



BC SOCCER

2024 YOUTH PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES AND REGULATIONS

Provincial Premier Cup, A-Cup, B-Cup and Regional Qualifiers

November 2023

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1) Introduction

a. Application

- i. These rules shall apply to the Youth Provincial Championship managed by the British Columbia Soccer Association (BC Soccer). Any variances for specific competition shall be as noted in these Rules.
- ii. BC Soccer Youth Provincial Championships shall include BC Soccer Youth Premier Cup, A-Cup, B-Cup and Regional Qualifying Competitions.

b. Management of Competitions

- i. BC Soccer shall control the format and operation of these competitions. The draws and the scheduling of games up to the time District and Regional winners are declared may be delegated to the association(s) having jurisdiction.
- ii. The BC Soccer Competitions Committee shall have the authority to order any game replayed, played to a finish, or may award a forfeit.

c. BC Soccer Constitution/Rules and Regulations Precedence

- i. In the event of any discrepancy between this document and the Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations of the British Columbia Soccer Association, the latter shall have precedence.
- ii. BC Soccer Competitions Committee shall be responsible for developing the rules governing Regional Play Downs and Provincial Championships.
- iii. The BC Soccer Competitions Committee may designate responsibility for the Regional Qualifying rules to a sub-committee.
- iv. All games shall be played under the BC Soccer's Youth Provincial Championship Rules and Regulations – Boys and Girls Provincial Premier Cup, A Cup & B Cup, as adopted by the Board each year.

d. BC Soccer Competitions Committee

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

e. BC Soccer Representative

- i. BC Soccer, through its Competition Committee, shall appoint one (1) lead BC Soccer Representative to each competition whose decision at the competition, on any matter not covered in these Rules and Regulations, shall be final and binding on all parties.

f. Risk Management

- i. Participants in the 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) Team Official must be the same gender as the team. This team official must be present on the bench and in the changing rooms.
- iii. All interactions between adults and youth shall follow the standards set by the "Coaching Association of Canada's Rule of Two"

g. Categories/Levels

- i. The British Columbia Soccer Association operates three Youth Provincial Cups for boys and girls each year from all areas of the province.
 1. Provincial Premier Cup for U14 to U18, Boys and Girls
 2. Provincial A Cup for U14 to U18 Boys and Girls
 3. Provincial B Cup for U14 to U18 Boys and Girls
- ii. For the purposes of the document, the playing levels shall be referred to as:
 1. BC SPL
 2. Tier 1 – Top level of play in inter-District leagues or as determined by the District.
 3. Tier 2 – Second level of play in inter-District leagues or as determined by the District.

h. Notification of Qualification

- i. A team is not considered to be qualified for any level of Provincial Cup until they have received an official invitation/notice of declaration from BC Soccer.

2) Team Eligibility

a. Qualification

- i. Teams qualify for and must enter the Provincial Cup Competition at the age group/level play in which they participate
- ii. Teams must have played in properly constituted league matches
- iii. Teams may not be under suspension from districts or authorized leagues

b. Declarations/Entry Deadlines

- i. **Provincial Premier Cup:** The Provincial Premier Cup will be open to all BC SPL eligible teams under the jurisdiction of the Association, declared upon entry into the BC SPL season for the current year.
- ii. **Provincial A Cup:** The Provincial A Cup shall be open to all youth teams not including BC SPL under the jurisdiction of the Association.
 1. The Provincial A Cup will be a six-team tournament in each age/gender consisting of the following berth allocations:
 - a. Coastal Divisional League Winner
 - b. Coastal Cup Winner
 - c. Coastal Cup Runner-Up
 - d. Northern BC
 - e. Thompson Okanagan/Kootenay Rockies
 - f. Vancouver Island
 2. The Island Districts shall put forth the qualification process for the Island berth. If no agreement can be made, BC Soccer's Competitions Committee will make the decision.
 3. Interior Regions (Northern BC, Thompson Okanagan/Kootenay Rockies) must declare A Cup teams by May 1st.
 4. BC Soccer's Competitions Committee shall have final approval on all qualifying processes.
- iii. **Provincial B Cup:** shall be open to any affiliated Tier 2 or lower-level youth team as declared to their district.

1. The 8 qualifying teams for U14 through U18 are:
 - a. Kootenay Rockies Cup Winner
 - b. Lower Mainland 1
 - c. Lower Mainland 2
 - d. Lower Mainland 3
 - e. Northern Cup Winner
 - f. Thompson Okanagan 1
 - g. Thompson Okanagan 2
 - h. Vancouver Island
 2. Regions playing the Coastal season (Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island) shall communicate their qualifying processes to BC Soccer by August 15th.
 3. The Interior Districts (Thompson Okanagan, Kootenay Rockies, Northern Cup) shall communicate their qualifying processes by April 1st.
 4. The Lower Mainland 3 berth will be converted to a host berth for competitions hosted in the Lower Mainland.
 5. The Thompson Okanagan 2 berth will be converted to a host berth for competitions held in the Thompson Okanagan.
 6. If the host organization does not have a team in an age group, the berth is converted back to the Lower Mainland 3 or Thompson Okanagan 2 berth, whichever is applicable.
 7. The host organization will receive one berth for each age group they host. The district must declare whether they will fill each berth by December 1st for the Coastal Regions (Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island), and April 1st for the Interior Regions (Thompson Okanagan, Kootenay Rockies, Northern Cup). The teams that will fill the host berths must be declared by April 1st for the Coastal Regions and by May 15th for the Interior Regions.
 8. If the host organization team qualifies through the regional competition, they will earn the regional berth and the host berth will be reassigned to the next highest placed team in the same regional qualifying competition.
 9. BC Soccer's Competitions Committee shall have final approval on all qualifying processes.
- iv. **Declaring Up:** Entry forms are to be completed by each district and submitted to BC Soccer by December 1st in the current coastal region (Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island) playing season and by May 15th in the current interior playing season (Thompson Okanagan, Kootenay Rockies, Northern Cup).
 - v. **Obligation:** Once a team commits to competing in a regional qualifier, such as the Coastal Cup or Interior Play Downs (i.e. Northern Cup, Thompson/Okanagan Cup, Kootenay Cup), they are committed to Provincial Cup for that season.
 1. Exceptions to this rule are teams from the Interior and Vancouver Island regions who specify in their declarations that their intent is to only participate in the regional competition. Teams that withdraw from Provincial Cup after qualifying may forfeit their entire performance bond and a hearing may be held to determine their Provincial Cup eligibility for the following season. See Appendix 1 – Schedule of Fines.

c. Performance Bonds/Responsibility

- i. All youth Districts and BC SPL 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 Provincial Premier, A or B Cup Play Down games for the current playing season.
- ii. Performance Bonds must be on file with BC Soccer by January 1st for Coastal/Vancouver Island Districts, and by May 1st for Interior Districts.
- 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. It is the responsibility of the BC Soccer Premier League to ensure that its member teams fulfill their commitments once they have entered the Provincial Premier Cup up to the time a Provincial Premier Cup Champion is declared and the Canadian National Club Championship is held.
- vii. BC Soccer's Competitions Committee may place any additional bonds on teams as specified within these rules for just cause as they see fit.

d. Team Promotion

- i. Teams who place 1st or 2nd in the Provincial B Cup Finals for 2 consecutive years may be promoted to the Provincial A-Cup at the discretion of the BC Soccer Competitions Committee.
- ii. Teams who are promoted to the Provincial A-Cup may apply to the BC Soccer Competitions Committee to remain in the Provincial B-Cup.

e. Team Replacement

- i. If a region/district/league is unable to field a team in a given age group, all efforts will be made to fill any slots in the competition. These slots will be awarded on a case-by-case basis as determined by the BC Soccer Competitions Committee. If the position is left unfilled, the competition format will be modified appropriately. Preference for replacement teams will be awarded (but not limited to) with the following considerations,
 1. A Coastal/Lower Mainland team will be replaced with the next highest finishing Coastal/Lower Mainland team in the Coastal Cup.
 2. A Vancouver Island team will be replaced with the next highest finisher from Vancouver Island.
 3. A team from an Interior region will be replaced with the next highest finishing team from that region, or failing that, from a neighboring region.
 4. The BC Soccer Competitions Committee may determine the replacement team on a case-by-case basis for situations not covered above if deemed necessary.

f. Coaching Certification

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

- ii. For Premier Cup, the Head Coach must comply with the Coach Certification Rules outlined in the BCSPL Rules and Regulations.
- iii. For A Cup, the Head Coach must, at a minimum, be “C License Trained.”
- iv. For B Cup, the Head Coach must, at a minimum, hold a valid “Soccer for Life” Coaching License.

3) Player Eligibility

a. Registration

- i. Players are registered to the age category and calibre of competition that they have competed in/declared for during the current season.
- ii. No team entering a Youth Provincial Cup competition may register a new player after March 31st of the current coastal playing season, or after June 1st of the current interior playing season.
- iii. A player is eligible to participate in a Youth Provincial Cup competition once his/her registration has been validated by the District Association’s registrar or his/her designate and has been received by BC Soccer. Players must meet eligibility requirements as outlined in BC Soccer’s Rules & Regulations.

b. ID Cards

- i. All players and team officials will be required to upload player/official photos into the BC Soccer competition management system which will be checked by the referee before each match. Electronic forms of ID cards must be officially validated by the district or club the team participates within.

4) Team Rules

a. Provincial Premier Cup Rosters

- i. Teams must consist of a minimum of 14 registered players upon submission of their Provincial Cup roster form.
- ii. Complete official team rosters must be submitted to the BC Soccer offices no later than June 1st
- iii. Teams shall not be permitted to register more than the maximum allowed players for their age division at any given time as per BC Soccer Rule 4 - Affiliation.
- iv. No new registrations or transfers are permitted after March 31st. Only players competing on a permit may be added to a roster past this point.
- v. The maximum roster size shall be twenty (20) players.

b. Provincial A & B Cup Rosters

- i. Teams must consist of a minimum of 14 registered players.
- ii. Complete team rosters must be submitted to the BC Soccer offices no later than June 1st for any teams already qualified or still participating in qualifying rounds for Provincial Cup.
- iii. Youth teams shall not be permitted to register more than the maximum allowed players for their age division at any given time.
- iv. The maximum roster size shall be twenty (20) players.

c. Team Officials

- i. For all Provincial Cups, a maximum of five (5) team officials shall be listed on the team roster.
- ii. Only team officials listed on the Official Team Roster in COMET are eligible to be on the team bench and in the team technical area during the game.
- iii. All team officials must have a current BC Soccer Photo Identification Card, and photo uploaded into competitions management system.

d. Player Pick Ups

- i. Player pick-ups may only be applied for in A Cup and B Cup competitions.
- ii. Teams may pick up a maximum of three (3) players to replace players registered with the Team Roster who are unable to take part in the Provincial Championships.
- iii. Player pick-ups may only be used to allow teams to have enough players to compete. It is not designed to allow teams to strengthen their roster by dropping players to pick up stronger players. Any team proven to be abusing this privilege will be subject to discipline.
- iv. A team may pick up BC Soccer registered players to bring their roster up to the number of players on the team's affiliation form for the current season.
- v. No player shall be permitted to play for more than one team in the same Provincial Cup Competition in the same season.
- vi. No player shall be permitted to play down under any circumstances.
- vii. Players may be picked up from teams playing at a lower calibre of play at the same or lower age, OR the same or lower calibre of play at a lower age level.
- viii. Any player who is requested for pick up can only be chosen from within a team's club system. If a club does not operate a team in a lower calibre at the age/gender, the club, with district approval, can apply for permission for its B-Cup team to be allowed to permit from teams of another club in its district. A-Cup teams, may not permit from teams of another club in its district.
- ix. Team officials who wish to pick up players must complete a Provincial Championship Player Pick-Up request form, and have it approved by their District and BC Soccer.
 1. Team officials are responsible for obtaining ID cards for all players under this clause.
- x. Players being replaced must be released through either:
 1. Medical certificate stating reason, or
 2. Letter from parent/guardian and player indicating reason for unavailability and supporting documentation.
- xi. If no medical certificate or letter is available, the Competitions Committee may approve player pick-ups on a case-by-case basis.
- xii. The deadline to submit Player Pick Up requests to BC Soccer is no later than seven (7) days prior to the start of the competition.
- xiii. No player pick-up applications may be submitted upon the commencement of the competition.
- xiv. In cases where a team has lost a goalkeeper, Player Pick Ups may be approved after the deadline(s).

e. Permits

- i. Player permits may only be applied for in the BC Soccer Provincial Premier Cup
- ii. Teams that compete in the BC Soccer Premier League may only permit players that have participated in a minimum of three (3) matches on permit for that same team, during the current playing season.
- iii. Players may be permitted from a lower calibre of play OR the same caliber of play at a lower age level.
- iv. A player participating in the Provincial Premier Cup on a permit shall not forfeit their eligibility to compete in the Provincial A or B Cup in the same playing season.
- v. Teams cannot increase their roster above the maximum roster limits for their age group.
- vi. District approved Permit forms must be submitted to the BC Soccer office no later than 72 hours prior to the start of the match.
- vii. Team officials are responsible for obtaining ID cards for all players under this clause and must be uploaded to BC Soccer's Competition Management System.
- viii. Teams may not release a player from their roster to make room for a permitted player.
- ix. Any player who is permitted can only be chosen from within a team's club system or an affiliated club.

f. Uniforms

- i. Teams participating in Provincial Championships are required to have two sets of uniforms (including socks and shorts) of different colours to avoid colour conflict.
- ii. Uniforms will be allocated on competition management system by BC Soccer no less than 48 hours before each match
- iii. Where the uniform colours of competing teams are similar, the home team must change.
- iv. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other players and the officials.
- v. In case of conflicts, the Match official shall determine any changes.
- vi. A team wearing a uniform that was not allocated on COMET by BC Soccer, must change to the allocated uniform.

g. Meetings

- i. All teams must have at least one member of the team staff attend a pre-competition meeting (if arranged). Failure to attend will result in a fine, see Appendix 1.

h. Events and Ceremonies

- i. Teams must attend all social, civic and official functions associated with the competition that are made mandatory by BC Soccer. Local host organizations are unable to make an event mandatory; this may only be done by BC Soccer.
- ii. Each team must also have in attendance one (1) team official from those listed on the Team Roster. Failure to attend an official function will result in a fine.

- iii. Players or Team official dismissed in the final game of the Cup will not participate in the awards ceremony.

5) Game Rules

a. Laws of the Game

- i. All games are to be played in accordance with International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game.
- ii. Provincial Championships will follow the Laws of the Game that were in place at the beginning of the Coastal Season.

b. Provincial Premier Cup Substitutions

- i. For all age groups in the Provincial Premier Cup, a maximum of 5 substitutions will be allowed per game, with unlimited at half time.
- ii. A player who has been substituted is eligible to re-enter.

c. Provincial A & B Cup Substitutions

- i. In all Provincial A and B Cup games, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed.
- ii. A player who has been substituted is eligible to re-enter.

d. Duration of Play

- i. The following chart details current BC Soccer regulations for the duration of games and extra time periods for Provincial Championship Finals where applicable:

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

- ii. All matches requiring a decision will immediately go to kicks from the penalty mark.
- iii. Draws in any matches not requiring a decision will stand.

6) Competition Formats

a. Provincial Premier Cup Format

- i. The BC Soccer Provincial Premier Cup is a single elimination tournament involving all BC SPL teams participating in the BC SPL for the current year.
- ii. Seeding will be determined from the start of the Quarterfinals to the Finals in a bracketed format with the highest place seeds designated as 'home' teams.
- iii. The winner and runner-up of the BC Soccer Provincial Premier Cup in the U15 & U17 Divisions will represent B.C. at the Canada Soccer Player Development Program Nationals.
- iv. Competition details shall be released and communicated annually by both BC Soccer and Canada Soccer

b. Provincial A Cup Format

- i. The format for these finals will be a six-team, Round Robin tournament.

- ii. The six-team round robin format will be two (2) groups of three (3) teams in round robin play with one (1) game each day.
- iii. Each team will participate in one (1) crossover match with a team from the other group.
- iv. The results of the crossover match will count towards the standings in the teams' respective group.
- v. The groupings will be determined by the final standings from the previous year. Berths will be seeded based on the final placing of the teams from that region the previous year. For example, the final standings at U14 in 2023 will be used to seed the U15 division in 2024. Final groups will be determined and communicated to participants a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the start of the finals.
- vi. Crossover matches will be selected by random draw
- vii. The winner from each group will compete in the Gold Medal game, the second-place team in each group will compete for the Bronze. Third place teams will play for 5th and 6th.
- viii. The winner of the BC Soccer Provincial A Cup in the U15 & U17 Divisions will represent B.C. at the Canada Soccer Club National Championships.
- ix. Competition details shall be released and communicated annually by both BC Soccer and Canada Soccer

c. Girls Provincial B Cup and Les Sinnott Memorial Cup Format

- i. The format for these finals will be an 8-team, Round Robin tournament.
- ii. The 8-team Round Robin format will be two (2) groups of four (4) teams each in Round Robin play with one (1) game each day.
- iii. The groupings will be determined by the final standings from the previous year. Berths will be seeded based on the final placing of the teams from that region the previous year. For example, the final standings at U14 in 2023 will be used to seed the U15 division in 2024. Final groups will be determined and communicated to participants a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the start of the finals.
- iv. The winner from each group will compete in the Gold Medal game, the second place team in each group will compete for the Bronze. Third place teams will play for 5th and 6th and fourth place teams in each group will compete for 7th and 8th place.

d. Standings and Round Robin Tie-breaking

- i. Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a tie.
- ii. Standings will be determined by points won at the completion of the round robin.
- iii. The following criteria will be used to determine the final standings:
 - 1. Greater number of points across all matches
- iv. The following criteria will be used to determine the final standings, in case two teams are tied in points at the conclusion of the round robin:
 - 1. Head-to-head
 - 2. Greater goal difference in all group matches
 - a. A maximum difference of five (5) goals will be considered in each match.

3. Fewer number of goals against in all groups matches
 4. Fewer Yellow Cards
 5. Fewer Red Cards
 6. Drawing of Lots
- ii. The following criteria shall be used to determine the final standings, in case three or more teams are tied in points at the conclusion of the round robin:
1. Greater goal difference between teams concerned
 - a. A maximum difference of five (5) goals will be considered in each match
 2. Greatest number of goals scored in all matches involving the teams concerned
 3. Greater goal difference in all group matches
 - a. A maximum difference of five (5) goals will be considered in each match.
 4. Fewer number of goals against in all groups matches
 5. Fewer Yellow Cards
 6. Fewer Red Cards
 7. Drawing of Lots

e. Match Officials

- i. A BC Soccer Supervisor of Officials will be appointed to each Provincial Cup event. This person is responsible for overseeing the assignment of all Match officials.
- ii. A BC Soccer Assignor will be appointed to each Provincial Cup event. This person will assist the Supervisor of Officials and the Local Organizing Committee in the assignment of all Match officials.
- iii. BC Soccer will assign all Match Officials.

f. Official Match Reports

- i. BC Soccer will provide Official Match Reports on COMET for the Provincial Championships.
- ii. Each team must submit their team lineup on COMET the night prior to a match at 8:00pm (20:00).
- iii. Each team must confirm their team roster with match officials one (1) hour prior to match time.

g. Match Abandonment

- i. Where a match is abandoned because of weather, or any outside influence not resulting from the actions of the involved teams, and more than seventy percent (70%) of the match has been played, the result at the time of abandonment will be recorded as the final score. If the score is tied and the competition requires a result, the winner will be determined by the toss of a coin conducted by BC Soccer.
- ii. Where a match is abandoned because of weather, or any outside influence not resulting from the actions of the involved teams, and less than seventy percent (70%) of the match has been played, the match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted. The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:

- iii. The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned;
- iv. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the roster
- v. The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- vi. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- vii. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- viii. The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by the BC Soccer Representative in consultation with the Host;
- ix. Where a match is abandoned because of weather, or any outside influence not resulting from the actions of the involved teams on the final day of the competition, regardless of how much of the match has been played, the result at the time of abandonment will be recorded as the final score. If the score is tied and the competition requires a result, the winner will be determined by the toss of a coin conducted by BC Soccer.
- x. Where match(es) are cancelled or cannot take place because of adverse weather conditions, BC Soccer will determine the subsequent action and outcome of the competition. This decision will be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- xi. Where a match is abandoned as a result of a discipline issue from one of the competing teams, the matter shall be reported to the Discipline Chair who will convene a disciplinary hearing to decide the appropriate course of action. On the final day such issues will be referred to the appropriate BC Soccer Discipline Body for its action

h. Results Reporting

- i. The referee is responsible for ensuring that the completed match reports, discipline reports and ID cards are submitted and confirmed to the match official headquarters following the match.

7) Regional Qualifying Competitions

- a. The regional qualifying competitions are designated as follows
 - i. Kootenay Rockies Cup
 - ii. Coastal Cup
 - iii. Thompson Okanagan Cup
 - iv. Northern Cup
 - v. Vancouver Island Cup
- b. BC Soccer through its Competitions Committee shall control the operation of these competitions but may delegate organization and control of operations of such to a Regional Organizing Committee.
- c. Each Regional Organizing Committee may determine its own format and number of eligible teams.
- d. Medals
 - i. BC Soccer will supply regional medals, to be presented at the final regional qualifying 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
- e. Regional Organizing Committees shall be formed and submitted to BC Soccer for approval by February 1st of the Interior Season and October 1st of the Coastal Season.
- f. Regional Organizing Committees shall submit their qualifying competition rules, dates, and formats to BC Soccer for approval by December 1st of the Coastal Region seasons (Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island) and by April 1st of the Interior seasons (Thompson Okanagan, Kootenay Rockies, Northern Cup).
- g. Regional qualifiers must be scheduled to be completed at least two weekends prior to the start of the corresponding Provincial Championship.

8) Discipline

- a. All Discipline matters will be dealt with by the “Provincial Championships Discipline Chair” as appointed by the Discipline Chair of BC Soccer.
- b. While a complaint/misconduct report is usually registered by a Match Official, a complaint/misconduct report may also originate from a member of BC Soccer, or the local organizing committee managing the event. 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 Provincial Championships Discipline Panel as soon as possible at an appropriate location at, or near the competition venue, or virtually. Appropriate records should be maintained as to the names of the members constituting the committee and persons attending the hearing.
- d. While the Chair of the Provincial Championships 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 BC Soccer Appeals Panel for that event, as appointed by the Appeals Chair of BC Soccer.
- h. **Red Cards**
 - i. Red cards will carry over to the players next league or cup game with a player having to adhere to the game suspensions levied by the Provincial Championships Discipline Panel.
 - ii. A player dismissed from the match may not continue to be present in the technical area.

iii. The player shall not interact or interfere with the Match.

i. Cautions

- i. Yellow card accumulations will NOT be carried over from the regular season to Provincial Championship or Regional Qualifying matches. 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.
- ii. A player who accumulates three (3) 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.
- j. Any suspensions still to be served at the end of regional qualifying competitions will carry over to Provincial Championship games.

9) Administration of the Competition

a. Travel Assistance grants

- i. For teams competing in the Provincial Premier, A Cup, Girls Provincial B Cup or the Les Sinnott Memorial Boys Provincial Cup, travel grants will be awarded using the following eligibility requirements:
 - 1. Any team required to travel to or from Vancouver Island to the Lower Mainland on the ferry will be awarded a grant of \$250 for the team.
 - 2. Any team required to travel more than 600km (one way) to their respective Provincial Cup location will be awarded a grant using the following formula:
 - a. $\text{Distance Travelled one way(km)} - 500 (X \$1) = \text{Grant}$
 - 3. Teams may be eligible for the ferry grant and the distance traveled (over 600km) grant.
 - 4. **Example:** Team A travels from Victoria to Prince George. BC Soccer calculates this at 876km. This team would receive a \$250 grant for their ferry trip, plus a \$376 grant for their distance traveled. Their total grant would be \$626 for the team.
- ii. One travel grant per eligible team will be issued; no application is required.
- iii. Travel grants will be paid to the team's district upon completion of the Provincial Championship. The district will then distribute the grants to each eligible team.

b. Accommodations/Host Hotel obligations

- i. Except for instances determined by the Competitions Committee, all teams competing in any category of Youth Provincial Championship (Premier, A or B) are obligated to stay in the host hotel(s).
- ii. Teams that reside within 100km of the host city are exempt for this rule. Determination of which teams are eligible for exemption is under the jurisdiction of the Competitions Committee.
- iii. The host of the competition must block (but not pay for) a minimum of 8 hotel rooms per team (except for teams exempt under Rule 8b)ii) as close as

reasonably possible the competition venue. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit of the hosting grant provided by BC Soccer.

- iv. Teams that are obligated to stay in the host hotel are responsible for 8 rooms at the host hotel(s). Any team choosing not to stay at the host hotel and failing to communicate such decision to the LOC by the deadline established for cancellation, may be invoiced by BC Soccer for the cost of 8 rooms for 4 nights, or the cancellation cost charged to the LOC for these 8 rooms, whichever is less.

c. Protests

- i. For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, facilities, and equipment.
- ii. Any protest arising out of any match must be made in writing to the BC Representative appointed to the competition within 1 hour of the match report having been finalized online.
 - 1. The grounds upon which the protest is based must be included in a written submission. An individual or team planning to file a protest must inform the BC Representative within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the match.
 - 2. Following this, the full protest submission and the accompanying fee must be submitted within one (1) hour of the match report having been finalized online.
 - 3. The protest fee of \$250.00 (two hundred and fifty dollars) must accompany the protest.
- iii. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the BC Soccer Representative may impose a sanction.
- iv. The referee's decision regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final. There can be no protests against a decision of the referees as outlined in the Laws of The Game.
- v. Protests or challenges in respect to player eligibility not ruled upon, or requiring further investigation, will be dealt with by the appropriate BC Soccer Judicial Committee and may result in the overall standings or results being amended.
- vi. After the completion of the Provincial Championships, any protest in regard to player eligibility already ruled on by the appropriate authority, will not change the results of the Competition.
- vii. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations is not met, such protests shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match in the respective Provincial Championship has ended, no further protests under this article will be received.
- viii. The protest must contain the details of the protest, including the rule that was allegedly breached, and the evidence to support that claim.
- ix. All protest decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

d. BC Soccer Representative

- i. BC Soccer will appoint Provincial Representatives to act on BC Soccer's behalf at the Championships. The Provincial Representatives will be led by a Chair and shall:
 - 1. Convene and chair a pre-competition meeting the evening prior to the start of the competition (if necessary).
 - 2. Ensure that the pre-competition meeting is attended by all teams and a representative from the Local Organizing Committee (if arranged).
 - 3. Arrange a meeting with the referee coordinator/scheduler prior to the pre-competition meeting
 - 4. Attend all official functions
 - 5. Submit a completed Competition Report to be submitted no later than ten (10) days after the competition. No expenses will be reimbursed until the report is received.

e. Code of Conduct

- i. Players, Parents and Team Officials must abide by the Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer.

f. Fair Play Team Award

- i. The Fair Play Team Award will be given out at the Provincial A and B Cup Championships and is intended to foster the spirit of fair play, including:
 - 1. Respect for the Laws of the Game
 - 2. Respect for the opponent
 - 3. Respect for game officials and acceptance of their decisions
 - 4. Respect for the Local Organizing Committee and BC Soccer representatives.
 - 5. Good Sportsmanship.
 - 6. General behavior on site and at hotels, restaurants, etc.
 - 7. Discipline
 - 8. Maintaining dignity under all circumstances
- ii. The team includes all players, coaches, and other team officials on the team credentials form. The team also includes the spectators. Everything will be included when determining the Fair Play Team Award recipients.
- iii. The BC Soccer Provincial Representatives in charge of a championship shall have the discretionary power to award the judging of the Fair Play Award to the host organization or not. If not, the BC Soccer Provincial Representatives will determine the recipients.
- iv. The Provincial Representatives shall have discretionary power to decide not to award the Fair Play Team Award in that competition over which he/she presides.

g. Trophies

- i. Annual trophies presented to teams at the Provincial Championship are the property of BC Soccer and are not to be kept after the medal ceremony.
- ii. Teams will receive a 'keeper trophy' to bring home.

Appendix 1: Schedule of Fines

This section provides an outline of some competition related infractions that may be dealt with by the BC Soccer 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.

Any breaches or infractions of these Rules, or to the Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer not listed below will be referred to the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer.

- 1) Once a team commits to competing in a regional qualifier, they are committed to competing in Provincial Cup for that season.**
Penalty: Teams that withdraw past this point will forfeit their entire performance bond and a hearing will be held to determine their club or team's cup eligibility for the following season.
- 2) District fails to fulfill berth allocation by deadline without just cause**
Penalty: A district that does not fulfill berth allocation(s) by the deadline will forfeit the unfulfilled berth(s) as well as their entire performance bond.
- 3) Team fails to appear for a scheduled game without just cause**
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, \$2,500.00 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition in that season and future years.
- 4) Failure to return a trophy by the deadline**
Penalty: \$250.00
- 5) Damaging a trophy**
Penalty: The team will be responsible for the cost of repairs to the trophy, or the replacement cost of the trophy, whichever is less.
- 6) Failure to return a trophy**
Penalty: \$500.00 + replacement cost of the trophy
- 7) Team or teams held to be at fault for abandonment of a game**
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, \$1,000.00 fine plus field and game official costs
- 8) Team fails to send a representative to pre-competition meeting**
Penalty: \$500.00 fine
- 9) Team fails to attend a required opening ceremony**
Penalty \$1,000.00 fine and team may be excluded from attending further competitions
- 10) Team fails to attend a required closing ceremony**
Penalty: \$1,000.00 fine and team may be excluded from attending further competitions

11) Breach of competition regulations

Penalty: \$100.00 fine

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

Penalty: \$3,500.00, plus the Canadian Soccer Association fines that are assessed to BC Soccer.

13) Extremely bad behavior by a team, player, team official, or spectator / Breach of the Code of Conduct

Penalty: Possible suspension of guilty party for up to remainder of tournament, referral to the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer and a review of that team's eligibility to compete in future years.