



Tournament Rules

All participants (e.g., players, team officials, spectators) in this tournament will ensure that all activities are free from harassment and discrimination. Any participant accused of harassment or discrimination, be it to another participant, group, organization, or individual, may be subject to discipline. This includes harassment or discrimination towards match officials and the Kootenay East Soccer Association.

All rules and "Laws of the Game" from IFAB will be adhered to except as set out in the following Competition Rules. The main exceptions to IFAB rules are as follows:

- Changes to the number of substitutions;
- Changes to the number of players allowed to dress per game;

The Competitions Committee will appoint to each competition a three (3) person Discipline Committee. The Tournament Committee will act as an extension of the Competitions Committee. All decisions reached by the Tournament Committee on any competition-related matter will be final.

Any Youth team that includes a player who is over the age limit and has not received permission from the Tournament Committee prior to playing will forfeit all games concerned and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Points and tie breaks

Points will be issued as follows: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. In the event of a tie in the standings after the first round, ties will be decided in order of: head-to-head results, goal differential, and finally goals against. If still tied, then kicks from the penalty mark will have to determine who advances.



Mercy Rule – Goal Differential Cap

To encourage fair play, positive sportsmanship, and balanced competition, a **goal differential cap** will be applied throughout the tournament.

In line with common practice at BC youth soccer tournaments, **any match in which the goal difference exceeds five (5) goals will be recorded with a maximum five-goal differential**, regardless of the actual score.

Example:

- A match ending **7–1** or **8–2** will be recorded as **6–1** (five-goal differential).
- A match ending **9–3** will be recorded as **8–3**.

Play will continue for the full scheduled match time, but once the five-goal differential is reached, additional goals will not increase the recorded score.

Coaches are strongly encouraged to rotate players, adjust tactics, and emphasize skill development and teamwork once the goal differential cap has been reached.

The purpose of this rule is to prevent lopsided results while maintaining a respectful, competitive, and development-focused environment for all participants.



Substitutions

In all competitions, there will be unlimited substitutions. Substitutions can be made only on possession on goal kicks, throw ins and goals unless both teams are substituting, at the referee's discretion, and must be made at the halfway line. No substitutions will be allowed for a player who has been ordered from the field for misconduct.

Game Duration and Ball Sizes

The referees SHALL keep the games on schedule. There is to be no added time for injuries or substitutions.

If a team is delaying the start of the game, or the second half of the game, the referee shall, in his/her discretion, start their stopwatch.

For all divisions U13+ there will be two, 30-minute halves with a 5-minute break for half time. U10-12 there will be two 25-minute halves with a 5-minute break for half time.

U13 and older will use size 5 balls. U10-12 will use size 4 balls.

Discipline

The Discipline Committee will comprise of an individual identified by the Tournament Committee, a KESA Disciplinary Board Member, and the Head Referee, wherever possible. The Discipline Committee will deal with all cases of discipline relating to players and/or team staff during the tournament. Any specific matter related to a tournament may only be acted on by the established Discipline Committee for the duration of each tournament. Any decision made by the Discipline Committee will be



final as far as the competition is concerned. Any District or team concerns must be brought before the Discipline Committee at the Tournament Meeting for a decision. Misconduct by players or team officials, reported by the referee, will be dealt with by the Discipline Committee prior to the next game. If a hearing is requested, the Discipline Committee will conduct a hearing to deal misconduct in accordance with the BC Soccer Constitution and General Rules. Failure to attend after notification by the Discipline Committee may result in immediate suspension until the player or team official involved requests a further hearing in writing and appears at that hearing. The Discipline Committee will hold a hearing for behavior off the field for any player or team official alleged by a Soccer Representative to have brought the game into disrepute. The Committee may take any disciplinary action it sees fit including suspension from all soccer activity.

Three (3) yellow cards in the competition will automatically generate a one (1) game suspension. All Red cards in a Competition will automatically generate a minimum one (1) game suspension, if the situation warrants, the BC Soccer Representative may call a hearing to suspend the offending player for additional games. All team staff ejected from the game by the referee will serve a minimum one (1) game suspension, during which they will not be allowed on the bench. All suspensions must be served at the first available opportunity. It is the responsibility of the team staff to ensure all minors serving a suspension at the Competition are appropriately supervised during the game or games at which they are suspended.

Threats and Assaults on officials during the competition will generate an immediate suspension. Protests may be lodged with the Competition Committee only on alleged deviation from these published rules. Protests must be in writing on the game sheet, clearly outlining the complaint and must be lodged immediately after the game. No



protests will be heard which are based on a game official's interpretation of the Laws of the Game. The Committee will deal with all valid protests immediately, and their decision will be final. In the case that a team has inserted an ineligible player, the Discipline Committee will declare that team's participation illegal and adjust the results of the competition accordingly. Individuals who have been listed on a game sheet will be deemed to have participated in that game. A referee who wishes to or is requested by Tournament Representative to submit a written report on a game incident must do so within two (2) hours after the end of the final officiating responsibility for that day.

Team Staff

All players, team staff and other people involved in the Competition are required to conduct themselves in a manner which will bring credit to themselves, their teams, the Host Association, the BC Soccer Association and the sport of soccer. At all official and civic functions associated with the competition, participants must be present and dressed appropriately. A maximum of four (4) non-playing personnel may be on the team bench, all of whom must be listed on the team's official roster.

All teams with Youth female members must have an adult female on the official roster and bench at all games. All teams with Youth male members must have an adult male on the official roster and on the bench at all games. Further, all teams with mixed rosters (players and team officials) must have an adult of each gender on the official roster and bench.

Equipment and Uniforms

When the colors of competing teams are similar, home teams will use alternate colors. All jerseys must be clearly numbered as per IFAB rules. The number of the player's jersey must correspond to the number listed with the player's name on the game sheet. Visible undergarments such as compression shorts are authorized, however they must

be the same color as the team's shorts and must not extend farther than the top of the knee. Taping of socks is permitted, however, the tape or band must be the same color as the sock". Shin guards are mandatory in all Soccer Competitions and players will not be allowed to play without them.

Jewelry and Noncompulsory Equipment

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself/herself or another player. Modern protective equipment such as headgear, facemasks, knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight, padded material are not considered to be dangerous and are, therefore, permitted. Mini shin pads will be allowed. All items of jewelry are potentially dangerous. The term "dangerous" can sometimes be ambiguous and controversial; Therefore, in order to be uniform and consistent, any kind of jewelry has to be forbidden. Players are not allowed to use tape to cover jewelry. **Taping jewelry is not adequate protection.** Rings, earrings, leather or rubber bands are not necessary to play and the only thing they can bring about is injury. **Plaster casts are not permitted – even if they have been wrapped in bubble wrap.** In order to avoid "last minute" problems, teams should inform their players in advance. Any player in violation of this rule will be assessed an immediate yellow card.

Game Abandonment and Weather

With regards to inclement weather – Referees will be following Canada's Soccer rule for lightening

[Lightning Policy E \(canadasoccer.com\)](http://canadasoccer.com)

If the 30 minutes exceeds the allotted scheduled game time the game will be called and the score recorded at the moment of the suspension.