

OPERATING RULES SPECIFIC RULES FOR SOCCER

1. Rules
 - 1.1. General rules applying to soccer competition in this conference are defined in the Operating Code.
 - 1.2. All rules, "Laws of Game", from Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) will be adhered to except for:
 - 1.2.1. Roster: Up to a maximum of twenty two(22)players may be dressed and listed on the game sheet for both home and visiting teams.
 - 1.2.2. Playing Roster: A minimum of nine (9) players (per team) may be on the field to start games.
 - 1.2.3. Points: Three (3) points shall be awarded to the victorious team for a win and one (1) point to each team involved in a game which ends tied.
2. Officials
 - 2.1. The Manitoba Soccer Association shall assign all referees and linesmen. A referee, 2 linespersons shall be appointed to all MCAC league and playoff games.
3. Time/Duration of Matches
 - 3.1. Start Times: Recommended starting times for league games shall be as follows (may be adjusted by mutual agreement only):
 - 3.1.1. Saturday and Sunday are at 1:00pm and 3:15 pm except when a team has an overnight; then the match should be scheduled at 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm the following day.
 - 3.1.2. Mid-Week Matches: That mid-week matches should be scheduled at 5:00 pm prior to October 1st and at 4:00 pm after that date.
 - 3.2. Half Time: There will be a maximum of 10-minute rest at half time.
 - 3.3. Overtime: There will be no overtime periods during league play.
4. Schedule/League Format
 - 4.1. Maximum Matches Per Week: The demands of the MCAC soccer schedule shall be such that any given participating institution shall not be required to play more than 4 (four) games in a given week.
 - 4.2. Thanksgiving Option: In the event a team scheduled to play on the same weekend as Canadian club team nationals, and has 3 or more players involved in the nationals, they may request the match(es) be moved to another date.
5. Team Standings at Conclusion of League Play - Tie Breakers
 - 5.1. The following formula shall be used to determine final standings if two or more teams are tied.
 - 5.1.1. Results of matches between the tied teams:
 - 5.1.2. Goal difference in games between the tied teams.
 - 5.1.2.1. Goal Difference: By deducting goals against from goals for, the team with the better (higher) goal difference shall be awarded the higher standing.
 - 5.1.3. Goal difference in all MCAC regular league games.

- 5.1.4. Most goals scored in regular league play.
 6. Fewest goals conceded in regular season play. Conference Championships
 - 6.1. Scheduling: The Conference Championships cannot be held any later than the fourth weekend of October.
 - 6.2. Conference Championships Host Responsibilities: Colleges in contention to host the Conference Championships are required to develop contingency plans to deal with inclement weather which would include snow removal and reserving a backup all weather field turf facility where available.
 - 6.3. Inclement Weather: The decision on whether the field is playable will be made in the following order:
 - a) The facility operator/maintenance department will indicate if the fields are available for play.
 - b) MSA officials will decide if the game should proceed.
 - 6.3.1. Decisions on the delay or rescheduling of the games will be made by the MCAC Soccer Convenor, in consultation with the host AD, MSA officials and the coaches of the teams involved.
 - 6.3.2. Additional expenses incurred by the host as a result of either snow removal or additional facility rental are to be borne by the MCAC, and invoiced out to all participating member institutions from the men's and women's competing teams.
 - 6.3.3. Re-scheduled Conference Championships games must be complete no later than the Tuesday following the date originally scheduled.
 - 6.4. The winner of the Conference final shall be declared MCAC Champions, be awarded the gold medals.
 - 6.4.1. Conference semi-final play-off and championship games will be played as per the schedule determined by the Conference. Economic considerations for traveling teams will have priority over requests from the host team.
 - 6.5. If a Conference play-off game is tied after regulation time, normally two 15-minute halves will be played in their entirety. If the score is still tied a best of five shoot-out will occur.
 - 6.5.1. If a shoot-out is necessary, both teams will declare their shoot-out rosters. Both teams MUST have the same number of participants. (i.e. If one team has a player(s) ejected due to red cards, the other team shall reduce their roster by the same number. (as per FIFA rule.)
7. Substitutions
 - 7.1. Each team will be permitted to make a combined total of (5) five substitutions. These substitutions may take place on any stoppage in play at the discretion of the Referee. Teams will however be permitted to make unlimited substitutions at half time.
 - 7.2. If a match goes to extra time, each team will be permitted to make unlimited substitutions at the end of regulation time and at half time of extra time and make a combined total of (3) three additional substitutions during extra time.
 - 7.2.1. Substitutions shall occur at the half line upon the referee's permission when the number of the player leaving the field is displayed. Substitutes shall enter the field only after the other player is off the field.

7.2.2.A goalkeeper change at half time must be reported to the referee.

7.3 Head injury substitution

If there is any suspicion that a player may have suffered a concussion or other significant injury to the head, the player should be protected by being “permanently” removed from a match, but their team should not suffer a numerical disadvantage as a result of prioritizing the injured player’s welfare. Each team shall be allowed to make a maximum of two (2) “Head Injury” substitutions. A “Head Injury” substitution may be made regardless of the number of substitutes already used by a team in a match.

A “Head Injury” substitution may be made:

- i. Immediately after the head injury occurs and a concussion is suspected.
 - ii. After an on-field or off-field assessment has been made by the team medical professional, or the assigned team medical professional representative/host.
 - iii. At any other time when a head injury occurs or is suspected (including in the event that a player was assessed and returned to the field of play but is subsequently determined the player is not fit to continue).
- a) Team seeking to make a “Head Injury” substitution will provide the referee or fourth official with a substitution slip, clearly checking the “Head Injury” substitution box on the slip.
 - b) “Head Injury” substitution will note that the substitution was a “Head Injury” substitution on the Record of Substitution Form.
 - c) A player removed from the match due to a “Head Injury” substitution is not permitted to take any further part in the match, and should, where possible, be accompanied to the dressing room or to a medical facility.
 - d) The use of a “concussion substitution” does not count toward-d the five (5) permitted substitutions.
 - e) The substituted player, if deemed fit to play, must replace that same player when returning to the field.
8. Acts of Misconduct: In those cases (i.e. physical abuse of an official, accumulated yellow cards) where a player or coach is subject to the Executive Director's discretion as to the length of the suspension the suspension shall be imposed/served immediately pending final determination by the Executive Director.
- 8.1. Dates of Suspensions: All suspensions that arise from card offences, physical contact and ejections shall be served in the next scheduled game. Any games added to a team’s schedule (not including play-offs) after September 1st cannot be used to serve suspensions.
 - 8.2. Yellow Card Offenses: Will be recorded on the MCAC game sheet only. Any player accumulating four (4) or more yellow cards over the course of a season shall be dealt with by the Executive Director as follows:
 - 8.2.1.Five (5) yellow cards - one game suspension
 - 8.2.2.Eight (8) yellow cards - two game suspension
 - 8.2.3.Over eight(8) card - dealt with on a case by case basis by the Executive Committee.
 - 8.2.4.Carry-over Yellow Cards: Any player, who has accumulated yellow cards at the end of MCAC league play, will not carry them into the MCAC play-offs or the next MCAC league

season. Pre-Season Yellow Cards: Any player who has accumulated two or fewer yellow cards in pre-season games prior to the start of the MCAC league play shall not carry them into the MCAC league play.

- 8.3. Red Card Offenses: Will be recorded on the MCAC game sheet and reported on the Officials Game Report.
 - 8.3.1. One Match Suspension: Red card offenses resulting in a one game suspension:
 - 8.3.1.1. Two Yellow Cards: Two yellow cards in a game produce a red card, which results in an ejection from the remainder of the match. These yellow cards are non-cumulative.
 - 8.3.1.2. Denying A Goal Scoring Opportunity: A player will receive a red card for committing the following infractions:
 - (Law XII - I.B.D. 13) Denying a goal scoring opportunity by intentionally impeding an opponent.
 - (Law XII, I.B.D. 14) Denying a goal scoring opportunity by intentionally handling the ball, other than the goalkeeper, within the player's own penalty area. The offending player will be ejected for the remainder of the game plus the following game.
 - 8.3.2. Two Match Suspension: Red card offences resulting in an immediate match ejection plus a minimum of a two (2) game suspension and shall be reviewed by the Conference:
 - 8.3.2.1. Violent conduct or serious foul play, or
 - 8.3.2.2. Spitting at or threatening anyone other than a referee, or
 - 8.3.2.3. Kicking or striking an opponent in a deliberate manner or foul or abusive language directed at anyone, other than an official.
 - 8.3.3. Four Match Suspension: Red card offences resulting in an immediate match ejection plus a minimum of four (4) game suspension and shall be reviewed by the Conference.
 - 8.3.3.1. Fighting, or
 - 8.3.3.2. Foul or abusive language, spitting, harassing, or threats directed at an official.
- 8.4. Physical Abuse of An Official: Intentional or abusive physical contact with any game official prior to, during, or after a game, as reported by the game officials, shall result in immediate suspension of the offending player from further competition until a decision has been made by the Executive Director.
- 8.5. Ejection From An Exhibition Match: If a coach/player is ejected from an exhibition match, he/she must sit out the next scheduled match.
- 8.6. Ejection From A League Match: If a coach/player is ejected from a league match, he/she must serve the suspension in the next scheduled league match.
- 8.7. Suspensions:
 - 8.7.1. Suspensions will be carried over into the post season where applicable.
 - 8.7.2. Coach Ejections/Suspensions: Coaches ejected from the match or serving suspensions will not be permitted to have any contact with their teams 120 minutes prior to a match and until 120 minutes after the conclusion of the match. That is, he/she will not be allowed in the playing facility and any connected viewing area or on the premises during the time frames indicated or during match play. Communication with team members via electronic methods during this time is also prohibited.

- 8.7.3. Player Ejections/Suspensions: Players serving suspensions or ejected cannot be part of a team bench, warm-up or post game ceremonies.
- 8.7.4. Viewing Privileges: Suspension or ejection from an MCAC soccer match implies removal from the field and any connected viewing areas.
- 8.7.5. Carry-Over to Following Season: MCAC players, coaches and those listed on the Technical Bench Area forms with unfinished MCAC suspensions shall serve the suspension at the start of the new MCAC season.
- 8.7.6. Notification of Carry-Over Suspensions/Use of Suspended Players: A list of players, coaches and those listed on the Technical Bench Area forms with unfinished suspensions shall be circulated by the Executive Director at the start of the new season. In MCAC league play, any team which plays an athlete carrying an unfinished suspension from the MCAC shall forfeit competition points earned in that game.
- 8.7.7. Recognition of Suspensions From Other Leagues: Suspensions levied from all organized soccer will be enforced by the MCAC.
- 8.7.8. Use of Suspended Players: Any team which permits a player/coach to participate in any MCAC match(es) for which he/she was required to serve a suspension shall automatically forfeit the match(es) in question. The forfeited match(es) shall not be deemed acceptable in serving the suspension.
- 8.7.9. Review of Red Card Offences: The Executive Director, upon the review of red card offences, will be granted the discretion to either increase or decrease the length of the suspension, depending on the circumstances.
- 8.8. Acts of Misconduct: Acts of misconduct by registered team officers, as recorded on the game sheet by the official, shall be referred to the MCAC Executive Director.

9. Fields

- 9.1. Lining: The home team shall ensure that playing fields are adequately lined, including Technical Areas according to FIFA rules.
- 9.2. Goals, Flags & Scoreboard: The home team shall provide four (4) corner flags and two (2) goal nets, and a method to display the score.
- 9.3. Benches: Home team shall provide and identify home and visitor benches for each team and ensure that there are areas separate and distinct between players and spectators.
 - 9.3.1. 4th Official: Seating for the 4th official shall be provided at centre field between the two team benches.
 - 9.3.2. Technical Bench Area: The Technical Bench Area shall be restricted to 26 persons excluding medical staff.
- 9.4. MCAC Banner: Wherever possible, the MCAC banner shall be displayed at all soccer fields where MCAC soccer games are in progress.

10. Player Eligibility

- 10.1. Deadline: Due to the early start of the MCAC soccer schedule, the Main List shall be emailed to the MCAC Office at least one (1) day prior to a team's first scheduled MCAC contest.

- 10.2. Supplemental Eligibility: During the seven days following a member's first MCAC league game, additional competitors shall become eligible to participate 24 hours after the Supplementary List bearing their name has been submitted, to the MCAC Office.
- 10.3. Participation on Club Teams: It shall be permissible for an MCAC soccer participant to play simultaneously for a club team.
11. Official ball- shall be declared each year at the Spring Meeting.

Last reviewed May 2023