

2026
MSA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



RULES AND REGULATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>I.</u>	<u>APPLICATION</u>	2
<u>II.</u>	<u>TEAM ELIGIBILITY</u>	3
<u>III.</u>	<u>PLAYER ELIGIBILITY</u>	5
<u>IV.</u>	<u>TEAM RULES</u>	7
<u>V.</u>	<u>MATCH RULES</u>	9
<u>VI.</u>	<u>COMPETITION RULES</u>	12
<u>VII.</u>	<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	13
<u>VIII.</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION</u>	16
<u>IX.</u>	<u>SCHEDULE OF FINES</u>	17

I. APPLICATION

- A) These Rules shall apply to all Provincial Championship Competitions managed by the Manitoba Soccer Association (MSA). Any variances for specific competitions shall be as noted in these Rules, or as required by the MSA to maintain the integrity, spirit, and fairness of the competition.
- B) The playing rules are as per the applicable Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Laws of the Game **2025/2026** ("FIFA LOTG" or "Law"), unless specifically indicated in these MSA Provincial Championship Rules.
- C) The MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager (Competition Manager) is responsible for the management and control of all MSA Provincial Championship Competition matches and shall maintain these Rules.
- D) The Competition Manager's decisions at any match, on any matter not covered in these Rules, shall be final, as far as the Competition is concerned.
- E) Where these Rules are silent, the matter is subject to the MSA Rules and Regulations. Where the MSA Rules and Regulations are silent, the matter is subject to Canada Soccer (CS) Rules for Regional/National Competitions.
- F) Within the constraints of rules, I.A, B, C, D, E the MSA may make such temporary rules governing specific situations not otherwise provided for, but as are necessary.
- G) The necessary discipline and fines, where applicable, will be imposed during the Competition and the MSA reserves the right to apply additional discipline/sanctions at any time to be determined by the MSA (i.e. Board, MSA Discipline or Appeal Committee, Designate, etc.)
- H) Failure to comply with any of the requirements within these Rules may render any organization or individual subject to disciplinary procedures.
- I) **Teams are responsible to have a team representative attend all official meetings set by the MSA, and failure to attend may result in a fine, and possible disciplinary measures, including removal from participation in the competition.**
- J) MSA's Criminal Record Screening Policy requires that any Club Official listed on the Official Roster form must have a Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) clearance done in the past 12 months. A copy of the Criminal Record Screening policy may be obtained from the MSA website.
- K) Any athlete who is a registered member of a Provincial or National Sport Organization or is a registered member of an MSA-sanctioned League, or Team shall be eligible for unannounced testing. A list of banned substances can be obtained from the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) at www.cces.ca or from CS.
- L) By entering the Provincial Championship, the Team agrees to follow and adhere to the MSA Provincial Championship Competitions Rules and Regulations, **observe the principles of fair play, and abide by all Safe Sport principles being enforced by MSA.**

M) It is the team's responsibility to read, follow and adhere to the Rules; not the MSA's on behalf of the team.

II. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A) The MSA Provincial Championship Competition is open to registered Member teams of the MSA.
 - 1) All Teams must complete the corresponding Provincial Championship registration forms and pay the annual registration fee.
 - 2) Youth teams must be from a Club that has met the Canada Soccer Club Licensing requirements.
- B) Each soccer organization shall only register one team into the MSA Provincial Championship Competition per age and gender category. This is subject only to Regional preliminary qualifying, as may be determined by the MSA. Any variations must be approved by the MSA.
- C) The playing season referred to in these Rules shall be the outdoor season ending in **the MSA Provincial Championships Competitions** calendar year.
- D) All MSA Provincial Championship Competitions prohibit the entry of any Semi-Professional, Pro-Am, Professional, United Soccer Leagues (USL), Women's Professional Soccer League (WPSL), League 1, University Sports (U Sports), and Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference (MCAC) Clubs/Teams.
- E) All MSA Provincial Championship Competitions shall require each team to have a minimum roster of 17 eligible players (CS Rule **6.7**), to participate in the MSA Provincial Competition.
- F) **Any Club that lists only one goalkeeper on their team roster must identify at least one player who can serve as a backup goalkeeper in case the first goalkeeper is injured or suspended (CS Rule 6.7.2).**
- G) In order to participate in a National or Regional Championship Competition, a team must be able to field a minimum of 15 players (CS Rule **6.7.1**).
- H) Any Team determined by the MSA to have included a player who is over the age limit (or under the age limit for Masters) shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- I) The Youth and Senior MSA Provincial Championship Competitions require specific coaching qualifications. Any Team not meeting the criteria may apply in writing to the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager for an exemption.
 - 1) The head coach, assistant coach, manager, or trainer must be the same gender as the team (CS Rule 10.1). This Team Official cannot be a player with dual roles on the team (i.e., player/coach). **For youth competitions, each team must have at least two same gender team officials on the roster (CS Rule 10.1.2).**
 - 2) All Team Officials listed on the Official Roster form must have a valid Respect in Sport certification.

- 3) Teams are permitted to have one Team Official under the age of 18 providing the intent is for that individual to be mentored as a coach. The individual must have previously been registered as a Team Official, at least 16 yrs old, one year older than the participating team, always supervised by a senior team official, and request, in writing, the approval of the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager.
- 4) All staff listed on the team's online roster for teams participating in the **Provincial**/National Championships must have completed proper background screening, including a Criminal Record Check, with Vulnerable Sector Check, or E-PIC within 12 months of the start date for respective competition.
- 5) Each team's coaches are required to have the following in order to meet the coaching requirements:
 1. Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screen or E-PIC
 2. Soccer for Life – Theory Module
 3. Soccer for Life – Practical Module
 4. NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Module and/or Online Evaluation
 5. Respect in Sport Activity Leader Program
 6. NCCP Making Headway Module
 7. NCCP Emergency Action Planning Module
 8. NCCP Rule of Two Module

J) Within the established deadlines, all Teams must be registered with the MSA, submit the corresponding entry form, and satisfy the entry fee to be eligible to participate.

K) Under exceptional circumstances, any Team participating in the MSA Provincial Championship Competition may request, in writing to the MSA, special permission to allow coaches to participate who might otherwise be ineligible. Only applications received in writing 30 working days prior to the start of the Competition category will be considered.

L) This special permission shall only be granted once. Any coach who has previously received an exemption will not be permitted to participate in future MSA Provincial Championship Competitions until the necessary qualifications have been obtained.

M) Teams may enter only one team of each gender to compete in each of the following categories:

- 1) Youth Under 15 - All players under the age of 15 before January 1 of the current year
- 2) Youth Under 17 - All players under the age of 17 before January 1 of the current year
- 3) Senior Amateur - Open age for all players registered as a senior amateur player
- 4) Masters
 - a) Men: All players will be 35 years of age (and over) prior to January 1 of the current year

- b) Women: All players will be 30 years of age (and over) prior to January 1 of the current year
- 5) Any other age category that the MSA deems appropriate

III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A) Only players registered with the MSA or an Association/League in membership with the MSA shall be eligible to compete in the MSA Provincial Championship Competition. Specifically:
 - 1) Teams are responsible for ensuring that their players are correctly registered with the MSA and their team and meeting the MSA Rules & Regulations. This includes having the necessary legal documents to prove that a player meets the criteria listed below and that they have an international or provincial transfer as required for registration.
- B) Player Eligibility
 - 1) For the adult / senior (**including Masters**) Provincial Championships, at least 12 players must be: (CS Rule 9.1):
 - a) a Canadian citizen; or
 - b) a Permanent Resident (as defined by the Government of Canada); or
 - c) a Protected Person (as defined by the Government of Canada).
 - 2) For the youth competitions, players need to meet the league and provincial registration requirements to participate in the Provincial Championships.
 - 3) The MSA may request proof of citizenship status at any time. Failure to provide this proof will result in the player not being permitted to play and may include further fines and/or sanctions against the player and team. The team is responsible to ensure that their players are eligible and must have the documents available at any time.
 - 4) Proof of eligibility is as follows:
 - a) a Canadian Citizen - valid passport or birth certificate (colour copy of birth certificate); or
 - b) a Permanent Resident - valid permanent resident card, or proof of permanent residency as provided by the Government of Canada; or
 - c) a Protected Person - documents as provided by the Government of Canada.
- C) The deadline for registration shall be **June 1st, or at least thirty (30) days** prior to the start of the competition.

- D) The deadline for transfers shall be **June 1st, or at least thirty (30)** days prior to the start of the competition.
- E) No Team shall register new players after qualifying for the Regional/National CS Championship (CS Rule 9.7). **After qualifying for the Regional / National CS Championships**, teams may register players for League competitions based on League rules, however, those players are not eligible for a National or Regional Championship.
- F) With the exemption of Masters age players, players are only eligible to participate with one Team in one age and gender category. If a player is listed on an Official Roster form (regardless of whether the player participates in any matches), the player is tied to that Team for the remainder of the MSA Provincial Championship Competition and Regional/National Competition. Masters age players may be included and participate in Masters and Senior teams during the MSA Provincial Championship competitions.
- G) Teams are not permitted to have any “guest players” or “call-ups” play in any matches during the MSA Provincial Championship Competition.
- H) Each player and Team Official listed on the game sheet is required to have an approved photo identification card in a format as determined by the MSA.
- I) Any player registered as a professional player shall only be eligible to play when reinstated as an amateur player. An amateur player who is registered with a professional team shall not be eligible to play in the Provincial or National Championship Competitions, unless the player has, upon request, been reinstated on or before **June 1st, or at least thirty (30)** days prior to the start of the competition.
- J) A player moving from one Provincial/Territorial Association to the MSA must receive written clearance from the Provincial/Territorial Association with which s/he was last registered to be eligible (CS Rule 9.5).
- K) A youth player who has been registered as “senior amateur” shall be ineligible to play in the youth MSA Provincial Championship Competition, unless the player has, upon request, been reinstated to youth status by the MSA on or before **June 1st, or at least thirty (30)** days prior to the start of the competition.
- L) Any player, in any age category, who transfers from another country into Canada must obtain an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) prior to being approved to register and play sanctioned soccer in Manitoba. This includes playing in the MSA Provincial Championship Competition.
- M) Any team questioning the eligibility of a player’s status must submit a formal protest, as per the protest rules listed in section VIII of these rules and regulations. Correspondence sent to MSA due to possible participation of ineligible players will not be addressed unless the formal protest procedures are followed.

IV. TEAM RULES

- A) A youth team may have a maximum roster of 20 players, and a senior team may have a maximum roster of 21 players (except Masters) and may dress all players per match. (CS Rule **11.4.1**). A Masters Team may have a maximum roster of 25 players and may dress 21 per match **for the Provincial Championship, however for the Regional/National competition the maximum roster is 21 players. Masters Teams should take this into consideration when determining their team roster to enter the Provincial Championship.**
- B) Youth and Senior Team Rosters
 - 1) Youth (Boys and Girls) and Senior (Men and Women) Teams participating in an MSA sanctioned league competition must register the roster for the MSA Provincial Championship as per the roster used in the league competition and abiding by the league rules and MSA Provincial Championship Rules and Regulations.
- C) Masters Team Rosters
 - 1) Masters Team participating in a Manitoba Masters League competition that allows up to 25 players per Team must register the roster as per the one used in the League competition. If the Team does not have 25 players registered on their Masters League roster, the Team shall be permitted to have up to a maximum of five additional players from other Teams (for the sole purpose of competing in the MSA Provincial Championship Competition).
 - 2) In those cases where a Masters Team is participating in a Manitoba Masters League competition that allows a maximum roster of 20 players, the Team entered in the MSA Provincial Championship Competition shall be permitted to have a maximum of five additional players (from other Teams) to complete their roster (for the sole purpose of participating in the competition).
- D) All players on the Official Roster are subject to all rules of the MSA Provincial Championship Competition (i.e., player eligibility criteria, established deadlines, official rosters, etc.). The players are tied to the Team for the remainder of the MSA Provincial Championship Competition, National and Regional Championship Competition.
- E) All MSA Provincial Championship Competitions prohibit the participation of any player who has been registered with and listed on a match sheet with a Professional, Semi-Professional, Pro-Am (e.g. USL / WPSL), or League 1 in the current outdoor season.
- F) Only players and Team Officials listed on the Official Roster form may be named on the game sheet and occupy a position in the technical area (CS Rule **11.6**).
- G) A maximum of twenty (20) players in youth competitions or twenty-one (21) players in senior competitions and five (5) Team Officials may occupy a position in the technical area.

- 1) Players under suspension are not allowed to enter the technical area and must remain in the spectator area.
- 2) Team Officials under suspension are not allowed to enter the technical area and must remain in the spectator area.
- 3) If players or Team Officials are suspended from all soccer activities, they are not allowed to attend the game.

H) Each Team participating in the MSA Provincial Championship Competition must use the Official Roster form prescribed by the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager, which certifies that each player and Team Official is eligible.

- 1) In order to compete in the MSA Provincial Championship Competition, all Teams are required to electronically submit (to the MSA) the team roster on the Official Roster form by **June 1st, or at least thirty (30) days** prior to the start of the competition category, regardless if the Team plays on the first date or not. If the team plays in a league, this roster is the same as per the league roster considering other relevant rules of the Provincial Championship competition.
- 2) If, after the original Official Roster form has been submitted for the purpose of competing in the MSA Provincial Championship Competition, a team, whose player was already rostered and is unable to participate **due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. serious injury, etc.)**, may request permission to replace the player on the official roster **by providing the name of the player not able to participate, the name of the replacement player, the documentation (proof) related to why the original rostered player is not able to participate, and any other information required by the MSA. An unforeseen circumstance is something that could not have been predicted or anticipated by the team, interpreted at the sole discretion of the MSA.** The approved player must replace the unavailable player on the team roster at least 24 hours prior to the game.
- 3) Players and Team Officials may be listed on the Team's Official Roster while under suspension. However, they are not permitted to participate until the suspension is served.
- 4) Injured players may occupy a position in the technical area if they are listed on the Official Team Roster and the game sheet and have the required player ID card, in the format prescribed by the MSA, present at the game.

I) All Teams will be held responsible for the conduct of their players, Team Officials, and spectators during the Competition.

J) Smoking and/or vaping are not permitted in the Technical Area (CS Rule 16.8).

K) Players and Team Officials must respect the host facility and field of the MSA Provincial Championship. Teams should leave facilities in the same shape as when they arrived, by clearing away garbage in Technical Areas and Dressing Rooms. Failure to follow this rule may result in disciplinary fines or suspension.

L) Teams, Players and Team Officials should always follow the Canada Soccer (CS) Code of Conduct & Ethics and conduct themselves in the highest manner of professionalism and refrain from any forms of public indecency or outrage. Failure to follow this will result in discipline and/or tournament disqualification. These acts include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Physical/Verbal fighting with Teams, Players, Team Officials, Spectators, or Referees
- 2) Public Urination
- 3) Vandalism of Property

V. MATCH RULES

A) Team credentials (photo identification as determined by MSA) shall be checked prior to the start of each match for all players and Team Officials on the game sheet. A valid Professional license or certification is required for any physiotherapist, athletic therapist, or doctor to be present in the technical area.

B) One representative from each Team may inspect the identification cards, as determined by the MSA, of the opposing Team. A team questioning the eligibility of a player's status must submit a formal protest, as per the protest rules listed in section VIII of these rules and regulations. It shall be the responsibility of a Team representative to notify the MSA Representative, either in person or via e-mail, of the team's formal protest.

C) The minimum number of players to start a match is eight.

D) A representative of the "Home Team" must hand to the opposing "Visitor Team" coach a completed copy of the game sheet no later than 45 minutes prior to kick-off time. The "Visiting" coach must then complete the game sheet and hand it to the referee no later than 30 minutes prior to kick-off time. The referee shall retain the game sheet and have it available for inspection during the duration of the match and 30 minutes after full time, if requested.

E) Substitutions.

- 1) A maximum of five substitutions shall be allowed during the regulation time of a match, not including extra time, of any age/gender competition, excluding Masters, and three substitution opportunities during the game will apply, as per the FIFA LOTG. One additional sub and substitution opportunity will be allowed should the match go to extra time. Unlimited substitutions may be made at half-time, at full-time (before any extra time), and **at half-time of extra time**. A player who has been substituted is eligible to re-enter. The concussion protocol will be followed as per the FIFA LOTG.
- 2) Substitution cards will be distributed to the participating Teams by the MSA Representative prior to the start of each match.
- 3) The Masters Competitions will allow unlimited substitutions.

- 4) All substitutes and Team Officials must wear pinnies or tops that distinguish them from the players on the field of play.
- F) The MSA will assign Team colours for each game. It is the responsibility of the Teams to know and wear the assigned colours.
 - 1) Goalkeepers must wear playing uniforms that distinguish them from the other players and match officials.
 - 2) All Teams must have an alternate set of uniforms (jersey/socks) at the competition. Failure to have an alternate will result in a fine (see Rule IX). **If socks are cut, they must be taped with the same colour as the sock or transparent tape to ensure the correct coloured sock is visible from the cleat to the top of the sock.**
 - 3) If two teams assigned uniforms are too close in colour the Competition Manager will determine the Team that is responsible for changing colours.
 - 4) MSA reserves the right to make a last minute colour change based on unique circumstances and benefit of playing the game.
 - 5) **Large numbers on the back of each jersey must be of contrasting colours (CS Rule 15.1.1).**
- G) If visible undershirts are worn, the colour of the sleeve must be a single color, which is the same colour as the main colour of the shirt sleeve, or a pattern/colours which exactly replicate(s) the shirt sleeve. If undershorts or tights are worn, they must be of the same main colour as the shorts or the same colour as the lowest part of the shorts. Players not complying will not be allowed to enter the field until the referee of the match is satisfied that the equipment conforms to the FIFA LOTG. All players must wear the same colour undershirts, undershorts, and tights.
- H) Players are not permitted to wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players. This includes any kind of jewelry, regardless of the material. Items such as rings, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, or other visible body piercings are strictly forbidden and must be removed. Medical alert bracelets are permissible but must be either made of velcro (or a similar soft material) or covered with a sweatband. The practice of taping jewelry is not acceptable (CS Rule 15.7).
- I) Any player who desires to wear a cast, brace, or any other medical equipment is to present the equipment to the MSA Competition Manager at least 24 hours prior to kick-off. The Competition Manager will provide advice regarding the medical equipment. However, the player must report to the referee of the match at least 30 minutes prior to the match for inspection. The referee will assess the player's eligibility to play in accordance with the FIFA LOTG and CS Policies on medical matters. The referee has the final say on whether the player is allowed to play or not.

J) For all Provincial, Inter-Provincial, and National Championships:

<u>CATEGORIES</u>	<u>DURATION OF PLAY</u>	<u>EXTRA TIME</u>	<u>BALL SIZE</u>	<u>HALF-TIME</u>
U15	Two periods of 40 minutes	Two periods of 10 minutes	5	10 minutes
U17	Two periods of 45 minutes	Two periods of 15 minutes	5	15 minutes
Senior	Two periods of 45 minutes	Two periods of 15 minutes	5	15 minutes
Masters	Two periods of 40 minutes	No extra time	5	10 minutes

- 1) If a match is tied at the end of regulation time when a winner must be declared, two extra time periods (as stipulated above) shall be played (except Masters).
- 2) If the score is still tied at the end of extra time, the winner shall be decided by penalty kicks in accordance with the FIFA LOTG.

Note: Only those players remaining on the field at the end of the extra time will be involved in the penalty kicks. A Team Official may accompany each Team into the centre circle for the penalty kicks.

K) The MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager shall reserve the right to order a replay or any variation of a replay, cancel, postpone, terminate, or make any decision for the best interest of the competition, for any match that is cancelled, suspended, or not completed for any reason. The Competition Manager may also designate a Representative or Committee to make a ruling. An appeal may be submitted within two hours of the decision being communicated to the party (or parties). If leave to appeal is granted, the Competition Manager (or Designate) will, at that time, establish timelines for the appeal process and appeal fee submission. The decision of the Competition Manager (or Designate) is final and binding as far as the competition is concerned, unless it is appealed, in which case that decision is final and binding. Notwithstanding the hearing or appeal timelines set in the MSA Disciplinary code, the timelines set within this competition will take precedence due to the schedule of the competition.

L) Any Team not participating in a scheduled game without just cause may be expelled for the remainder of the Competition and may be subject to disciplinary action. In cases where the actions of said Team impact the integrity of the Competition, the Competition Manager may declare all matches played by the Team null and void and/or the Competition Manager may designate a Representative or Committee that is at arm's length to review and render a decision that will maintain the integrity of the Competition. All decisions of the Competition Manager, Representative, or Committee are final and binding as far as the Competition is concerned.

- M) Where a match is abandoned as a result of discipline issues from one or both of the competing Teams, the matter shall then be reported to the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager who will decide the appropriate course of action. The Competition Manager has the authority to designate a Representative or Committee to make a ruling. An appeal may be submitted within two hours of the decision being communicated to the party (or parties). If leave to appeal is granted, the Competition Manager (or Designate) will, at that time, establish timelines for the appeal process and appeal fee submission. The decision of the Competition Manager (or Designate) is final and binding as far as the competition is concerned, unless it is appealed, in which case that decision is final and binding. Notwithstanding the hearing or appeal timelines set in the MSA Disciplinary code, the timelines set within this competition will take precedence due to the schedule of the competition.
- N) Disposition of all yellow cards and red cards received during a match that was subsequently abandoned shall be dealt with by the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager, Representative, or Committee.

VI. COMPETITION RULES

- A) The format for each competition shall be determined by the MSA.
- B) The MSA shall be responsible for assigning all match officials.
- C) In all competitions (or parts thereof) organized on a knock-out basis, all matches shall be played to a decision as outlined in Rule V.J.
- D) In all competitions organized on a two-legged, knock-out basis, the total number of goals from both matches will be used to determine a winner.
- E) In all competitions (or parts thereof) organized on a round-robin basis, the following rules shall apply:
 - 1) All round-robin matches shall be played to regulation time only unless unforeseen circumstances (as determined by the MSA) apply.
 - 2) Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a tie, and zero points for a loss. Final standings shall be determined by points accumulated at the completion of the round-robin, with tie-breaking as outlined in Rule VI.E.3.
 - 3) The following criteria shall be used (in order) to determine the final standings:
 - a) Most points in all group matches.
 - b) If two teams are tied in points in all group matches:
 - i) Greater number of points in matches between the teams concerned (i.e., head-to-head competition).
 - ii) Results for all group matches.

- a) Greater goal difference in all group matches.
- b) Greater number of goals scored in all group matches.
- iii) Penalty kicks (as per FIFA LOTG) at a time and place decided by the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager.

Players under suspension are not eligible to participate; however, this does not constitute the serving of any disciplinary suspension already awarded.

- 4) The following must be used to achieve completion if three teams are tied in points in all group matches:
 - a) Greatest goal difference in matches amongst the teams concerned.
 - b) Greatest number of goals scored in all matches amongst the teams concerned.
 - c) Greatest goal difference in all group matches.
 - d) Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.
 - e) Drawing of lots to determine ranking at a time and place decided by the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager.

VII. DISCIPLINE

- A) The MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager will deal with (or arrange to deal with) all discipline cases involving players, Team Officials, or spectators. The Competition Manager may designate a Representative or Committee to deal with discipline cases. Misconduct by players, Team Officials, or spectators reported by the Match Officials or MSA Representative(s) shall be dealt with by the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee prior to the next match. An appeal may be submitted within two hours of the decision being communicated to the party (or parties). If leave to appeal is granted, the Competition Manager (or Designate) will, at that time, establish timelines for the appeal process and appeal fee submission. The decision of the Competition Manager (or Designate) is final and binding as far as the competition is concerned, unless it is appealed, in which case that decision is final and binding. Notwithstanding the hearing or appeal timelines set in the MSA Disciplinary code, the timelines set within this competition will take precedence due to the schedule of the competition.

- B) The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may decide to conduct a hearing for misconduct (on or off the field of play) involving players, Team Officials, or spectators. The hearing time and location shall be determined by the Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee. Any accused and/or witness(es) who are unable to attend the hearing may submit a written statement. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee has the authority to decide even if the accused (having been given notice of hearing and the option to respond in writing) is not present. If attending the hearing, the player or Team Official must be accompanied by a Team Representative. An appeal may be submitted within two hours of the decision being communicated to the party (or parties). If leave to appeal is granted, the Competition Manager (or Designate) will, at that time, establish timelines for the appeal process and appeal fee submission. Notwithstanding the hearing or appeal timelines set in the MSA Disciplinary code, the timelines set within this competition will take precedence due to the schedule of the competition.
- C) In most cases, suspended players or Team Officials shall serve their suspension in the competition in which it was received for the specified number of games. However, time suspensions and suspensions from all soccer activities in any other competition shall be enforced during the MSA Provincial Championship Competition.
- D) Any player who receives a third caution during the MSA Provincial Championship Competition (except in their Team's final match) shall receive a one-match suspension to be served in their next MSA Provincial Championship Competition match.
 - 1. If the third caution is received on their Team's final match, the one-match suspension will be served in the Member League play.
- E) **Any player or Team Official who receives two yellow cards in one match and is dismissed, will serve an automatic one match suspension in their next MSA Provincial Championship Competition match.**
- F) Any player or Team Official who is dismissed during the MSA Provincial Championship Competition (except in their Team's final match) shall receive a minimum, automatic, one-match suspension to be served in their next MSA Provincial Championship Competition match.
- G) Any player or Team Official who is dismissed in their Team's final match of the MSA Provincial Championship Competition will serve the suspension, determined by the MSA Discipline Committee, in the Member League play.

H) The MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee shall rule on any alleged breach of the competition rules by an individual or organization. An appeal may be submitted within two hours of the decision being communicated to the party (or parties). If leave to appeal is granted, the Competition Manager (or Designate) will, at that time, establish timelines for the appeal process and appeal fee submission. The decision of the Competition Manager (or Designate) is final and binding as far as the competition is concerned, unless it is appealed, in which case that decision is final and binding. The MSA may impose further discipline / sanctions during or after the competition. Notwithstanding the hearing or appeal timelines set in the MSA Disciplinary code, the timelines set within this competition will take precedence due to the schedule of the competition.

I) **If a team is found to have fielded an ineligible player in any match (e.g., due to an over/under age limit, an active suspension, omission from the official roster, or any registration irregularity), the match shall be declared a forfeit by the offending team. The opposing team shall be awarded the victory and the resulting three (3) competition points. The official score for the forfeited match shall be determined by the Competition Manager or Delegate based on the following:**

- If the offending team won or drew the match, the score will be recorded as a 3-0 loss for the offending team
- If the offending team lost the match, the actual score will stand as the official match result for all statistical purposes
- This ensures that standings are based on the sporting merit of those involved against all opponents while the offending team is justly punished by losing all points

In addition to the match forfeit, the Competition Manager, Delegate, or Disciplinary Committee may impose supplemental sanctions on the team, club, team officials, and/or the player depending on the nature and severity of the infringement. These sanctions may include but are not limited to fines, suspension of the ineligible player, suspension of the team officials responsible, deduction of points (beyond the forfeited match), exclusion from the competition.

J) Any player or Team Official who is suspended during the MSA Provincial Championship Competition and is unable to serve the full length of the suspension during the MSA Provincial Championship Competition shall be required to serve the remainder of the suspension during Member League play.

K) A player or Team Official dismissed during the final match may participate in the closing ceremonies and medal presentation. Any additional misconduct that occurs during the closing ceremonies will be dealt with by the MSA Discipline Committee.

L) The CS Code of Conduct & Ethics Policy (https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/manitobasoccerassoc/files/Admin%20Policies/CSA_Code_of_Conduct_and_Ethics_FINAL_22.09.17.pdf) must be followed by all participants.

M) Every Team is responsible for the actions of its players, Team staff, and spectators.

N) Every Team is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its players, Team staff, and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone at games, especially the match officials.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION

A) Protests

- 1) Any protests arising out of any match in the MSA Provincial Championship Competition shall be made in writing to the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager within **two** hours of the completion of the match. Protests must be accompanied by a fee of \$375 in cash, e-transfer, money order, or cheque payable to the MSA. The protest must be submitted to the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager or Designate by email. Notwithstanding the hearing or appeal timelines set in the MSA Disciplinary code, the timelines set within this competition will take precedence due to the schedule of the competition. The Competition Manager may designate a Representative or Committee to rule on the protest.
- 2) The protest must contain the details of the protest, including the rule that was allegedly breached and the evidence to support the claim. Protests can only be considered on the grounds of the eligibility of a Team or player(s), or regarding breaches of the Competition Rules and Regulations.
- 3) Note: Decisions of a Match Official on points of fact in a match cannot be protested.

B) In most cases, the MSA Provincial Championship Competition Manager or Designate shall rule on the protest, including the disposition of the protest fee.

C) An appeal may be submitted within two hours of the decision being communicated to the party (or parties). If leave to appeal is granted, the Competition Manager (or Designate) will, at that time, establish timelines for the appeal process and appeal fee submission. The decision of the Competition Manager (or Designate) is final and binding as far as the competition is concerned, unless it is appealed, in which case that decision is final and binding. Notwithstanding the hearing or appeal timelines set in the MSA Disciplinary code, the timelines set within this competition will take precedence due to the schedule of the competition.

D) Game day protocols must be followed by the Teams participating and fines will be imposed when such protocols are not followed.

E) All Teams that win their respective MSA Provincial Championship Competition are required to participate in the CS Association Regional/National Championships. Failure to participate in the Regional/National Championships will result in discipline and/or sanction.

IX. SCHEDULE OF FINES

A) Team fails to appear for a scheduled match without just cause.

Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, \$500 fine, plus field and match official costs per match that is forfeited. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

B) Team withdraws from the Competitions after the entry deadline.

Penalty: Forfeiture of the competition entry fee and the Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action as deemed appropriate (which may include further fines and/or sanctions).

C) Team not attending the medal presentation.

Penalty: \$500 fine. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

D) Team Official not accompanying player attending a hearing.

Penalty: **\$300** fine. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

E) Failure to return a trophy.

Penalty: \$500 fine plus the cost of a trophy up to \$500. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

F) Team fails to commence a game or withdraws from the game after it has started (unless so directed by the referee).

Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, **\$750** fine, plus field and official costs. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

G) Team fails to fulfill Club National commitment.

Penalty: Fine as determined by CS plus any additional expenses. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

H) Team fails to electronically submit Club Roster on the Official Roster form by **the set deadline** prior to the start of the Competition.

Penalty: **\$300** fine. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

I) Team representative not in attendance at the Pre-Competition meeting.

Penalty: **\$300** fine. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

J) Failure to not have an alternate set of uniforms (jerseys/socks).

Penalty: **\$300** fine. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

K) Failure to wear assigned uniforms set by the MSA (jerseys/shorts/socks).

Penalty: **\$300** fine. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.

L) Failure to comply with gender requirements.

Penalty **\$300** fine. The Competition Manager, Designate, or Discipline Committee may take further action, as deemed appropriate.