

# **SECTION 1 - GENERAL RULES OF COMPETITION**

## **1. OVERVIEW**

1.1 These rules apply to all National/Regional Competitions managed by the Canadian Soccer Association (“Canada Soccer”).

1.2 For the purpose of these Rules for National/Regional Competitions, wherever duly noted, Provincial Associations also include Territorial Associations.

1.3 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee is responsible for the management and control of all National/Regional Competitions, and shall maintain these rules.

1.4 Any decisions taken by the Competitions Committee in regards to the National/Regional Club Championships are final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

1.5 These rules are subject to the Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations. In any conflict, the Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations take precedence.

1.6 Within the constraints of 1.4, Canada Soccer, through its Competitions Committee, may make such temporary rules governing specific situations, not otherwise provided for, as are necessary to achieve the objectives of Canada Soccer.

1.7 Canada Soccer through its Competitions Committee shall appoint to each championship a Canada Soccer Representative whose decisions at the competition, on any matter not covered in these rules, shall be final, as far as the competition is concerned, for all parties. Fines, in accordance with the Schedule of Fines, that may be imposed by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee and any follow-up discipline will be referred to the Canada Soccer Competitions or Discipline Committee for appropriate action.

1.8 Failure to comply with any of the requirements within these rules shall render any organization or individual subject to disciplinary procedures.

1.9 Canadian Soccer has a formal Harassment Policy which shall apply to all National/Regional Competitions of the Association. A copy of this policy may be obtained from the Canada Soccer Office; the Canada Soccer official website [www.canadasoccer.com](http://www.canadasoccer.com) or your Provincial/Territorial Association. Any written allegation of harassment shall be referred to the Canada Soccer Representative who shall immediately refer the complaint to the Harassment Officer assigned to the championship by Canada Soccer.

1.10 Canada Soccer has a formal policy in regards to Volunteer Screening. Canada Soccer requires that any team staff listed on the Team Credential Form for teams participating in the National/Regional Competitions must be CPIC cleared. For this purpose a CPIC Clearance is valid for a maximum of 36 months. This Policy also applies to Provincial and Regional Competitions. A copy of this policy may be obtained from the Canada Soccer Office, the Canada Soccer official website [www.canadasoccer.com](http://www.canadasoccer.com) or your Provincial/Territorial Association.

1.10 Canada Soccer has an official Anti-Doping Policy. Any athlete who is registered with a Provincial/Territorial Soccer Association shall be eligible for unannounced testing. A list of banned substances can be obtained from [www.cces.ca](http://www.cces.ca)

## **2. ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION**

2.1.1 All Provinces and Territories shall adhere to the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct applies to the team and staff (all those listed on the Credential Form) and Provincial Representative from the time they assemble to leave from the

point of departure from their Province/Territory until they arrive back in their Province/Territory at the point of dispersal.

2.1.2 Once a Province/Territory has declared its representative teams and before departure to the National/Regional Competition, the Provincial/Territorial Executive Director or designate must meet with team staff and Provincial Representative to review these competition rules and expectations. The Canada Soccer Competitions Manager will provide the agenda for this meeting.

2.1.3 Following the meeting with the Provincial/Territorial Executive Director or designate. Team staff must meet with their players and review these competition rules and expectations. Players are to be informed of the procedures to follow and who to contact should problems arise.

2.1.4 Situations involving infractions requiring disciplinary sanctions occurring within the jurisdiction of the National/Regional Competitions will be dealt with by the appropriate person having authority over the situation and the individual involved and must be reported to the Canada Soccer Representative appointed to the Competition.

2.1.5 All incidents of property damage must be communicated to the Provincial/Territorial Representative of the team involved.

2.1.6 For the purposes of these rules, a youth is any person under the age of 18 before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year participating in a Canada Soccer youth or senior National/Regional Competition.

2.1.7 The acquiring, possessing, purchasing or consuming of alcohol by any youth player at a National/Regional Competition is prohibited.

2.1.8 Youth age players at any Youth or Senior Competition must be appropriately supervised by the team staff.

2.1.9 Damage by a team member(s) to any property, other than his/her (their) own shall be the financial responsibility of, and dealt with equally, by the province(s) of the members involved in the incident causing the damage. Further disciplinary action may be imposed by Canada Soccer.

## **2.2 Canada Soccer Representative**

Canada Soccer shall appoint a Representative to act on behalf of Canada Soccer at each National/Regional Competition. The Canada Soccer Representative shall:

2.2.1 prior to the start of the pre-competitions meeting assign team colours in cooperation with the Canada Soccer Supervisor of Officials.

2.2.2 inspect all playing facilities with the Canada Soccer Supervisor of Officials to ensure they meet the Canada Soccer standards for play

2.2.3 arrange a meeting with the Supervisor of Officials prior to the pre-competition meeting and attend the Match Officials pre-competition meeting.

2.2.4 chair a meeting prior to the start of the pre-competitions meeting with the Provincial/Territorial Representatives outlining their roles and responsibilities for the competition.

2.2.5 convene and chair a pre-competition meeting prior to the start of the competition.

2.2.6 ensure that the pre-competition meeting is attended by all Provincial/Territorial Representatives, a team representative from each competing team, the Supervisor of Officials and the host organizing committee representative.

2.2.7 chair daily meeting with Provincial/Territorial Representatives.

2.2.8 convene, chair, and appoint members of a panel to hear any discipline or protest arising at the competition.

2.2.9 make decisions, where required, on any matters not covered in the rules.

2.2.10 attend all official functions.

2.2.11 document, on the Incident Report Form, any incidents reported to him/her.

2.2.12 submit any final day discipline reports to the Canada Soccer office within 24 hours of the end of the competition.

2.2.13 submit a completed competitions report together with the Canada Soccer copy of all game sheets and any report forms, to the Canada Soccer office at the completion of the competition. The Canada Soccer Representative report must be submitted no later than seven (7) days after the championship.

### **2.3 Canada Soccer Supervisor of Officials**

Canada Soccer shall appoint a Supervisor of Officials to act on behalf of Canada Soccer at each National /Regional Competition. The Canada Soccer Supervisor of Officials shall:

2.3.1 prior to the start of the pre-competitions meeting assign team colours in cooperation with the Canada Soccer Representative.

2.3.2 inspect all playing facilities with the Canada Soccer Representative to ensure they meet the Canada Soccer standards for play

2.3.3 check all player casts and braces to ensure they meet the Canada Soccer guidelines

2.3.4 attend the pre-competition meeting convened by the Canada Soccer Representative to speak about technical issues.

2.3.5 convene and chair a meeting with the local and Canada Soccer assigned match officials prior to the start of the competition to discuss their roles and responsibilities

2.3.6 convene and chair regular education/information sessions with all the match officials assigned to the competition

2.3.7 assign officials for all matches in the competition.

2.3.8 attend all official functions.

2.3.9 submit a completed report to the Canada Soccer Director of Officials no later than seven (7) days after the championship.

### **2.4 Provincial Representatives**

2.4.1 Each Province/Territory participating in a National/Regional Competition must appoint a person to act as its Provincial/Territorial Representative.

2.4.2 To avoid a conflict of interest a Provincial/Territorial Representative cannot be a member of the team staff, a player or immediate family of a player/team staff in the competition regardless if he/she serves on the Provincial Board or staff from the Provincial/Territorial Association.

2.4.3 Provincial Representatives and team staff members/players are not to share hotel rooms.

2.4.4 Where a Provincial/Territorial Association is unable to appoint a suitable representative, they must contact the Canada Soccer Competitions Manager immediately to resolve the situation.

2.4.5 All Provincial/Territorial Representatives must stay at the host hotel.

2.4.6 Each Provincial/Territorial Representative must be present in the host location for the entire duration of the Competition. They must arrive with, or on the same day as, the first team and depart with or after their last team. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

2.4.7 The Provincial/Territorial Representative must be approved by the Provincial/Territorial Association Board and have their CIPC Clearance.

2.4.8 The Provincial/Territorial Representative must be present at all Canada Soccer mandated meetings. This includes the information meeting held in the Province/Territory for staff of teams traveling to any Canada Soccer National/Regional Competition. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

2.4.9 The Provincial/Territorial Representative together with a team representative must attend the pre-competition meeting.

2.4.10 The Provincial/Territorial Representative must attend all discipline hearings involving a player or staff member with one of his/her teams.

2.4.11 Attend daily meetings with the Canada Soccer Representative during the tournament.

2.4.12 The Provincial/Territorial Representative is responsible to the Canada Soccer Representative for the communication of all matters relating to the team. In this regard the Provincial/Territorial Representative must be in possession of a cell phone that is capable of operating in the host province.

2.4.13 The Provincial/Territorial Representative has responsibility for the conduct/supervision of the teams and team staff of his/her Provincial/Territorial Association and must ensure that all players and team staff adhere to the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct.

2.4.14 The Provincial/Territorial Representative must participate on a Competition Discipline Committee when appointed by the Canada Soccer Representative.

2.4.15 The Provincial/Territorial Representative must attend all official functions of the competition and must be dressed appropriately.

2.4.16 The Provincial/Territorial Representative of the team involved must report all incidents of property damage to the Canada Soccer Representative and to the Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee.

## **2.5 Official Functions**

2.5.1 All participants must attend all official functions associated with the competition as required by Canada Soccer. Anyone not in attendance may face disciplinary action at the discretion of the Competitions Committee. See Breach of Rules

2.5.2 It is essential that Canada Soccer good reputation be maintained at all times, and this can be ensured, in part, by maintaining high standards of behavior and adherence to the following minimum standards:

- Proper dress, as required by the host, is required at all official functions
- At least two (2) adult team staff, one of whom must be the same gender as the team, must accompany and attend all official functions with all of their players.
- Team staff must not leave their team unattended at any function.
- Punctuality shall be required for all events

## **2.6 Curfews**

2.6.1 Curfews shall be appropriate for the age of the players, but an “in-room” curfew of not later than 11:00 p.m. shall be the rule for all youth age players on a youth or senior team unless the team staff has stipulated an earlier curfew time.

2.6.2 The youth curfew time may be extended if the team is attending an official function which runs past the established time.

2.6.3. All team staff and senior-age players must adhere to a curfew as set by their Provincial/Territorial Association.

## **2.7 Trophies**

2.7.1 All trophies presented to the winning teams at Canada Soccer competitions remain the property of the Canada Soccer.

2.7.2 The Challenge Trophy/Jubilee Trophy winning teams will not be permitted to retain possession of the trophies. These trophies will be returned to the Canada Soccer Office at the completion of the competitions.

2.7.3 For any youth team receiving a trophy at the competition the Provincial/Territorial Association shall ensure its safe return by June 1 of the following year. Failure to comply with this date will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

2.7.4 The Provincial/Territorial Representative must sign a receipt for any trophy which is won by one of its teams prior to leaving the competition.

2.7.5 Provincial/Territorial Associations are responsible for any costs for repair or restitution of trophies while in their possession.

2.7.6 If a trophy is not returned, lost or broken beyond repair, etc., the Provincial/Territorial Association will be responsible for the replacement cost of the trophy.

## **3. DISCIPLINE**

### **3.1. General**

3.1.1 Every Provincial/Territorial Association is responsible for the actions of its players, team staff and spectators.

3.1.2 Every Provincial/Territorial Association is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its players, team staff, and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone at games, especially the match officials.

3.1.3 The Canada Soccer Discipline Committee may, at its discretion, take action against any Province/Territorial Association whose players, team staff or spectators have been found guilty of misconduct and/or violence toward anyone present at a game and especially towards match officials. Provincial/Territorial Associations may also be fined for offences committed by their supporters.

3.1.4 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee shall rule on any alleged breach of these rules by an individual or organization. If the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee, in its sole discretion finds the individual or organization to have breached one or more rules, the specified penalty shall be applied and the Provincial/Territorial Association informed of its obligation to collect and/or remit the fine(s) in question to Canada Soccer. These decisions are final and are not appealable.

3.1.5 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may refer an individual, team or Provincial/Territorial Association, found in breach of the rules, to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee for a review that may result in additional sanctions.

3.1.6 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may refer all issues of misconduct, wilful damage and bringing the game into disrepute by an individual, team or Provincial/Territorial Association to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee.

3.1.7 The Canada Soccer Representative shall investigate any general complaint prior to laying any charges of misconduct.

3.1.8 The Canada Soccer Representative, at his/her discretion, shall form a Competition Disciplinary Committee to conduct a hearing and take appropriate action if necessary.

3.1.9 Any player who receives a third caution during the National/Regional Competition, except in his/her team's final game of that competition, shall receive a one-game suspension to be served in his/her next game.

3.1.10 Any player who receives his/her third caution in his/her team's final game will be referred to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee for discipline/sanction.

3.1.11 Any player or team staff dismissed from a game during the National/Regional Competition, except in his/her team's final game of that competition, will receive a minimum one game suspension.

3.1.12 Any player or team official dismissed in the final game of the National/Regional Competition will be referred to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee for discipline/sanction.

## **MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS FOR NATIONAL/REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **OFFENCES**

#### **Serious Foul Play**

Punishment – Minimum Two (2) game suspension plus Discipline Hearing at the discretion of the Canada Soccer Representative

#### **Violent Conduct (other than match official)**

Punishment – Minimum Two (2) games suspension plus Discipline Hearing at the discretion of the Canada Soccer Representative;

#### **Violent Conduct (match official)**

Punishment – Expulsion from the competition and sent to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee;

#### **Spitting at an Opponent**

Punishment – Suspended for the remainder of the Competition and sent to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee;

#### **Denying a goal or clear goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handing the ball**

Punishment – One (1) game suspension;

#### **Denying a clear goal scoring opportunity by committing an offence punishable by a free kick**

Punishment – One (1) game suspension;

#### **Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures**

Punishment – Minimum one (1) game plus discipline Hearing at the discretion of the Canada Soccer Representative. Minimum two (2) games suspension if offence is directed at a match official and automatic Discipline Hearing;

**Receiving a second caution in the same match**

Punishment – One (1) game suspension;

**Team Staff failing to conduct themselves in a responsible manner**

Punishment – Minimum one (1) game suspension plus Discipline Hearing at the discretion of the Canada Soccer Representative;

**3<sup>rd</sup> Yellow in the Competition**

Punishment – One (1) game suspension.

3.1.13 Fines levied by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee must be paid within thirty (30) days after receiving written notification.

3.1.14 During the Competition, any team that is found guilty of fielding an ineligible player for any reason shall forfeit the game.

3.1.15 The minimum number of players required to start a match is seven (7), including a goal keeper.

If a player, from a team with only seven (7) players, leaves the field of play to receive medical attention, the match will stop until this player has received treatment and returns to the field of play. If the player is unable to return, the match is abandoned.

If a player, from a team with only seven (7) players, is sent from the field of play for a disciplinary offence, the match is abandoned,

Where the match is abandoned the team causing the abandonment will forfeit the game and the points/game will be awarded to the opposing team. A report is to be submitted to the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee for any further action as deemed appropriate.

3.1.16 Where a team forfeits a game it is considered to have a loss of 3-0, unless the goal difference on the pitch is greater than 3-0, then this score is upheld. The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may take further action as deemed appropriate.

3.1.17 After the completion of the Competition, any questions in regards to player eligibility already ruled on by the Canada Soccer Representative, will not change the results of the Competition. Nevertheless, questions regarding player eligibility must be submitted to the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee within ten (10) working days of the completion of the particular National Competition, along with the competition protest fee of \$1,000 (Certified cheque or money order). Any protest must be submitted by the Provincial Association.

3.1.18 Protests or challenges in respect to player eligibility not ruled upon, or requiring further investigation, will be dealt with by the appropriate Canada Soccer Committee and may result in the overall standings being amended.

**3.2 Discipline Hearings**

3.2.1 The Canada Soccer Representative at his/her sole discretion, may decide to conduct a hearing for misbehaviour on or off the field of play. A Competition Discipline Committee shall be formed to conduct this hearing in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations.

3.2.2 The Canada Soccer Representative shall establish and chair a Competition Discipline Committee to conduct a hearing and take appropriate action if necessary.

3.2.3 A Competition Discipline Committee shall include at least two (2) Provincial/Territorial Representatives.

3.2.4 Any decision taken by the Competition Discipline Committee shall be final as far as the competition is concerned but further disciplinary sanctions may be imposed by

the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee.

3.2.5 Misconduct by players or team staff reported by the referee shall be dealt with by the Canada Soccer Representative or a Competition Discipline Committee prior to the team's next game.

3.2.6 Any player or team staff reported for misconduct who is summoned to a hearing by the Canada Soccer Representative must attend the hearing. The player/team official may be accompanied by a team staff member but must be accompanied by his/her Provincial/Territorial Representative.

3.2.7 Failure to attend a Discipline Hearing, after written notification by the Canada Soccer Representative to do so, shall result in immediate suspension until the player or team staff involved requests a further hearing in writing and appears at that subsequent hearing.

3.2.8 The Competition Discipline Committee shall hold a hearing into any allegation of misconduct off the field of play or bringing the game into disrepute. The Committee may take any disciplinary action it sees fit, including suspension for the remainder of the competition. Furthermore, it may refer the matter to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee for review and disposition.

### **3.3 Protests**

3.3.1 Any protest arising out of any game in a Canada Soccer Competition shall be made in writing to the Canada Soccer Representative or LOC Headquarters within two (2) hours of the completion of the game, accompanied by a protest fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) in cash or money order/certified cheque payable to Canada Soccer.

3.3.2 In all cases, the Competition Discipline Committee shall rule on the protest, including the disposition of the protest fee, prior to the commencement of the next day's games.

3.3.3 Any decision taken by this Committee on a protest shall be final and binding, as far as the competition is concerned.

3.3.4 The referees decision regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final. There can be no protests against a decision of the referees as outlined in the Laws of The Game.

### **3.4 Breach of Rules**

#### **3.4.1 Schedule of Fines**

A Breach of Rules Form must be completed and submitted for each of these breaches.

Failure to submit the Player/Team Credential Form to the Canada Soccer Office on time for each team	\$500
Provincial/Territorial Representative not in attendance at Pre-competition meeting and all other meetings mandated by Canada Soccer	\$500 per meeting
Team Representative not in attendance at Pre-Competition meeting and all other meetings mandated by the Canada Soccer	\$500 per meeting
Failure of team or Provincial/Territorial Representative to attend all official functions	\$500 plus expenses
Failure to submit team information within seven (7) days after qualifying for the National/Regional Competitions	\$500
Failure to wear agreed team colours	\$500



Failure to inform the Canada Soccer Competitions Manager and Host Province of travel schedule – Regional Masters	\$500
Failure to not have an alternate set of uniforms	\$500
Failure to have Canada Soccer National Championship crests on home and away jerseys (including a third jersey when applicable).	\$1000
Failure to participate in a scheduled match without just cause	\$2,500 plus expenses.
Failure to return trophies by the specified dates	\$500
Failure of the Provincial/Territorial Representative to be present in the host location for the entire duration of the Competition. They must arrive with, or on the same day as, the first team and depart with or after their last team.	\$1000
Failure to attend National/Regional Club Competitions (Provinces/Territory withdrawing after the deadline)	\$2500 plus expenses
Failure to comply with gender requirement for a particular Team	\$1000
Failure to comply with requirements for team signs/banners	\$1,000
Failure to submit the player and staff ID cards with game sheet	\$500 per game
Failure to submit required information to the Canada Soccer office by the deadlines	\$500
Failure to submit the duly signed Code of Conduct to the Canada Soccer Competitions Manager seven (7) days prior to the start of the National/Regional Competition.	\$500
Having a team staff member who is a youth unless an exemption has been received from Canada Soccer	\$500
Submitting an incomplete game sheet	\$500
Failure to enter the team players/staff on the Canada Soccer National/Regional Competitions Website seven (7) days prior to the start of the Competitions	\$500

3.4.2 If no penalty is specified, any breach of these rules shall carry a penalty as follows:

\*By a Provincial/Territorial Association – From a minimum of \$1000 to a maximum of \$2,000 per breach plus any expenses incurred.

Any decision taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee on Breach of Rules is final and binding on all parties.

## SECTION 2

# RULES FOR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

## 4. ELIGIBILITY

### 4.1 Team

4.1.1 All National/Regional Championships shall be open to one (1) representative team of each Association in Membership each playing season, subject only to Regional preliminary qualifying series as may be determined by Canada Soccer as outlined in these rules. Any variations have to be approved by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee.

4.1.2 The playing season referred to in these rules shall be the one ending in the current calendar year.

4.1.3 Each club team entering shall be affiliated with an Association in Membership and certified by that Association as an eligible team, in writing, on the Team Credential Form prescribed by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee.

4.1.4 Teams shall compete in one of the following categories:

#### **Club Championships**

##### **Senior Amateur – Men and Women’s**

Open Age

##### **Youth U-18 – Boys and Girls**

All players under 18 years of age before January 1 of the current year

##### **Youth U-16 – Boys and Girls**

All players under 16 years of age before January 1 of the current year

##### **Youth U-14 – Boys and Girls**

All players under 14 years of age before January 1 of the current year

#### **Other National Championships**

As may be defined from time to time by Canada Soccer

#### **Masters**

##### **Over 35 Men**

All players must be thirty-five (35) (and over) years of age prior to January 1 of the current year.

##### **Over 30 Women**

All players must be thirty (30) (and over) years of age prior to January 1 of the current year.

4.1.5 To be eligible to participate in the National/Regional Club Competitions a team must have a minimum of fifteen (15) registered players who are eligible to participate in the Provincial Tournament leading to a National/Regional Competition.

4.1.6 Where the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee determines that a team has fielded an ineligible player the Association in Membership shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions. See Breach of Rules.

4.1.7 A team may retain any player registered with the team during the regular season, but may not sign additional players for the purpose of competing in the Canada Soccer championships. Call Ups in unusual circumstances may be granted. See Call Ups

4.1.8 The deadline for entry in all National Championships is March 31 and June 1 for Regional Championships. After the assigned deadline a Province/Territory may only withdraw on terms agreed to in advance with the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee.

4.1.9 Any Province/Territory that withdraws after the deadline, without the permission of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee will be subject to sanctions. See Breach of Rules

4.1.10 Any team not showing up for a scheduled game, within fifteen (15) minutes of kick-off, without just cause will be expelled from the remainder of the competition and will have all its scheduled matches declared null and void. Its Provincial/Territorial Association in membership will be required to explain the actions of its team to the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee, and may be subject to sanctions as determined by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee. See Schedule Breach of Rules. It will also be forwarded to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee for further possible sanctions.

## **4.2 Players**

4.2.1 Only players registered with an Association in Membership shall be eligible to compete in a National/Regional Club Championship.

4.2.2 Each player shall be either:

- a) A Canadian Citizen; or
- b) A Permanent Resident (as defined by the Government of Canada); or
- c) A Protected Person (as defined by the Government of Canada).

4.2.3 Player Exemption

Any youth age player not meeting the requirements above may apply via their respective Provincial/Territorial Association to the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee Eligibility Panel for an exemption to Rule 4.2.2. The decision of the Competitions Committee Eligibility Panel is final and binding. The deadline for submitting the exemption request is July 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

4.2.4 Canada Soccer may request proof of eligibility at any time. Failure to provide the proof will result in the player not being permitted to play. Proof of eligibility is as follows:

- a) A Canadian Citizen – valid passport or birth certificate (or color copy of birth certificate);
- b) A Permanent Resident - valid permanent resident card; or proof of permanent residency as provided by the Government of Canada;
- c) A Protected Person - documents as provided by the Government of Canada.

4.2.5 The deadline for registration shall be July 31 of the current season or earlier, as stipulated by the respective Provincial/Territorial Association.

4.2.6 The deadline for transfers shall be July 31 of the current season or earlier, as stipulated by the respective Provincial/Territorial Association.

4.2.7 Transfers shall be in writing, duly signed by the club and forwarded to the Provincial/Territorial Association, where the player is currently registered, for final approval. A player will be considered transferred once the transfer has been accepted by the receiving Provincial/Territorial Association.

4.2.8 No team shall register players after qualifying for the Regional or National Club Championship.

4.2.9 Each player must bring his/her Provincial/Territorial approved photo ID-card to the National/Regional Club Championship. The appropriate team staff must make the card available to the Canada Soccer Representative upon request.

4.2.10 Any player registered as a professional player shall only be eligible to play when reinstated as an amateur player. Any player reinstated after July 31st shall not be eligible to play in the National Club Championships for that calendar year.

4.2.11 An amateur player who is registered and is listed on a game sheet with a professional team after July 31 in the current year shall not be eligible to play in any National/Regional Club Championships, except if the player has a trial permit to play a maximum of 2 sets of three (3) trial games per outdoor season with any Professional Team provided a permit-to-play form, available from Provincial/Territorial Associations, has been duly completed and approved.

4.2.12 A player who is registered to an amateur club which has an amateur team participating in a Provincial/Territorial Semi-Professional league and who has been called up to play with said amateur team over the course of the season, shall be deemed eligible to participate in the National/Regional Club Championships.

4.2.14 A player moving from one Provincial/Territorial Association to another must receive written clearance from the Provincial/Territorial Association with which s/he was last registered in order to be eligible.

4.2.15 Any player who registered with one Provincial/Territorial Association and then registers with another without the proper inter-provincial transfer will be ineligible to play in the National Club Championships for that calendar year.

4.2.16 A youth-age player who has been registered as senior amateur for the current season will be ineligible to play in youth club championships, unless he/she has, upon request, been reinstated to youth status by his/her Provincial/Territorial Association on or before July 31.

4.2.17 Any player who receives any medical attention during the competition will be required to provide the Canada Soccer Representative a letter from the attending medical practitioner advising that the player can return to play

### **4.3 Team Staff**

4.3.1 The Canada Soccer Technical Department requires coaching qualifications for all teams entered in Canada Soccer Club Championships.

#### **National/Regional Club Championships:**

Head Coach - Full Community Coach Certificate or Soccer for Life Certificate.

**4.3.2 One of the team staff must be the same gender as the team.** This same gender team staff must be on the team bench at all games and remain with the team until the end of the championship. **Note: This person cannot be a player.** Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

4.3.3 Each member of the team staff must bring his/her Provincial/Territorial approved photo ID-card to the Regional or National Club Championships. The appropriate team staff must make the card available to the Canada Soccer Representative, upon request.

4.3.4 One member of the team staff must have completed the CCES E-learning: True Sport Clean 101 and the Role of Athlete Support Personnel Course for the U-14 Cup; U-16 Cup; U-18 Cup; Challenge Trophy/Jubilee Trophy and Masters. For teams participating in the U-18 Cup, Challenge Trophy/Jubilee Trophy and Masters, the team captain must have completed the CCES E-learning and True Sport Clean 101. These online education modules focus on the anti-doping program, including information about banned substances and methods, the sample collection process, and the whereabouts program. The online education session is to be completed on the following website: [www.cces.ca](http://www.cces.ca)

A copy of the CCES certificate for each of the above listed courses must be submitted

with the Canada Soccer Team Credential Form.

#### **4.4 Coaching Exemptions**

4.4.1 The Provincial/Territorial Association may apply to the Canada Soccer Director of Coaching for an exemption for any coach not meeting the criteria. Only applications received in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the championship will be considered.

4.4.2 This exemption shall only be granted once. Any coach who has previously received an exemption will not be permitted to participate in future championships until he/she has obtained the necessary qualifications.

4.4.3 Any team previously granted an exemption will not be permitted to participate in future championships unless a qualified coach is available.

#### **4.5 Call Ups**

An Association in Membership may request permission to call up players to participate who might not otherwise be eligible within the deadlines set below. This request must be in writing, to their respective Provincial/Territorial Association who will forward it to the Canada Soccer Competitions Manager. If approved, permission will be in writing. The appropriate team staff shall make this permission available to the Canada Soccer Representative upon request.

4.5.1 The purpose of a call up is to provide teams with the ability to have enough players to compete in the National/Regional Competitions. It is not designed to allow teams to strengthen their roster.

4.5.2 Call-ups must come from the team's club system if such a system is in place.

4.5.3 The call ups must be from a lower caliber or lower age group of play.

4.5.4 Call Ups must not enhance team strength, which would cause the overall integrity of the competition to be jeopardized.

4.5.5 Players cannot be picked up from a higher caliber of play or higher age group of play.

4.5.6 Regardless of the number of registered players, a team participating in a National Competition may not request call-ups unless its roster is reduced to less than 18 and it may not increase its number to more than 18.

4.5.7 Regardless of the number of registered players, a team participating in a Regional Master's Competition may not request call-ups unless its roster is reduced to less than 20 and it may not increase its number to more than 20.

4.5.8 Call ups must not increase the roster above the number of registered players as of July 31 or 7 days prior to the Provincial/Territorial Finals, whichever comes first.

4.5.9 Players cannot be cup tied. Players are cup tied to the age category that they have participated in their provincial League that leads to a National/Regional Competition or their Provincial/Territorial Competition to declare a winner for the National Competitions.

4.5.10 Call Ups have to be submitted ten (10) days prior to the start of the Canada Soccer National/Regional Championships.

4.5.11 Teams cannot call up players from a team that has qualified for the Canada Soccer National/Regional Championships.

4.5.12 Suspended or ineligible players cannot be replaced with a call up.

4.5.13 Replaced players cannot be listed on the Team Credential Form, as players.

4.5.14 Youth age players replaced by a call up cannot be listed as team staff.

4.5.15 Call ups cannot be replaced by another call up.

4.5.16 Once a player has been listed on the call up form as a player being replaced and submitted to Canada Soccer he/she cannot return to the team to participate in the National/Regional Championships..

4.5.17 Any decision taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee Chair (or designate) in regards to call ups cannot be appealed.

4.5.18 In extreme circumstances the Canada Soccer Competitions Chair, at his/her sole discretion, may approve a call up for a keeper after the ten (10) day deadline.

## **5. ADMINISTRATION**

### **5.1 Documentation**

5.1.1 A Provincial/Territorial Association must advise Canada Soccer of its qualifying teams or where a substitute may have replaced the qualifying team.

5.1.2 Each Association in Membership must use the Canada Soccer Team Credential form prescribed by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee and shall certify that each player is eligible.

5.1.3 Teams participating in a Regional or National Club Championships must provide the following to the Canada Soccer office within seven (7) days after qualifying for the National/Regional Competitions:

- (a) Name of the team;
- (b) Two (2) sets of playing uniforms: One (1) light set and one (1) dark set - shirt, shorts and socks including goalkeepers(s) who must have three (3) pairs of separate and distinct color socks.
- (c) A color photo of front and back of playing uniform
- (d) A team list giving the full name of each player/team staff along with photo for competition program;
- (e) Failure to comply with (a)-(d) above will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules

5.1.4 No team staff member may be a youth as defined in these Rules. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

5.1.5 A team may apply, through their respective Provincial/Territorial Association, to the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee for an exemption to the above provided they meet the following criteria:

- (a) The respective Club has a coach mentorship program in place as part of the Club Developmental Plan, in which the youth staff member is a participant;
- (b) The youth staff member must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- (c) The youth staff member must be at least one year older than the team;
- (d) The youth staff member must have been a member of the staff during the season;
- (e) The youth staff member must comply with Canada Soccer and Provincial/Territorial volunteer screening policies, including having valid CPIC Clearance.

Youth Staff coaches must be properly supervised by a senior staff member when involved in coaching/training with the team.

Youth Staff coaches must be supervised in the same manner as a youth player as outlined in these Rules.

5.1.6 All teams must enter the names of players and team staff in the Canada Soccer National/Regional Competitions Website seven (7) days prior to the start of the Competition. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

5.1.7 Teams participating in a Regional or National Club Championship must provide a copy of the Player/Team Credential Form to the Canada Soccer office seven (7) days prior to the scheduled start of the championship. No changes will be permitted to the Player/Team Credential Form within seven (7) days prior to the scheduled start of the Club Championship. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

5.1.8 The Provincial/Territorial Association must submit the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct, signed by the Provincial/Territorial Association to the Canada Soccer Competitions Manager seven (7) days prior to the start of the competition. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

5.1.9 The Canada Soccer Representative may request at any time during the National/Regional Club Championships the following:

- (a) Provincial/Territorial Association photo id card for both players and team staff;
- (b) Proof of citizenship/permanent resident (as defined by the Government of Canada)
- (c) Proof of a Protected Person. (as defined by the Government of Canada).

## **5.2 Use of Participating Team Names and Logos**

5.2.1 Each participating team shall grant Canada Soccer the right to use the teams' Names, Logos, Badges and Marks in connection with their participation in the National / Regional Championships. Examples include: website, program, etc.

## **5.3 Canada Soccer and National Championships Logos**

5.3.1 The Canada Soccer logo and National Championships logo cannot be duplicated or manipulated by participating teams. Failure to comply will result in sanctions by Canada Soccer.

## **5.4 Team Sponsors**

5.4.1 Teams will be permitted to display one (1) banner featuring team sponsor branding, provided the banner has been approved by the Canada Soccer no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled start of the championship. The banner shall be no larger than 3' x 6' and must be displayed behind the team bench. The banner must not display any sponsor branding which conflicts with the National Championships sponsor categories. The banner must display the logo of the participating team which indicates the relationship between the sponsors and the team.

Teams displaying a sponsor banner which has not been approved by Canada Soccer will be subject to a fine. See Breach of Rules. This rule does not apply to the display of Provincial/Territorial flags.

5.4.2 Participating team playing uniforms (jerseys) may display the branding of team sponsors, to a maximum of two (2) sponsor brands per playing uniform (the jersey manufacturer is exempt and does not count toward two sponsor brands). The Sponsors whose brands are visible on participating team playing uniforms must have supported the team prior to qualification to the National Championships competition.

Participating teams must submit a list of sponsors that are on the team's playing uniforms as part of the Team Identification Form via the Provincial/Territorial Association to the Canada Soccer Competitions Manager. The Canada Soccer Business Development Department will review and approve uniform sponsorship and notify the respective Provincial/Territorial Association of infringements when they occur.

Failure to cover or remove the sponsor logos as directed will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

5.4.3 Participating Teams wearing a playing uniform which features a sponsor logo that has not been approved by the Canada Soccer Business Development Department must have the logo covered or removed (the jersey manufacturer is exempt). Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

## **5.5 Travel and Hotels**

5.5.1 Canada Soccer shall make all air travel arrangements for teams and match officials for all Canada Soccer National Club Championships.

5.5.2 Teams participating in a Regional Masters Championships are required to make their own travel arrangements.

5.5.3 All teams traveling to National/Regional Club Competitions must stay in the hotels designated by the Hosting Provincial Association. Host teams are required to stay at the designated hotels unless the team's home base is within a 50 km radius of the hosting venues and the team chooses to stay at home. Failure to comply will result in expulsion from the competition at the team's expense plus any expenses incurred by the Hosting Association.

5.5.4 All Teams must arrive at the hosting location at least one (1) day prior to the start of the National Club Championship in which they are competing. Failure to comply will result in expulsion from the competition at the team's expense plus any expenses incurred by the Hosting Association.

5.5.5 The Host Association will not be held responsible for any costs incurred should a team delegation arrive more than two (2) days before the scheduled time for the championship to begin.

5.5.6 The Host Association is responsible for team ground transportation as follows for National Club Championships:

To and from airport; to and from games and one (1) training session.

Any team who requests additional training sessions is responsible for all costs. If a team cancels a training session they will be responsible for any cancellation costs incurred.

5.5.7 All teams are required to respect the deadlines as set out by the Host Association.

5.5.8 Parents are not to share hotel rooms with players.

5.5.9 Players and team staff are not to share hotel rooms.

## **5.6 Attendance at Meetings and Official Functions**

5.6.1 At least one (1) team staff together with the Provincial Team Representative must attend the pre-competition meeting and any other meetings as required. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

5.6.2 All participants are required to attend all official functions associated with the championship. Anyone not in attendance may face disciplinary action at the discretion of Canada Soccer. Each team must have in attendance two (2) team staff, one of whom must be the same gender as the team, from those listed on the Team Credential Form. Team staff must not leave their team unattended at any function. Any breach of this rule will result in the team being subject to discipline (fines) plus any expenses. See Breach of Rules.



## 5.7 Medals

5.7.1 At the National Club Championships the medal winning (Gold/Silver/Bronze) Teams will receive a maximum of 24 medals. An additional medal will be allocated to the teams for their Provincial Representative. Teams placing 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> positions will receive 24 participation crests respectively.

5.7.2 At the Regional Masters Club Championships the medal winning teams will receive a maximum of twenty-nine (29) medals. An additional medal will be allocated to the teams for their Provincial Representative.

## 5.8 Accreditation

5.8.1 At all National Competitions the team staff/players must wear their team accreditation at the hotel, to and from games, at the playing venues and any official functions.

## 6. TECHNICAL

### 6.1 Administration

6.1.1 A Club Team, at any National Championship, may have a maximum roster of twenty (20) players at the championship, and may dress all twenty (20) per game.

6.1.2 A Club Team at any Regional Masters Championship may have a maximum roster of twenty-five (25) players and dress twenty (20) per game.

A Club Team at any National/Regional Championship may have a maximum of five (5) staff.

6.1.3 Only team staff and players listed on the Players/Team Credential Form may be named on the game sheet and occupy a position in the technical area during the championship:

(a) At National/Regional Club Championships a maximum of twenty (20) players and five (5) team staff will be permitted on the game sheet.

(b) Players serving a suspension may NOT sit in the technical area. Youth players serving a suspension will be accommodated in a designated area in order to be under the supervision of a team staff.

(d) Teams must identify on the Game Sheet the two (2) Goalkeepers for the match and must have a different number jersey for each.

6.1.4 No smoking is permitted in the Technical area.

6.1.5 Teams must stay for the duration of the championship. Players and/or team staff cannot leave the hotel/championship to return home and return later in the championship.

6.1.6 At all National/Regional Club Championships, Provincial/Territorial player photo ID Cards are required. Prior to the start of each game, the team staff of both teams will have the opportunity to challenge player ID's. Failure to do so will result in the team waiving the right for that game to protest any player identity. This will be supervised by one of the game officials. Any team not presenting its player identification cards at the time the game sheet is handed to the match officials will be reported and incur a fine. See Breach of Rules.

6.1.7 Teams will be provided with their game sheets at the Pre-Competitions Meeting. The game sheet must be completed and given to the referee together with the player/staff identification cards, no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the announced

kick-off time. The referee shall convey the completed game sheets (including any discipline reports), immediately after the game, to the Canada Soccer Representative or Field Marshal.

6.1.8 The team identification cards will be checked by one of the match officials prior to the start of the game. The 4<sup>th</sup> official will retain possession of the team ID-cards for the duration of the game with the exception of the last game of the Championship.

6.1.9 Any team that submits an incomplete game sheet (not listing eligible player(s) who are on the Team Credential Form) will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. See Breach of Rules

## **6.2 Duration of Play**

6.2.1 The duration of play and size of game ball shall be as follows:

### **DURATION OF PLAY - NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>REGULAR</b>	<b>EXTRA-TIME</b>	<b>SIZE OF GAME BALL</b>
Senior/Open	2 x 45 minutes	2 x 15 minutes	5
U-16/18	2 x 40 minutes	2 x 15 minutes	5
U-14	2 x 35 minutes	2 x 10 minutes	5*
Masters	2 x 40 minutes	No extra-time	5

\*In the U-14 Cup if the format requires teams to play 5 games in 6 days the games will be 2 x 35 minutes halves. If the format requires teams to play 4 games in 6 days the games will be 2 x 40 minute halves.

6.2.2 At the National/Regional Club Championships medals games (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>), when, the score is tied at the end of regulation time, extra time shall be played as noted in 6.2.1. If the score is still tied at the end of extra time, the winner shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

6.2.3 For National Club Championships all non-medal games that are tied at the end of regulation time, that require a winner, shall go directly to the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

6.2.4 In a six (6) Team Masters Regional Club Championship on the final day all games that are tied at the end of regulation time shall go directly to the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.

In a four (4) Team Masters Regional Club Championship a winner will be determined by the tie-breaking procedures as outlined in these rules.

6.2.5 A half time interval must not exceed ten (10) minutes.

6.2.6 There will be a minimum of twenty (20) minutes warm up, on the field of play.

## **6.3 Team Uniforms**

6.3.1 The Canada Soccer appointed Representative and Supervisor of Officials will assign team colors.

Any team changing from the assigned team colors without the permission of the Canada Soccer Representative /Supervisor of Officials shall be subject to a fine.

Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

6.3.2 Each team must present both their main and alternate playing uniforms - shirt, shorts and socks including goalkeeper(s) at the pre-competition meeting for color clarification. Teams are to bring their 2<sup>nd</sup> set of playing uniforms to their games. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

6.3.3 All playing uniforms must be numbered.

6.3.3 Teams shall dress in the colours assigned to them. All teams must have two (2) sets of uniforms (jersey/socks) at the championship. Failure to have an alternate will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules

6.3.4 Each team goalkeeper must have at the National Championship three (3) pairs of separate and distinct color socks for the National/Regional Competition. The socks cannot be the same color as their team's outfield players.

6.3.5 Goalkeepers must wear playing uniforms that distinguish them from the other players and the match officials.

6.3.6 Both the goalkeeper and back up goalkeeper must wear the same color playing jersey and socks.

6.3.7 Players are not permitted to wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players. **NO jewelry:** that includes rings, bracelets (except medical alert bracelets — which must be either made of Velcro or similar soft material, or covered with a sweatband), earrings, necklaces, other visible body piercing, etc. The practice of taping jewelry is not acceptable.

6.3.8 The Canada Soccer Cast Policy will apply. Prior to the pre-championship meeting any player wearing a cast or who intends to wear a brace or medical support is to be presented for inspection. The Canada Soccer Supervisor of Officials will assess the player's eligibility to play in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

6.3.9 If undershorts or tights are worn, they must be the same main color as the shorts. If undergarments are worn, the color of the sleeve must be the same color as the main color of the sleeve of the jersey. Players not complying will not be allowed to enter the field until the match officials are satisfied that the equipment conforms to the Laws of the Game.

Socks: if tape or similar material is applied externally it must be the same colour as the part of the sock it is applied to.

6.3.10 The Canada Soccer Championship crests must be on both sets of jerseys. If a team has a 3rd set of uniforms the sponsor crest must be on these as well. It is the responsibility of team staff to inform their Provincial/Territorial Association of such and to request additional crests from Canada Soccer. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

## **6.4 Substitutions**

6.4.1 In Club Championships a maximum of five (5) substitutions shall be allowed in the whole game (including any extra-time). Unlimited substitutions may be made at half-time, or at full-time before any extra time. A player who has been substituted is eligible to re-enter.

6.4.2 In Masters Regional Championships there will be unlimited substitutions.

## **6.5 Discipline**

6.5.1 The match officials will retain, and hand to the Canada Soccer Representative, player identification cards for any players who have been dismissed in the game.

6.5.2 The Canada Soccer Representative will retain possession of any suspended players' photo I.D. Card until the suspension has been served.

6.5.3 The Match official will retain the identification card for any staff member who has been expelled from the game and give the card to the Canada Soccer Representative.

## **6.6 Format**

6.6.1 The format for each championship shall be determined in advance by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee and set out in the Championship Schedule.

6.6.2 All teams shall be seeded on the basis of their final standing in the previous year's championship.

6.6.3 Host teams may be added at the discretion of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee in consultation with the Provincial/Territorial Association concerned. The host team shall be the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team from the Provincial/Territorial Association qualifying provincial championship. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team is unable to compete the hosting Provincial/Territorial Association will request permission from the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee to enter another team. The decision taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee will be final and not subject to appeal.

6.6.4 When a host team is required in National/Regional Championships, the team shall be seeded in last position and shall be eligible for medals. The seeding for the following year will exclude the host team.

## **6.7 Tie-breaking**

6.7.1 Where a game is abandoned because of floodlight failure, weather and or any outside influence and more than seventy percent (70%) of the game has been played then the result at the time of abandonment will be recorded as the final score.

6.7.2 Where a game is abandoned under 6.7.1 and the score is tied but the championship requires a result, this winner will be determined by the toss of a coin.

6.7.3 Where a game is abandoned as a result of a discipline issue from one of the competing teams the matter shall be reported to the Canada Soccer Representative and he/she will convene a disciplinary hearing and decide the appropriate course of action.

6.7.4 In all championships (or parts thereof) organized on a knock-out basis, all games shall be played to a decision. If at the end of regulation time, the score is a tied, kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine a winner.

6.7.5 In all competitions (or parts thereof) organized on a round-robin basis all games shall be played to regulation time only, except as specified below.

6.7.6 In any three (3) team round robin, whether part or all of the championship, the third game shall be played to a decision in accordance with this rule, if the team not participating has zero points, has been suspended, or has withdrawn. In the event that the score is tied after regulation time, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine the winner. The team that eventually loses the game shall be awarded one point.

6.7.7 Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a tie (including the taking of kicks from the penalty mark). Standings shall be determined by points won at the completion of the round robin, with tie-breaking as outlined below.

6.7.8 The following criteria shall be used to determine the final standings:

- (a) Most points in all group matches
- (b) If two (2) teams are tied in points in all group matches:
  - (i) Greater number of points in matches between the teams concerned (head to head competition).
  - (ii) Results for all group matches.
    - (i) Greater goal difference in all group matches.
    - (ii) Greater number of goals scored in all group matches.
  - (iii) Kicks from the penalty mark as per FIFA Laws of the Game, at a time and place decided by the Canada Soccer Representative.

Players under suspension are not eligible to participate; however this does not constitute the serving of any disciplinary suspension already awarded.

- (c) The following must be used to completion if three (3) teams are tied in points in all group matches:
  - (i) Greater goal difference in matches between the teams concerned.
  - (ii) Greater number of goals scored in all matches between the teams concerned.
  - (iii) Greater goal difference in all group matches.
  - (iv) Greater number of goals scored in all group matches
  - (v) Drawing of lots to determine ranking at a time and place decided by the Canada Soccer Representative.

## **SECTION 3**

### **INTEGRITY IN SOCCER**

#### **7.1 Code of conduct for National/Regional Competitions**

##### **Overview**

Canadian Soccer is committed to providing a safe and fun environment for athletes, team staff, officials, the Canada Soccer staff, parents and volunteers. Canada Soccer Association is also committed to providing a sport environment that promotes equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices. To ensure this atmosphere of safety, respect, equity and fun, Canada Soccer has created this Code of Conduct that sets out overall expectations for participants in our game.

##### **Application**

This policy applies to all participating athletes, team staff, team managers, Provincial/Territorial Representatives, Match Officials, Canada Soccer Competitions Representatives, Host Province/Territory and Organizing Committee Representatives, and volunteers (participants) associated with the Competition.

All participants are expected to:

- Act as ambassadors for Canada Soccer, their local clubs, their Provincial/Territorial Soccer Association, their own Province/Territory, as well as the host Province/Territory for the competition;
- Participate in the National/Regional Competitions in the spirit of fair play, co-operation and respect for others at all times;
- Respect the rules of the sport and the Canada Soccer Rules for National/Regional Competitions;
- Perform to their best ability in every competition and accept with pride the result their effort brings;
- Respect their opponents;
- Respect the directions and decisions of the Canada Soccer Representative and the Supervisor of Officials;
- Be gracious in victory and defeat;
- Respect the rights of the residents of the Host Association and members from other provinces and territories;
- Regard participation in the National/Regional Competitions as a privilege;
- Conduct themselves in accordance with the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct to ensure that the Competitions take place in a safe environment, free from harassment and discrimination for all members;
- Be punctual for all official functions and activities.

All participants will not:

- Verbally or physically abuse other members of their team or participants in the National/Regional Competitions;
- Breach any of the Canada Soccer Rules for National/Regional Competitions;
- Abuse, damage or destroy facilities or equipment;
- Fail to comply with rulings by officials, coaches, managers, or any other person in a position of authority or responsibility;
- Breach the requirements of the Canada Soccer Harassment Policy;

- Indulge in any other unreasonable conduct which brings the Provincial/Territorial Soccer Association and the Canada Soccer into disrepute, including but not limited to, activities which disturb or disrupt the peace, infractions of municipal, provincial or federal laws, the abusive use of alcohol, the non-medical use of drugs, tobacco, or the use of alcohol by minors.

## **Code of Conduct**

### **Respect**

Soccer is a game of respect. Respect means treating others in a way that you would like to be treated, including showing you care for their physical and emotional well-being.

In soccer, respect includes respect for yourself, your body, your team and other teams. It includes humility, selflessness and a willingness to appreciate others. It means treating people with integrity, being non-judgmental, and acknowledging the honor and dignity of others. Respect does not mean putting others down or treating anyone as a lesser person than you.

For players this means:

- treating those involved in the game, team staff, officials, team officials, managers, training staff, medical staff, volunteers, and other players in a respectful manner, including respecting them and appreciating their role in the game;
- being concerned about the safety of others and avoiding injury.

For team staff this means:

- treating all players with respect, those on your team, those on other teams and those you come into contact with for other reasons;
- teaching players to understand and respect the Laws of the Game and the Canada Soccer Rules for National/Regional Competitions;
- treating officials with respect;
- dealing with players in a positive manner;
- ensuring players are safe, including equipment and facilities;
- obtaining proper training and continuing to upgrade skills;
- acting in a professional manner at all times;
- treating parents with respect.

### **Fun**

Soccer is also about having fun. All individuals involved in the game should strive to ensure that practices, games and other team events provide an opportunity for fun as well as competition.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Since your site is a public space, as participants in the Canada Soccer National/Regional Competitions, we expect you to be respectful to Canada Soccer, the volunteers, athletes and team staff. As with other forms of communication, do not engage in personal, racial or sexual harassment, unfounded accusations or remarks.

During the course of the Canada Soccer National/Regional Competitions, participants are to refrain from uploading content to, or participating in, social media activities in the following situations; including but not limited to:

- Inside a competition stadium or venue during the competition period when they are competing
- Posting any explicit pictures and/or inflammatory language that can be linked to the competition

- Before, during, or after a team meeting where non-public information is discussed (eg Local Organizing Committee)
- Before, during, or after a match or training session when strategic, tactical, or medical information is discussed

Any such activities will be dealt with through the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee disciplinary process; however it reserves the right to forward the matter to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for action where appropriate.

### **Alcohol**

Any youth, as defined by the Canada Soccer Rules for National/Regional Competitions, are not permitted to consume alcohol.

No team member/team staff or Provincial/Territorial Representative shall be intoxicated at any time.

### **Tobacco**

No smoking is permitted in the Technical area. Strict adherence to other areas designated as non-smoking will also apply.

### **Banned Substances**

Canada Soccer has an official Anti-Doping Policy. Any athlete who registered with a Provincial/Territorial Soccer Association shall be eligible for unannounced testing. A list of banned substances can be obtained from [www.cces.ca](http://www.cces.ca).

### **Pornography**

No team staff official will use pornography as part of a team event.

### **Curfew**

All participants must adhere to the curfew established by the Canada Soccer Rules for National/Regional Competitions or their Provincial/Territorial Association. The stricter standard shall apply.

### **Dress Code**

All athletes shall follow their respective Provincial/Territorial Association's dress codes.

### **Criticism**

All team staff should refrain from criticism of team staff, athletes, officials, other team staff and volunteers, especially to members of the media. All complaints and issues should be raised with the Canada Soccer Competition Representative through their respective Provincial/Territorial Representative prior to discussing the issue with others.

### **Fair Play**

Respect refers to a whole range of behaviours both on and off the field of play:

The participants shall:

- respect the dignity and spirit of all participants;
- treat all participants fairly and equitably;
- participate in a manner that ensures the safety of athletes, team staff and officials participating in the game;
- create positive, supportive soccer experiences for the purpose of building confidence, developing and improving skills and having fun;
- support the game by playing by the Laws of the Game and the Canada Soccer Rules for National/Regional Competitions in the spirit of the sport;
- display high personal standards and project a favourable image of the sport.



The participants shall not:

- take part in or tolerate behavior, including hazing, that frightens, embarrasses, demoralizes or negatively affects the self-esteem of participants;
- use profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language;
- tolerate abusive or disrespectful language or actions;
- tolerate harassing or discriminating behaviours;
- request sexual favours or use threats of reprisal for rejection;
- allow individuals who request sexual favours or use threats of reprisals for rejection to go unreported;
- condone the use of drugs or banned performance enhancing substances.

Violations of the Canada Soccer Harassment Policy while participating in a Canada Soccer National/Regional Competition shall result in an investigation and possible discipline.

Provincial/Territorial Associations are responsible for ensuring that their teams are educated on the principles and provisions of this Code of Conduct and that they clearly understand what conduct is expected when participating in any competition sponsored or sanctioned by Canada Soccer.

Any violation of this Code of Conduct while participating in a Canada Soccer National/Regional Competition may result in an investigation by the Provincial/Territorial Association in accordance with their own internal investigation and adjudication procedures. Any violations of the Code of Conduct brought to the attention of the Canada Soccer Competition Representative will be written up in a Special Incident Report and submitted to the Canada Soccer Head Office.

Provincial/Territorial Associations shall make this Code of Conduct available to their participating teams.

#### Appendix A

As a Provincial/Territorial Association in Canada Soccer, we agree to abide by this Code of Conduct for National/Regional Competitions.

We acknowledge that any violation of this Code of Conduct while participating in a Canada Soccer National/Regional Competition may result in an investigation by the Provincial/Territorial Association in accordance with their own internal Investigation and Adjudication Procedures. Any violations of the Code of Conduct brought to the attention of the Canada Soccer Competitions Representative will be written up in a Special Incident Report and submitted to the Canada Soccer Head Office.

The Provincial/Territorial Association must submit the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct, signed by the Provincial/Territorial Association to the Canada Soccer Competitions Manager seven (7) days prior to the start of the competition. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Provincial/Territorial Association

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative Name and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of National/Regional Competition

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **7.2 Harassment**

### **7.2.1 Purpose**

The purpose is to teach and institutionalize the importance of appropriate off-field conduct of members at a Canada Soccer Competition and to recognize that all players, team staff, officials, volunteers and professional administrators (the 'Participants') have the right to freedom from harassment and from all other inappropriate behavior.

### **7.2.2 Definition**

Off-field conduct is generally defined in the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct as the expected and appropriate behaviour of participants from the time the team leaves their home locale until the time they arrive back at their home locale.

### **7.2.3 Standards**

(i) Provincial/Territorial Associations must inform their teams staff of the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct prior to departure for the competition.

(ii) All players must be informed by their team staff of the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct prior to departure.

7.2.4 The concept of Fair Play will apply equally to on-field and off-field conduct.

7.2.5 Canada Soccer has a formal Harassment Policy. When a written allegation of harassment is received, the Canada Soccer appointed Harassment Officer shall follow the procedures outlined in the Canada Soccer Harassment Policy.

7.2.6 Investigations conducted under the Criminal Code of Canada take precedence over the internal policies of Canada Soccer.