required to register with the team.
- z) All players and team officials in the U12 to U18 Divisions shall be issued with a photo identification card once they have been registered with the Association's Registrar or designate. A grace period shall be allowed until October 1 of the coastal playing season and June 1 of the interior-playing season.
- aa) No team entering the provincial "A" Cup youth competition may register a player after March 31st of the current coastal playing season or after August 1st of the current interior playing season.
- bb) Youth age players, to be considered eligible for youth district cup, inter- district cup or provincial cup play, must have played at least one league game in a properly constituted youth league.

Senior

- cc) All senior amateur players participating in leagues affiliated with the Association must register in such a manner as the Association rules prescribe.
- dd) Leagues with open age divisions wishing to participate in the provincial championships which lead to the national championships must register all open age players on Association forms known as Form "A". Leagues may obtain this form from the Association for distribution to registering players. The registration form shall be completely filled in and submitted to the League Registrar who will in turn record each registration and return the various portions of the form to the players and the Association. The cost of the form is determined and circulated by the Association to

the membership prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season. Payment for the form is due upon the Association's acceptance of a completed form as submitted by an affiliated league registrar.

- ee) Leagues with open age divisions wishing to participate in the provincial championships **that does not** lead to the national championships must register all open age players on Association forms known as Form "B". Leagues may obtain this form from the Association for distribution to registering players. The registration form shall be completely filled in and submitted to the League Registrar who will in turn record each registration and return the various portions of the form to the players and the Association. The cost of the form is determined and circulated by the Association to the membership prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season. Payment for the form is due upon the Association's acceptance of a completed form as submitted by an affiliated league registrar.
- ff) Leagues with Graduate divisions, players Under the Age of 21, wishing to participate in the provincial championship that does not lead to the national championships must register all players in a Graduate division on Association forms know as Form "B". Leagues may be able to obtain this form from the Association for distribution to registering player. The registration form shall be completely filled in and submitted to the League Registrar who will in turn record each registration and return the various portions of the form to the players and the association. The cost of the form is determined and circulated by the Association to the membership prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season. Payment for the form is due upon the Association's acceptance of a completed form as submitted by an affiliated league registrar.
- gg) Leagues with Masters Divisions wishing to participate in the provincial championships which lead to the Western Canadian championships must register all players in Masters Divisions on Association forms known as Form "M". Leagues may obtain this form from the Association for distribution to registering players. The registration form shall be completely filled in and submitted to the League Registrar who will in turn record each registration and return the various portions of the form to the players and the Association. The cost of the form is determined and circulated by the Association to the membership prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season. Payment for the form is due upon the Association's acceptance of a completed form as submitted by an affiliated league registrar.

Masters age players shall have the option of registering on Form "B" until:

MEN – The commencement of the season 2002-2003, and

WOMEN – The commencement of the season 2004-2005 at which time all players registering in Masters Divisions/Leagues shall register on Form "M".

- hh) Senior teams forming a league may apply to register under the category of Associate Member. This category shall not be provided with, and shall not be allowed to participate in any provincial or national competitions. Applications to the Association

under this category must be made seasonally and registration under this category shall not be granted to applicants qualifying under Categories “A”, “B”, or “M” of senior registrations. Eligibility for registration under this Associate category is at the discretion of the Board and is intended for unique circumstances such as short-term community leagues, developmental leagues and geographically isolated leagues.

- i) Upon submission to the Association for registration under the Associate category, the application must include a copy of the league operating rules and regulations, a financial report, identification of league officers and a tentative league schedule.
- i) All registrations under this category shall be made on forms provided by the Association. The registration forms shall be completely filled in and submitted by the league registrar to the Association with the appropriate fees.
- ii) *All players and team officials shall be issued with a photo identification card once they have registered with the Association’s Registrar or Designate. A grace period should be allowed until October 1st of the Coastal Playing Season and June 1st of the Interior Playing Season.*

RULE 6. POACHING

General

Any team, which, through its responsible officers or representatives, attempts to induce a registered player of a team under the jurisdiction of the Association to leave the team before the completion of the team's league, cup or provincial cup commitments, shall be deemed to have committed an offence and shall be dealt with by the Board.

RULE 7. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

General

- a) A player is entitled by these rules, to a transfer provided the player has complied with all provincial, district or league rules and regulations and is not indebted to the current team, district or league.
- a) A player is entitled to a transfer as hereinafter provided, by January 15th of the current year for the coastal/winter-playing season and by *June 30th* of the current year for the interior/summer-playing season. A player shall not be allowed to transfer during the team's playing season without the consent of the team for which the player is registered. A player currently under suspension and seeking a transfer is not eligible to play until the suspension has been served.
- i) Once a team plays its first league game in the current playing season any player movements thereafter would be subject to the transfer regulation.

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

- j) Any player registered with a team, which has declared the player surplus to the team's requirements may be granted a release from that team by filing a completed transfer form with the Association. This transfer shall be subject to the transfer deadline as specified in paragraph "b", Rule 7 - Transfer of Players.
- k) All 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 the Association, before the transfer can be completed.
- l) Transfer fees are non-refundable.
- m) Players must be transferred seven (7) days before taking part in any cup competition. This rule shall not apply to league games. A player, after being transferred, may compete in league games as provided by the rules of such leagues. All player transfers for league games must be made at least one (1) day prior to the game-taking place. The grace period commences from the date the completed application and fee is filed with the Association. The transfer application shall be authorized by the Association prior to the player taking part in any competition with the new team. A player transferred to a youth team must play at least one league game before playing in cup competition for the team to which he has been transferred.
- n) A transferred player shall be not eligible to play for the new team in any cup competition in which the player has already competed during the current playing season.

Youth

- o) Youth player transfers are subject to Rule 23 - Youth Players, Zoning.
- p) District approval is required for all transfers.
- q) At the discretion of the Association, and only in special circumstances, i.e., the case of a player having moved residence from one district to another, a youth player transfer may be permitted after the transfer deadline(s) specified in paragraph "b", Rule 7 - Transfer of Players.
- r) The transfer of youth players to one team during any one season shall be limited to three, except in the case of teams given special dispensation by the Association for the purposes of provincial cup competition (see paragraph "g", Rule 27 - Rules for Provincial Cup Play), *or the Association approves the exception resulting from a defunct team pursuant to rule 7i.*
- s) Youth age players, to be considered eligible for youth district cup, inter-district cup or provincial cup play, must have played at least one league game in a properly constituted youth league in the current playing season.

RULE 8. YOUTH TO SENIOR TRANSFERS

- a) Any registered youth player wishing to transfer services to a senior team during the current playing season must do so on forms supplied by the Association.
- b) No youth to senior transfers will be permitted after the dates outlined in paragraph "b", Rule 7 - Transfer of Players.
- c) Transfer fees are subject to regulations as defined in paragraph "k", Rule 7 - Transfer of Players.
- d) Youth to senior transfer fees are non-refundable.
- e) A youth-aged player who has been registered as "senior amateur" shall be ineligible to play in any youth club competitions unless said player has upon request, been reinstated to youth status by the Association, *subject to rule 7 n.*

RULE 9. REINSTATEMENTS

- a) Any registered senior player of youth age wishing to be reinstated to youth status must apply to the Association to be reinstated on forms supplied by the Association.
- b) The Association shall have the authority to approve or deny a player's application for reinstatement.
- c) Reinstatement of senior players to youth status may be granted by the Association prior to January 15th of the current coastal playing season and prior to *June 30th* of the current interior playing season.
- d) A player may only be reinstated to youth status once per season.
- e) The reinstatement fee, per application, shall be determined and circulated by the Association prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season.
- f) Reinstatement fees are non-refundable.
- g) A registered senior player, after being reinstated to a youth team, must wait a period of seven (7) days before taking part in any game for the youth team. The seven-day period commences from the date the completed reinstatement application and fee are filed with the Association.
- h) No youth team shall be allowed to register more than three reinstated players in one season.

RULE 10. PERMITS

- a) The Association shall grant a registered youth player permission to play up any number of times with a senior team in any one season providing the player has the consent of the affiliated youth team and the approval of the senior league or designate.
- b) A permit shall allow a registered youth player to play for a senior team in a league or senior Category "A" cup game without affecting the player's youth registration status. However, a player shall not play in both youth and senior provincial cup competitions in any one-competition season.
- c) Any player wishing to play on a permit with a senior team must apply for permission to do so by completing a permit form supplied by the Association.
- d) The Association shall have the authority to approve or deny any permit application.
- e) Permit applications must be authorized by the youth team and *approved by the Youth District & Senior League prior to the game* for which the permit is to be issued. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. A copy of the authorized permit must be presented with the team list at game
- f) A permit is valid only for the day and game stated on the permit application form.
- g) 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 subject to:
 - i) Disciplinary decisions shall be the responsibility of the discipline committee for the association or league governing the competition where the permitted player was charged with an offence.
 - ii) Said discipline committee shall forward a copy of the discipline ruling to the district association where the player is registered and to the team official of the team to which the player is registered.
- h) Senior teams shall not play more than three (3) youth players on permit in any one senior league or Category "A" cup game.

RULE 11. DISCIPLINE

- a) The Board shall have the power to inquire into the conduct of any member in the member's capacity as a player, team official, game official, team, Club, District or League, and may take disciplinary action where it is determined that a member has:
 - i) Violated F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game and/or the Association's game rules;

- ii) Violated rules established from time to time by the Association governing the conduct of members on and off the field;
 - iii) Behaved in a manner considered by the Board to be unbecoming of a member registered with the Association;
 - iv) Behaved in a manner considered by the Board not to be in the best interest of the game of soccer or the Association;
 - v) Bet on any soccer match;
 - vi) Attempted to offer, either directly or indirectly; any consideration whatsoever to another team, player or players of any other team, with a view to influence the result of the match;
 - vii) Accepted consideration pursuant to clause vi);
 - viii) Committed any act or made any statement either verbally or in writing, or been responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any other matter which, in the opinion of the Association, is considered to be ungentlemanly, insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the game into disrepute.
- b) Where the Board has made a determination pursuant to paragraph “a” above, the Board with respect to the member, shall do one or more of the following:
- i) Reprimand the member;
 - ii) Suspend the member from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing, officiating or acting as an officer of a member group in the Association for one or more league or provincial cup games;
 - iii) Suspend the member from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing, officiating or acting as an officer of a member group in the Association for one or more playing seasons;
 - iv) Suspend the member from the privilege of playing, coaching managing, officiating or acting as an officer of a member group in the Association for an indefinite period;
 - v) Expel the member from the Association;
 - vi) In the case of an adult player, team official, team, District or League, impose a fine and/or bond.
- c) The Board shall have the power to impose an interim suspension with respect to a member pending a final determination pursuant to paragraph “b” Rule 11-Discipline.

- d) In addition to its powers under paragraphs “b” and “c”; Rule 11-Discipline; the Board may make any other disciplinary decisions that it considers just.
- e) No player or member of any such team, game official, District, League or affiliated association so removed or suspended shall be eligible for membership in any other team, District, League or association affiliated with the Association without special permission of the Board.
- f) The Association may delegate and authorize officers of the Association to perform the functions and exercise the disciplinary powers vested in the Board and the Association under Rule 11-Discipline.
- g) In case of disputes between players, teams, Districts, Leagues, or affiliated associations, legal proceedings shall be taken only as a last resort, and then only with the consent of the Board.
- h) Every team, club, district league or affiliated association is responsible to the Association for the actions of its players, officials and spectators, and is required to;
 - i) Take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting officials and/or players during or at the conclusion of matches;
 - ii) Take all precautions to prevent the use of objectionable, insulting language and offensive behaviour;
 - iii) In any case of a breach of paragraph “h” (ii & iii), Rule 11-Discipline, any player, official or spectator may be removed from any ground;
- i) Players and/or officials reported for misconduct in a league, cup competition, tournament, exhibition or training game, may be allowed to continue to participate in all soccer activities until their case is dealt with, except;
 - i) Players or team officials reported for assault of Referees and/or Game Officials shall stand suspended from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of the Association until their case has been heard, and dealt with, by the Association;
 - ii) A player (red card) or team official sent from the field of play will automatically be suspended for one (1) game. Suspensions shall apply to the player’s or team official’s next regularly scheduled league or cup competition game, whichever comes first. The player or team official, having served the one (1) game suspension shall be eligible to resume playing, coaching, managing or officiating unless notified by the Association that further disciplinary action is being applied. The one game suspension shall be carried from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was issued;

- iii) A player who accumulates three (3) cautions (yellow cards) within a period of one playing season shall be automatically suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's following league or cup game, whichever comes first. After having served the one (1) game suspension, the player shall be eligible to resume playing, unless notified by the Association that further disciplinary action is being applied. The one game suspension shall be carried from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was accumulated;
- iv) A player who accumulates in excess of (3) cautions (yellow cards) within a period of one playing season shall be suspended one or more additional games pursuant to the Association Discipline Policy and Procedure Guide;
- v) For Provincial Cup play, a senior player who accumulates two (2) cautions (yellow cards), or, a youth player who accumulates three (3) cautions (yellow cards) during provincial cup play, shall automatically be suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's next provincial cup game. Provincial Cup for youth teams is defined as all "A" Cup competition and "B" Cup competition beyond district qualification (inter-district), (see Rule 25 – Rules for Provincial Cup Play – Youth). Provincial Cup for senior teams is defined as provincial cup play beyond league qualification (see Rule 27 – Senior Cup Competition Rules).
- j) Any disciplinary action applied while playing in a game under permit shall apply to future games of the team for which the player is registered, and shall be subject to:
 - i) Disciplinary decisions shall be the responsibility of the discipline committee for the association or league governing the competition where the permitted player was charged with an offence.
 - ii) Said discipline committee shall forward a copy of the discipline ruling to the district association where the player is registered and to the team official of the team to which the player is registered.
- k) Any registered player or team official found guilty of an offence for which ejection was the result for the third (3rd) instance in a twelve month period, may be assessed a minimum one (1) year suspension. Discipline records for the individual and all other pertinent information must be sent to the Association for review. The Association shall retain jurisdictions in this instance for all such cases regardless of the domicile of the individual.
- l) The Board, in carrying out its powers under Rule 11-Discipline, shall follow the procedure for disciplinary hearing established by the Association.
- m) Where the control of discipline has been delegated to a district, league or affiliated association, all cases of players ordered off of the field of play as well as players and

or officials reported for misconduct shall be dealt with by the organization or committee pursuant to the Association Discipline Policy and Procedure Guide;

- i) Within fourteen (14) days of the incident;
 - ii) Notwithstanding, Districts and Leagues in membership, or their members, may publish in advance the dates of regularly scheduled hearings, and giving of notice in “m” i) is waived;
 - iii) If a hearing is not held by this time, the player’s rights are temporarily reinstated until the disciplinary hearing is convened.
- n) In cases where an accused stands suspended pending a hearing, or for any adjourned hearing, the date for the hearing shall be set within:
- i) 15 working days of the alleged incident.
 - ii) 25 working days of the previous hearing.
- o) In all cases of alleged game official assault, by a player or by a team, club or district official, the hearing shall be convened within 30 days of receipt of the game officials report by the governing body.
- p) Wherein a result of a discipline hearing is withheld, the accused shall be sent a final determination no later than 15 working days following the hearing.
- q) Each discipline hearing held within the jurisdiction of the Association and its members shall be conducted pursuant to the Association Discipline Policy and Procedure Guide and in accordance with the following:
- i) A Discipline Hearing Committee shall have no less than three members, one of whom shall act as Chairperson;
 - ii) A Discipline Hearing committee shall record in writing any action taken under Rule 11 – Discipline, paragraph “b”;
 - iii) In all cases, the party complained against shall have the right to appear and offer a full answer or defence to the charges when the case is heard;
 - iv) By mutual consent, in writing, of the accused and a Discipline Hearing Committee, any terms in Rule 11-Discipline, paragraphs “m” and “n” may be waived.
- r) No barrister or solicitor shall represent any such player, team, district, league or affiliated association at the hearing of any misconduct, protest, complaint or appeal, unless:

- i) As an executive officer of the team, district, league or affiliated association concerned and has been for a period of three months immediately preceding the lodgement of misconduct, protest claim, complaint or appeal;
 - ii) And whose name appears on the affiliation form of such team, district or league or affiliated association as an executive officer;
 - iii) And, a person so identified, may only represent the player, team, district or league in the capacity of a team, club, district or league officer.
- s) The Board shall have the power to call any player, team, district, league or affiliated association to produce any books, letter or documents and other evidence the Board may desire.
 - t) The Board may also order the offending parties to pay all expenses incurred in hearing the case.

RULE 12. PROTESTS

- a) A protest will only be considered on the grounds of misinterpretation of F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game, on the eligibility of players, or on breaches of Competition Rules & Regulations.
- b) Any protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances shall not be entertained by the association having jurisdiction, unless notice of particulars has been given to the referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible teams to remove the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without delaying the commencement of the match. When an objection has been lodged with the referee, a protest must be made in writing to the district, league or Provincial association and no objection or protest can be withdrawn except by leave of the association having jurisdiction at a regular meeting.
- c) No protest will be considered if, in the opinion of the referee, the objection lodged did not seriously affect the outcome of the game. This clause pertains only to paragraph "b", Rule 12 - Protests.
- d) In dealing with any protest, the association having jurisdiction may take into consideration the possession by the protesting team of any prior knowledge, which, if properly used, might have obviated the protest.
- e) Any team playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the game to its opponents, provided the protest is upheld.
- f) An affiliated team may lodge a protest with a district, league or inter-district league arising out of any league or district cup game scheduled by a district, league or inter-

district league. Such protest must be in writing, stating the grounds upon which the protest is lodged.

- g) An affiliated team may be entitled to lodge a protest with the Association, arising out of any provincial cup competition, as defined in Rule 25 -Rules for Provincial Cup Play - Youth & Rule 27 - Senior Cup Competition Rules. Such protest must be in writing, stating the grounds upon which the protest is lodged.
- h) A protest of any league, district or provincial cup game must be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours of the date of the match to which it relates. In the event that the protest is mailed, the post-mark shall be taken as the limiting date in all cases.
- i) A copy of the protest shall be forwarded by the association having jurisdiction to the opposing team within two (2) working days after the receipt of the protest.
- j) The protest shall be signed by the team coach or manager.
- k) The protest fee must accompany the protest when filed with the association having jurisdiction.
- l) The fee (payable to the association having jurisdiction) shall be determined and circulated by the Association prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season.
- m) In the event that a protest is upheld by the association having jurisdiction, the protest fee shall be refunded. In the event that the protest is denied, the protest fee shall be retained.
- n) A Protest Committee is required to provide to all parties affected by a decision, a written ruling which shall include the rationale for the decision and the associations appeal procedures, within five (5) working days of receipt of the protest.
- o) A decision of the Provincial Cup Discipline Committee from any cup competition game played under the jurisdiction of this Association shall be final and binding.

RULE 13. APPEALS

- a)
 - i) Appeals from the decision of a League under the jurisdiction of a District shall be made to such District.
 - ii) Appeals from the decision of a League where no District exists, or where a League is directly under the jurisdiction of the BCSA, shall be made to the BCSA.
 - iii) Appeals from the decision of a District shall be made to the BCSA.

- b)
 - i) Any party may, with leave of the BCSA Appeals Committee, appeal the decision of a District Association or League in Membership or BCSA Committee made against that party, provided that the said appeal involves only an interpretation of the By-Laws or Rules and Regulations of the BCSA or the District Association or League in Membership.
 - ii) In all other cases the decision of the District Association or League in Membership shall be final and binding, except when that decision was made, in the first instance, by the Board of Directors or Executive of the District Association or League in Membership.
 - iii) Any party may, with leave of the Appeals Committee, appeal a decision of the BCSA Discipline Committee, provided that the said appeal involves only an interpretation of the By-Laws or Rules and Regulations of this Association.
- c) The applicant for “leave to appeal” shall:
 - i) Make written application to the BCSA Executive Director within ten (10) working days after issuance of the District’s, League’s or Committee’s decision, setting out:
 - a) The decision sought to be appealed;
 - b) A concise statement of the facts; and
 - c) A concise submission stating the By-Law, Rule or Regulation that has been contravened and setting out clearly in what respect the decision is alleged to be wrong.
 - ii)
 - a) Forward the said written application signed by the affiliated team coach, manager, or official; registered player or registered game official (referee, assistant referee)
 - b) Forward with the written application and the appropriate fee. The Board of Directors of the Association shall set the appeal fee annually. The membership shall be notified of the fee by March 15th of each year, in advance of the forthcoming season. *The Appeal Committee may deduct an administration fee from all applications for “leave to appeal” as determined by the committee*
 - d) The Executive Director shall forward a copy of the written application for “leave to appeal”, to the District Association or League in Membership or BCSA Committee within ten (10) working days of receipt of the application, and that District/League/Committee shall within seven (7) working days after receipt thereof, file all documents used in the rendering of the District’s/League’s/Committee’s decision to the BCSA Executive Director.

- e) If leave to appeal is granted, the Appeals Committee shall notify the appellant, District Association, or League in Membership.
- f) If “leave to appeal” is not granted the Appeal Committee shall notify the appellant, District Association or League in Membership giving reasons for their decision and returning the appeal fee *minus any administration fee determined by the committee*.
- g) The application for leave to appeal and the appeal may be abandoned with leave of the BCSA’s Appeals Committee and on such terms and conditions, as it may deem proper.
- h) The BCSA Appeals Committee shall cause written notification of its decision to the appellant; the District Association/League in Membership; and all relevant parties, not later than ten (10) working days after receiving all paperwork required by the BCSA Appeals Committee pertaining to the appeal.
- i) No barrister or solicitor shall represent any such Association, League, team or player at the hearing of any appeal unless he/she be an Executive Officer of the Association, League or team concerned, and has been such for a period of three months immediately preceding the lodgement of the appeal and his/her name appears on the printed list of such Association, League or team as an Executive Officer.
- j) Pending the hearing of the appeal, the original decision under appeal shall not be suspended unless the BCSA Appeal Committee so orders.
- k) If the submitted evidence is felt by the BCSA Appeal Committee to be insufficient to the rendering of a disposition, then a hearing of the matter shall be ordered and said Committee shall determine, if any, by whom the expenses of an appeal shall be borne.
- l) The Committee may reaffirm, revoke or amend a decision against which an appeal has been lodged. It shall not be bound by the petition of the parties concerned. A decision may be amended to the disadvantage of the party lodging the appeal.
- m) A member of the Appeal Committee may not sit on the Committee if the case being dealt with concerns themselves or players, clubs, officials or any other members of any associations or leagues to which they belong.
- n) In dealing with any appeal, the BCSA Appeal Committee may take into consideration the possession by the appeal party of any knowledge, which if properly used, might have obviated the appeal.
- o) Appeals from a decision of the BCSA Appeals Committee only in respect to interpretations of the By-laws and/or Rule & Regulations of the Association (*BCSA*) may be made to the Canadian Soccer Association (*CSA*). The Board of Directors of the *CSA* will decide in what manner and by whom, such appeal shall be heard. Pending the hearing of the appeal, the original decision under appeal shall not be

suspended unless the CSA so orders. Appeals, under this rule, must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of the Canadian Soccer Association within ten (10) working days after the BCSA decision is released and must be accompanied by a fee as determined by the CSA Board of Directors in the form of a certified cheque or money order. Appeals shall not be withdrawn except by the consent of the CSA Board of Directors and said Board shall determine by whom the expenses of an appeal shall be borne.

- p) Decisions of the BCSA Appeals Committee arising from interpretations of the By-laws or Rules & Regulations of a District Association or Senior League in membership shall be final and binding.

RULE 14. SANCTION AND CONTROL OF LEAGUES

- a) Teams forming a senior league shall make application for sanction to the Association. The league, once sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Association. A league must be composed of a minimum of four (4) teams.
- b) Youth Districts forming an inter-district youth league shall make application for sanction to the Association and to the youth district(s) in whose area(s) they wish to operate. The inter-district league, once sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of the district(s) in whose area(s) they will operate. An inter-district youth league must be composed of a minimum of four (4) teams.
- c) Matches shall not be played until the league constitution, league rules and regulations and league member teams are approved by the Association, Senior League or Youth District having jurisdiction.
- d) A league is not entitled to alter its constitution or rules and regulations without the consent of the Association, Senior League and/or Youth District having jurisdiction.
- e) Leagues and teams must not play matches other than those comprising the league schedule without the prior consent of the Association, Senior League and/or Youth District having jurisdiction
- f) Leagues are not permitted to run cup competitions without the prior consent of the Association, Senior League and/or Youth District having jurisdiction
- g) Senior Leagues or Youth Districts wishing to sponsor a tournament must obtain the consent of the Association.
- h) Leagues shall pay match fees as are approved of by the Association, Senior League and/or Youth District having jurisdiction, to referees and assistant referees officiating in their matches. Officials shall neither ask for nor receive a larger fee than that fixed.

Youth

- i) Upon written application, the Association may, at its discretion, authorize inter-district competition between affiliated youth teams in member districts.
- j) Authorization for the operation of inter-district competition must be applied for annually.
- k) The Association shall approve on an annual basis rules and regulations governing the establishment of inter-district youth competitions, and shall approve the structure of the operating committee of each inter-district competition.

Senior

- l) A league or competition for senior Category "A" amateur players shall allow to participate, only players who are registered as senior Category "A" amateur players and registered youth players in accordance with the provision of Rule 10 - Permits.
- m) A league or competition for senior Category "B" amateur players shall allow to participate; only players who are registered as senior "Category "B" amateur players and registered youth players in accordance with the provision of Rule 10 – Permits.

RULE 15. 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 an official of a charity competition.
- c) Every charity competition shall, not later than thirty (30) days after close of the competition, forward a final financial statement for that competition to the Association.

RULE 16. MATCHES WITH TEAMS OF A FOREIGN ASSOCIATION

There must be strict adherence to the Federation International de Football Association (F.I.F.A.) regulation that each national association is the supreme ruling body governing soccer in its country, and consequently the only body empowered to deal with matters concerning soccer in the international field; therefore, associations, leagues or clubs under the jurisdiction of the Association 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 the Association. Sanction will not be given to any game organized or sponsored by individuals where it appears that the game is being undertaken for the personal gain of an individual.

RULE 17. PROFESSIONAL SOCCER

- a) Professional soccer, as provided for by the Canadian Soccer Association Constitution, is sanctioned and approved by the Association, and professional clubs in affiliation with the Association shall observe the rules and regulations of the Association 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 the Association 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 the Association 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 game as a professional player. Per CSA regulations.
 - iv) If the application for reinstatement as an amateur is approved by the Association, the Association shall forward the application to the Secretary of the Canadian Soccer Association with a recommendation to grant reinstatement.
- c) Trial Games and Permits - Professional Players
 - i) The Association will provide the permit form for the trial period. The permit shall be valid for a period of forty-five (45) days from valid date of issue.
 - ii) The professional team shall remit a cheque for a transfer fee (team fee plus Association fee) to be determined and circulated prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season, along with the trial permit, following the

signing of the permit by the amateur team. The Association's Registrar shall forward the team transfer fee to the amateur team involved.

Youth

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

Senior

- iv) A registered senior amateur player registered with a senior amateur team shall be allowed to play three trial games (league games only) with a professional team providing a permit to play for a professional team has been duly completed.
- d) Challenge Trophy Playoffs - Professional Players
 - i) An amateur team which has reached the provincial finals of the Canadian Challenge Trophy Competition shall retain the rights to the services of a senior player who has been claimed by a professional team through the three games' 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 18. REFEREES

- a)
 - i) All referees designated Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 shall be under the control and jurisdiction of the Association.
 - ii) All referees designated Class 5 shall be under the control and jurisdiction of the youth district in which they are registered.
- b) All candidates for referee shall be examined as to their suitability for duty by the Association's Referee Development Committee. Such examinations *may* include oral, written and field test.
- c)
 - i) All persons wishing to be placed on the official list of referees shall, if successful in passing the examinations provided for, make application to the Association's Registrar for inclusion on the official list of referees. Applications shall be accompanied by a fee as determined and circulated by the Association prior to March 15th annually, in advance of the forthcoming season.

- ii) All persons wishing to be placed on a youth district's official list of Class 5 referees shall contact the district in question and make application for inclusion on their official list of referees.
- d) No person shall officiate as a referee in any competition under the sanction or jurisdiction of the Association who is not on the official list of the Association, 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.
- e) Referees, officiating in non-affiliated leagues, cup competitions or tournaments, without permission from the Association, may be removed from the official list.
- f) District, league and affiliated associations under the sanction or jurisdiction of the Association may appoint referees to their own matches, provided the appointments are made from the official list.
- g) Registration on the Association's official list of referees does not guarantee game appointments from districts, leagues or affiliated associations.
- h) Complaints by or against referees shall be made in writing to the Executive Director of the Association.
- i) The Association has the power to remove from its official list of referees, or require being re-examined, any referee when deemed advisable.
- j) A registered player who is also on the official list of referees shall not officiate in any league or competition in which the player's team is entered.
- k) The referee shall have the power to decide the fitness of the grounds in all matches and the decision shall be final.
- l) Referees, within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of a provincial cup match in which they officiate, shall forward a written report with the result of the game and the team lists to the Association.
- m) 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 or disciplinary committee of the association having jurisdiction as the case may be, the name of any individual charged with misconduct. Referees who officiate in a provincial cup match shall forward all misconduct reports immediately to the Association. Any referee not conforming with this rule is liable to suspension.

RULE 19. TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

- a) Teams, clubs, Youth Districts, Senior Leagues and associations affiliated with the Association desiring to sponsor a tournament shall then submit a tournament application form provided by the Association, requesting permission to stage the tournament and containing necessary tournament information. Tournament

- applications shall be filed at least ninety (90) days prior to the start 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, Senior League or affiliated association, and the referees associations.
- b) 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 the Association must first receive the written approval from the Provincial or State Association of which they are affiliated. Only properly registered players, in good standing shall be permitted to participate in the tournament.
 - c) Teams participating in an approved tournament, wishing to use the services of a player registered with another team, shall first *obtain written permission from the team & Youth District* with which the player is registered
 - d) Only those referees on the official list with the Association shall be appointed to officiate.
 - e) Sponsoring teams, clubs, districts or leagues shall be responsible for deciding disciplinary matters arising from the tournament. Discipline procedures shall be in accordance with the directives of the Association. All incidents of referee assault shall be reported, in writing, to the Association.
 - f) The Association shall not be responsible for any financial losses incurred by sponsoring team, club, district, league or affiliated association by a tournament participant.
 - g) Sponsoring teams, clubs, districts, leagues or affiliated associations shall prepare for submission to the Association, a report on the tournament, including discipline, within fifteen (15) days of the conclusion of the tournament. Upon request, the event organizers shall provide a tournament financial statement to the Association.

RULE 20. GENERAL MANAGEMENT RULES

- a) Each Member affiliated with the Association may be requested to present to the Board, a properly audited financial statement and complete report of its operating status within one month after the date of the Annual General meeting of the member.
- b) The competitions of the Association take precedence over all other competitions except games under the direct control of the Canadian Soccer Association.
- c) No team, club, district, league or affiliated association shall make a grant or honorarium to any amateur player without first obtaining the sanction of the Association.

- d) Prior to the commencement of each season or immediately following the Annual General Meeting of each Youth District, Senior League or affiliated association shall annually furnish the Association with a list of its operating officers.
- e) Amendments to the constitution and rules and regulations of any district, league or affiliated association must first be approved by the Association before being implemented.
- f) Teams and players shall not compete in any match or competition that has not been approved by the Association.
- g) Any player selected to play in any match arranged by the Association, 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.

RULES 21. PROVISIONAL

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

RULE 22. RISK MANAGEMENT

- a) Every volunteer or employee of the Association who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any *minor aged player* must have on file a completed personal disclosure statement form (A) provided by the Association.
- b) *Every volunteer or employee of the Association who at any time would be expected in the performance of their duties as a Director or Officer be entrusted with performing financial duties and/or responsible for book keeping or bank account must have on file a completed personal disclosure statement form (B) provided by the Association.*
- b) Procedures for the employee/volunteer background checks are contained in the Risk Management Policy Guide.

Specific Rules for Youth Players

RULE 23. YOUTH PLAYERS - ZONING

- a) A youth aged player, to retain youth status, must register and play within the district which administers soccer for the area in which that player resides except as specified in Rule 23 b) and d).
 - i) The residency of the player is determined by the residence of the parent. For the purposes of regulations, paragraph “a”, Rule 23 – Youth Players – zoning, the parent of the player is:
 - a) Either parent where both parents have a common residence or if there is only one surviving parent, such surviving parent and,
 - b) In the event that the parents are living apart, the parent who has custody of the player, or if both parents have custody, the parent with whom the player habitually resides or if the player does not habitually reside with either parent, then either parent, and,
 - c) In the event both parents are deceased, the person who is in loco parentis to the player.
 - ii) Loco parentis means: one who has taken a position in reference to a child of that lawful father, assuming the office of a father and the obligation of supporting the child, assuming a parental character and discharging duties, although not the parent.
- b) A player wishing to play Out-of-District will be granted a release from the district in which he/she resides, upon request and receipt of a completed District Release Application Form from that district’s registrar or designate.
 - i) The receiving district upon acceptance of a player must also give written permission for acceptance of the player by completion of the District Release Application Form. Having received such authorization a player then qualifies for Rule 23.d).
 - ii) The Accepting Youth District must provide a copy of the validated Out-Of-District form(s) *upon request of the Association.*
- c) If challenged, the district is responsible for verifying residential qualifications of a player to this Association for the purpose of Rule 23. Youth Players-Zoning.
 - i) Affidavits may only be considered with multiple pieces of corroborating documentation, acceptable to the Association’s Registrar.

- d) A youth aged player may register and play outside of the district in which he/she resides providing that no affiliated team of youth aged registered players shall register and/or play more than three (3) Out-of-District players.
- e) Breach of these rules shall lead to disciplinary action as set out in Rule 11-Discipline and as defined in the Association's Discipline Policy & Procedure Guide.
- f) Each district association shall have the option to establish zoning within its district.
- g) The Provincial Association shall have the final say in the event of any disputes.

RULE 24. RULES OF PLAY - YOUTH

- a) All games shall be played under the By-laws and Rules and Regulations of the Association.
- b) The duration of the games 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 45 minutes each |
| U-15 | 2 equal halves of 40 minutes each |
| U-14 | 2 equal halves of 40 minutes each |
| U-13 | 2 equal halves of 35 minutes each |
| U-12 | 2 equal halves of 30 minutes each |
| U-11 | 2 equal halves of 30 minutes each |
- c) Under -10, -9, -8, -7 -6 -5 and under -4 age groups are considered "mini-soccer" divisions (reference Rule 26 for duration of games).
- d) The venue of all league matches shall be determined by the league or district having control of the league schedule.
- e) In all instances, the team declared "home" team should be responsible for marking the field and supplying the game ball.
- f) In the event that the uniform colours of both teams are similar, the "home" team must change to uniform colours distinct from its opponents. The referee has the authority to determine if team colours are similar.
- g) Any team unable to fulfil a scheduled game must give the secretary or scheduler of the district or league forty-eight (48) hours notice in writing stating the causes for it. Such causes are to be satisfactory to the league or district.

- h) Any team failing to fulfil a scheduled league game without just cause shall forfeit the game to its scheduled opponents.
- i) A regulation size five (5) soccer ball shall be used in all U18, U17, U16, U15 and *U14* division games. A regulation size four (4) soccer ball shall be used for the U13, U12, and U11 division games. A regulation size three (3) ball shall be used in U10, U9, U8, U7 and U6 minis-soccer games.
- j) All teams, *except mini soccer teams*, shall furnish a complete list of those eligible players available for use in the game 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 game. The team list shall bear the name of the team, date of the game, 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 game. The team list must contain the signature of a team official in charge of the team
- k) The allowable number of substitutions shall be at the discretion of the scheduling body and approved by the Association.
- l) The scheduling body shall have the authority to order any game replayed, or played to a finish.
- m) Photo Identification Cards for both players and team officials are required at the U12 – U18 age levels and for team officials for the U6 – U11 age levels. It is incumbent on team officials to present the photo ID cards of the players and team officials to the referee prior to any league or cup games. A grace period shall be allowed until October 1 of the coastal playing season and June 1 of the interior-playing season. After this date, players and team officials without validated BCSA photo ID cards will not be permitted to play or to coach or to manage. An exception will be made only when the person not able to present their BCSA photo ID has a letter of permission from the appointed District Registrar or designate.

RULE 25. RULES FOR PROVINCIAL CUP PLAY - YOUTH

- a) The Association shall operate two youth provincial cup competitions: provincial "A" Level Cup competition; and provincial "B" Level Cup competitions, for boys and girls.
 - i) Teams qualify for and must enter the Provincial Cup Competition at the age level of the league in which they participate.
- b) The provincial "A" Level championships shall be open to all youth teams under the jurisdiction of the Association, provided the team, or teams, have played in properly

constituted league matches and are not under suspension from district or authorized leagues.

- c) The Provincial "B" level competition shall be open to any affiliated "B" or "C" level youth team as declared on entry forms submitted by October 15th in the current coastal playing season and by May 1st in the current interior playing season, each year, provided the team, or teams have played in properly constituted league matches. A properly constituted league shall consist of no less than four teams. The Board may grant special permission for a team or teams to participate otherwise, upon written request.
- d) The Association shall control the operation of these competitions. The draws and the scheduling of games up to the time regional ("A" Cup) and District ("B" Cup) winners are declared may be delegated to the associations having jurisdiction.
- e) The format of the provincial "A" and "B" Cup playdowns shall be determined by the Board each year.
- f) In provincial cup competitions, the venue of the regional and provincial final games shall be determined by the Board.
- g) Districts whose boundaries are limited by geography may apply to the Board for special permission to enter selected teams in provincial "A" or "B" Cup competitions. Written request must be made before October 15th in the case of the coastal districts and by May 1st in the case of the interior districts. Consideration will only be given to teams formed from properly registered players, selected from affiliated teams. Those districts, who have been granted dispensation by the Board each year, may return each player to a team of all-stars in his age group for the purpose of provincial cup competitions. If deemed necessary by the district receiving dispensation, a select team playing as a unit in a properly constituted youth league involving older-age players may return to its own age group for the purposes of provincial "A" Cup competition only.
- h) Rules governing play:
 - g) All games shall be played under the Competition Rules and Regulations of this Association, as adopted each year.
 - ii) All games shall be played under the Association's Rules Governing Youth Provincial Cup Playdowns and Finals as adopted by the Board each year.
- i) The duration of games shall be identical to those stated in paragraph "b", Rule 24 - Rules of Play - Youth.

j) In the provincial cup competition, the size of the ball shall be identical to those stated in paragraph "i", Rule 24 Rules of Play - Youth.

k) In the event that the game is tied on goals at the end of regulation time, there shall be a five-minute break, and then overtime shall be played as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Under 18 Division | 2 equal halves of 15 minutes each |
| Under 17 Division | 2 equal halves of 15 minutes each |
| Under 16 Division | 2 equal halves of 15 minutes each |
| Under 15 Division | 2 equal halves of 10 minutes each |
| Under 14 Division | 2 equal halves of 10 minutes each |
| Under 13 Division | 2 equal halves of 10 minutes each |
| Under 12 Division | 2 equal halves of 10 minutes each |

There shall be no break or unlimited substitution at the half time of overtime. The team scoring first in overtime (golden goal) shall be declared the winner.

l) If teams are still tied on goals after the overtime period, the game shall be decided by kicks from the penalty spot, as per F.I.F.A. guidelines.

m) The venue of all provincial cup games shall be decided by the "home" team's district or by the Association.

n) Any team unable to fulfil a scheduled provincial cup game must give the provincial or district scheduler a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours notice in writing stating the causes for same. Such cases are to be satisfactory to the scheduling body.

o) Any team unable to fulfil a scheduled provincial cup game without just cause shall forfeit the game to its opponents.

p) In provincial cup competition, each team will supply an Official Line-up and Referees Report *or* a team list in a manner identical to that stated in paragraph "j", Rule 24 - Rules of Play - Youth.

q) In all provincial cup games, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed each team in any game.

r) Substitutions shall be made during a stoppage in the game and with the referee's consent.

s) The Association shall have the authority to order any game replayed, or played to a finish.

t) In provincial cup competitions, each team will supply to the referee a set of Photo Identification Cards, for all players and team officials in a manner identical to that in Rule 24 – Rules of Play-Youth “n”.

- u) Discipline in all provincial cup competitions shall be as provided for in Rule 11 – Discipline, paragraph “i.”
- v) *Youth competitive teams, playing in U-12 or U-13 age group that does not have a league for select teams, shall have their eligibility to play in provincial cup restricted. Teams playing at the highest level (gold) in a tiered league (i.e. Gold, Silver, Bronze) shall be eligible to play Provincial A cup only.*

RULE 26. RULES FOR MINI-SOCCER

- a) All districts shall administer mini-soccer leagues and programs under the regulations stated herein (rules of play):
 - i) Field size shall be 1/3 of a regulation-size soccer field, or, maximum width 40 meters; minimum width 30 meters; maximum length 55 meters; minimum length 50 meters.
 - ii) Field marking shall consist of: Center-circle with 6-meter radius and a goalkeeper area 25 meters by 10 meters. The field does not have a penalty area.
 - iii) Goal size shall be: height 2 meters; width 5 meters.
 - iv) Ball size shall be regulation size 3.
 - v) Duration of games shall be:
 - Under 10, -9, and Under-8:
2 halves of 25 minutes

 - Under-7 and Under-6:
2 halves of 20 minutes or;
4 equal periods of 10 minutes

 - Intervals of 5 minutes between halves/ periods
 - vi) Substitutions shall be unlimited with a minimum of “half-a-game” playing time per player.
 - vii) Number of players: Maximum six (6) per side on the field at any given time, (one of whom shall be the goalkeeper), with team rosters being limited to twelve (12) players.
 - viii) No direct free-kicks; the opponents of the team taking the kick are at least 6 meters from the ball until it is in play.

- ix) No offside Rule
 - x) Foul throws are to be retaken.
 - xi) Goalkeeper can only handle the ball in the goalkeeper area.
 - xii) Goals are not counted in mini-soccer.
- b) Districts and clubs are expected to form teams from all registrants each year in a manner which is "non-selective". No teams should retain all players from the previous year, thereby making a select team.
 - c) In all mini-soccer divisions, emphasis shall be placed on fun, sportsmanship, education, skill development, and respect for teammates, opponents and referees.

Specific Rules for Senior Players

RULE 27. SENIOR CUP COMPETITION RULES

- a) A senior Category “A” amateur team affiliated with the Association shall be eligible to enter any open senior Category A Cup competition.
- b) A senior Category “B” amateur team affiliated with the Association shall be eligible to enter *the open age or age defined* Category B Cup competition as provided for in the rules described under Rule 5 ee) and Rule 5 ff), Player Registration.
- c) All entries to an association run cup competition must have been received by the Association on or before the date approved by the Board as the entry deadline for the competition. All entries to a league run cup competition must have been received by the league Secretary on or before the date approved by the Senior league as the entry deadline for the competition.
- d) Each league shall report in writing to the Association, which competition(s) the Senior league is designating as being that association's qualifying playdowns for a corresponding category of provincial cup competition.
- e) The Association or Senior 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.
- f) Senior players must be registered with the Association on either a senior Category “A” form (form “A”) or Category “B” form (form “B”), as the case may be, to participate in a respective cup competition.

- g) Players must be registered or transferred at least seven (7) days prior to taking part in any cup competition game, with the exception of youth player participation as covered in paragraph "c" and paragraph "g" of Rule 10 - Permits.
- h) No player shall be allowed to play for more than one team in any one-cup competition. No team shall be allowed to enter more than one provincial cup competition.
- i) Any team proven to have played an ineligible player in a competition shall be disqualified from further participation in the competition.
- j) All questions relating to qualifications of competitors, of the interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest whatsoever, shall be referred to the Association, district or league as the case may be, having jurisdiction over the Cup competition.
- k) The Association, or Senior League as the case may be, having jurisdiction over a cup competition shall decide on the venue of all games.
- l) All games are to be played in accordance with Federation International de Football (F.I.F.A.) Laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees.
- m) 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, overtime shall be played consisting of two halves of fifteen (15) minutes each for a total of thirty (30) minutes. If a goal is scored in overtime the team scoring the goal shall be declared the winner. If after overtime, the game is still tied, then a winner shall be decided by penalty kicks in accordance with F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game.
- n) Where games are played on open parks, the first named (i.e., home) team shall be responsible for marking out the grounds.
- o) In all games prior to the semi-finals, the first named (i.e., home) team shall supply the ball for the game, additionally; each team must have an extra ball on hand for use in case of an emergency.
- p) Where the uniform colours of competing teams are similar, the first named (i.e., home) team must change. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other players and the officials.
- q) The Association, or the Senior League as the case may be, having jurisdiction over a Cup competition shall appoint the referee and referee assistants.
- r) When official referee assistants are not appointed, team linesmen may be used, but no registered player shall be used in this capacity.
- s) Team lists shall be provided to the referee prior to the scheduled kick-off and shall be signed by a team official.

- t) Each team shall be allowed to make a maximum of five (5) substitutions at any time during the game including overtime when played. Unlimited substitutions may also be made at halftime or fulltime before any overtime. The exception shall be for the Masters and *Classics cup* competitions in which teams shall be allowed to make unlimited substitutions. *No substitution shall be allowed for a player sent off from the field of play by the referee as a result of FIFA Law 12.*
- u) The first charge against receipts from all games 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 the Association. This charge shall be forwarded with an event financial statement within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game(s). The balance of the remaining funds shall be retained by the host league to cover any subsequent expenses.
- v) A player who has registered with a senior 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.
- w) A senior 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.