



BC SOCCER

2021 Youth Interior Provincial
Play Down Competitions
Rules and Regulations

Updated April 2021

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1) Introduction

The Interior Playdown competitions are the regional qualifications for Provincial Championships for the following regions: Thompson Okanagan, Columbia Kootenays, and North BC. The following is a listing of the Youth District Soccer Associations belonging to each region.

Regional qualifications fall within the jurisdiction of BC Soccer and are delegated to the districts within the region. The districts form a Regional Organizing Committee to oversee the playdowns in their region. The BC Soccer Competition Committee will set the amount of funds available for regional play downs each year.

a. Application

- i. These rules shall apply to all Interior Playdown competitions managed by BC Soccer. Any variances for specific competition shall be as noted in these Rules.

b. Management of Competitions

- i. BC Soccer shall control the operation of these competitions but may delegate organization of such to a regional organizing body/committee.
- ii. The Regional Organizing Committee may appoint a Coordinator/Statistician to oversee all aspects of the competition.
- iii. BC Soccer Youth Competitions Committee shall have the authority to order any game replayed, or played to a finish.

c. BC Soccer Constitution/Rules and Regulations Precedence

- i. In the event of any discrepancy between this document and the Rules and Regulations of BC Soccer, the latter shall have precedence.

d. BC Soccer Youth Competitions Committee

- i. Within the constraints of 1) c. i., BC Soccer, through its Competition Committee, may make such temporary rules governing specific situations not otherwise provided for, as are necessary to achieve the objectives of BC Soccer. *Such changes shall be communicated to all Districts prior to the commencement of the competition so altered.*

e. Risk Management

- i. Participants in any Youth Provincial Championship must adhere to BC Soccer's Criminal Record Check Policy, Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer, and Code of Conduct.
- ii. One (1) member of the team officials must be the same gender as the team. This team official must be present on the bench and in the changing rooms.
- iii. Adults may not be in a one-on-one position with a vulnerable person.

2) Team Eligibility

a. Declarations/Entry Deadlines

- i. The Provincial Premier, A & B Cups shall be open to all youth teams under the jurisdiction of the Association.
- ii. Teams must have played in properly constituted league matches and may not participate if under suspension from the District or authorized leagues.
- iii. Teams competing in the regional qualifying play downs (Northern BC, Columbia Kootenays & Thompson Okanagan regions) may declare for the regional qualifying play downs but decline a berth in the Provincial Cup before the declaration deadline.
- iv. The entry deadline shall be May 15th unless otherwise determined by the Youth Competitions Committee
- v. Teams must declare, by their declaration date, the following:
 1. Level of competition they are entering (A, B or Premier)
 2. Whether they are declining to participate in the Provincial Championships.
- vi. Teams that withdraw from the Provincial Cup past the declaration deadline for that season without declaring their intention to only participate in the Interior Play Down per Rule 2) a) v) may forfeit their entire performance bond and a hearing may be held to determine their Provincial Cup eligibility for the following season per Appendix 1 – Schedule of Fines.
- vii. Final rosters will be submitted on the Provincial Championship Roster Form by June 1st.

b. Dispensation

- i. Districts whose boundaries are limited by geography, may apply to form selected teams for Provincial Premier, A or B Championships.
- ii. Consideration will only be given to properly registered players selected from affiliated teams.
- iii. A club applying for dispensation will apply to their District Association. If approved, the district will then forward the application with the association approval to BC Soccer for dispensation on the club's behalf.
- iv. Applications from districts for dispensation must provide information regarding district registration numbers, number of rep teams to be formed, age groups, gender, league, and distance from other clubs and or districts.
- v. Written requests must be made by October 15th in the case of coastal districts and by May 1st in the case of interior districts.
- vi. The BC Soccer Youth Competitions Committee may grant extraordinary dispensation requests for situations not covered above if deemed necessary.

c. Performance Bonds

- i. All youth Districts and BCSPL clubs shall post one Performance Bond of \$1,500, or \$500 per team, whichever is less, to BC Soccer prior to any

- team entering or participating in any Play Down games for the current playing season.
- ii. Performance Bonds must be on file with BC Soccer by May 1st.
 - iii. If the bond is depleted during cup play, the member district must forthwith replenish the bond.
 - iv. Interest will not be paid on bond deposits.
 - v. It is the responsibility of all District associations to ensure that its affiliated teams fulfill their commitments once they have entered either Regional or Provincial Championships up to the time a Provincial Champion is declared and the Canadian National Club Championship is held.
 - vi. BC Soccer's Youth Competitions Committee may place any additional bonds on teams as specified within these rules for just cause as they see fit.

d. Coaching Qualifications

- i. Teams must be compliant with BC Soccer's Rules & Regulations' coach certification requirements.

3) Player Eligibility

a. Registration

- i. Players must be registered, or reinstated as a youth from senior player, or transferred to a team 7 days prior to taking part in that team's District qualification or regional play down game.
- ii. Players must have played at least 1 league game before playing in a District qualification or regional play down game. Districts that do not have league play due to geographical limitations may apply to the Youth Competitions Committee for exemption to this rule.
- iii. Players may only participate with one team in any one Cup Competition.

b. ID Cards

- i. Prior to each match, each team will supply to the referee a set of BC Soccer approved Photo Identification Cards, for all players and team officials. Properly validated Electronic ID Cards may be accepted.

4) Team Rules

a. Roster

- i. Teams must consist of a minimum of 11 registered players.
- ii. Youth teams shall not be permitted to register more than the maximum allowed players for their age division at any given time.
 1. for U13 - U16 the maximum shall be eighteen (18) players
 2. for U17 and U18 the maximum shall be twenty (20) players

b. Team Officials

- i. A maximum of five (5) team officials shall be listed on the team roster,

- ii. Only team officials listed on the Official Team Roster are eligible to be seated on the team bench in the team technical area during the game.
- iii. All team officials must have a current BC Soccer Photo Identification Card.

c. Player Pick Ups

- i. Player pickups are not permitted for the Interior Playdown Competitions.

d. Uniforms

- i. Teams participating in Interior Playdown competitions are required to have two complete sets of uniforms of different colors for all games to avoid colour conflict. The team listed as the home team will be required to change uniforms in the case of a colour conflict.

5) Game Rules

a. Laws of the Game

- i. All games are to be played in accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game in place at the beginning of the BC Soccer Coastal Season.

b. Substitutions

- i. Unlimited substitutions shall be allowed.
- ii. Substitutions shall be made during a stoppage in the game and with the referee's consent.

c. Duration of Play

- i. All games will be played to regulation time.
- ii. In the case of single game elimination, or wherever else applicable, if teams are still tied at the end of qualification, the teams will play two (2) equal halves of extra time. The following chart details current BC Soccer regulations for the duration of games and extra time periods for Provincial Championship Finals:

Division	Regulation Time	Extra Time
Under-18 Division	2 halves of 45 minutes	2 halves of 15 minutes
Under-17 Division	2 halves of 45 minutes	2 halves of 15 minutes
Under-16 Division	2 halves of 40 minutes	2 halves of 10 minutes
Under-15 Division	2 halves of 40 minutes	2 halves of 10 minutes
Under-14 Division	2 halves of 35 minutes	2 halves of 10 minutes
Under-13 Division	2 halves of 35 minutes	2 halves of 10 minutes

- iii. If teams are 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 IFAB Laws of the Game.

6) Competition Rules

a. Provincial Cup Qualification

- i. Each region will hold play downs to a winner in each age group to determine regional representatives for the Premier, A & B Cups.

- ii. All regional winners then play down to determine one Interior qualifier per age group for the BC Soccer Premier and Provincial A Cups.
- iii. If there is only (1) one team entered in an age group for the Premier or A Cups from all interior regions, that team will advance to the Provincial Cup.
- iv. The Regional Organizing Committee will decide the play down format they will use. If they cannot come to an agreement the competition then reverts to the following predetermined format, approved by the BC Soccer Competition Committee, based on the number of teams in an age group.
 - 1. 2 teams - 2 game playoff.
 - 2. 3, 4 or 5 teams -- Single-game Round Robin.
 - 3. 6 teams - 2 pools of 3, Single Round Robin; 1st v 1st.
 - 4. 7 teams - 1 pool of 3, 1 pool of 4, done by draw, Single Round Robin, 1st v 1st
 - 5. 8 teams - 2 pools of 4, done by draw, Single Round Robin, 1st v 1st.

b. Draw/Schedule

- i. BC Soccer will annually coordinate a regional play downs scheduling meeting in May to determine the Interior Playdowns schedule.
- ii. Play down games between two regions will be held at a mutually agreeable venue to both regions if possible. If there is no mutually agreeable venue available, regions will alternate hosting the play down games. The Thompson Okanagan or Columbia Kootenays will host in odd number years and the Northern BC Regions will host even numbered years.
- iii. Each participating District shall have a representative at the regional Cup Draw meeting.
- iv. Teams that are not declared at the time of the Draw meeting will not be allowed entry unless with written consent of the Youth Competitions Committee.
- v. Districts not represented at the regional cup draw meeting will forfeit their right to request any changes to the play down schedule once published.

c. Round Robin Tie-Breaking/Round Robin Results Calculations

- 1. 3 points shall be awarded for a win, 1 for a tie, and none for a loss.
- 2. At the end of the round robin the teams shall be ranked based on the number of points awarded that round robin. (Highest points being first, lowest being last.)
- 3. If two teams are tied on points ties shall be broken according to subsection 5 below, and in the order specified.
- 4. If more than two teams are tied on points, ties shall be broken according to subsection 5 below in the order specified until one team is no longer tied, at which time, the tie breaking sequence will be applied from the beginning to the remaining tied teams.

5. Ties shall be broken in the following sequence:
 - a. Previous Match Results – The winner of the match between the two teams tied on points shall be awarded the higher position. (Not applicable if 3 or more teams are tied.)
 - b. Goal Difference – Goal Difference shall be calculated by subtracting the goals conceded from goals scored. A maximum difference of five (5) goals shall be awarded in each game. The total goal difference calculated for all games played in the initial round robin or complete round robin shall be used.
 - c. Goals Against. Total number of goals conceded in the round robin shall be calculated and the team with the lowest number conceded shall be awarded the higher standing.
 - d. Goals for – The total number of goals scored on all opponents during the round robin to a maximum of five (5) goals per games shall be totalled, the team with the higher number shall be awarded the higher standing.
6. In the event a tie cannot be broken using the rules above penalty shots shall be taken as follows:
 - a. Two (2) teams tied - As per FIFA Laws of the Game. Each team names its five (5) initial shooters and the team scoring the most goals is declared the winner. If, after the initial five (5) shooters, the teams remain tied, then penalty kicks continue (using different players from an eleven (11) player roster with no player shooting a second time until all eleven players have shot once) until one team has scored one (1) more goal and an equal number of shots have been taken.
 - b. Three (3) teams tied - Each team is designated A, B, or C. Three (3) mini games shall be played (A vs. B, C vs. B, C vs. A) consisting of five (5) penalty kicks from each team. The standings after these three (3) mini games shall be determined by the criteria as follows:
 - i. Most points wins; three (3) points awarded for a win; one (1) point for tie.
 - ii. Previous match results as per 7) c. 5. above but from the mini game just played.
 - iii. Goal difference as calculated from the total mini games involving each team.
 - iv. Repeat mini game process until standings are determined.
 - c. Four (4) teams tied - Each team is designated A, B, C, or D. Six (6) mini games shall be played (A vs. B, C vs. D, A vs. C, B vs. D, A vs. D, and C vs. B) to decide the final standings as in the three (3) teams case above.

d. Scheduling and Rescheduling Requirements

- i. If games are to be played on an artificial field, teams must be notified prior to the scheduled game.
- ii. Any team unable to fulfill a scheduled play down game must give the

regional coordinator a minimum 48 hours' notice, in writing, stating the causes for such.

- iii. Any team unable to fulfill a scheduled play down game without just cause shall forfeit the game to its opponents.
- iv. Failure to fulfill a commitment (scheduled game) in this competition can result in disciplinary action being taken by the Provincial Board.
- v. In the event of inclement weather, the home district scheduler is responsible for informing participating teams whether any field is playable or not. If inclement weather should necessitate grounds and/or playing date changes, it is the prerogative of the home scheduler, to schedule such changes.
- vi. Rescheduling: In the event of a successful protest, or due to inclement weather, the home district scheduler may need to schedule games during a recognized holiday period. While every effort must be made to avoid the need to schedule games during this time, this may be necessary to meet scheduling deadlines.

e. Official Match Report

- i. Each team shall be required to bring two copies of their signed BC Soccer Provincial Cup Roster Forms and submit the forms to the referee before the start of each game.
- ii. The Provincial Cup Roster Form is part of the official record of each play down game along with the Match Report, and each team shall be entitled to receive a copy of the completed forms when it has been duly signed by the referee.
- iii. Match Report forms can be downloaded from the BC Soccer website.
- iv. It is the home team's responsibility to ensure the form is available at each game, and to ensure it has been given to the referee before half-time.
- v. It is the Regional Organizing Committee's responsibility to forward a copy of each game sheet to BC Soccer within 48 hours of the conclusion of the competition.
- vi. It is the head referee's responsibility to submit a game report, including all discipline, to the BC Soccer online reporting system.

f. Match Officials

- i. The host District is responsible for assigning the referees for all play down games.
- ii. No person shall officiate as a referee in any competition under the sanction or jurisdiction of the Association who is not on the official list of the Association, but if for unforeseen circumstances a referee on the official list is unable to act, the teams affected shall agree on some other person in the emergency as per BC Soccer Rules & Regulations Rule 14 -C.
- iii. Acceptance of non-registered officials must be noted on the game report and initialed by both coaches.
- iv. Referees must be a minimum of 2 years older than the players and must have at least 2 years' experience with a Youth or District classification or higher.

- v. Referee assistants must be the same age or older than the players and hold a Youth or District classification or higher.
- vi. No referee or assistant may officiate a game in which an immediate relative is participating.
- vii. If the referee is not able to finish officiating a game, the first assistant referee will take over.
- viii. The referee shall explain to both teams any extraordinary play off rules prior to the game, so that there is no question as to the duration of the game, the size of the ball to be used, substitution rules, overtime regulations, and what happens in the event penalty-kicks will be used to decide the winner.

7) Discipline

- a. All Judicial/Discipline matters will be dealt with by the Regional Organizing Committee.
- b. While a complaint/misconduct report is usually registered by a Game Official, a complaint/misconduct report may also originate from a member of BC Soccer, or the Regional Organizing Committee. A written summary of the incident shall be completed and kept on file along with other documents relating to the infraction.
- c. Discipline Hearings will be conducted by the Competition Discipline Panel as soon as possible at an appropriate location at, or near the competition venue. Appropriate records should be maintained as to the names of the members constituting the committee and persons attending the hearing.
- d. While the Competition Discipline Panel will render a verbal decision, the decision shall be put in writing with copies being distributed to the parties concerned within 24 hours of the hearing.
- e. Within two weeks of completion of the competition a full set of files concerning discipline conducted at the competition shall be turned over to the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer by way of the BC Soccer office.
- f. Within 30 days of completion of the competition, the home district of an individual or team that has been assessed a penalty at the competition shall be advised, in writing, of the circumstances that led to the penalty being assessed. This shall include a complete summary of cards issued or individuals ejected from games in case any carry over penalties should be served within the district.
- g. Appeals of a decision can be directed to the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer.
- h. Red cards will carry over to the players next league or cup game (whichever comes first) with a player having to adhere to the game suspensions levied by the Provincial Championships Discipline Panel.
- i. Yellow card accumulations will NOT be carried over from the regular season to Provincial Championship or regional qualifying games. However, any suspensions issued for yellow card accumulation during the season that go beyond the regular season will carry over to the Provincial Championships or Regional Qualifying games if applicable.
- j. A player who accumulates two (2) cautions (yellow cards) during Provincial Cup play, shall automatically be suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's next Provincial Cup game or league game, whichever comes first. Provincial Cup for youth teams is defined as all "Premier", "A" Cup competition

- and “B” Cup competition beyond Regional qualification.
- k. Any suspensions still to be served at the end of regional qualifying competitions will carry over to Provincial Championship games.

8) Administration of the Competition

a. Travel Assistance

- i. No travel assistance is provided for the Interior Playdown Competitions.

b. Medals

- i. BC Soccer will supply regional medals, to be presented at the final regional playdown game in both the A and B Regional finals. It is each region’s responsibility to advise BC Soccer of the age groups and number of gold and silver medals they will require.
- ii. Medals will be presented as follows:
 - 1. If only one team has entered from a region no medal will be given out.
 - 2. If two teams are playing off, BC Soccer will supply a 1st place medal only
 - 3. If three or more teams are playing off, BC Soccer will supply 1st and 2nd place medals only

c. BC Soccer Code of Conduct

- i. All participants at BC Soccer Provincial Championships are expected to abide by BC Soccer’s Competition Code of Conduct
- ii. All team officials competing in Interior Play Down matches will be required to sign the official BC Soccer Code of Conduct form on behalf of themselves and their team before their first play down game begins.

Appendix: Schedule of Fines

This section provides an outline of some general infractions that may be dealt with by the BC Soccer Youth Competitions Committee, made up of no less than 3 persons or an adjudicating body appointed by the committee. This section does not cover all instances in which a fine may be assessed or a bond imposed upon a player, team, team official or spectator for a violation of the BC Soccer Rules and Regulations. Fines will be deducted from the Performance Bond posted by each team's district. If the amount of the fine is greater than the existing Performance Bond, the district will be invoiced for the remainder.

- 1) *Once a team commits to competing in an out of district competition (declaration deadline), they are committed to Provincial Cup for that season.***
Penalty: Teams that withdraw past this point may forfeit their entire performance bond and a hearing will be held to determine their cup eligibility for the following season.
- 2) **Team fails to appear for a scheduled game without just cause****
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, \$1000.00 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition in that season and future years.
- 3) **Failure to return a trophy by the deadline****
Penalty: \$100.00
- 4) **Failure to return a trophy****
Penalty: \$500.00 + replacement cost of the trophy
- 5) **Team or teams held to be at fault for abandonment of a game****
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, \$1000.00 fine plus field and game official costs
- 6) **If requested by referee – lack of spectator control by team official(s) including failure to address the referee, harassment of referee, persistent criticism of the referee or disputing calls of the referee by team officials, players or spectators.****
Penalty: \$1000.00 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition.
- 7) **If requested by referee – failure to identify spectator(s) responsible for misconduct towards a referee or linesperson.****
Penalty: \$1000.00 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition.
- 8) **Player/team official, while under suspension and attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings the game into disrepute.****
Penalty: \$1000.00 fine and suspended from attendance at the game sites.
- 9) **Team fails to send a representative to pre-competition meeting (if necessary)****
Penalty: \$300.00 fine
- 10) **Team fails to attend opening ceremony (if necessary)****
Penalty \$300.00 fine and team may be excluded from attending further competitions

11) Team fails to attend a required closing ceremony (if necessary)

Penalty: \$500.00 fine and team may be excluded from attending further competitions

12) Team fails to fulfill Provincial and/or Club National commitment

Penalty: \$1000.00, plus the Canadian Soccer Association fines that are assessed to BC Soccer.

13) Extremely bad behavior by a team, player, team official, or spectator

Penalty: Up to \$1000.00, and/or risk of immediate expulsion from the competition and a review of that team's eligibility to compete in future years.