

SOUTH DISTRICT GIRLS SOCCER ASSOCIATION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

INDEX

	Page No.
Regulations Regarding Variations of the Game	3
Playing Season	3
Affiliation	3
Team maximums and minimums	3 and 4
Player Registrations	4
Deadlines for Reporting Registrations	6
Poaching	7
Transfer of Players	7
Permits	9
Discipline	10
Protests	13
Appeals	15
Sanctions and Control of Leagues	15
Charity Competition	16
Age Limits	17
Referees	18
Tournament Policies and Regulations	19
General to all Players	19
Provisional	20
Employee Volunteer Record Checks	20
Players Zoning	21
Policies of Play	21
Policies of Provincial Cup Play	23
Policies for Mini Soccer	25

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SOUTH DISTRICT GIRLS SOCCER ASSOCIATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

These Policies & Procedures are intended to provide for the administration and operation of the South District Girls Soccer Association (the "District").

Regulations regarding Variations of the Game of Soccer

The District may enact policies and procedures, not inconsistent with the Bylaws, Policies and procedures of the BC Soccer Association and the Canadian Soccer Association, for the sanction and control of leagues, teams and players playing in variations of District soccer indoors or outdoors.

Playing Season

- a) For 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.

Teams shall be allowed to retain their players until their respective league and/or cup competition commitments have been fulfilled, after which time such players, shall be free agents.

Affiliation

- a) The District 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) No team shall be allowed to play up an age level (i.e. U11 age players to play at U12) without District Board approval. Requests for teams to play up should be sent to the Club District Representative and the District Chairperson.
- c) A "Team" age U13 – U18 shall be recognized when a minimum of eleven (11) players are registered with the District Registrar under one team name.
- d) A "mini-team" shall be recognized when a minimum of the number of players specified in the table below (U6-U12, or as approved under BCSA Policy 2 e) are registered with the District Registrar or Designate under one team name.

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

- e) Membership fee(s) shall be set by the Board of Directors, and Member clubs shall be notified no later than February 15th of each year.
 - i) Fees for the 2007-2008 season are as follows:

U6 – U10 = \$18.00 per player
U11-U18 = \$33.00 per player

- f) Membership fee(s) are non refundable.
- g) No team U13 – U18 shall be permitted to register more than 18 (eighteen) players at any given time. Any team having registered the maximum number of players and are desiring to register an additional player or players, must first release to the District such of its players so that its playing strength does not exceed the maximum allowable number of registered players.
- h) A “mini-team shall not exceed the following number of registered players in the particular age grouping.

Age Grouping	Game format	Limit (max. no of players)
U6	3v3	6
U7-U8	4v4	8
U9-U10	7v7	12
U11-U12	8v8	14
U13-U18	11v11	18

- i) Only properly affiliated teams shall be eligible to participate in competitions under the jurisdiction of the District.
- j) A team shall consist of female players only.
- k) Teams are required to complete and submit a team affiliation form by the deadline dates as set out by the District. These dates will be set annually.
- l) All teams must be affiliated in the Format authorized by the District.

Player Registrations

- a) No player registered with the District 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 District and the Association. Any violation of this policy will immediately cancel the registration and render the player ineligible to compete again in Canada during the playing season.
- b) A Registered Player
 - i) Shall not receive any remuneration or consideration directly or indirectly from playing soccer
 - ii) May, if injured while playing soccer, with the consent of the District having jurisdiction, be entitled to receive payment for her doctor’s and hospital bills or proceeds of any benefit match, subscription or collection.

- iii) May receive her necessary hotel and traveling expenses and may, in special cases, receive expenses for equipment, physical preparation and insurance against accidents during play and whilst traveling.
- c) The District Registrar is the sole authority in determining when a player is properly registered with the District.
- d) Registration forms are good only for the current season.
- e) In instances where the application for registration is mailed to the District Registrar (and/or a designate), the postmark will be the accepted date of mailing and the official date of registration once validated.
- f) A player is bound to the team for which she is signed, unless transferred or released as provided for in these policies, until the end of her team's current playing season.
- g) Subject to competition policies, 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.
- h) 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
- i) Where any person other than the District's Registrar is allowed to receive any registrations or transfers, the date such registrations or transferred are handed in or mailed to the authorized party aforementioned shall be recognized as the date covering such registrations or transfers. In such cases, the registrations or transfers shall be forwarded to the District's Registrar in accordance with the time limits as set by the Registrar of the District.
- j) In all cases where a player has last been registered outside the Province of British Columbia, such players must produce documentary evidence that she is cleared by her previous District and must state whether she was registered with her last District, before she will be allowed to register in the Province of British Columbia.
- k) All players must be registered with the District Registrar seven (7) days before taking part in any Cup Competition.
- l) All players must be registered with the District Registrar one (1) day prior to taking part in any league match.
- m) No player shall be permitted to register or play for more than one team at any one time, or in more than one Provincial, District or Inter-District Cup competition under the jurisdiction of the District without first receiving written permit (as in the case of youth to senior permits) with the exception of Provincial All-star and school teams. School is defined as those Schools affiliated with the BC Schools Sports Federation.

- n) Any player not registered with the Association via the District Registrar shall be determined to be ineligible to participate in league and cup competition under the jurisdiction of the District.
- o) Proof of registration rests with team coach or manager and proof of age, where required, rests with the player.
- p) Failure to register all players, including mini-soccer age players, by any Club shall result in a directive from the Board leading to the expulsion and/or suspension of that club from the District. Such a suspension or expulsion shall remain in effect until the matter has been rectified to the satisfaction of the Board.
- q) All girls (U6 through U18) residing in the Province of British Columbia shall be considered for registration as a youth player in the District. Special permission may be granted by the District to non-residents upon written request.
- r) A player shall be recognized by the District as a registered player once the District Registrar validates the youth's application for membership, providing the applicant has met all eligibility requirements.
- s) s) A player at U11 and any player U12 – U18 when first applying to the District for Membership shall be required , to provide proof of age, such as a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, citizenship papers, passport or other evidence acceptable to the District Registrar. Documented proof of age may also be necessary from time to time.
- t) Players, to be considered eligible for District Cup, Inter-District Cup or Provincial Cup play, must have played at least one recognized league game with the team she is registered with.
- u) No team entering the Provincial “A” Cup Youth Competition may register a player after March 31st of the current season.
- v) All players in the U11 to U18 Divisions shall be issued with a photo identification card once they have been registered with the District Registrar or designate. With the exception of Metro Players a grace period shall be allowed until September 30th.
- w) 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).

Deadlines for Team, Player and Staff Registration with the District.

- a) May 25th - Metro teams lists to the District with at minimum 11 viable players of correct age. Lists must include name, address, phone number, birthdate, team last played for and ID number for both players and coaches.
- b) June 1st - All Gold, Silver A short team lists to District with at minimum 11 viable players of correct age. Lists must include name, address, phone number, birthdate, team last played for and ID number for both players and coaches.
- c) June 15th – Team information for scheduling purposes in the format that the District has authorized but must include # of returning players, strength of the team, level they will play and home field etc. and team name
- d) July 1st - All Gold and Silver A teams to be submitted to District in the format authorized by the District but must include full team members with RMF's for All coaching staff including Female designate. All ID Cards and or pictures where required and Birth Certificates where required. Please note there will be no team name changes accepted after team lists have been submitted.
- e) July 29th – All Metro teams lists complete with ID Cards, 3 part Metro forms and RMF's for all coaching staff in the format authorized by the District. Please note there will be no team name changes accepted after team lists have been submitted.
- f) August 31st All Silver B – House (U11 – U18) team lists complete with pictures and birth certificates where required and all RMF's for all coaching staff in the format authorized by the District. Please note there will be no team name changes accepted after team lists have been submitted.
- g) August 31st Return to the District all “OLD” ID cards that are to be destroyed (i.e. overage players) and the cards that need to be replaced.
- h) September 15th All mini teams (U6 – U10) lists complete with all RMF's for Coaching Staff in the format authorized by the District. Please note there will be no team name changes accepted after team lists have been submitted.
- i) October 6th All BCSA master lists in the format authorized by BCSA and the District to the District Registrars.

Poaching

Any team, which, through its responsible officers or representatives, attempts to induce a registered player of any team under the jurisdiction of the District to leave her 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 disciplined by the Board of Directors.

Transfer of Players

- a) A player is entitled to her transfer as hereinafter provided, by January 15th of the current season. A player shall not be allowed to transfer her services during her team's playing season without the consent of the team for which she is registered. A player currently under suspension and seeking a transfer is not eligible to play until her suspension has been served.
 - a. Once a team plays its first league game in the current playing season any player movements thereafter would be subject to the transfer regulation.
 - b. Transfer fees do not apply to transfers received by the District prior to the registration submission deadline.
- b) District approval is required for all transfers.
- c) A player being refused her transfer by her team shall be allowed to appeal without fee to the District. The District shall have the authority to approve an application to transfer without the releasing team official signature, subject to paragraph "d", if the releasing team official refuses to sign the application form without just cause.
- d) A player who has been duly registered with the District by the team desiring her services for the current playing season, shall not be allowed to transfer her services to any other team unless she has first given her team notice by transfer form of her intention to transfer, and then only being granted permission to transfer by a responsible officer of the team for which she is already registered. A responsible officer of the team must respond to the application to transfer within seven (7) days. Such permission, when received by the District's registrar, shall entitle the player to be transferred to any affiliated team as hereby provided.
- e) A player is entitled to her transfer provided she has complied with all provincial policies and league regulations and is not indebted to her current team or club.
- f) A player shall be entitled to:
 - (i) Two (2) transfers only during the current playing season within the jurisdiction of the District; but a player once transferred cannot be transferred to the team for which she was last registered until a period of thirty (30) days has elapsed.
- g) Notice of all authorized transfers, duly assigned by the Registrar of the District, shall be immediately sent to the clubs concerned.
- h) All transfers shall be subject to a transfer fee after the registration submission deadline. The fee will be determined by and payable to BCSA.
- i) 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

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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.

- j) Applications for transfer from/to the district from/to another District will be subject to the zoning regulations of the district or league to which the player is being transferred, if zoning regulations apply.
- k) A transferred player is not eligible to play for the team to which the transfer has been granted in any cup competition in which she has already competed during the current playing season.
- l) For all players, the BCSA shall have the power to establish a transfer deadline if deemed advisable.
- m) Any player registered with a team which has, with the consent of its Club or the District, ceased to operate or has been declared defunct by the District having jurisdiction, shall be entitled to be transferred to another team on making application in writing to such District, who is satisfied itself that it is a bone fide application, shall have the power to transfer such player to any team producing the player's signed application, accompanied by a transfer fee.
- n) For players, no transfer will be permitted after January 15th of the current season, except at the discretion of BCSA and then only in the case of a player having moved her residence from one District to another, or to a team no longer in contention from the league or Cup Championships.
- o) 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 BCSA paragraph "g", Rule 27 - Rules for Provincial Cup Play), or the Association approves the exception resulting from a defunct team pursuant to rule 7i

Permits

A "permit" shall allow a registered youth player to play for a senior team in a league or senior competitive cup game without affecting her youth registration status.

- a) 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 District.
- b) The District shall have the authority to approve or deny any permit application.
- c) 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.

- d) The District may 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 her affiliated youth team and the approval of the senior league.
- e) Application for permission must be made at least 48 hours prior to the game for which the permit is issued.
- f) Senior teams shall not play more than three (3) youth players on permit in any one league or senior competitive cup competition.
- g) Any disciplinary action applied while playing senior under permit will apply to future youth games.
 - 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) A permit is valid only for the day and game stated on the permit application form.

Discipline:

- a) The Board of Directors of the District shall have the power to inquire into the conduct of any member in the member's capacity as a player, team official, team or affiliated District/League or Club Association, and may take disciplinary action where it is determined that a member has:
 - i) violated FIFA Laws of the game and/or the Associations game policies.
 - ii) violated policies established from time to time by the District governing the conduct of members on and off the field.
 - iii) Conducted himself in a manner considered by the Board to be unbecoming a member registered with the District.
 - iv) Conducted himself in a considered by the Board not to be in the best interest of the game of soccer or the District.
 - 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 behavior or likely to bring the game into disrepute.

Revised May 19, 2007

Original Document October 6, 1998

- b) Where the Board has made a determination pursuant to subparagraph (a) above, the Board with respect to the member, may do one or more of the following:
 - i) reprimand the member
 - ii) Suspend the member from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing or acting as an office of a member group in the District for one or more league or Provincial Cup games;
 - iii) Suspend the member from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing or acting as an office of a member group in the District for one or more playing seasons.
 - iv) Suspend the member from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing or acting as an office of a member group in the District for an indefinite period.
 - v) Expel the member from the District
 - vi) In the case of an adult member, affiliated District, League or Club Association, impose a fine.
- c) The Board shall have the power to impose an interim suspension with respect to a member pending a final determination pursuant to subparagraph “b”.
- d) In addition to its powers under subparagraph “b” or “c”, the Board may make any other Orders or Declarations, either in terms or otherwise, that it considers just.
- e) No player or member of any such league, team or district so removed or suspended shall be eligible for membership in any other league, district or team affiliated with the District without special permission of the Board of Directors.
- f) The Board of Directors may also order the offending parties to pay all expenses incurred in hearing the case.
- g) The District may delegate and authorize officers of the District to perform the functions and exercise the disciplinary powers vested in the Board and the District under the Rule.
- h) The Board (and/or delegates) shall record in writing any action taken under subparagraph “b”.
- i) 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 players, team officials and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone present at games, especially the referee and assistant referees, before, during or at the conclusion of the 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;

- j) The Board of Directors shall have the power to call any Club, league, team or players thereof, to produce any books, letters or documents and other evidence the Board of Directors may desire.
- k) In case of dispute between Clubs, leagues, teams, or players, legal proceeding shall be taken only as a last resort, and then only with the consent of the Board of Directors.
- l) No barrister or solicitor shall represent any such Clubs, league, team or player at the hearing of any protest, complaint or appeal, unless she be an executive officer of the District, league or team concerned, and has been such for a period of three months immediately preceding the lodgment of protest, claim, complaint or appeal and her name appears on the printed list of such Club, league or team, as an executive officer.
- m) Every affiliated Club, league and team, is responsible to the District for the actions of its players, officials and spectators, and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting officials and players before, during or at the conclusion of matches.
- n) No official of any Club, league or team, referee, assistant referee, or player shall bet on any soccer match and such Clubs, leagues and teams are also required to prevent the use of objectionable language. In any case of a breach of these policies "m" and/or "n", any player, official or spectator may be removed from the grounds.
- o) It is misconduct for any Club, league or team, or any players, official or member of any Club, league or team, to offer, or attempt to offer, either directly or indirectly, any consideration whatever to another team, player or players of any other team, with a view to influence the result of a match. It is misconduct for any team, player or players, to accept such consideration.
- p) The Board, in carrying out its powers, shall follow the procedure for disciplinary hearing established by the District from time to time.
- q) In all cases the party complained against shall have the right to appear and offer a full answer or defense to charges against him when the case is heard.
- r) 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) A player (red card) or team official sent from the field of play will automatically be suspended for at least one (a) game. Suspensions shall apply to the player's next regularly scheduled league or cup competition game which ever comes first. The player or team official, having served the one (1) game suspension, shall be eligible to resume play unless notified by the Board that further disciplinary action is being considered. 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.
 - (ii) 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 game. For Provincial Cup play, a 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 Cup game. Provincial Cup is defined as all "A" Cup competition, "B" Cup competition beyond District qualification (Inter-District). After having served one-game suspension, the player shall be eligible to resume play unless notified by the District that further disciplinary action is being considered. 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.

- (iii) Having accumulated the cautions as per above: Discipline – q (ii), players receiving a further two (2) cautions (yellow cards) in the current season shall be automatically suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's following League or Cup game. After having served the one-game suspension, the player shall be eligible to resume play unless notified by the District that further disciplinary action is being considered. 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) Having accumulated the cautions as per Rule 10: Discipline – Q (ii) & (iii), players receiving a further single caution (Yellow card) during the current season shall be automatically suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's following League or Cup game. After having served the one-game suspension, the player shall be eligible to resume play unless notified by the District that further disciplinary action is being considered. 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.
- (v) Players or officials reported for violent misconduct, or for assault of Referees and/or Game Officials, shall stand suspended from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of the District until their case has been heard, and dealt with, by the District.
- s) Where the control of discipline has been delegated to an affiliated organization or committee all cases of players ordered off the field of play as well as players and/or officials reported for misconduct shall be dealt with by the organization or committee within fourteen (14) days of the incident. If the hearing is not held by the time, the player's rights are temporarily reinstated until the disciplinary hearing is convened.
- s) The District shall hold Disciplinary hearings each Thursday (where required). Players shall be expected to attend and it is not incumbent upon the District to notify players that they have to attend the Discipline Hearing.
- t) Any registered player or team official found guilty of an offense for which ejection was the result for the third (3rd) instance in a twelve month period, may be assessed a one (1) year suspension. Discipline records for the individual and all other pertinent information must be sent to the Provincial District for review. The Provincial Association shall retain jurisdiction in the instance for all such cases regardless of the domicile of the individual.

Protests

- a) An affiliated team may lodge a protest to District, League or Inter-District League Committee arising out of any League or District Cup game scheduled by a District or League or Inter-District league. Such protest must be in writing, stating the grounds upon which the protest is lodged.
- b) An affiliated team shall be entitled to lodge a protest with the Provincial Association, arising out of any Provincial Cup competition, as defined in Policies 25 & 28. Such protest must be in writing, stating the grounds upon which the protest is lodged and must include any applicable fees.
- c) The protest shall be signed by the affiliated team coach or manager, and shall be sent to the appropriate governing body.
- d) Accompanying any protest, the fee (payable to the appropriate governing body) shall be set by the District each year. The membership shall be notified of the fee by March 15th each year, in advance of the forthcoming season. The fee shall accompany the protest when filed with the appropriate authority.
- e) A protest of any League, District or Provincial Cup game must be submitted within 48 hours of the date of the match to which it relates. In the event that the protest is mailed. The postmark shall be taken as the limiting date in all cases.
- f) A protest will only be considered on the grounds of misinterpretation of FIFA Laws of the Game, on the eligibility of players, or on breaches of Competition Policies & Regulations.
- g) In the event that a protest is upheld by the Governing Body, the protest fee shall be refunded. In the event that the protest is denied, the protest fee shall be retained.
- h) A copy of the protest shall be forwarded by the Governing Body's Secretary to the opposing team within two days after the receipt of the protest.
- i) Any team playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the game to its opponents, provided the protest is upheld.
- j) Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts, bars, or other appurtenances shall not be entertained by the Governing Body, 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 Secretary and no objection or protest can be withdrawn except by leave of the Governing Body at a regular meeting.
- k) No protest will be considered if, in the opinion of the referee, the objection lodged did not seriously affect the outcome of the game. The clause pertains only to BCSA Rule 121 – Protests – paragraph “j”.

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- l) In dealing with any protest, the Board may take into consideration the possession by the protesting team of any prior knowledge which, if properly used, might have obviated the protest.
 - m) 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.

Appeals

- a) Appeals from the decision of a league under the jurisdiction of a District shall be made to such District.
- b) Appeals from the decision of a League where a league is directly under the jurisdiction of the District shall be made to the District.
- c) Appeals from the decision of a District shall be made to BCSA
- d) Appeals must be in writing, stating the grounds upon which the appeal is lodged.
- e) The appeal shall be signed by the affiliated team coach, manager, registered player, or official.
- f) The appeal fee shall be set by the Board each year. Members shall be notified of the fee by March 15th of each year, in advance of the forthcoming season. The fee shall accompany the appeal when filed with the District.
- g) Appeals to the District shall be filed with the Executive Director of the District within four (4) days from the time that the decision is given. Notification of pending appeal must be made to the Executive Director with 48 hours from the time the decision is given.
- h) Pending the hearing of the appeal, the original decision under appeal shall not be suspended unless the District so orders.
- i) Appeals from a decision of BCSA, with the exception of a decision rendered on matter referred to in subparagraph "j", may be made to the Canadian Soccer District. The Board of Directors of the C.A. 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 Association so orders. Every appeal under the rule must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of the Canadian Soccer District within seven (7) days after the Association decision is given and must be accompanied by a fee as determined by the C.S.A. Board of Directors in the form of a certified cheque or Money Order. Appeals shall not be withdrawn except by the consent of the C.S.A. Board of Directors, and said Board shall determine by whom the expenses of an appeal shall be borne.
- j) A decision of the Association on an appeal arising from any cup competition game played under the jurisdiction of the District shall be final and binding.

- k) In dealing with any appeal, the District may take into consideration the possession by the appeal party of any knowledge, which if properly used, might have obviated the appeal.

Sanction and Control of Leagues:

- a) Teams forming a league shall make application for sanction to, and the league, if sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of the District(s) in whose area they wish to operate. A league must be composed of a minimum of four teams.
- b) Teams forming a league in an area where a District has not been formed shall make application to, and the league, if sanctioned shall be under the jurisdiction of the District.
- c) Leagues shall not allow matches to be played until their Constitution and Policies and procedures and teams are approved by the appropriate body having jurisdiction.
- d) A League is not entitled to alter its Constitution or Policies without the consent of the appropriate body having jurisdiction.
- e) Leagues and teams must not play matches other than those incident to the League schedule without the previous consent of the appropriate body having jurisdiction.
- f) Leagues shall pay such fees as are approved of by the appropriate body having jurisdiction, to referees and assistant referees officiating in their matches, and officials shall neither ask for nor receive a larger fee than that fixed.
- g) Leagues are not permitted to run cup competitions without the previous consent of the District having jurisdiction.
- h) Leagues or teams wishing to conduct or participate in a tournament must obtain the consent of the District having jurisdiction.
- i) Upon written application, the District may, at its discretion, authorize inter-district competition between affiliated teams in member districts.
- n) Authorization for the operation of inter-district competition must be applied for annually.
- o) The District shall approve on an annual basis policies and procedures governing the establishment of inter-district youth competitions and shall approve the structure of the operating committee of each inter-district competition.

Charity Competitions

- a) In Charity competitions not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the gross receipts of each match must go to charity. If the receipts are not sufficient to cover ground expenses of the match, the percentage may not be taken. Ground expenses must not include any expenses of the competing teams.
- b) A salary or honorarium must not be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer or other official of a charity competition.

Revised May 19, 2007

Original Document October 6, 1998

- c) Every charity competition shall, not later than thirty (30) days after close of each season, forward an audited financial statement to the District.

Professional Soccer

- a) 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.

Youth Age Limits

- a) Age categories (divisions) shall comprise players who have not attained their:

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

before the first day of January (January 1) of the current season.

- b) Under –12, –11, –10, -9, -8, -7, and the under –6 age groups are considered “mini soccer” Divisions. These shall be comprised of players who have not attained their

12 th Birthday	U-12 Division
11 th Birthday	U-11 Division
10 th Birthday	U-10 Division
9 th Birthday	U-9 Division
8 th Birthday	U-8 Division
7 th Birthday	U-7 Division
6 th Birthday	U-6 Division.

Before the first day of January (January 1) of the current season.

- c) Players are ineligible to play in a division for which they will attain the limiting age before (January 1st) of the current season.

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 Season Ends	U18	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12	U11	U10	U9	U8	U7	U6
2007	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
2008	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
2009	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003

Revised May 19, 2007

Original Document October 6, 1998

2010	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
2011	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
2012	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
2013	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
2014	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
2015	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009

EXAMPLE: AGE CATEGORIES

A player born in 1991 would be in the U16 age category for the season ending in the year 2007

Referees

- a) All referees shall be under the control and jurisdiction of the District.and/or the Association
- b) No person shall officiate as a referee in any competition under the sanction or jurisdiction of the District who is not on the official list of the District, but if for unforeseen circumstances a referee on the official list is unable to act, teams or combinations shall agree on some other person in the emergency.
- c) All persons wishing to be placed on the official list of referees shall, in the first instance, make application to the District’s Registrar, such applications to be accompanied by a fee, and if successful in passing the examinations provided for, and if otherwise approved of, shall be recommended for inclusion in the official list.
- d) Districts, Leagues and other combinations of teams under the sanction or jurisdiction of the District, may appoint referees to their own matches, provided the appointments are made from the official list.
- e) The District has the power to remove from its official list, or require to be re-examined, any referee when deemed advisable.
- f) Complaints by or against referees shall be made in writing to the Executive Director of the District.
- g) All candidates shall be examined as to their suitability for duty by the District’s Referees’ Development Committee. Such examinations shall include oral, written and field tests.
- h) The referee shall have the power to decide the fitness of the ground in all matches, and his/her decision shall be final.
- i) Referees are required within forty-eight (48) hours of conclusion of a match at which they officiate, to forward to the Executive Director of the District or League concerned a report in writing with the result of the game and team lists.
- j) Referees shall, within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the match at which they officiate, forward to the Executive Director of the District or Disciplinary Committee, as the case may be, the name of players charged with misconduct, on a form provided for the purpose. Referees who officiate in provincial cup game shall forward all misconduct

reports immediately to the District. Any referee not conforming with the rule is liable to suspension.

- k) A registered player who is also on the official list of referees shall not officiate in any league or competition in which his/her team is entered.
- l) Referees officiating in non- affiliated leagues, cup competitions or tournaments, without permission from the District, may be removed from the official list.
- m) Registration as a Referee on the official list does not guarantee game appointments from affiliated District and leagues.

Tournament Policies & Regulations

- a) Teams/Clubs affiliated with the District desiring to sponsor a tournament must first receive approval from the District in which the team/club is a member. Upon approval from the district, the sponsoring team/club will then submit a Tournament Application Form, with the necessary tournament information, requesting the necessary permission to stage a tournament. Tournament applications should be filed at least ninety days (90 days) prior to the start of the tournament. A copy of the approved application will then be sent to the applicant, the league/district in membership and the Referees District.
- b) Entry into an approved tournament(s) shall be limited to teams which are properly affiliated with the District. Teams participating from outside the jurisdiction of the District must first receive the written approval from the District of which they are members. Only properly registered players, in good standing shall be permitted to participate.
- c) Teams participating in an approved tournament, desiring to use the services of a player registered with another team, must first obtain permission from the team with which the player is registered.
- d) Only those Referees registered with the District shall be appointed to officiate.
- e) Sponsoring team/clubs and districts in membership shall be responsible for deciding disciplinary matters, which may arise. Discipline procedures should be in accordance with the directives of the District with the addition that all incidents of referee assault shall be reported, in writing, to the Executive Director of the District.
- f) The District shall not be held responsible for any insurance claims filed against a sponsoring league/district or team/club by a tournament participant not defined in these Tournament Policies and procedures.
- g) The District shall not be held responsible for any financial losses incurred by sponsoring leagues/districts or teams/clubs.
- h) Sponsoring leagues or team, upon request, shall prepare a report on the tournament, including a discipline report, within fifteen (15) days of the conclusion of the tournament for submission to the District. Upon request, the organizers shall provide a financial statement to the District.

Revised May 19, 2007

Original Document October 6, 1998

General to all Players

- a) Each district, league, club or team affiliated with the District may be requested to present to the Board of Directors a properly audited financial statement and complete report of its standing within one month after date of the annual general meeting of said district, league, club or team.
- b) The competitions of the District take precedence over all other competitions except games under the direct control of BCSA or of the Canadian Soccer Association.
- c) No district, league, club or team shall make a grant or honorarium to any amateur player without first obtaining the sanction of the Board of Directors.
- d) Each affiliated district, league, club or team shall furnish the District with a list of its responsible officers prior to the commencement of the playing season each and every year.
- e) Amendments to the Bylaws, Policies and procedures of any affiliated league or district must first be approved by the District before being implemented.
- f) Teams and players shall not compete in any match or competition where the distribution of the proceeds have not been approved by the District or by the appropriate body having jurisdiction. All soccer competitions, at which gate money is taken, must have the consent of the BCSA.
- g) Any player selected to play in any match arranged by the District, 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 district, league, team, club, player, official or member who may be deemed to have encouraged or instigated such player to commit a breach of the rule, shall be deemed guilty of a similar offense. In matches arranged by the organization having jurisdiction a player must be a bona fide member of the District.
- h) The Policies and procedures may be amended, altered or repealed in whole or in part at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Active membership of the District may propose changes to the Policies and procedures by submitting them in writing to the Executive Director of the District for consideration by the Board of Directors.
- i) A copy of every proposed and/or approved change to the Policies and Procedures shall be forwarded by the Executive Director of the District to the membership within fifteen (15) days after receipt and/or approval. These decisions must be ratified by the membership at the next Annual General Meeting.

Provisional

The Board may, from time to time, make temporary policies governing specific cases not provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws or Competition Policies and procedures, but which may be necessary to carry out the objectives of the District. A copy of every proposed and/or approved change to the Constitution and Bylaws and Policies and Procedures shall be forwarded by the

Revised May 19, 2007

Original Document October 6, 1998

Executive Director of the District to the membership within (15) days after receipt and/or approval. These decisions must be ratified by the membership at the next Annual General Meeting.

Employee/Volunteer Background Checks

- a) Every volunteer, employee, director and committee chair of the District or its affiliates who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to be alone with any registered player for any length of time must have on file with BCSA a completed Association Application and Disclosure Statement. In addition the Association or District may request as well an acceptable clearance for the Association or District to seek a Criminal Record Check.
- b) Procedures for the Employee/Volunteer Background Checks are contained in the Risk Management Policy Guide.

Players – Zoning

- a) All players, U6-U18 must sign and play within the District which administers soccer for the area in which that player resides.

Residential Qualification:

The residency of the player is determined by the residence of the Parent. For the purposes of regulations Rule 18 –(a) the parent of the player is:

- (i) Either of her parents where both of her parents have a common residence or if there is only one surviving parent, such surviving parent and
 - (ii) In the event that her 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, the mother of the player, and
 - (iii) In the event both parents are deceased, the person who is loco parentis to the player.
 - (iv) 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 parental duties, although not the parent.
- b) With the written permission of the players home District, the Provincial Registrar (or designated Local Registrar) may approve a move to a District other than that in which the player resides. The receiving District must also give written permission to play in that district. The District Registrar will submit a copy of release and acceptance with the team registration form to the BCSA Registrar.
 - c) The District is responsible for verifying residential qualifications prior to submission to the District for the purposes of Rule 24.

Revised May 19, 2007

Original Document October 6, 1998

- d) Breach of these policies shall lead to disciplinary action as set out in the Competition Policies and procedures.
- e) Each District shall have the option to establish zoning within its district.’
- 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.
- h) For the sole purpose of the operation of the Y-League, Regional Teams approved by the Executive Director of the Association that are admitted to the Y-League are not subject to the provisions of this rule solely for the purposes of participating in that Regional Y-League Affiliate Group.
- i) Y-League Teams are not permitted to play in Provincial Cup.

Policies of Play

- a) All games shall be played under the Bylaws and Competition Policies and procedures of the District.
- 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 40 minutes each
U-15	2 equal halves of 40 minutes each
U-14	2 equal halves of 35 minutes each
U-13	2 equal halves of 35 minutes each
- c) Under –12, -11, –10, -9, -8, -7 and under –6 age groups are considered “mini-soccer” divisions (reference Rule 26 for duration of games) or see Addendum for reference.
- d) The venue of all league matches shall be determined by the league committee or District having control of the league schedule.
- e) In all instances, the team declared “home” team shall be responsible for marking the field and supplying the game ball.
- f) In the event that the uniform colors of both teams are similar, the “home” team must change to uniform colors distinct from its opponents. The referee has the authority to determine if team colors are similar.
- g) Any team unable to fulfill a scheduled game(s) must give the secretary or scheduler of the District or league committee 48 hours notice in writing stating, the causes for same. Such causes are to be satisfactory to the league committee or District.

- h) Any team failing to fulfill 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 U-18, - 17, -16, -15, -14 and Under -13 division games. A regulation size four (4) soccer ball shall be used for the Under -12, -11, division games. A regulation size three (3) soccer ball shall be used in under -10, -9, -8 -7 and under -6 mini soccer games.
- j) All 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 at or before half time of the game. The team list shall bear the name of the team, date of the game, the name of the opposing team and the name 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.
- l) Substitutions shall be made only during the stoppage in play and with the referee's consent.
- m) The scheduling body shall have the authority to order any game replayed or played to a finish.
- n) Photo Identification Cards for both players and team officials are required at the U11 – U18 age levels and for team officials for the U6 – U10 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 season.

Policies for Provincial Cup Play

- a) BCSA will operate Provincial Cup competitions: Provincial "A" Level Cup competition and provincial "B" Level Cup competitions for girls.
- b) The Provincial "A: Level championships shall be open to all teams under the jurisdiction of the District, and declared on entry forms submitted by the District to BCSA by Jan 15th of the current season, provided the team, or teams, have played in properly constituted league matches and are not under suspension from member Clubs 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 season and by May 1st in the current Interior 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 Board 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 appropriate governing bodies.

Revised May 19, 2007

Original Document October 6, 1998

- e) The format of the Provincial “A: and “B: Cup play downs shall be determined by the Board each year. The format shall determine through competitions held on the Coast. Coastal winners and through competitions held in the Interior. Interior Winners. The Coastal and Interior Champions shall meet to determine respective Provincial Cup Champions.
- f) In provincial Cup competitions, the venue of semi-final and final games shall be determined by the Board.
- g) District whose Boundaries are limited to geography may apply to the Provincial 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 District 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 district who have been granted dispensation by the Board each year, may return each player to a team of all-stars in her 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) Policies governing play:
 - a. All games shall be played und3er the Competition Policies and procedures of the District as adopted each year.
 - b. All games shall be played under the District’s Policies Governing Play downs and Final games as adopted by the Board of the District each year.
- i) The duration of games shall be identical to those stated in Paragraph “b” Rule 25.
- j) In the Provincial Cup competition, the size of the ball shall be identical to those stated in Paragraph “i” Rule 25.
- k) In the event that the game is tied on goals at the end of regulation time, there shall be a five minute break, 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 10 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
- 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 FIFA 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 fulfill a scheduled Provincial Cup game must give the provincial or district scheduler a minimum of 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 fulfill a scheduled Provincial Cup game without just cause shall forfeit the game to its opponents.
- p) In Provincial Cup competition, each team will supply a team list in a manner identical to that stated in paragraph "j" Rule 25.
- 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.

Policies for Mini-Soccer

- a) 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.
 - 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:
 - 1. Under 10, -9, and Under-8: 2 halves of 25 minutes
 - 2. 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. Field size shall be ¼ of a regulation size soccer field or, maximum width 40 meters, minimum 30 meters, maximum length 55 meters, minimum length 50 meters.
- b) Member districts and club Districts 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.