

Fort St. John Soccer Club



Northern Strikers Rules & Regulations 2024/2025

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Definitions

ASA:	Alberta Soccer Association
BCSA:	British Columbia Soccer Association
CSA:	Canadian Soccer Association
SQS:	Standard for Quality Soccer
NWPSA:	Northwest Peace Soccer Association
Association FSJSC:	Fort St. John Soccer Club
FSJNS:	Fort St. John Northern Strikers
BOD:	Board of Directors

Guest / Replacement Player:

A player picked up to play on a team. A Guest / Replacement is usually a player from a younger age group whose skills are being evaluated and/or a player who is needed to fulfill a depleted roster for a game and/or tournament.

Team Official:

Team Officials refers to any person formally associated with a team, such as a coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer, first aid attendant, or a bench parent.

Affiliations

The FSJSC is affiliated, through the Northwest Peace Soccer Association, with the Alberta Soccer Association, British Columbia Soccer Association and the Canadian Soccer Association. In general, the FSJSC concurs with the rules and regulations of these Associations.

All affiliates of the FSJSC are expected to obey the FSJSC Constitution and Rules and Regulations. Any organization affiliated with the FSJSC in contravention of FSJSC, BCSA, ASA or CSA Bylaws, or Rules and Regulations may face disciplinary action.

Fort St John Soccer Club Mission Statement

Fort St John Soccer is a fun and inclusive community that champions human connection, diversity, fair play, and personal athletic advancement.

General Information

The FSJSC currently registers approximately 300 players for the outdoor season and 400+ players for the indoor season. Members of the FSJSC include parents and guardians of registered players, plus active coaches and recognized volunteers. Each year, members elect a Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting. The FSJNS offers the following programs:

- Competitive Soccer (Northern Strikers) 9 to 18 years old (U11 to U19) and Adults
- Participation in Provincial Competition 11 to 19 years old (U13 to U19)
- Participation in tournaments
- Summer Soccer Camps
- Player specific Camps throughout the year
- Coaching Clinics
- Referee Clinics

Program Objectives

It is the goal of the FSJSC to provide Development/Competitive Soccer to players in our association, giving them the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The overall objective of the Development/Competitive Program is to support the development of players and coaches. Through directed support, both the quality of play and personal growth of the players can be supported and developed. A key philosophical aspect is improving the experience for the player through development and support of effective coaching. Coaches can work together as a team to promote the FSJSC's philosophy.

Furthermore, there are elite players whose playing skills would benefit by playing with more skilled players on an ongoing basis. As a soccer organization, it is our role to support these elite players so they can develop to their maximum.

These programs are designed for players who aspire to play soccer at a highly competitive level now and in the future. This format is balanced by our ongoing responsibilities to support and develop all competitive players participating in soccer. Our actions must **ALWAYS** be in the best interest of the athletes, team, program, and association.

Coach Evaluation and Appointment

Advertising for competitive coaches will begin in August for our indoor season and March for our outdoor season.

- Coach selection will follow the FSJ Soccer “Coach Selection Policy”.
- Once a coach has been selected they will choose a Team Manager and at least one Assistant Coach.

Every FSJNS team must have at least one Assistant Coach and a Team Manager. No exceptions.

A Coaches’ meeting will be held to discuss recruitment sessions, the team selection process (if more than one team per age group is needed), travel, and the coaches, Players and Parents Code of Conduct, and general competitive team guidelines, policies and procedures, prior to the start of the season.

The coaching staff for the age group of the competitive team should make their best efforts to be involved in the recruitment sessions.

The Fort St John Soccer Club will provide information on where and when the community coaching workshops will be provided.

ASA 7.4. One team official from each team involved in the Indoor Provincial Championships must fulfill the coaching requirements for the appropriate level as per the chart below. This qualified team official must be present at each game of the Provincial Championships:

Competition	Coaching Requirements
U15, U17 Tier 1	C License Trained OR Higher
U13 Tier 1	Soccer for Life Trained OR Higher
U15+, Tiers 2-4	Soccer for Life Trained OR Higher
U13, Tiers 2-4	Learn to Train OR Soccer for Life OR Higher

7.4.1. In the event of non-compliance with any team official regulations, the Competitions Committee through the Alberta Soccer Board of Directors will decide the appropriate course of action.

BC Youth Provincial Championships

Between the ages of U14 and U18, teams can qualify for entry into the Provincial Championship, depending on which League or Division they play. Players in the BC Soccer Premier League will compete for the “**Provincial Premier Cup**” which is hosted annually in a different community based on a bidding process.

The '**Provincial A Cup**' is contested by players in Division 1, or equivalent, and hosted annually at one location selected via an application process.

The **Les Sinnott Memorial Boys Provincial B Cup** and **Girls Provincial B Cup** are contested by players in Division 2, or equivalent, and hosted annually at one location selected via an application process.

Regional Qualification for the respective competitions occurs at different times of the year depending on the region. The "**Regional Qualifiers**" include the Coastal Cup, Island Cup, Northern Cup, Thompson Okanagan Cup, and the Kootenay Rockies Cup.

All competitions take place annually between June and July.

<https://www.bcsoccer.net/media/msmj1yaz/2024-youth-provincial-championships-rules-and-regulations.pdf>.

Team Officials & Rule of Two – Rule of Two Policy

The FSJSC requires that **ALL** team officials obtain security clearance (through a CRC) every 2 years. All FSJNS teams must comprise at least two screened and trained coaches who must both be present at all games and practices. Teams must also have at least one coach that is of the same gender as the players during all soccer activities. Player mentors are encouraged within the FSJNS and when this is an option, the player mentors are required to be 2 age divisions higher than that of the team they are working with and encourage development under the guidance of the team head coach. Player mentors are a beneficial addition to the soccer training but they do not meet the Rule of Two unless they are screened and trained, and of legal age.

(Reference: FSJ Soccer - Rule of Two Policy)

FSJNS teams must adhere to the rules for provincial competition, tournaments or play in other games for the number of team officials allowed on the bench or in the technical area in those competitions.

Player, Parent, and Coach Conduct, Expectations, Commitments, and Responsibilities

Player, Parent, and Coach expectations, commitments and responsibilities are located in the Code of Conduct and Expectations. These will be revised annually where necessary to reflect changes to the FSJNS Program and updated changes will be provided to players, parents, coaches and manager.

Season and Schedules

The Competitive Teams Program will run year-round if coaches are available for teams. The outdoor season will commence annually on May 1 and end on October 31. The indoor season will annually commence on November 1 and end on April 30, recognizing there may be minor variations to season start-ups from season to season.

Practice times will be scheduled by the FSJSC Scheduler and Competitive Director. All competitive teams are free to arrange pick-up games against each other and other teams, as

long as they are within the BCSA jurisdiction, have achieved SQS, and are a registered Club within their province. If teams are seeking games outside BCSA jurisdiction, formal permission and travel permit must be applied for and granted at least 2 weeks prior to the game. In such cases, contact the FSJSC office to process paperwork.

Registration Fees

U11-U19 Competitive players will pay a base fee per season. This fee will be decided annually by the FSJSC Executive. This fee will cover 3 tournaments per season, player insurance, Club fees, allotted pitch time, and jersey and equipment usage. U13-U19 will also allocate the cost of provincials in their base fee. If a team plans to attend more tournaments or has other expenses, fees may increase for that specific team.

Player Registration

All players, U11 up to U17, playing for a FSJNS team, must be registered in a NWPSA House League program, and be in good standing with their home Club and the FSJSC.

All players, U17 to U19, playing for a FSJNS team, must be registered in a NWPSA Club as a house league player or as a non-house player and must be in good standing with their home Club and the FSJSC.

Any changes in players must be communicated to the FSJSC Office.

When players register, their birth certificates or other proof of age must be provided on request to the FSJSC.

It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that all players are eligible to play.

Team officials of the FSJNS teams playing in games or tournaments must ensure that the team and player registration is completed according to the rules and regulations of the host game and/or tournament. In case of roster changes, team officials must ensure that all transfer / release forms have been completed.

Player identification cards will be handed out to all players U11 to U19 within the FSJNS. These cards will remain the property of the FSJSC and must be returned to the Club when requested.

Player cards (where required by competitive rules) must be made available on request. Replacement player cards issued by the FSJSC may be subject to a replacement fee.

Age Groups

The age group categories for the FSJNS are as follows:

Adult: 16 years of age and above

U19: Players under nineteen (19) years of age before January 1st of the current year of his/her application for registration

U17: Players under seventeen (17) years of age before January 1st of the current year of his/her application for registration

U15: Players under fifteen (15) years of age before January 1st of the current year of his/her application for registration

U13: Players under thirteen (13) years of age before January 1st of the current year of his/her application for registration

U11: Players under eleven (11) years of age before January 1st of the current year of his/her application for registration

Categories are teams of players that have not reached the limiting age before December 31 of the year for which they are registered.

Team Officials can decide if their age category can be split into multiple teams, providing it is done with the consent of the FSJSC Competitive Director, and it is done for the best interest of all the players involved in that division. Divisions will be made based on the FSJSC policy for dividing teams.

Transfer to a Lower Tier within the Same Age Group

The transfer of players to a lower tier within the same age group is not permitted unless the transfer is completed prior to the player completing the 5th game of the higher tier.

Player Playing in Older Group or Higher Tier than One Registered In

Any registered player may play games for an older age group team or a team of the same age in a higher tier within the parent organization, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. Prior permission has been granted using our Guest Player / Loan Player Form
2. The player card must be in the possession of the team official they are now playing for
3. All guest / loan players are subject to the rules and regulations of the specific game / tournament they are playing in.

Players 16 years and older may play unlimited games for a registered BCSA Senior team, provided they follow the rules and regulations of the senior team in question. BCSA rules regarding the conditions under which a minor player may play for a senior team will apply.

Player Movement Policy- *valid for players U13 to U19*

For players requesting to move to a different (higher) division, a player movement application form must be submitted to the Competitive Director. This application will be submitted before the players attend a tryout or team practice for the team they are applying to. The Competitive Director and Club Head Coach will conduct an evaluation of players. The general rule is that players must be in the top 30% skill level of the division they are applying to move into, and the move shall not be a detriment to either of the two teams involved. Maturity of players will also be assessed and considered in the decision.

Player move ups must not hinder/weaken the team of the departing player and be approved by both Head Coaches from both age groups, BOD, and Competitive director.

Uniforms and Equipment

All players must wear proper soccer attire at all times during practices and games. The referee has the obligation to remove a player who is not complying with this rule. Shin-pads and proper indoor or outdoor shoes are mandatory. No shorts may have pockets or zippers.

The Equipment Director, equipmentfsjsc@telus.net, or someone appointed by him or her will give equipment such as balls and cones to the coaches at the beginning of the season.

The primary uniform will be worn during all games played by all FSJNS teams. The primary uniform will consist of a yellow jersey, royal blue shorts, and white socks. The alternate uniform will consist of a royal blue jersey, royal blue shorts and white socks. The jerseys are property of the FSJSC and will be returned at the end of each season. A deposit for the uniforms will be required. Uniforms will be distributed to players by their coaches or managers once their fees have been paid.

A jersey deposit fee of \$100 per player is required before the players will receive their jerseys. When the jersey is returned at the end of the season, the deposit will be given back. If the jersey is not returned or is returned in poor condition, the deposit may be forfeited.

Shorts (same shorts to be used with both jerseys) will be purchased by the players. The players will keep them at the end of the season. Socks will be purchased by the player; players will keep these at the end of the season.

The shorts and socks will be purchased from the Club or through an approved vendor provided by the Club.

U9 Players have the option to purchase the Club team apparel.
U11-U19 Players are required to purchase the Club team apparel: shorts, socks.

All other Club apparel is optional unless otherwise stated by your Team official.

A player's name may be placed on the Club apparel aside from the Club jerseys that are on loan to the players and on their own shorts and socks.

Team practice kits (shirts, socks, shorts) are at the discretion of the team officials.

The cost of the practice kits is the responsibility of the players (parents). The color and silk screening decisions are made by the team officials. The FSJNS logo must be on practice kits.

Further details on uniforms, equipment, and attire can be found in the Player Code of Conduct and Expectations.

Team staff are prohibited from making their own 'off brand' FSJNS apparel. All apparel requests must be submitted to FSJSC BOD for approval. This is to provide uniformity amongst FSJNS teams.

Referees and Assistant Referees

The Head Referee can email a list of qualified referees and assistant referees for home games. It will be up to teams to book the best qualified referee for their game from this list.

The team will pay for the cost for the referees or both teams may share the cost of the referees.

The payment to the referees will be made by the Club Bookkeeper from competitive team funds; payment will be based on written notice or a referee sheet approved by a team official.

If the referee does not show up for the game, both coaches may agree to use another coach / screened parent as an official for the purposes of that game only. Please notify the Head Referee if the referee does not attend.

If team officials deem the field unplayable, they should inform the referee. The referee will make the final decision about field playability. If the field is unsafe and / or unplayable, the referee must call the game.

If both teams have similar colored jerseys, the home team will change their jerseys or wear scrimmage vests.

Any complaints concerning the officials must be directed in writing to the Head Referee, refereefsjsc@telus.net

Pitch, Field Closures, and Postponements

Field allocation is done through the FSJSC. Practice times will be assigned to teams at the beginning of each season. Teams may share or trade times keeping in mind the originally scheduled team will be billed for the usage if the FSJSC is not notified. Notification to the FSJSC office to record changes is required.

Both games and practices must be booked through the FSJSC and be approved beforehand.

Games must be played at the field and times scheduled unless an official postponement is granted by the FSJSC or the referee calls the game.

A game will be called when the referee decides the field is unplayable, when weather or darkness make play too difficult or unsafe, and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Fields may be closed by Leisure Services to protect them from damage during wet weather. Announcements regarding any game cancellations will be on the website, www.fsjsoccer.com, Club Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fsjsoccerclub/>), or emailed to the members. If weekend practices are canceled because of wet weather, it is up to the team manager to inform the team of the canceled practice/game.

For any issues with scheduling, contact the FSJSC Administrator at fsjsoccer@telus.net or FSJNS Competitive Director at strikersfsjsc@gmail.com

Any cancellations of pitch, field usage, or meeting room usage require a minimum of 2 weeks' notice prior to the cancellation date to avoid paying a usage fee. If less than 2 weeks' notice is given, teams will be responsible to cover the usage fee.

Tournament and Travel Regulations

Team officials shall notify the Competitive Director of the tournaments their teams are planning to attend. After the tournament, the Competitive Director (strikersfsjsc@gmail.com) must be notified of the results of the tournament.

Any team playing games or attending tournaments (out of province or within) must ensure the teams they are playing are registered teams and are in good standing in their district.

Out of Province travel applications must be sent through the FSJSC office. These forms are available on the BCSA website. This should be done as soon as possible to meet the requirement of being granted at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled games. If a team plays without properly informing the Club and/or District, that team may be fined and receive further reprimand.

Accommodation costs for coaches that do not have a child playing on the team will be covered by and distributed equally among players on the team. Covering these costs recognizes these individuals' time commitment, organization, and supervision of players while at out-of-town games or tournaments. Expenses may be adjusted seasonally at the Board of Directors' discretion.

Expense sheets must be filled out and approved by the team manager. Expense forms should be submitted no later than 15 days after the tournament date.

- Fuel expense to / from game / tournament to a max of one vehicle at \$0.30 per km
- Meals out of town game / tournament to a maximum of \$75/day

- Accommodations out-of-town game / tournament to a maximum of one room

Traveling as a Team

Teams must be accompanied and supervised by at least two Team Officials (minimum 1 of the same gender as the team). Teams with coaches of the opposite sex to the team will only be permitted to travel when a screened supervisor of the same sex is provided on the bus and at the place of accommodation. Coaches are responsible for their team's behavior throughout the trip. They must set and enforce a reasonable curfew. Players who steal, commit willful damage, or endanger other people may be barred from future traveling, and any costs will be charged to their parents. Players who use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs will be sent home immediately at their parent's/parents' expense and will be barred from travel for a year. They may also be subject to further disciplinary action.

Play-downs and Provincials Championships

District play-downs for Provincials will be organized by the District. They will be played before Feb. 15 for the indoor season. For the outdoor season the play-downs will take place before June 10 for Tier IV and before July 10 for Tier III. Dates may vary from year to year. Provincial competitions are held annually in March for the indoor season. Outdoor provincials are held in July and August.

Disciplinary Guidelines

The FSJSC Board of Directors (BOD) is empowered to deal with reported cases of misconduct, violations of FIFA Laws of the Game, and violations of FSJSC, or BCSA regulations. Disciplinary action may be taken against any team official, player, parent, supporter, or official in connection with activities in Fort St. John or elsewhere. Coaches, parents, or supporters can be removed from the field if the referee believes they are interfering with the game.

The FSJSC BOD has the authority to remove offenders from the Club or suspend them for a stated period. Disciplinary action is normally delegated to a Discipline Committee. Offenders will have the opportunity to appear before the committee. Parents and coaches may also attend.

During games, practices, tournaments, and competitions, the team officials will attempt to control the actions of team parents and supporters. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action for the team.

Any player or team official who is "red-carded" is automatically suspended from the next game. After this, he/she may be eligible to participate, pending the decision of the Discipline Committee or the BOD. The Guidelines are two yellow cards for one player in one game will also result in a one-game automatic suspension. Three accumulated yellow cards will result in a one game suspension.

Referees will report both yellow and red cards in their official game reports. Additionally, red cards must be reported as soon as possible to the Head Referee who will convene the Discipline Committee.

All complaints of misconduct should be addressed, in writing, to the BOD.

Appeals must be directed, in writing, to the Competitive Director within one week of a decision by the Discipline Committee. Anyone making an appeal must attend the next scheduled board meeting to make their appeal in person. Suspensions must be served while the appeal is pending.

Discipline (on and off the field), the procedure of the Discipline Committee, and appeals are governed by the FSJSC Discipline Regulations and Guidelines. A copy of these Regulations and Guidelines is available from the Club Head Coach and on the FSJSC Website.

Summer Soccer Camps and Clinics

Under the direction of the Competitive Director, FSJSC will host summer development / high performance soccer camps for boys and girls of all ages. For more information contact the Competitive Director.

Fundraising and Sponsorship

Teams and Team Officials may engage in fundraising activities only with the permission of the FSJSC BOD. All requests to participate in fundraising activities must clearly state the type of fundraising activity to be undertaken and how the proceeds from the fundraising activity will be used. FSJSC has the right to limit or deny any fundraising activities. Any individual, player, or team official fundraising without permission of FSJSC is subject to discipline. A general sponsorship request letter is available for all teams to use. Contact the FSJSC office.

Sponsorship logos must be approved by the FSJSC Executive prior to going on any clothing. Sponsorship logos on the warm-up suits will be placed on the back of the coat centered below the collar of the jacket.

FSJSC has the right as an association to fundraise for the betterment of the association as a whole.

All fundraising and sponsorship money raised belongs to the team for one year (one indoor season and one outdoor season); after that, any funds remaining will be placed in a general competitive account.

Insurance

The FSJSC is not liable for any injury to individuals, players, team officials, game officials, or

spectators. All registered players and team officials will have limited insurance coverage through the British Columbia Soccer Association for all sanctioned events. In the unfortunate event of having to submit a claim, follow the steps provided on the BCSA website, <https://www.bcsoccer.net/membership/insurance/>.

Competitive Team Bank Accounts

All team funds will be routed through the FSJSC; however, all team funds belong to the individual teams. This process is for the protection of the team funds.

For any purchases, such as team clothing, an invoice should first go to the team manager for their files. It will be passed on to the club bookkeeper for payment. The club bookkeeper shall not process any invoices without team manager approval.

Any overages on a team's account that are not covered from player fees, fundraising, or sponsorship will need to be made up by the team by the end of each season.

Expectations and Information for Competitive Director

The Competitive Director should organize a coaches' / managers' meeting at the beginning of each season to distribute and discuss coaching philosophy, competencies and values. Other items to discuss include distribution of equipment, schedules, uniforms, field usage, practice venues, league play, tournaments, play downs, provincial championships, travel, technical assistance, and referees. The Competitive Director will handle complaints and disputes from coaches, players, or parents and attempt to resolve them in accordance with the FSJSC rules and policies. When problems cannot be solved the Competitive Director will refer the matter in writing to the FSJSC President, presidentfsjsc@telus.net.

The Competitive Director will manage the competitive division. He or she will work closely with team managers to ensure clothing orders are complete, roster forms are submitted on time, equipment issues are resolved, and games scheduled. For more specific information on Competitive Director duties see Board of Directors Operational Rules and Regulations.

Policies outlined above

Rule of two -

Chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/fsjsoccer/files/Forms%26Policies/2023%20Rule%20of%20Two.pdf

Playing Up/Playing Down

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