






Guideline (GUI)

Field Marshal- General Requirements

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Errors or Omissions

Big Country Soccer Association has provided this manual to the membership as a guide for the parents of players who are registered with Big Country Soccer Association. Any errors or omissions contained herein shall not supersede the by-laws, policies, procedures, or guidelines of the Association. Any changes to the manual shall be included in the next edition. The by-laws of the association supersede any guideline or policy should a conflict occur.

Document Revision History

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1 Purpose

One of the primary objectives of Big Country Soccer Association (BCSA) is to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. Win, lose or draw there is always an opportunity for a coach, player or parent to display appropriate sportsmanship. Spectators, players, and team representatives (coaches, team manager, etc.) can demonstrate their commitment in a variety of ways such as by demonstrating good sportsmanship at games.

To ensure good sportsmanship and encourage Match Officials to continue to support youth soccer, BCSA has established the Field Marshal Program. The purpose of a Field Marshal is to assist youth Match Officials in ensuring that players, coaches and parents good conduct is maintained at all times.

The Field Marshal is there to assist the Match Official and to provide mediation concerning any on-the field or surrounding vicinity issues. They are present to assist and support the Match Official with regard towards Match Official requests for outside assistance, but under no circumstances does a Field Marshal have the authority to disrupt a match or step on to the field.

To be clear, the Match Official is the SOLE authority on the field in question when a game is taking place, however, when there is a dispute and the Match Official REQUEST them, a Field Marshal may assist.

2 Scope

This document applies to all Big Country Soccer Association (BCSA) and its Registered Members operating under the SQS of BCSA or is a member in good standing with their own program SQS certification. The details contained in this document are the minimum requirements. All teams participating in BCSA league play must designate an individual at each game (home and away) to act as the “Team Field Marshal”.

Field Marshals will only need to be present in the following divisions:

1. U9 Competitive
2. U11 Competitive
3. U13 Competitive

3 References

The following referenced documents are to be considered the latest edition and indispensable for the application of this document.

Table 1 – References

Document Number	Title
	FIFA Laws
	Canada Soccer Association
	Alberta Soccer Association



Document Number	Title
BCSA-POL-001	Big Country Soccer Association Policy
BCSA-POL-003	Coaching Youth in Soccer Policy
BCSA-GOV-006	Disciplinary Committee Requirements
BCSA-GUI-003	Match Official Guidelines

4 Acronyms and Defined Terms

For this document, the following acronyms and terms apply.

4.1 Acronyms

Table 2 – Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ASA	Alberta Soccer Association
BCSA	Big Country Soccer Association
CSA	Canada Soccer Association
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GUI	Guideline
SQS	Standards for Quality Soccer

4.2 Definitions

Table 3 – Definitions

Term	Definition
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association (the international organization that controls the sport of football (soccer)).
Guideline	Guidelines is a set of rules or instructions that are provided by Big Country Soccer Association providing instructions on completing processes and/ or outlining the position of BCSA on specific topics.
Match Official	The term “Match Official” and “Referee” are used interchangeably. In reference to this document, the term “Match Official” refers to “Youth Match Officials” meaning match officials that are minors.



Term	Definition
Registered Members	This is the community that is registered with BCSA to register their players to compete in the Association with other registered teams. These communities will have their players registered with Alberta Soccer Association.

5 Responsibilities

- 5.1 The following list of responsibilities are not all encompassing. Additional responsibilities may be assigned out, as required, when there are tasks and/ or actions required to represent Big Country Soccer Association, its member associations, and the governing soccer associations that Big Country Soccer Association is required to adhere to.
- 5.2 The BCSA Board oversees the official Association’s guidelines and makes the minimum standards available to the Registered Members of BCSA. In that, the following is part of BCSA’s role in supporting the Field Marshals:
 - a) Identify the general role responsibilities of the role of the Field Marshal.
 - b) Communicate the Field Marshal requirements to Registered Members.
 - c) Respond to reports of abuse of the Field Marshal through the Disciplinary Committee Requirements.
 - d) Provide a means of identifying the Field Marshal i.e. Field Marshal armband.

Note:

- i. *The BCSA President, Vice-President, and Treasurer act as the SPOC of defining technical training requirements on those roles that require specific training in support of Canada Soccer Association (CSA) and/ or Alberta Soccer Association (ASA) requirements.*
 - ii. *The BCSA Vice-President is the SQS Coordinator for BCSA and may perform an audit on a Registered Member’s SQS compliance if there is a trend of non-compliance to BCSA requirements designed for supporting the safe sport requirements.*
 - iii. *The BCSA President will investigate abuse of Match Officials overseeing assigned league games.*
- 5.3 Registered Members Boards of Directors are responsible for the following in relation to this guideline:
 - a) Provide a general orientation to Registered Members on the role of the Field Marshal.
 - b) Provide a means of identifying the Field Marshal i.e. Field Marshal arm band, vest, etc.

- c) Monitor league games to ensure teams are assigning a Field Marshal for all games.
- d) Respond to reports of abuse of a Field Marshal through the Registered Member's disciplinary process. In the absence of a process, report to BCSA to investigate through the BCSA Disciplinary Committee Requirements.

5.4 Team Coaches are responsible for the following in relation to this guideline:

- a) Ensure all home and away league games have a Field Marshal assigned to support their team.
- b) Ensure the parents of the players on the team have received this guideline for orientation and awareness of the role and responsibilities of the Field Marshal.

5.5 Match Officials may start the match without a Field Marshal(s) present but will submit a misconduct report to BCSA stating the Field Marshal(s) was/ were not present at the match.

6 General

6.1 Field Marshals are not the Match Officials of the game in question and at play and will not be involved in the decisions made by the Match Official(s).

6.2 The Match Official(s) has/have the full authority in accordance with the Laws of the Game over all actions related to the game and its immediate vicinity of those on the sidelines and surrounding field zones, such as but not limited to, each team's technical area and the zone behind the goal.

6.3 Field Marshals can and will utilize a variety of measures of increasing severity to encourage appropriate behavior by spectators and players. This can range anywhere from supporting the Match Officials during play for issuing sanctions, to disciplining and ejecting coaches, up to and including abandoning the game itself, if they deem it necessary.

6.4 Unfortunately, it can be very difficult for a Match Official who is as young as 15/16 years old to exert his or her authority whether it is in the capacity of an Assistant Match Official or as a Center Match Official. While they understand they have the authority to take action, they typically do not feel comfortable doing so especially towards an adult/s or a crowd. For this reason, an adult Field Marshal can offer support for the Match Official(s) and assist in controlling any inappropriate behavior.

6.5 Field Marshals will work to discourage dissent and inappropriate conduct on the spectator side of the field. Even if the Match Official doesn't hear what is being said by spectators the Field Marshal will work to create an environment free from hostility towards Match Officials, team staff, players and spectators.

7 Duties and Responsibilities of the Field Marshal

7.1 The list of duties and responsibilities encompass the general details that may be required of the role but may be expanded by the Registered Member in support of ensuring all league games played by the team follow safe sport requirements and BCSA policies, and guidelines.

Pre-Game

7.2 Note the following general requirements:

- a) The coach for each team (home and away) will have a parent volunteer as the Field Marshal for the game.
- b) The Field Marshal will obtain the “Field Marshal” armband to visually identify who the Field Marshal is.
- c) The Field Marshal will introduce themselves to the Match Official(s) before the start of each game and ensure their names are noted in the notes section of the RAMP game-sheet.
- d) Take a position within the spectator side of the field on the teams’ side of the halfway of the field.

Note:

- iv. *Parents shall be in the spectator area of the field and not be on the coaching side of the field and/or behind the nets.*

During the Game

7.3 Note the following general requirements:

- a) The Field Marshal is expected to monitor the behaviour and comments of their team’s spectators.
- b) The Field Marshal is expected to act on behalf of the Match Official(s) by reminding spectators to keep any comments to themselves and refrain from vocalizing any complaints during the games.

Note:

- v. *Heat-of-the-moment mild expressions of disapproval by spectators and coaches with the decisions/calls of the Match Official(s) are inevitable. However, continued disparaging or negative remarks directed toward the coach(es), Match Official(s) or players either verbal or through gestures will not be tolerated and must be stopped.*
- vi. *The Field Marshal must intervene for the correction of any behavior that is harassing, disparaging or intimidating towards the coach(es), Match Official(s) or to any players.*
 - c) The Field Marshal will look to diffuse potential problems before they arise by either being visible near the problem and/ or speak to the individual(s) calmly



- d) The Field Marshal is not expected to position themselves in a situation that may compromise their safety. Should there be a situation that may require further intervention, the Field Marshal is to gather all the necessary information and report it to the coach(es) upon conclusion of the game. Depending on the severity of the situation, the Field Marshal may need to speak to the coach(es) immediately.

Note:

- vii. *Any spectator(s) not supporting the role of the Field Marshal and safe sport requirements will be investigated according to the Registered Member's disciplinary process and/ or, in the absence of the process with the Registered Member, BCSA Disciplinary Committee Requirements. Sanctions to an individual(s) may occur including fines and suspensions.*
- viii. *Depending on the circumstances, local authorities may be called to attend to the situation. The Board for the Registered Member must be contacted immediately should this level of intervention be necessary.*
- e) The Field Marshal is expected to support the Match Official when requested by the Official to do so.

Post-Game

7.4 Note the following general requirements:

- a) Report any concerns to the coach(es).
- b) If a situation arises where the Match Official is need of support from the Field Marshal, a misconduct report will be filled out and submitted to BCSA and the club executive by both the Match Official and Field Marshal. Misconduct reports are on the ASA website and will be linked through the BCSA website.

8 Finding a Replacement Field Marshal

- 8.1** If an assigned Field Marshal is not able to attend a game that the Field Marshal was scheduled for, the Coach(es) must request a team representative volunteer to be a Field Marshal.
- 8.2** If a Field Marshal is not assigned by the team for any game, fines can be assessed to the team for not participating in the Field Marshal program (see Section 9 of this Guideline).

9 Fines

- 9.1** If a team is not participating in the Field Marshal program, the following fines will be applied:
- a) 1st Offense where a Field Marshal is not assigned for a team; no fine; warning letter to the team by the Registered Member.
- b) 2nd Offense: \$50.00 fine that is applied to the team.
- c) 3rd Offense: Team forfeits the remaining home games they have left in the season.



Note:

ix. The fines that are applied are to the Team and not to the Registered Member. The team must pay the fine to the Registered Member for not complying with the Field Marshal program.

9.2 If the Registered Member is not participating with the Field Marshal program, the following fines will be applied:

- a) 1st Offense where a Field Marshal is not assigned for a team of a Registered Member, no fine; warning letter to the Registered Member by BCSA.
- b) 2nd Offense: \$100.00 fine to the Registered Member.
- c) 3rd Offense: \$250.00 fine to the Registered Member.
- d) 4th Offense: \$500.00 fine to the Registered Member.
- e) 5th Offense: Investigation by BCSA into the Registered Member to determine penalties and sanctions.

Note:

x. This would include a formal investigation into the Registered Members compliance with the SQS requirements and could potentially lead to a Registered Member losing their "Good Standing" status within BCSA resulting in a temporary suspension from all ASA affiliated play.