

# MANITOBA SOCCER ASSOCIATION RULES & REGULATIONS

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## I. GENERAL

1. These Rules & Regulations, as well as Canada Soccer's Code of Conduct & Ethics, apply to individual members (e.g., players, team officials, match officials, spectators, etc. registered with the MSA) and to member organizations (e.g., regions, leagues, clubs, teams, academies, etc.).
2. Members of the MSA Board and MSA committees function as representatives of the MSA, not as representatives of any other organization or constituency.
3. The Rules & Regulations may be amended by a simple majority of the MSA's Board of Directors at a duly constituted meeting. A copy of approved changes to the Rules & Regulations shall be forwarded by the MSA Executive Director to the membership within 10 working days after Board approval. These decisions are in effect two working days after the sending of notification (unless otherwise stated) and should be posted on the MSA's website accordingly.
4. The MSA may uphold and honor all suspensions imposed by member organizations, Canada Soccer, or other provincial associations upon written notification of such suspensions and review by the MSA's Discipline Committee.
5. Every member organization is responsible to take all precautions necessary to:
  - a. prevent its players, team officials, and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone (especially the match officials) present at games;
  - b. provide reasonable security for players and match officials before, during, and after games;
  - c. prevent use of objectionable, insulting, and offensive behavior; and
  - d. provide an environment that supports their participants' physical and emotional safety (i.e., free of bullying, discrimination, etc.).

In any case of a breach of the above, any person may be removed from any grounds/playing area by a representative of the member organization having jurisdiction or by a match official. It is the duty of all to refrain from conduct likely to bring the game into disrepute. The MSA may take additional disciplinary action in response to such behavior.

6. Betting and match-fixing on any game is strictly prohibited.
7. No person may smoke or vape within a buffer zone of 100 metres surrounding any outdoor soccer field or 25 metres from the entrance to a facility or clubhouse.

8. Individual members and member organizations will not take any dispute to the ordinary courts unless specifically allowed in the By-Laws or Rules & Regulations of either the MSA or Canada Soccer. Any disagreement shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the MSA, Canada Soccer, or the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre (SDRC). The SDRC shall deal with disputes that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the MSA and Canada Soccer.
9. The competitions of the MSA take precedence over all other competitions, except games under the direct control of Canada Soccer, the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF), or the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA).
10. The MSA may (at its discretion) operate a league(s) or competition(s) under its own jurisdiction or it may operate a team in a member league.
11. Every volunteer or employee of the MSA must be in compliance with the MSA's Criminal Record Screening Policy.
12. Each member organization must institute screening policies consistent (at minimum) with the criminal record screening policies of the MSA and Canada Soccer.

In the case where a member organization has a player(s) on the team roster who has not reached the age of majority by the date of the game, all registered officials of that member organization will be required to have current (*i.e.*, within three calendar years) Criminal/Police Record checks (C/PRC) including Vulnerable Sector Checks.

In the case where a member organization wishes to use a guest player(s) who has not reached the age of majority by the date of the game, one registered member organization official will be required to have a current C/PRC screening. The member organization official who is C/PRC-cleared must be present at the game and be clearly identified on the game sheet.

13. Except with the permission of the MSA, only team members, member organization officials, match officials, the news media, and medical persons will be allowed access to dressing rooms.
14. Photo identification approved by the MSA for both players and member organization officials may be required by the member organization having authority for players and member organization officials. It is incumbent upon member organization officials to present the photo identification of the players and officials to the match officials (as required) prior to any member organization competition. Players and member organization officials without approved photo identification will not be permitted to play, coach, or manage. An exception will be made only when the person not able to present their photo identification has a letter of

permission from either the appointed registrar (or designate of the member organization having jurisdiction over the competition) or the MSA.

## II. REGISTRATION

1. New MSA applicants for voting or non-voting membership (excluding Life Members) must:
  - a. make an application to the MSA Board for approval of membership providing:
    - i. organization name;
    - ii. location (city/town/village);
    - iii. district/region (if applicable);
    - iv. province;
    - v. president's name and contact information (phone and email), and
    - vi. name of the desired membership category and rationale for membership consideration.
  - b. provide evidence of meeting the requirements defined in Sections II (2), II (3) and II (4); and
  - c. pay the applicable fees as prescribed by the MSA Board in Section II (5).
2. Following the approval of the voting or non-voting (excluding Life Members) membership application (and annually thereafter), each member organization will:
  - a. ensure that all subordinate organizations, leagues, clubs, teams, managers, coaches, and players (including those of community centres) are registered with the MSA using the MSA's designated registration system and pay the corresponding fees as prescribed in Section II.5; and
  - b. provide to the MSA information satisfactory to the MSA Board demonstrating that the member organization is:
    - i. currently providing an active soccer program that meets the membership category being applied for (i.e., Soccer Region, League, or Associate Member);
    - ii. committed to providing an enjoyable soccer experience for all participants;
    - iii. focused on long term participation;
    - iv. must adhere to the MSA policy, where minors are involved, outlining what to do if inappropriate conduct is witnessed;
    - v. must adhere to the CS 'Rule of Two' Guidelines [https://canadasoccer.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CanadaSoccer\\_RuleOfTwo\\_EN.pdf](https://canadasoccer.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CanadaSoccer_RuleOfTwo_EN.pdf);
    - vi. utilizes facilities and equipment that are safe, well-maintained; and

- vii. does not interact with non-member organizations unless approved by the MSA.
  - c. Where the soccer program includes youth, the registered clubs must adhere to one of the four Canada Soccer Club Licensing levels (Quality Soccer Provider, Member Association 1, Member Association 2, National Youth License), which includes the MSA Coaching Standards. The standards reflect the Keeping Girls in Sport program for coaches working with youth (U9-U18) teams in Manitoba that include girls and gender diverse people
  - d. As per Canada Soccer Club Licensing Requirements, youth clubs must align to Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards.
- 3. Voting member organizations must annually provide to the MSA:
  - a. governing documents, such as By-Laws and the document governing the applicant's member-approved process to appoint delegates to act on its behalf at the MSA's annual general meeting and special meetings of member organizations;
  - b. rules, regulations, policies, and procedures;
  - c. names and addresses of its board of directors; and
  - d. certification by one of its officers (in the form attached here to as Appendix A) that its most recent financial statements were presented to its members in accordance with its governing documents or The Corporations Act of Manitoba.
- 4. At any time, the MSA or MSA Board may request any other information pertinent to membership in the MSA. This information shall be provided within a specified time frame.
- 5. Annual membership fees will be paid as follows:
  - a. Each member organization must ensure all players registered pay the player registration fee.
  - b. Each voting member region or member league will pay a fee;
  - c. Each non-voting member (Associate Member) will pay a fee for each league in which they have at least one team participating;
    - i. Each youth district club or youth regional club pays one fee irrespective of the number of teams participating in youth competition.
    - ii. Each community centre pays one fee irrespective of the number of teams participating in youth competition.

- iii. Each senior men's club and each senior women's club pays one fee per senior league irrespective of the number of teams the club has in that particular League.
- d. All other Associate Members pay a fee irrespective of the number of teams participating in a particular league.

### **III. OPERATION OF LEAGUES**

1. A league is an organization operating under an executive to provide sanctioned competition for teams.
2. A league must be composed of a minimum of six teams.
3. A league is responsible for:
  - a. providing an active soccer program consistent with the membership registration category;
  - b. establishing and maintaining current governing documents, including accurate administrative and financial records;
  - c. establishing rules and regulations consistent with the MSA's By-Laws as well as Rules & Regulations;
  - d. organizing competitions among participating teams; and
  - e. registering players and team officials (if delegated to do so by the MSA).
4. League rules and regulations must provide for:
  - a. defaults/forfeits and consequences thereof;
  - b. allocation of "goals for" to the team awarded a win as a result of default/forfeit;
  - c. a method for breaking point ties in the standings;
  - d. use of guest players (including youth players); and
  - e. discipline and appeal procedures.
5. Leagues shall not allow games to be played before the league's rules and regulations are approved by the MSA, and the participating teams are registered with the MSA.

6. Prior to any participation in an MSA league, a team from another provincial, state, or national association must have the approval of both the MSA and the team's governing association (*i.e.*, their provincial or state association, or Canada Soccer, if applicable).

#### **IV. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS**

##### **A. GENERAL**

1.
  - a. In order to participate in a sanctioned competition, players and team officials (coaches, managers, and medical staff, as applicable) must register on the roster of a team participating in that competition for each applicable indoor or outdoor season.
  - b. Youth players and team officials must register to a club for each applicable season.
2. A player may register with a member organization to retain the benefits of registration for the sole purpose of training in the immediately subsequent off-season (*i.e.*, following the outdoor or indoor seasons).
3. Players may not register for more than one team / club under the jurisdiction of the MSA at any one time, except as otherwise permitted in these Rules & Regulations.
4. Except with the consent of the MSA, no league / region may allow a team to register more than 25 players. Leagues have a responsibility to establish the team roster size for their competitions.
5. Subject to the rules and regulations of the member organization having jurisdiction, member organizations that operate two or more teams in different divisions of a league may use players from their lower division team(s) on their higher division team(s). However, no more than three lower division players shall play per team in any one game in a higher division or league.
6. Member organizations may establish a deadline for player registration in competitions organized by that member organization. In this situation, the member organization must advise the MSA that such a deadline has been established.
7. A player's registration shall date from the day on which the player's registration is received and validated by the MSA's registrar or designate.
8. Where the MSA allows a person other than the MSA's registrar to receive registrations or transfers, the date such registrations or transfers are signed and dated by the aforementioned authorized party shall be recognized as the date such registrations or transfers are effective. In these cases, the registrations or transfers shall be forwarded to the MSA in accordance with time limits set by the MSA.

Failing that, the date of mailing or transmission to the MSA's registrar shall be the accepted date of registration or transfer.

9. Except as otherwise permitted in these Rules & Regulations, players who are registered with the MSA shall not play for any organization in any jurisdiction outside of Manitoba without an interprovincial or international transfer certificate (ITC) and a release from the MSA. In addition to any other discipline by any other jurisdiction outside of Manitoba, violation of this rule will immediately cancel the registration and render the player ineligible to compete in MSA-sanctioned competition during the current playing season.
10. A player who was registered in another provincial/territorial association must receive written clearance from the provincial/territorial association with which the player was last registered in order to be eligible to register in Manitoba. This clearance must indicate that the player is free of all obligations (including disciplinary suspensions) to that association and it must also indicate the player's status as amateur or professional.
11. Any player aged 10 or over whose last registration was outside the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer must have their prospective Manitoba member organization request that the MSA obtain the necessary ITC from Canada Soccer. Upon receipt of the request, the MSA will forward the request for an ITC to Canada Soccer.
12. A player who is under suspension may register with the MSA in accordance with the MSA's Rules & Regulations, but the player may not participate in those soccer activities from which the player is suspended until the suspension is completed.
13. It is the responsibility of the member organization registering players to ensure that it is aware of each player's status with the MSA as it relates to suspensions or any matter that may impact each player's participation. Member organizations must be aware of pertinent Rules & Regulations.
14. Any player or member organization official found to have provided false information for registration purposes will be subject to the MSA's disciplinary minimums.
15. A registered female player may play on a corresponding age category male team. However, a registered male player may not play on a corresponding age category female team. For the purpose of this rule, Co-ed is not considered a male or female team.
16. Coaches must be registered on the team roster as a team official prior to coaching that team in a game.
17. In the case of a "player-coach" of a team, the player-coach shall register as both a player and a coach, and pay the prescribed fees.

18. Coaches and other member organization officials must complete the 'Respect in Sport' course at least every five years.

## **B. MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS**

1. No player shall be permitted to register for more than one team at any one time or play in more than one provincial championship, tournament competition, league, or age group competition under the jurisdiction of the MSA unless permitted by these Rules & Regulations.
2. In outdoor competitions, senior players may register with a maximum of two teams as long as the teams are in different Leagues or are in distinct competitions within those leagues (such as Masters or Co-ed).
3. In indoor competition, senior players may register with a maximum of three teams, as long as the teams are in different Leagues or are in distinct competitions within those leagues (such as Masters or Co-ed). Only Co-ed and Masters players may play on more than one team in the same League (providing there are Co-ed and/or Masters divisions in that league). For example, a player may register concurrently for a Co-ed team, a Masters team, and a senior team.
4. Pro-Am players appearing on any game roster of a Pro-Am game may be registered in a member league once the Pro-Am season is completed or upon being released (subject to the rules and regulations of the respective league or competition in which the player wishes to register).
5. In indoor and/or outdoor competitions, players may register with (if required) an MSA team and/or a school affiliated with the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association (MHSAA) and/or a provincial team and/or a post-secondary institution recognized by the MSA. Youth- and senior-registered players may play on high school teams as long as they meet the MHSAA criteria, irrespective of other MSA rules.

## **C. YOUTH PLAYER REGISTRATION**

1. When first registering with the MSA, a youth-aged player may be required to provide proof of age (such as a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, or other evidence acceptable to the MSA). Documented proof of age may be required from time to time. In the event of a protest or dispute, the burden of proof of age will rest with the player.
2. To play in both the outdoor and indoor seasons, youth players must register separately for the outdoor season and indoor season.
3. If a player is released by any youth member organization, the registrar of the youth league must be so informed in writing by the releasing member organization.

4. In the case of a player being released, the player shall automatically be permitted to register with another youth member organization provided the player does not displace any other player(s) from the receiving member organization.
5. Member organizations are permitted to play youth players in a youth age group higher than that in which the player is eligible to play (by age) conditional upon league rules and the consent of the player's parent.
6. A registered youth player who wishes to leave their youth member organization during the playing season and register as a senior player must obtain written permission from both their youth member organization and parent/guardian, as well as be deleted from the youth team's roster (according to the rules and regulations of the regional association having jurisdiction). The senior member organization must present the written permission and proof of deletion from the youth roster with the completed senior registration form to the MSA (or its designate). The senior registration will be considered a new registration (not a transfer) and will be subject to senior registration rules, regulations, and fees. A youth member organization may not withhold the release of a youth player wishing to play as a senior player for more than 15 working days from request.
7. A youth-aged player who registered as "senior amateur" shall be ineligible to play in youth competitions unless the player has, upon request, been reinstated to youth status. (See Section IV.F.)

#### **D. SENIOR PLAYER REGISTRATION**

1. Except as otherwise permitted in these Rules & Regulations, no player shall be allowed to register as a senior player until the year in which that player will attain their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Proof of age may be requested by the MSA or the league at any time.
2. Senior players must register separately for the outdoor and indoor seasons. Senior players pay one annual registration fee. (That is, a senior player's registration fee for an outdoor season also covers the following indoor season. If, however, a senior player does not play an outdoor season, but registers (and pays the registration fee) for the subsequent indoor season, that player must again pay the annual registration fee for the subsequent outdoor season.)
3. Subject to approval of the MSA:
  - a. A youth player may register with a senior member organization where the youth player is involved in the Regional Excel Center (REX) or is traveling with a national youth program. This is conditional upon completion of the REX Youth-to-Senior Player Release Form and process, including parental consent.

- b. Upon release from the REX or national youth program, the player may continue to play as a senior player or choose to return to youth soccer (via the senior-to-youth reinstatement process).
- c. A youth player may register as a senior player if the player resides in a region that does not have adequate opportunities for youth-aged competition with parental consent; and
- d. At the end of the current season (outdoor or indoor) in which permission has been granted under Section IV.D (3c) for a youth player to register as a senior player, the youth player (providing they remain youth-aged) must return to youth status for the following season (outdoor or indoor).
- e. Any youth player who turns 18 during the current indoor season or is not eligible to register for youth in the next calendar year may register as a senior player at the beginning of that indoor season.

#### **E. YOUTH-TO-SENIOR GUEST PLAYER PERMITS**

- 1. To play as a guest on a senior team, a youth player must be in their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday year, or older. The senior team must obtain permission from the youth club or team and from a parent/guardian of the youth player. The appropriate form(s), which are available from the MSA, must also be completed.
- 2. A youth playing on a senior team under Section IV.E (1) may play in that game without affecting their youth registration status.
- 3. All guest players who have not reached the age of majority by the date of the game must be clearly identified as a youth guest player on the game sheet.
- 4. No more than three youth players may play on one senior team in a single game. The number of youth guest players counts towards the limit of three total guest players allowed per team in any single game.

#### **F. REINSTATEMENTS**

- 1. Any registered senior player of youth age wishing to be reinstated to youth status must apply to the MSA.
- 2. A registered senior player must wait until the completed reinstatement application is approved and the prescribed fee is received by the MSA before taking part in any game for the youth member organization.
- 3. Professional-to-amateur reinstatements are subject to the Rules & Regulations of Canada Soccer.

## **G. AMATEUR STATUS**

1. Amateur status is as defined and governed in Canada Soccer's Rules & Regulations.

## **H. TAMPERING**

1. Tampering is prohibited. Tampering is communicating with a player who is registered with another team before the current season is over and without the consent of the player's current team. In tampering, the purpose of the communication is for the negotiating or soliciting of a player's services for the current season or for the purpose of inducing the player to leave their current team before the current season is over.
2. If a team is contacted during the playing season by a player registered with another team in order to discuss or negotiate that player leaving their current team to play with the contacted team before the current season is over, the contacted team must refrain from having a discussion or negotiation with the player on this issue. The contacted team must advise the player that no such discussion can take place until the current season is over without the consent of the player's current team. Failure to do so would amount to tampering on the part of the contacted team.
3. It is tampering if a team official or a player does the communicating on behalf of the team, or if it is done indirectly through a third party.

## **V. PLAYER TRANSFERS AND RELEASES**

1. A player is bound to the team for which they have registered until the end of the current playing season of the league in which their team plays (unless the player is transferred or released, as provided in these Rules & Regulations). Outdoor and indoor seasons are considered separate and distinct seasons.
2. A player shall be entitled to transfer or release subject to the following:
  - a. MSA and applicable member organization By-Laws as well as Rules & Regulations.
  - b. Rules governing national and provincial championships and/or other cup competitions.
  - c. A maximum of three transfers within the jurisdiction of the MSA during the current playing season. This includes transfers among teams within a member organization. Once transferred to another team, a player cannot be transferred back to the team for which that player was originally registered until a period of 30 calendar days has elapsed.

- d. A maximum of one out-of-province transfer within the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer, except if a player transfers back to the club or team with which that player was originally registered.
  - e. A player currently under suspension is not eligible for release or transfer until the suspension is served.
3. A player may be released or transferred to another club or team through submission of a Release for Transfer form or by giving notice in writing to that player's current club or team. A club or team official must send the approved request to the MSA within five working days from receipt of notice.
  4. Any player registered with a team that has (with the consent of the member organization) ceased to operate or been declared defunct may be transferred to any other team without fee by making an application to the MSA. The MSA may, at its discretion, transfer a player of a team that has been declared defunct after the member organization competition transfer deadline.
  5. A senior player released by a team will be placed in a season-specific "Open-to-Transfer Pool" maintained by the MSA. A released player may re-register with the original team at any time, if the player has not registered with another team since being released by the original team. The registration of a released player will be considered a transfer and subject to applicable transfer rules and fees.

## **VI. REFEREES**

1. All MSA-registered referees shall be under the control and jurisdiction of the MSA.
2. All referee candidates shall be examined as to their suitability for duty by the MSA. Such examination may include oral, written, field test, and fitness tests as determined by provincial and national criteria.
3. Only those persons who are MSA registered referees (*i.e.*, senior, and youth referees) shall officiate as a referee in competitions under the sanction or jurisdiction of MSA.
4. MSA referees shall pay an annual fee established by the MSA based on guidelines provided by Canada Soccer.
5. Senior referees shall be defined as all persons who meet the Canada Soccer age requirement (as outlined in the Canada Soccer Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees) and who pass the required examinations and fitness testing. Senior referees shall register annually to the MSA with the accompanied fee determined by the MSA and submitted according to the terms and conditions

set by the MSA. Senior referees shall officiate in leagues sanctioned by the MSA and they are covered under the MSA's insurance.

6. All senior referees will be required to have a clear CPIC, including vulnerable sector, that is valid for three years.
7. Youth referees shall be defined as a referee of at least 14 years of age who has successfully completed the Entry Level Referee's Course and is not considered as per section 5 above. Youth referees shall operate under the jurisdiction of the MSA and must register with the MSA on an annual basis. Registrations shall be accompanied by a fee determined by the MSA and submitted according to the terms and conditions set by the MSA. Youth referees shall officiate in leagues sanctioned by the MSA and they are covered under the MSA's insurance.
8. Referees shall not be appointed to games that their classification does not permit.
9. The MSA's referee assignor will assign MSA referees to the games of member organizations to which the MSA has agreed to provide this benefit. The MSA (through the MSA's referee assignor) will assign officials to non-member organization games that have been sanctioned by the MSA (*i.e.*, Provincial Championships, exhibition, semi-professional, etc.). The MSA may approve the assigning of referees to special events that may not be sanctioned formally but the MSA believes it is for the benefit of the greater community.
10. A registered player who is also a MSA referee shall not officiate in any member organization competition or division for which a conflict of interest may exist.
11. A registered member organization official who is a registered referee of the MSA shall not officiate in any member organization competition for which a conflict of interest may exist.
12. A referee shall be deemed to have accepted an appointment if, within 48 hours after it has been communicated to the referee, the referee does not decline the appointment via the online assigning platform.
13. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, the appointed referee is unable to act, a member organization involved shall have the right to agree on some other person to officiate during this emergency situation. The decisions of the person assuming the duties of the referee in such an emergency situation shall have the same force and effect as an assigned referee. This person shall file an official referee's report upon the completion of the game to the authority having jurisdiction over the game.
14. All game and discipline reports (as required by the competition) shall be forwarded by the referee to the competition organizers having jurisdiction over the game. This shall occur within 48 hours of the conclusion of a game at which the referee officiated, or such other time as may be stipulated in the rules of the competition.

In the event of a physical assault, attempted physical assault, or threatening behavior towards a game official, the discipline report must also be submitted to the MSA within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game.

15. A MSA referee shall not sit on the Discipline or Appeal Committees of the MSA or of any member organization, unless authorized by the MSA.
16. All registered referees shall comply with the Safe Sport Policy Manual Code of Conducts and Ethics policy.
17. In cases where a referee matter is not addressed in these Rules & Regulations, the MSA shall follow the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees as set out by Canada Soccer.

## **VII. COMPETITIONS**

### **A. MSA-SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS**

1. Any member organization wishing to receive MSA sanctioning for:
  - a. a tournament, exhibition game (including against competitors from outside the MSA's jurisdiction), or any other soccer related event; or
  - b. travel for a competition outside the jurisdiction of the MSAmust submit an application (as provided in the MSA's applicable policies and procedures) to obtain the permission of the MSA.
2. Member organizations may not hold out an unsanctioned event to be a sanctioned event.

### **B. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. The format of the Provincial Championships shall be determined by the MSA. The MSA shall control the operation of these competitions, including the associated fees. Within the established format, authority and responsibility may be delegated to Leagues to conduct preliminary rounds of Provincial Championships.
2. The Provincial Championships shall be subject to the Competition Rules & Regulations for Provincial Championships as adopted each year and in accordance with the Canada Soccer Rules for National Competitions.

## **VIII. SAFE SPORT POLICY MANUAL**

The Government of Manitoba passed the Protecting Youth in Sports Act in 2025. The Safe Sport Policy Manual became law on April 1st, 2026.

The Protecting Youth in Sports Act (also known as Bill 21) requires Sport Manitoba and provincially-recognized and prescribed sport Organizations to adopt and establish standards and oversight to protect Young Athletes.

MSA is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful sport environment that is free from all forms of Maltreatment. All Participants have the right to engage in a sport context - whether playing, practicing, competing, working, or interacting - that promotes their health and well-being.

The policies that are included in the Safe Sport Policy Manual are:

Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy  
Discipline and Complaints Policy  
Alternate Dispute Resolution Policy  
Appeal Policy  
Respect In Sport Policy  
Coach Screening Policy Minimum Requirements

Maltreatment Complaints must be referred to an independent adjudicator, who is responsible for conducting preliminary reviews, Investigations, and hearings as needed, ensuring all Parties are properly notified, and issuing written decisions and disciplinary outcomes.

Non-Maltreatment Complaints, Discipline, Code of Conduct and Ethics, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, and policy matters will be addressed by the MSA judicial committees using the Safe Sport Policy Manual policies.

## **IX. DISCIPLINE**

1. The Safe Sport Policy Manual applies to all individual members and member organizations of the MSA. It applies to officials, employees, and persons performing duties on behalf of the MSA and its member organizations. It applies to conduct both on and off the field.
2. The Safe Sport Policy Manual applies to every match and competition organized by the MSA or its member organizations and to breaches of the FIFA Laws of the Game, MSA By-Laws, MSA Rules & Regulations, Safe Sport policies, other policies and directives in force, and policies that do not fall under the jurisdiction of any other body.

3. The MSA shall have direct jurisdiction on the following matters which relate to individual members or member organizations:
  - a. Complaints or enquiries referred to it by another provincial soccer association;
  - b. Misconduct by any person arising from participation in MSA provincial programs;
  - c. Misconduct by an individual member or a member organization participating in a jurisdiction outside of the MSA;
  - d. Misconduct by a member organization or any of their players and officials;
  - e. Misconduct in leagues or competitions sanctioned and/or organized by the MSA;
  - f. Misconduct at Canada Soccer's National or Regional Competitions;
  - g. Misconduct arising from any event where participation is given prior approval by the MSA; and
  - h. Any other matter directly related to the MSA which the MSA, in its sole discretion, chooses to handle.
4. All alleged offenses, other than those involving alleged physical assault, attempted physical assault, threatening behavior, alleged physical contact, or attempted physical contact towards match officials, may be dealt with by the member organization in whose jurisdiction the alleged offence took place.
5. All hearings involving alleged physical assault, attempted physical assault, threatening behavior, alleged physical contact, or attempted physical contact with match officials shall be dealt with by the MSA. The accused shall be suspended from all soccer activities from the date of the alleged incident until a hearing has been held and the case has been decided.
6. Every member organization is responsible for the actions of its players, officials and spectators. Players, officials, and spectators may only take part in or attend games on condition that they observe MSA Rules & Regulations and policies.
7. Member organizations shall ensure that their disciplinary rules, regulations, and procedures are consistent with those of the MSA and any discipline hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Safe Sport Policy Manual.
8. Decisions involving the referee's judgment or discretion are final and may not be reviewed by the MSA's judicial committees. However, decisions involving a referee acting outside the scope of their authority (e.g., misapplication of the Laws of the

Game or the competition rules, misidentification of a player) or acting in bad faith are subject to review and appeal.

9. In cases of serious misconduct, disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee and his assistants did not see the event in question and were therefore unable to take any action.
10. At first instance, these issues are taken to the respective discipline committee.
11. When an individual member or member organization is sanctioned, the MSA Board may apply any subsequent action in respect to the offender's membership with the MSA.
12. No suspended person of any member organization shall be eligible for membership in any other member organization belonging to, or under the jurisdiction of the MSA.
13. Maltreatment Complaint process will be through an Independent Third Party (ITP) as directed by Sport Manitoba from time to time. The steps to be taken are:
  - a. The Maltreatment Complaint is submitted by the complainant directly to the ITP Case Manager.
  - b. If the Maltreatment Complaint is submitted to the MSA, the MSA has an obligation to send the complaint to the ITP Case Manager.
  - c. The ITP will evaluate the complaint and if it is outside the scope of the policy, outside jurisdiction, frivolous, or otherwise not admissible, it is dismissed and the Complainant is notified in writing with reasons.
  - d. Where the matter falls outside ITP's jurisdiction, it will be referred to the appropriate jurisdiction within the MSA.
  - e. If the Complaint is accepted by the ITP, the case will be addressed by the ITP following their internal independent process.
14. Non-Maltreatment Complaints will be submitted to the MSA Discipline or Conduct and Ethics Committees. The Committees will follow the Safe Sport Policy Manual processes.
  - a. The Complaint should be submitted to the MSA Finance and Administration Manager. The Finance and Administration Manager is the administrative support person to the case.
  - b. The MSA will assign an independent Case Manager to the case from the list of potential Case Managers available within the MSA or Sport Manitoba resources.

- c. The Case Manager will initially review the case and determine the next steps if the case has merit to proceed. If the complaint is outside the scope of the policy, outside jurisdiction, frivolous, or otherwise not admissible, it is dismissed and the Complainant is notified in writing with reasons by the Case Manager.
  - d. In dealing with the case, the Case Manager will follow the process identified in the Safe Sport Policy Manual.
  - e. The Case Manager will determine the Hearing Panelist from the list of Discipline, and Code of Conduct and Ethics Committee Members respectively.
  - f. If required the Case Manager will appoint an independent investigator from the MSA, Sport Manitoba, or external resources depending on the subject matter of the case.
  - g. The Case Manager will ensure to avoid any conflict of interest by selecting panelists, mediators, or investigators who are not in conflict, and replace any individual who is found to be in conflict or declares their conflict.
  - h. The MSA Finance and Administration Manager will support the Case Manager, check the discipline/sanction history of those involved in the case, manage and track the decisions imposed.
  - i. All sanctions will be listed on the MSA Discipline list.
15. Non-Maltreatment Complaints or Discipline Appeal cases will be submitted to the MSA Appeal Committee. The Committee will follow the Safe Sport Policy Manual processes.
- a. The Appeal should be submitted to the MSA Finance and Administration Manager. The Finance and Administration Manager is the administrative support person to the appeal case.
  - b. The MSA will assign an independent Appeal Manager to the appeal case from the list of potential Case Managers available within the MSA or Sport Manitoba resources.
  - c. The Appeal Manager will initially review the case and determine if leave to appeal will be granted. If the appeal is outside the scope of the policy, outside jurisdiction, frivolous, or otherwise not admissible, it is dismissed and the Appellant is notified in writing with reasons by the Appeal Manager.
  - d. In dealing with the case, the Appeal Manager will follow the process identified in the Safe Sport Policy Manual.

- e. The Appeal Manager will determine the Hearing Panelist from the list of Appeal Committee Members or other Committee Members that are not in a conflict of interest.
- f. If required the Appeal Manager will appoint an independent investigator from the MSA, Sport Manitoba, or external resources depending on the subject matter of the appeal.
- g. The Appeal Manager will ensure to avoid any conflict of interest by selecting panelists, mediators, or investigators who are not in conflict, and replace any individual who is found to be in conflict or declares their conflict.
- h. The MSA Finance and Administration Manager will support the Appeal Manager, check the discipline/sanction history of those involved in the case, manage and track the decisions imposed.
- i. All sanctions will be listed on the MSA Discipline list.

## **X. DEFINITIONS**

**Club** – an organization operating one or more teams under a common Executive.

### **Competition**

**Indoor competition** – A competition played in a roofed facility (except for outdoor games moved indoor).

**Outdoor competition** – A competition held outdoors.

**Sanctioned competition** – A competition recognized by the MSA, organized and operated by a member organization, and in compliance with the MSA's Rules & Regulations. The MSA insurance program coverage only applies to sanctioned competitions.

**Game played** – A player shall be considered to have played in a game if the player's name appears on the game sheet. Should any dispute with respect to the above arise, the onus shall be on the player to show that their name is on the game sheet in error.

**Geographic areas** – The boundaries of the five regions are North, West, South, East and Winnipeg as determined by Sport Manitoba from time to time. For the purposes of membership, a soccer region, as bounded by one of the five geographic areas, must meet the requirements of the MSA By-Laws and Rules and Regulations.

**League** – An organization operating under an executive to provide sanctioned competition for teams.

**Member** – Defined in Article 2 of the MSA’s By-Laws.

**Individual member** – A natural person; a human being (e.g., player, team official, match official, spectator, etc.) registered with the MSA.

**Member organization** – An organization (e.g., region, league, club, team, academy, etc.) registered with the MSA.

## **Official**

**Match official** – The referee, the assistant referees, or any fourth official appointed to a match.

**Member organization official** – A designated representative appointed by a member organization.

**Player age** – For the purposes of eligibility for age-defined divisions or Leagues, a player’s age is the age that player turns between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the season in question begins. (For example, a player turning 16 in October would be considered in the under 16 (U16) age category for outdoor and indoor seasons that start in that calendar year.)

**Youth player** – A player who is under the age of 18 before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, or as otherwise provided in these Rules & Regulations.

**Senior player** – A player who turns 18 or older on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, or as otherwise provided in these Rules & Regulations.

### **Masters Player**

**Female** – Any female player who has reached their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

**Male** – Any male player who has reached their 35<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

## **Season**

**Indoor season** – Commences in October/November and terminates in March/April. Member organizations may extend these dates for specific events upon written consent of the MSA.

**Outdoor Season** – Commences in April/May and terminates in September/October. Member organizations may extend these dates for specific events upon written consent of the MSA.

**Team** – a group of players and officials formed by a club for the purpose of participation in sanctioned competition.

## Appendix A

### Certification of Presentation of Financial Statements

(as required by Section II (3d))

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
(printed name) (office)  
\_\_\_\_\_, a member organization of the MSA, ("The Member").  
(name of member organization)

I hereby certify to the MSA that the most recent financial statements of The Member were presented to its members in accordance with The Member's governing documents or The Corporations Act of Manitoba.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ in Manitoba, on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.  
(place) (month and date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(officer's signature)