



T.K. SPARKS

Central Okanagan Youth Soccer Association BYLAWS

May 2021, revised November 2021, revised November 2024

PART 1: AFFILIATIONS

The Central Okanagan Youth Soccer Association (COYSA) shall be a Member of the British Columbia Soccer Association ("BC Soccer") and shall be subject to the published Bylaws, Rules, Regulations and Policies in declining order of authority of the following governing organizations:

- 1) FIFA
- 2) The Canadian Soccer Association
- 3) British Columbia Soccer Association

PART 2: INTERPRETATIONS

1) Definitions. In these Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a) "Youth District" shall mean the Central Okanagan Youth Soccer Association (COYSA);
- b) "Association" shall mean Central Okanagan Youth Soccer Association (COYSA);
- c) "BC Soccer" shall mean the British Columbia Soccer Association (BCSA);
- d) "Directors" shall mean the Directors of the Association;
- e) "Act" shall mean the Societies Act of the Province of British Columbia and regulations thereto, as amended from time to time;
- f) "Registered Address" of a member shall mean the address as recorded in the register of members;
- g) "Active Member" shall mean an organization, as applicable, which becomes and remains an Active Member in good standing in accordance with these Bylaws. An Active Member shall have the right to vote as set out in these Bylaws;
- h) "Club - Youth Club" shall mean an organization that enters a minimum of 4 (four) youth soccer teams having not less than the lowest number of the following:
 - 2% (two) of the District's total unique* registration of the previous year
 - equal to the number of registered players of the District's smallest Club
 - 100 (one hundred) registered players, under the jurisdiction of the District
 - 30% (thirty) of a new Club's first year registration must be made up of new players, i.e. players that have not been registered with BC Soccer via a Youth Club/District within the past year(*Unique registration" is the total number of registered players, less duplicate registrations (i.e. if a player is registered in both the primary and secondary seasons they only count as 1 (one) registered player));
- i) "Team" shall mean a soccer team with not less than 11 (eleven) registered players, (except for mini teams that may not have less than 6 (six) players) plus team officials, whose application for affiliation has been validated by the Registrar or designate for the current playing season;
- j) "Registered Player" shall mean a person whose application for registration with the Association has been validated by the Registrar for the current playing season;
- k) "Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Association;
- l) "Special Resolution" shall mean a resolution passed in a Meeting of the Members by a majority of not less than 2/3 (two-thirds) of the votes cast as allowed under these Bylaws;
- m) "Ordinary Resolution" shall mean a resolution passed in a Meeting of the Members by a simple majority of the votes cast as allowed under these Bylaws.

- 2) Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, and words importing a male person include a female person, a corporation, and any other organization or association, whether incorporated or unincorporated, as the context may require.

PART 3: MEMBERSHIP

- 1) The members of the Association are the applicants for incorporation of the Association, and those Clubs as applicable, who subsequently become Members, in accordance with these Bylaws and, in either case, have not ceased to be Members in good standing.
- 2) A Club, as applicable, may apply for membership in the Association and upon acceptance by the Association pursuant to the terms of this Part 3, becomes a Member.
- 3) Every Member must uphold the Constitution and comply with these Bylaws.
- 4) Active Membership
Active Membership shall be open to Clubs that meet the following criteria:
 - a) Are properly constituted soccer Clubs.
 - b) Operate within defined boundaries of the Youth District as set out in the BC Soccer Bylaws, as amended from time to time.
 - c) Clubs must deliver male and female programming and be inclusive to individuals regardless of where an individual identifies on the gender spectrum.
- 5) Membership Fees
The annual membership fees shall be set by the Board and ratified by the membership at a General Meeting of the Association. All Members are subject to the membership fees.
- 6) Approval of New Members
An organization may be accepted into Active Membership upon:
 - a) submitting an application to the Board and other documentation as required by the Board.
 - b) obtaining the approval of the Board, and
 - c) adhering to the conditions and timelines as laid out in the application of New Members Policy.
- 7) Rights of Active Members
 - a) To be governed in accordance with BC Soccer and the Association's published Constitution, Bylaws and Rules,
 - b) To register players and team officials with BC Soccer and the Association,
 - c) To be a Member of and register their teams with BC Soccer sanctioned leagues,
 - d) To enter teams in BC Soccer sanctioned competitions,
 - e) To participate in BC Soccer sanctioned programs such as player, coach and referee development,
 - f) To participate in Association sanctioned programs,
 - g) To send one designated representative (see Part 4 #1 for more details) to attend and vote, in accordance with the Bylaws, at all General Meetings called by the Association,
 - h) To operate club leagues in accordance with BC Soccer published rules,
 - i) To operate Player and Coach Development Programs, and
 - j) To participate in BC Soccer's Insurance Plan.
- 8) Discipline of a Member
 - a) A Member may be fined, placed on probation or performance bond, censured, suspended or expelled from membership for cause after lodgement of a formal complaint that is substantiated

at a hearing held in accordance with the respective governing body and in the case that the rules of the respective governing body are silent, BC Soccer's published rules.

- b) The Board may suspend a Member without a formal complaint and hearing in extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Board. The Board shall provide reasons for the proposed suspension and request submissions be provided by the Member at issue in writing or verbally within 7 (seven) days from the date of the notice. Such submissions, if any, shall be considered and a final decision made by the Board.
- c) The Members may discipline or remove a Member by Special Resolution at a meeting of the Members, provided the meeting notice states the proposed reasons for the discipline or removal, and the Member is provided with an opportunity to be heard at the meeting either orally or in writing.
- d) A Member that is suspended loses all rights of membership until the suspension has been completed.

9) Termination of Membership

Membership in the Association shall be deemed to have been terminated:

- a) If the Member submits a signed letter of withdrawal to the Association,
- b) If the Member is expelled,
- c) If the Member is dissolved,
- d) If the Member is not in good standing for a period of 6 (six) months.

10) Members Not in Good Standing

The Board may declare a Member to be not in good standing who has failed to pay the current annual membership fee, if any, or any other subscription or debt due and owing by the Member to the Association or fails to comply with the requirements of these Bylaws. As long as the debt remains unpaid And/or non-compliance remains, the Member is not in good standing and loses all rights of membership.

11) Follow the Obligations of Membership as set out in the BC Soccer Bylaws.

- i. Minimum Notice to Reader financial statements prepared by a licensed CPA in public practice. Review and audit engagements are acceptable.*
- ii. Proof of filing of the club's annual report or business registration renewal as applicable.*
- iii. A listing of the current officers and directors showing the names, telephone numbers and email addresses of each.*
- iv. A discipline report submitted in a format acceptable by the Youth District Association.*
- v. A Criminal Record Check Report in a format acceptable by the Youth District Association.*
- vi. Confirmation that the books and records of the club shall be open to inspection by the Youth District Association upon request.*

PART 4: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1) The Association shall be governed by a Board which shall consist of one non-voting* individual from each member Club; known as COYSA Reps always maintaining a minimum of 5 (five) Board members with the exception of President/Chair. Each Club may also provide an alternate individual to stand in when that primary representative is unable to attend meetings. *Neither the primary or alternate representatives can hold a voting, paid position, executive or shareholder position (for profit clubs) with their Member Club nor can they benefit financially from said Club.

- a) These individuals shall hold the positions of:
 - i) President/Chair: 1 (one) year term (even years)
 - ii) Vice-President/Vice Chair: 1 (one) year term
 - iii) Treasurer: 1 (one) year term (odd years)

- iv) Discipline Chair: 1 (one) year term
 - v) Director-At-Large: 1 (one) year term
 - vi) Immediate Past COYSA Chair (non-voting)
- i) Registrar: staff
- ii) Risk Management Officer: staff
- b) A Director may hold more than 1 (one) office, except President/Chair and Vice-President/Vice Chair.
 - c) A Director shall be 19 (nineteen) years of age or older and shall not be an Undischarged Bankrupt.
 - d) A Director shall serve for a term of 1 (one) year or until his or her successor is elected or appointed.
- 2) A paid employee of the Association shall be permitted to attend meetings of the Board, as appropriate (at the discretion of the Board), and shall have a voice but no vote at such meetings.
- 3) Director Resignation and Vacancy
- a) A Director may resign their position by submitting a signed letter of resignation to the Association.
 - b) A vacancy on the Board, caused by removal, resignation, incapacity or death, shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board. The successor Director shall hold their incumbent's position for the remainder of the term being filled or until the next Annual Meeting of the Members, whichever comes first.
- 4) Removal of Director
- a) A Director shall automatically be removed from their position if:
 - i) they cease to be qualified as set out in the Act or these Bylaws; or
 - ii) they become, or are discovered to be, an Undischarged Bankrupt.
 - b) A Director may be removed from their position by resolution of the Board if:
 - i) they become incapable of performing the business of the Association;
 - ii) they are absent from 2 (two) or more regularly scheduled meetings of the Board in a year without satisfactory reason;
 - iii) they are no longer domiciled in British Columbia;
 - iv) they have failed to properly account for monies or other property belonging to the Association;
 - v) they have been found guilty of a criminal offence regardless of whether or not the offence directly affected the Association; or
 - vi) they have been found guilty by BC Soccer of failing to act in accordance with the Conflict of Interest Policy and Conduct, Ethics and Discipline Standards and Policy of BC Soccer.

Such removal shall require the Board to give to all Board Members, including the subject Director, a minimum of 14 (fourteen) days' notice of a hearing to consider the removal of a Director. The subject Director shall be given an opportunity to present evidence at the hearing. The decision to remove a Director must be passed by a minimum 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote of the Directors present at the meeting.
 - c) A Director may be removed by the Membership provided:
 - i) the Director is given the opportunity to present evidence in their defense at the next duly constituted meeting of the Members;
 - ii) all Members will be given a minimum of 30 (thirty) days' notice of this agenda item prior to the Members' meeting; and
 - iii) the decision to remove a Director must be passed by a minimum 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote of the Members present at the meeting.

5) Conflict of Interest and Standards of Conduct

The Directors shall adhere to BC Soccer's Conflict of Interest Policy and Conduct, Ethics and Discipline Standards and Policy as amended from time to time and the Procedure for Disclosure and Recordation of Conflicts as set out in the Act.

6) Duties of Board

- a) The Board shall conduct the business of the Association during the periods between General Meetings of the Association and in accordance with the authority granted to it in the Bylaws of the Association.
- b) The Board shall be responsible for the appointment and removal of appointments of all positions within the Association except for those positions elected by the membership of the Association. This shall include the appointment of volunteer and paid positions within the Association's operations.
- c) The Board may also revoke, for good and sufficient cause, any volunteer appointment providing that it has provided that volunteer the opportunity to give cause why such revocation should not take place.

7) Duties of Directors

a) President/Chair

The President/Chair shall preside at all General Meetings of the Association and of the Board. The President/Chair shall: be an ex officio a member of all committees, except any nominations committee; shall appoint all Chairs of standing and special committees subject to ratification by the Board; shall coordinate all duties of the Board, committees, staff; and shall be the spokesperson for the Association. The President has no authority to act unless directed to do so by the Board.

b) Vice-President/Vice-Chair

The Vice President/Vice-Chair shall act in the absence of the President/Chair and shall have other powers as assigned by the Board.

c) Treasurer

The Treasurer shall: ensure that full and accurate records are kept of the accounts of the Association; shall report to the Board at least once per quarter; and shall submit an Annual Financial Report (including Budget) to Annual Meetings of the Members.

d) Other Director Positions

The duties of other Director Positions shall be determined by the Board.

8) Nominations and Elections

- a) Nominations for positions on the Board may be made by any Member at the Annual Meeting of the Members.
- b) Nominations and elections for open positions shall be held in the order of the positions listed in the Bylaws.
- c) Election shall be by secret ballot, but in the event only one candidate is nominated, no vote is required and the nominated candidate shall be declared elected by acclamation.
- d) All Directors shall be elected by majority vote.
- e) At the AGM, the Members shall elect the position of President/Chair.
- f) At the first Board meeting, the Board shall elect Vice President/Vice Chair, Treasurer and remaining Directors.

9) Authority of President/Chair. The President/Chair shall speak on behalf of the Association based on the direction of the Board.

- 10) Deemed removal on election to other soccer organization.
- a) A Director of the Association may not hold an elected or appointed Board of Directors position on a Youth Club.
 - b) If a Director holds such a position for more than 60 (sixty) days, they shall be deemed removed from Youth District's Board.
- 11) Only 1 (one) member from each Club may hold a position on the Board of an Association.

PART 5: MEETINGS

1) General Meetings

- a) An official notice of each meeting of the Members shall be given to all members at least 7 (seven) days before the meeting is to be held, at such place, and at such date as the Board may determine. Such notification shall be by:
 - i) personal delivery;
 - ii) e-mail, where an e-mail address has been provided by a member for that purpose.
- b) A quorum shall be those present at a duly constituted General Meeting of the Members or a minimum of 3 (three) voting Members, whichever is the greater. Any question shall be decided by a majority of the votes unless otherwise required by these Bylaws.
- c) In the event a quorum is not achieved at the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned for 72 (seventy-two) hours at which time it will be reconvened with those voting Members who are present.
- d) The accidental omission of notice does not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

2) Annual Meeting of the Members

The Association shall hold its Annual Meeting of the Members no later than December 15th of each year.

The agenda of the meeting shall include:

1. Roll Call
2. Credentials Report
3. Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting of the Members
4. President's/Chair's Address
5. Officers' Reports
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Auditor's Report
8. Appointment of Auditors
9. Other Reports
10. Unfinished Business
11. Amendments to the Bylaws
12. Roll Call
13. Election of Officers and Directors
14. Any Other Business
15. Adjournment

3) Requisitioning a Meeting of the Members

- a) A Meeting of the Members of the Association:
 - i) may be called by the Board by its own motion, or
 - ii) shall be called by the Board upon receipt of a written request submitted to the Association by registered mail, certified mail, trace mail, courier service, hand delivery, fax or e-mail, signed by Members in good standing and entitled to vote representing not less than 10% (ten) of the voting Membership and complying with the requirements for

Members to requisition a general meeting under the Act.

- b) The Meeting of Members shall be held within 21 (twenty-one) days of receipt of the written request from the Members. The Board has 20 (twenty) days after receipt to hold the Meeting of the Members. If it does not, on the 21st (twenty-first) day, the Members who requisitioned the meeting may call a meeting per the notice requirements in these Bylaws and the Societies Act. Only the business set out in the notice to the Meeting of the Members shall be considered.

4) Voting at Annual Meeting of the Members:

At Meetings of the Members, an Active Member shall have 1 (one) vote. No Member shall have more than 1 (one) vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

5) Board Meeting

- a) The Board shall meet whenever the President/Chair deems it necessary, or is instructed to do so by a majority of the Board, but in any case shall meet at least once every two months. The Board shall meet at least 6 (six) times per year. Notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be given by the President/Chair or Secretary to all Directors at least 14 (fourteen) days before the meeting is to be held.
- b) A majority of the Members of the Board shall form a quorum at all Meetings of the Board. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes where each Director is entitled to cast one vote.

PART 6: COMMITTEES

The Membership at any Meeting of the Members, or the Board at any Meeting of the Board, may establish a standing committee or special committee to carry out specific business or programs of the Association.

PART 7: PROCEDURES GOVERNING MEETINGS

All meetings of the Association shall be conducted in person or via video/teleconferencing and in accordance with the most recently published Robert's Rules of Order except as may be otherwise stipulated in this Bylaw or other Rules and Regulations of the Association.

PART 8: BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS

- 1) Bylaw amendments may be proposed by the Board, or submitted by a Member to the Association in writing at least 45 (forty-five) days prior to a General Meeting of the Association; and approved by Special Resolution at a meeting of the Members where notice of the proposed amendments has been given.
- 2) All Members shall be notified of the proposed Bylaw amendments referred to in subparagraph (1). Such notification shall be made a minimum of 7 (seven) days prior to the meeting called for that purpose.

PART 9: RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1) The Association shall have Rules and Regulations for the operation and administration of the game of soccer within the Association.
- 2) Amendments to the Rules and Regulations may be made by a majority vote of the Board or the voting Members at a General Meeting of the Members. If the Rules and Regulations are amended by the Board, the amendment shall be presented for ratification at the next Meeting of the Members called for that

purpose. If the amendment is not ratified, it is of no effect and the previous Rules and Regulations are then in effect.

PART 10: INDEMNITY

- 1) In this Part, “eligible party” has the same meaning as in the Act.
- 2) Indemnification. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Association will indemnify an eligible party against all costs, charges and expenses, including legal and other fees, actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any legal proceeding or investigative action, whether current, threatened, pending or completed, to which that eligible party, by reason of his or her holding or having held authority within the Association:
 - a) is or may be joined as a party to such legal proceeding or investigative action; or
 - b) is or may be liable for or in respect of a judgment, penalty or fine awarded or imposed in, or an amount paid in settlement of, such legal proceeding or investigative action.
- 3) Advancement of Expenses. To the extent permitted by the Act and these Bylaws, all costs, charges and expenses incurred by an eligible party with respect to any legal proceeding or investigative action may be advanced by the Association prior to the final disposition thereof, in the discretion of the Board, and upon receipt of an undertaking satisfactory in form and amount to the Board by or on behalf of the eligible party to repay such amount unless it is ultimately determined that the eligible party is entitled to indemnification hereunder.
- 4) Indemnification Prohibited. Notwithstanding the above, the Association shall not indemnify an eligible party against any costs, charges and expenses, including legal and other fees, incurred in connection with any legal proceeding or investigative action, if such eligible party:
 - a) has already been reimbursed for such expenses;
 - b) has been judged by a court, in Canada or elsewhere, or by another competent authority to have committed any fault or to have omitted to do anything that he or she ought to have done;
 - c) in relation to the subject matter of the legal proceeding or investigative action, did not act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Association or subsidiary; or
 - d) in the case of a legal proceeding other than a civil proceeding, did not have reasonable grounds for believing that his or her conduct, in respect of which the legal proceeding or investigative action was brought, was lawful.
- 5) Non-compliance. The failure of an eligible party to comply with the provisions of the Act, of the Constitution, or these Bylaws will not invalidate any indemnity to which he or she is entitled to under this Part.
- 6) Deemed Contract. Every eligible party on being elected or appointed will be deemed to have contracted with the Association upon the terms of the foregoing indemnities.

PART 11: FINANCE

Financial Statements shall be defined as an Annual Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet), Statement of Operations, Cash Flow Statement, and Statement of Changes in Net Assets.

- 1) The Financial Statements of the Association shall either:
 - a) be prepared by a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and then compiled by a licensed CPA on an annual basis; or

- b) be prepared by a Bookkeeper and then reviewed by a licensed CPA on an annual basis. Should there be a requirement from a third party to have a review or audit (i.e. bank covenant) that requirement could supersede 1(a) or 1(b) with approval from the Board of Directors.
- 2) The Financial Statements of the Association and the either the Compilation or Review Report shall be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Members. The Financial Statements of the Association and the Compilation or Review Report shall be distributed to the membership at least 10 (ten) days before the Annual Meeting of the Members.
 - 3) A budget for the following fiscal year shall be prepared by the Board and presented for approval at the Annual Meeting of the Members. The budget shall include all proposed fees.
 - 4) The Board of Directors may not cause the Association to be indebted or encumbered without seeking the prior approval of the Membership, and obtaining prior approval by Special Resolution.
 - 5) Signing officers for financial accounts and executing contracts on behalf of the Association shall be a minimum of 2 (two) Directors or authorized members of staff.
 - 6) The fiscal year end will be as determined by the Board. The fiscal year of the Association is October 31st. The fiscal year could be changed with simple majority of the Board of Directors.

PART 12: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 1) Any person or organization will not take disputes to ordinary courts of law without first exhausting all available remedies as provided for by independent and duly constituted tribunals recognized under the rules of BC Soccer, Canada Soccer, CONCACAF, or FIFA, as applicable.
- 2) The Association shall adhere to any dispute resolution process as published and approved by BC Soccer from time to time (the "Dispute Resolution" process).
- 3) Any member of the Association may initiate the Dispute Resolution process by communicating in writing to BC Soccer, with a copy to the Association, the nature and facts of the dispute. BC Soccer, at its discretion, may proceed with the Dispute Resolution process by assigning one or more neutral persons to the dispute.
- 4) The Dispute Resolution process shall not be used for game discipline, which follows the normal discipline, protests, and appeals process of the Association and BC Soccer.
- 5) The Association shall make available to any member a copy of the Dispute Resolution process when requested.
- 6) A member shall utilize all appeal and dispute resolution mechanisms prior to civil litigation. BC Soccer and the Association support the principles of Alternative Dispute Resolution and are committed to the techniques of mediation and arbitration as effective ways to resolve disputes and to avoid the uncertainty and cost associated with litigation.

PART 13: POLICIES

- 1) The Association shall maintain policies that are consistent with the published and approved policies of BC Soccer. The Association may set such additional policies as determined from time to time by the Board.

- 2) The policies shall apply to all employees, directors, officers, volunteers, team officials, game officials, administrators, players, members and registrants of the Association.
- 3) The Association shall make available to any Member a copy of the Association's policies when requested.

PART 14: APPEALS

Any registrant or registered organization directly affected by a decision of the Association may appeal such decision.

The denial or termination of membership in the Association may be appealed by a non-registered individual or organization.

A decision of the Association may be appealed to BC Soccer, to be conducted in accordance with BC Soccer's published Rules. A decision of BC Soccer may be further appealed to the Canadian Soccer Association, to be conducted in accordance with the Canadian Soccer Association's published Rules.

An individual shall not appeal a decision made by the Board regarding the appointment, non-appointment, re-appointment or revocation of an appointment of an individual to any coach or administrator position within the Association's operations, except where the selection, appointment and revocation process outlined in the Rules and Regulations has not been followed.

An individual shall not be entitled to appeal a decision made by the Association regarding a player's team assignment on any Club, District, or Regional team.

PART 15: DEFINITIONS/TERMINOLOGY

Terminology used in this Bylaw shall have the same meaning as used by BC Soccer in its Constitution, Bylaws and published Rules. In the case of a conflict between definitions, the definition used by BC Soccer shall govern.

PART 16: DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Association, the assets which remain after the payment of all charges and expenses which are properly incurred in winding up, shall be assigned and distributed to such organizations as may be involved in the game of soccer, or to such charitable organization or organizations as may be determined by the Members of the Association at the time of dissolution. Any assets that are a result of Gaming within the Province of British Columbia shall be returned to the Minister of Finance of the Province of British Columbia.