



CANADIAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

February 2022

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1. GENERAL

1.1 Definitions

In these Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise:

“Academy” see “Club”;

“Arbitration Tribunal” means a panel of one or more adjudicators which is convened, as an alternative to the Ordinary Courts, to resolve a dispute by hearing evidence brought by both sides and making a decision;

“Articles” means the original or restated Canada Soccer Articles of Incorporation or Articles of Amendment, Amalgamation, Continuance, Reorganization, Arrangement or Revival;

“Associate Member” means a non-voting member of Canada Soccer, properly constituted in Canada, which advances and promote the game of soccer for the development of the sport.

“Association Football” (“Association Soccer”) means the game controlled by FIFA and organized in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game;

“Board” means the Board of Directors of Canada Soccer;

“By-laws” means the Canada Soccer By-laws in force and effect;

“Canada Connect” means an online electronic information system that records the registration (as defined herein) of all professional and amateur players registered directly with Canada Soccer including any Clubs which participate in the Canadian Championships.

“CAS (TAS)” means Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) located in Lausanne (Switzerland);

“Club” means an organization operating one or more teams that is subordinate to Canada Soccer or a Member Association;

“Code of Conduct and Ethics” means the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics;

“Concacaf” means The Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football;

“Director” means a member of the Board of Directors;

“Disciplinary Code” means the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code;

“Electronic Player Registration System” means an online electronic information system with the ability to record the registration (as defined herein) of all players at their Member Association. The electronic player registration system must be linked with the National Soccer Registry through its automated programming interface (“API”) in order to exchange information electronically. Through the FIFA Connect System API, the electronic player registration system must provide all registration information for all players from the age of 12 and, in particular, must assign each player a FIFA ID.

“FIFA” means Fédération Internationale de Football Association;

“FIFA Connect System” means an information system designed and implemented by FIFA that provides the FIFA ID and the API that provides the technical interface between electronic domestic transfer systems, electronic player registration systems and TMS for the electronic exchange of information;

“FIFA ID” means the worldwide unique identifier given by the FIFA Connect System to each club, association and player;

“FIFA Member Association” means a soccer (football) organization recognized by, and a Member of, FIFA;

“General Secretary” means the General Secretary of Canada Soccer;

“IFAB” means the International Football Association Board;

“International transfer” means the movement of the registration of a player from one FIFA Member Association to another FIFA Member Association;

“Judicial Bodies” means the Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee, Ethics Committee, and Players’ Status Committee of Canada Soccer;

“League” means an organization providing competition for Clubs or teams that are subordinate to Canada Soccer or a Member Association;

“Member” means a Voting Member or Non-Voting Member;

“Member Association” means a soccer (football) association operating within Canada, which has been admitted into membership of Canada Soccer;

“National Soccer Registry” means an information system designed and implemented by Canada Soccer that provides the Canada Soccer ID and the API that provides the technical interface between the FIFA Connect System and the Member Association electronic player registration systems for the electronic exchange of information;

“Officials” means anyone, with the exception of players, performing an activity connected with Association Soccer, regardless of title, the type of activity (administrative, sporting or any other) and the duration of the activity. Officials include, but are not limited to, all Directors, Officers, committee members, coaches, trainers, referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, match commissioners, referee assessors, diversity officers, persons in charge of safety, and any other person responsible for technical, medical and/or administrative matters in Canada Soccer, its Members, clubs or leagues, as well as all other persons obliged to comply with the Canada Soccer By-laws;

“Ordinary Court” means a court of law that hears public and private legal disputes;

“Player” means a soccer (football), futsal or beach player registered with Canada Soccer or one of its Member Associations;

“Rules and Regulations” means the Rules and Regulations of Canada Soccer;

“Registration” means the act of making a written record containing details of a player that includes and not limited to:

- the start date of the registration (format: dd/mm/yyyy);
- the full name (first, middle and last names) of the player;
- date of birth, gender, nationality and status as an amateur or a professional;
- the type(s) of football the player will play (for eg. soccer / futsal / beach);
- the name of the club where the player will play (including the FIFA ID of the club);
- the training categorisation of the club at the moment of registration;
- the FIFA ID of the player;
- the FIFA ID of the Member Association.

“SDRCC” means The Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada, which acts as an arbitration and mediation tribunal for Canada Soccer

- 1.2 Canada Soccer (Canada Soccer) shall affiliate with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (Concacaf), and/or any other sports organizations as the Canada Soccer Board of Directors may determine.
- 1.3 Canada Soccer shall organize soccer (including FUTSAL) in Canada according to the Laws of the Game as decided by the 'International Football Association Board' subject to any change considered by the Canada Soccer Board of Directors to suit the conditions under which the game is played in Canada.
- 1.4 At all Annual Meetings, documents will be provided in both official languages.
- 1.5 Whenever there is a conflict between *Canada Soccer By-Laws, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, or Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code* and these Rules and Regulations, the aforementioned By-Laws and Codes shall prevail.
- 1.6 Notwithstanding 1.5 above, whenever there is a conflict between these Rules and Regulations and any other Canada Soccer documents or policies, these Rules and Regulations shall prevail.

2. PROMOTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS

- 2.1** Canada Soccer shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players, and in society, for humanitarian objectives.
- 2.2** Every person and organization involved in the game of soccer in Canada is obliged to observe the *Canada Soccer By-laws, Rules and Regulations, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code* and principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.
- 2.3** Canada Soccer shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of Canada Soccer.

3. NEUTRALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

- 3.1** Canada Soccer is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
- 3.2** Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.
- 3.3** Canada Soccer is open to all soccer organizations and all soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or national origin.

For the purposes of registration on gender-based amateur teams, a player may register with the gender-specific team with which the player identifies, and confirmation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held, and part of a person's core identity. Documentation satisfying the herein stated standard includes, but is not limited to, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider, counsellor, or other qualified professional not related to the player. This policy shall not apply to Canada Soccer's National Teams programs, but application of this or a similar policy shall be re-evaluated at such time as FIFA addresses the issue. This policy shall not apply to Professional Leagues, or League Members of Canada Soccer

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1** Canada Soccer will have categories of membership as defined in *Canada Soccer's By-Laws*.
- 4.2** Canada Soccer may, for good cause, refuse membership to any organization or individual.
- 4.3** In addition to the requirements for each class of membership described in *Canada Soccer's By-Laws*, the following information will also apply:

- a) Member Associations must:
 - i. Promote, develop, and govern the game of soccer for all ages and genders

- ii. Administer discipline and appeals in accordance with *Canada Soccer's Disciplinary Code*
 - iii. Administer amateur player registration on behalf of Canada Soccer and submit to Canada Soccer using an Electronic Player Registration System, details of all registrants in accordance with the requirements of *FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players*.
 - iv. Approve and monitor all tournaments within their jurisdiction
 - v. Maintain accurate written and financial records and submit an annual audited financial statement to their members and to Canada Soccer
- b) Life Members must:
- i. Be nominated in writing by a member or by Canada Soccer Board of Directors at least forty-five days prior to an Annual Meeting
 - ii. After being nominated, require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting delegates present at an Annual Meeting of Canada Soccer
- c) League Members must:
- i. Provide competition for professional clubs and ensure the clubs comply with the standards established by Canada Soccer's National Club Licensing Program
 - ii. Maintain accurate written and financial records and submit an annual audited financial statement to their members and to Canada Soccer
 - iii. Consist of a minimum of six (6) teams based in at least two Member Associations
- d) All Members must:
- i. Promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardize the integrity of matches, competitions, Players, Officials and Members or give rise to abuse of the sport of soccer.

4.4 Clubs, Leagues and Associate Members shall be subordinate to and recognized by Canada Soccer. Their by-laws and regulations must be approved by the Board of Directors of Canada Soccer.

4.5 Clubs, Leagues and Associate Members shall make all decisions on any matters regarding their Membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.

4.6 In any case, no natural person or legal entity (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club, League or Associate Member, whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized.

5. PLAYER STATUS

5.1 All players are to be registered with Canada Soccer as follows:

- a) Players with Professional Clubs in Membership with Canada Soccer through Canada Connect
- b) Amateur players not registered with a professional club in accordance with clause 4.3(a)(iii) above

5.2 Players may be defined as either amateur or professional in accordance with these Regulations and will be allocated a unique player registration number.

5.3 A professional player is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for the playing of soccer than the expenses they effectively incur.

5.4 An amateur player is any person other than a professional player. An amateur player may not receive and retain any remuneration for playing except expenses directly related to a game or games which have actually been incurred by the player.

In situations where an amateur player receives permitted consideration or remuneration as specified in these Rules, the player must produce a copy of the expense receipt whenever requested to do so by Canada Soccer.

5.5 Registration of Professional Players

- a) A professional player who signs a contract with a Professional Club Member shall be registered by that Club in Canada Connect. A professional player is not a member of a club and may not play for a club until registration is confirmed by Canada Soccer.
- b) A professional player who signs a contract with a Club subordinate to a Member Association shall be registered with Canada Soccer through the Member Association.

5.6 Registration Timelines

- a) Players signing contracts with Professional Clubs may only be registered with Canada Soccer during one of two registration periods each year as defined by the General Secretariat in compliance with *FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players*. As an exception to this rule, a professional whose contract has either expired or was mutually terminated prior to the end of the registration period may be registered outside the registration period.

5.7 Registration Procedures

- a) A club may enter into a contract with a professional player for any length of time not exceeding five (5) years that is mutually agreeable between the player and the club.
- b) The contract must:
 - i. State clearly and accurately all terms of engagement
 - ii. Meet the minimum requirements of the FIFA Professional Football Contract Standards
 - iii. Adhere to Canadian Law
 - iv. Be executed by all parties and fully completed when the player signs the registration form
- c) A photocopy of the executed players' contract showing the commencement date of the signing, expiration date, financial details, option periods, and full insurance coverage details relating to the player shall be entered into Canada Connect within *five (5)* days after being signed by the player.
- d) Should it be discovered that a professional player was contracted with conditions other than those disclosed and set forth in the contract, the Canada Soccer Player Status Committee will have full power to deal with the affected parties.

- e) If a contract contains conditions other than remuneration for playing soccer, Canada Soccer, if investigating the contract, will restrict decisions solely to the question of remuneration for playing soccer.
- f) Provisional contracts in writing may be made between clubs and players for not more than twenty-eight days if permitted by League rules and/or Collective Bargaining Agreements.
- g) Once filed, a contract can only be terminated in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the specific terms of the filed agreement.
- h) Registration under this rule is not effective until it is approved by Canada Soccer.
- i) Canada Soccer shall notify the interested Member Association or Professional League of the registration of each professional player within seven (7) days after being registered in Canada Connect.
- j) Canada Soccer's Board of Directors will establish a limit on the number of players, who are not Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents, who apply for registration with Professional Clubs in Membership of Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer will work with other sanctioning bodies including professional leagues to ensure any required Canadian Content and domestic/non-domestic limits are met.
- k) A Professional Club in membership of Canada Soccer may register a maximum of eight (8) non-domestic players (as defined by their Leagues competition guidelines and regulations). The Club's first team may be permitted to add an additional three (3) non-domestic players but may only do so if their League's competition guidelines and regulations permit AND the additional three (3) players have been under contract and registered with Canada Soccer for at least one (1) calendar year.
- l) A Professional Club in membership that operates more than one professional team in different leagues and at different levels may collectively register up to a maximum of eighteen (18) non-domestic players (if permissible by the Leagues' competition guidelines and regulations) with Canada Soccer across all its teams.
- m) To be eligible to be considered as a Canadian player for the purpose of any Canada Soccer Competition, a Player must be a Canadian Citizen and/or hold a Canadian passport and not have played for, or represented, by virtue of dual citizenship or parental lineage, any other Member Association National soccer team, at any level, unless a change of Association to Canada Soccer, in accordance with FIFA Statutes, has been granted.

5.8 Period of Registration

- a) A professional player under contract shall be registered each playing season for the period of the contract within Canada Connect. Registration for contract option terms will also be required. Such option term registration shall be automatically cancelled if option is not exercised.

5.9 Transfers and Releases

- a) A player registered in Canada Connect may be transferred to another club or may be released by their club.

- b) A properly completed transfer or release under this rule shall be completed in accordance with the requirements of Canada Connect and approved by Canada Soccer
- c) A transfer or release under this rule is not effective until it is approved by Canada Soccer.

5.10 Registration Exclusivity and Player Loans

- a) A professional player may not play for any club other than the club for which they are registered unless:
 - i. The club has filed a completed notice of player loan in accordance with the requirements of Canada Connect, agreed by the loaning club, and approved by Canada Soccer; or
 - ii. The player will be playing for the other club or team in a non-competitive game such as an exhibition, all-star or benefit game.

5.11 Loan of Professionals

- a) A Professional may be loaned to another club on the basis of a written agreement between the player and the clubs concerned. Any such loan is subject to the same rules as they apply to a transfer of a player and must be processed within Canada Connect. The loan period may not be for a longer period than the expiration date of the player's current contract, as per rule 5.7.
- b) The club that has accepted a player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer the player to a third club without the written authorization of the club that released the player on loan and the player concerned.
- c) A player loan may be cancelled at any time by the loaning club which shall notify Canada Soccer of the loan cancellation so that it may be processed within Canada Connect.
- d) A player loan or loan cancellation is not effective under this rule until it is approved by Canada Soccer.

5.12 Amateur Reinstatement

- a) A professional player may be reinstated as an amateur player as provided by this rule.
- b) A professional player who is currently registered as a professional player with any club can apply to Canada Soccer to be reinstated as an amateur only with the permission of their Club or League with which that Club is affiliated.
- c) An application for reinstatement as an amateur must be made on either the Canada Soccer reinstatement form or the applicable Member Association reinstatement form and filed with Canada Soccer.
- d) Canada Soccer shall issue approval of the reinstatement to amateur status within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the request, appropriate fees, and compliance with these rules. However, the player's reinstatement to amateur status is not effective until after 30 days have elapsed from the day that the player played in his or her last match with their club as a professional player.

- e) A professional player who is not currently registered as a professional player with any professional Club or League, who has not been a party to a professional player contract with a professional Club or League for a period of one year or longer, and who has not applied for reinstatement as an amateur under Section 5.11 of these Regulations shall be automatically reinstated to amateur status by Canada Soccer unless the player affirmatively states to the General Secretary in writing that they do not wish to be reinstated to amateur status. Reinstatements under Section 5.11 shall take effect on the 366th day after the date the player was last a party to a professional player contract with a professional, Club or League.
- f) A professional player reinstated as an amateur player after July 31 in any year is not eligible to play in Canada Soccer's National Club Championship in that calendar year.
- g) A professional player may not be reinstated as an amateur more than once in any one calendar year.

5.13 Professional Player Restrictions

- a) A player under Professional contract is not allowed to serve on the Canada Soccer's Board of Directors.
- b) Players who are registered in Canada shall not play for any Club or team outside of the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer without an International Transfer Certificate and a release from their previous club.
- c) Players may be registered with a maximum of three (3) clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, providing the player has fully complied with his or her contractual obligations toward his or her previous clubs.

5.14 Registration of Amateur Players

a) Restriction of Amateur Players

- i. All players must be registered in order to compete.
- ii. A player who wishes to participate as an amateur with a Professional Club Member must register directly with Canada Soccer.
- iii. All other amateur players must register with Canada Soccer through their respective Member Association who are to submit details to Canada Soccer in accordance with clause 4.3a(iii) including but not limited to:

- the start date of the registration (format: dd/mm/yyyy);
- the full name (first, middle and last names) of the player;
- date of birth, gender, nationality and status as an amateur or a professional;
- the type(s) of football the player will play (soccer / futsal / beach/ etc);
- the name of the club where the player will play (including the FIFA ID of the club);
- the training categorisation of the club at the moment of registration;
- the FIFA ID of the player;

- the FIFA ID of the Member Association
- iv. An amateur player may not be restricted as to the Club or team they may play for due to their race, religion or national origin.
 - v. An amateur player may only be registered for one Club at a time except as provided in the appropriate rules of Canada Soccer and/or the respective Member Association. A player may not register or play for more than one team in the same League, Cup, or youth age-group competition.
 - vi. An amateur player may register with any team, provided the player complies with the rules and regulations of the respective Member Association and any competition in which the team has entered.
 - vii. A player is bound to the Club for which they have registered, unless transferred or released as provided in these Rules, until the end of the League's playing season in which the Club participates.
 - viii. Players shall not be permitted to sign with a team after the completion of the League's playing season for the purpose of participating in a National Competition, unless authorized to do so by the "Regulations for National and Regional Competitions". The General Secretary may authorize special provisions for British Columbia upon recommendation by the Chair of the Competitions Committee.
 - ix. An amateur player shall be insured against accidents which may occur during play. The insurance must be provided in a manner approved by the respective Member Association.
 - x. The respective Member Association shall have full powers in the matter of registration or release of all amateur players within their respective jurisdictions in the matter and under the conditions set forth in Clause 5.14.

5.15 Amateur Player Registration Timelines

- a) The deadline for player registration shall be established by the respective Member Association where the player resides.
- b) Amateur players registering with a Member Association must be registered in accordance with these Regulations at least one day prior to a game taking place, and all amateur players must be registered a minimum of seven days in advance before participating in any Cup Competition leading to a National Competition.
- c) The effective date of registration is the date when Canada Soccer or the Member Association officially authorizes the registration.
- d) For all amateur players registering with Professional Clubs in Membership of Canada Soccer, the deadline for player registration shall be established by their respective Professional League and approved by Canada Soccer prior to the commencement of the playing season.

5.16 Player Status Disputes

- a) Disputes between clubs regarding the rights to a Professional player, and/or disputes between a player and a club about free agent status, will be decided by Canada Soccer's Player Status Committee. Regulations published by FIFA, as well as the provisions of these Rules, and the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code* shall guide the Committee's decisions. FIFA's regulations shall prevail if there is a discrepancy.

6. TRANSFERS

6.1 The status of players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by the General Secretary of Canada Soccer in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.

6.2 Amateur Players – In-Province Requests

- a) After registering with one Club, a player may not play with another Club under the jurisdiction of the same Member Association in the same season unless the registered player requests a transfer to another Club by giving notice in writing to their current Club at least seven (7) days before transferring. The Club shall then submit the transfer request to the respective Member Association for approval. The transfer will take immediate effect upon approval by the Member Association.
- b) A request for an In-Province transfer shall not be unreasonably denied.
- c) An amateur player registered with an amateur Club who has been refused an In-Province transfer by that Club shall be allowed to appeal, without paying a fee, to their Club, League, District Association, Member Association, or to Canada Soccer.
- d) An amateur player registered with a Professional Club who has been refused an In-Province transfer by that Club shall be allowed to appeal, without paying a fee, to Canada Soccer.
- e) Appeals must be resolved within 30 days of the date the appeal was received.

6.3 Amateur Players – Out-of-Province Requests

- a) After registering with one Club, a player may not play with another Club under the jurisdiction of a different Member Association in the same season unless the registered player requests a transfer to another Club by giving notice in writing to their current Club at least seven (7) days before transferring. The Club shall then submit the transfer request to its Member Association for approval. The transfer will take immediate effect upon approval by the Member Association.
- b) The Member Association approving a transfer within the current playing season may require proof of residency before approval.
- c) Member Associations must consider the following factors when approving a transfer within the current playing season:
 - i. The reason for the transfer request; and
 - ii. The player's access to a higher level of competition with the club to which they are seeking to transfer
- d) A request for an Out-of-Province transfer shall not be unreasonably denied.
- e) When a transfer request is approved by the Member Association, an Inter-Provincial Transfer Certificate will be issued to the new Member Association.

- f) A player obtaining an approved transfer may re-register with the new Club in the following seasons regardless of residency requirements.
- g) An amateur player registered with an amateur Club who has been refused an Out-of-Province transfer by that Club shall be allowed to appeal, without paying a fee, to their Club, League, District Association, Member Association, or to Canada Soccer.
- h) An amateur player registered with a Professional Club who has been refused an Out-of-Province transfer by that Club shall be allowed to appeal, without paying a fee, to Canada Soccer.
- i) Appeals must be resolved within 30 days of the date the appeal was received.

6.4 Amateur Players – Transfer Limits

- a) A player is permitted a maximum of three (3) In-Province transfers within the jurisdiction of a Member Association per season. Once a transfer has been approved a player may not be transferred back to the Club with which they were originally registered within 30 days of the approval of the transfer request.
- b) A player is only permitted one Out-of-Province transfer each season, except if a player transfers back to the Club with which he or she was originally registered.

6.5 Amateur Players – Transfer - General

- a) Any player 10 years of age, or older, arriving from abroad who wishes to play soccer in Canada must request and receive an International Transfer Certificate in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- b) Players who are registered in Canada shall not play for any Club outside of the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer without an International Transfer Certificate and a release from Canada Soccer in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- c) If a Club declares a registered player surplus to their requirements, the player may be granted a release from that Club by filing a form to be supplied by the respective Member Association and may request either an In-Province or Out-of-Province transfer which will not be unreasonably denied.
- d) Notice of all approved transfers shall be immediately sent to the Club and the respective Competition/League organisers. Except for National Championship competitions and any other Cup Competition in which the player has competed, the transferred player shall be eligible, after a time limit established by the Member Association (of no more than seven days and no less than one day), to play in all games for the new Club.
- e) All transfers are subject to an administration fee set by the Member Association granting the transfer and must be paid before the transfer is completed.
- f) Any player registered for a Club which has ceased to operate or been declared non-operational by a Member Association, may be transferred to any other Club by making an application to the Member Association. Under such circumstances the Member Association may waive all or any part of the administration fee.

- g) It is an offence for any Club to induce or attempt to induce a registered player to leave his or her Club before the end of the current season. The offence shall be dealt with by the respective Member Association or League (if the club and the player are under the same jurisdiction) or by Canada Soccer (in all other cases).
- h) A player playing under a trial game permit shall not be allowed to transfer to a third Club during the period of such permit.

7. TRIAL GAMES WITH PROFESSIONAL CLUBS IN MEMBERSHIP

7.1 Amateur to Professional

- a) Amateur players are allowed to play a maximum of two sets of three trial games per calendar year with any Professional Club in membership with Canada Soccer, provided a permit-to-play form (available from the Member Associations) has been submitted and approved.
- b) An amateur player who has signed a trial permit is not allowed to play for a Professional Club until the permit has been filed with the Member Association and the player has paid the trial permit fee. The Member Association will notify the Professional Club, League and Canada Soccer when the permit has been filed and the fee has been paid. The Professional Club will be responsible for entering the details into Canada Connect for approval by Canada Soccer.

8. TRIAL PERMITS FOR CLUBS IN MEMBERSHIP OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

8.1 Amateur - General

- a) An amateur player may apply for a three-game trial permit to the appropriate Member Association.
- b) A trial permit is valid for a maximum of thirty days and only in the Province/Territory in which the permit is issued.
- c) Amateur players are limited to two trial permits per season, but not with the same Club. The first trial permit must expire between the completion of the trial with the first Club and the start of the trial period with a second Club.
- d) After a trial period, an amateur player who registers as a Professional shall not receive a trial permit or a transfer to play for an amateur Club during the same current year, except when permitted by the Professional Players Restrictions section of these Rules.
- e) When an amateur player playing with a trial permit plays in a game, the Professional Club must list the number of the permit on League team sheets.
- f) The amateur Club may retain priority rights to the services of a player who is under permit.
- g) Appropriate penalties will be imposed on both the Club and the amateur player if any section of these Rules is violated.

8.2. Development Permit

- a) The purpose of the Development Permit is to provide an amateur player the opportunity to be included in a professional club's roster without losing the ability to train and play with the Club who holds the player's registration. Unlike a Trial Permit, the Development Permit is not bound by a termed period in which the player may be included in a game day roster or play in a professional match.
- b) Professional Clubs in Membership of Canada Soccer may provide the opportunity for a maximum of four (4) players to be included in their first team who hold a Development Permit. These players are not contracted by the Professional Club and remain registered with their current club.
- c) A Developmental Permit will only be granted to Canadian players; defined as a Canadian Citizen and/or hold a Canadian passport and not have played for, or represented, by virtue of dual citizenship or parental lineage, any other FIFA Member Association, at any level, unless a change of Association to Canada Soccer, in accordance with FIFA Statutes, has been granted.
- d) A player requesting a Development Permit must be currently registered with a Member Association in membership of Canada Soccer.
- e) An application for a Developmental Permit must be made by the player through the respective Member Association to the Professional Club who will enter this into Canada Connect for approval by Canada Soccer.
- f) Developmental Permits allow for a total of three (3) games including exhibitions to be played with the Professional Club. There is no time limit on the completion of these games. If a player appears in an exhibition game this must be declared to Canada Soccer and the respective professional league, no later than 48hrs following the completion of the match. For the avoidance of doubt a player who holds a Development Permit must step on the field for the appearance to count against his game total. For example, an unused substitute will not use up one of the three potential appearances.
- g) A player who has been granted a Development Permit will continue to be eligible to play games for their current Club.
- h) A player may receive a maximum of two (2) Developmental Permits in any one calendar year, and he may use these for one club twice, or two clubs, once each.
- i) A player may request an approved Development Permit be cancelled at any time.
- j) A player who holds a Developmental Permit remains eligible to be signed to a professional contract. The player must advise the professional club to which the Development Permit is granted if an offer of a professional contract has been made by another club.
- k) Players on a Development Permit may receive expenses from the Professional Club up to a maximum amount of CDN\$250 per week. These expenses are to be declared to the respective league by the club and accounted for in accordance with League policies.

8.3 Reserve Teams

- a) A Reserve Team defined as either:
 - i. Any team within the same club, operating under a common executive, that plays in a lower level competition or age category than the team for which it is the Reserve team; or
 - ii. An amateur or professional Club of a lower category/division which has entered into a signed agreement to that effect with a Professional Club of a higher category/division. Such agreement must receive the written approval of the Member Association and Canada Soccer.
- b) No Professional player may play in a Reserve team's game leading to a Canada Soccer amateur national championship.
- c) Additional restrictions may be imposed by a Professional League and, in the case where a Club is registered as an amateur Club, the respective Member Association.

9. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- 9.1** A Professional Club operating under the jurisdiction of a League sanctioned outside of Canada is permitted to operate within the player registration limits of that League and is exempt from this section of these Rules.
- 9.2** For Professional Clubs operating under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer based upon the number of teams within a club's structure, each team may have a maximum of 25 players per age group.

10. CLUBS

10.1 A Club is an organization operating one or more teams under a common executive.

10.2 Professional

- a) Should a Professional Club in Membership of Canada Soccer and within the area of two or more Member Associations desire to form an inter-provincial professional league, it must apply to Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer shall approve or reject the application and advise both the club and the Member Association of its decision. The league, if sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer.
 - i. A Professional Club in Membership of Canada Soccer wishing to affiliate with a domestic professional league, must apply to Canada Soccer no later than 120 days prior to the start of the league schedule:
 - ii. The club submits an application to Canada Soccer;
 - iii. Within 30 days, Canada Soccer will approve or reject the application and advise the club of its decision. Approvals may not be unreasonably withheld.
- b) Should an amateur club under the jurisdiction of a Member Association and within the area of two or more Member Associations desire to form an inter-provincial professional league, it must submit

an application to its Member Association, which in turn, shall forward the application, together with their recommendations, to Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer shall approve or reject the application and advise both the club and the Member Association of its decision. The league, if sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer.

- i. An amateur club under the jurisdiction of a Member Association wishing to affiliate with a domestic professional league must apply to the Member Association under whose jurisdiction it operates no later than 120 days prior to the start of the league schedule;
 - i. The club submits an application to the Member Association;
 - ii. Within 30 days, the Member Association will forward its own recommendation to Canada Soccer
 - iii. Within 30 days, Canada Soccer will approve or reject the application and advise both the club and the Member Association of its decision. Approvals may not be unreasonably withheld.
- c) A Professional Club in Membership may choose to affiliate with another Club. The Club must enter into an affiliation agreement with the affiliate club that is approved by Canada Soccer and the respective Member Association as required. Canada Soccer will actively participate in the related negotiation with the Professional Club in Membership and the proposed affiliate club.

10.3 Amateur

- a) Amateur clubs forming a league consisting of Clubs within the area of one or more District Associations shall make application for sanction to each of the District Associations. If the application is granted by the District Associations, it shall be forwarded to the Member Association for approval. The league, if sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Member Association. However, the Member Association may place the league under the jurisdiction of the District Association within the area of which the majority of the Clubs play their home games.
- b) Should there be any difference of opinion among the District Associations having the right to sanction and to jurisdiction, the Member Association shall be the sole judge and rule accordingly, this decision shall be final and binding.
- c) Should an amateur club within the area of two or more Member Associations desire to form an inter-provincial amateur league, they must apply to the applicable Member Associations. If the application is granted by the Member Associations, it shall be forwarded to Canada Soccer for approval. The league, if sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer
- d) Member Associations may define the District Associations under their jurisdiction from time to time. Where so defined all amateur clubs in that district must be members of the District Association

10.4 Club Licensing

- a) Canada Soccer shall operate a Club Licensing System in accordance with the principles of the Club licensing regulations of Concacaf and FIFA.
- b) The objective of the Club Licensing System is to safeguard the credibility and integrity of

Club competitions, to improve the level of professionalism of Canada Soccer, to promote sporting values in accordance with the principles of fair play as well as safe and secure match environments, and to promote transparency in the finances, ownership and control of Clubs.

- c) Canada Soccer shall issue regulations governing the club licensing system. The club licensing regulations shall stipulate to which Clubs the system applies. As a minimum, the Club Licensing System must be implemented in respect of Clubs which participated in competitions and/or leagues leading to qualify for Concacaf club competitions on sporting merit.
- d) Amateur Clubs who operate a youth programme will be required to apply for, and receive, a Canada Soccer national youth Club Licence. Various levels of youth licence are available, however all amateur Clubs operating a youth programme will be required to hold as a minimum requirement Quality Soccer Club Licence by the start of season 2023.

10.5 Cross Border Sanctioning

- a) Should an amateur Club desire to enter a team in a United States-based league, the Club shall obtain the consent of the Member Association to which the Club belongs. If the application is authorised by the Member Association, it shall be forwarded to Canada Soccer for approval.
- b) A Professional Club in Membership shall submit an application to play in a cross-border league direct to Canada Soccer in accordance with this regulation.
- c) An application must be made annually to Canada Soccer either:
 - i. 90 days prior to the end of the current regular season for Clubs already participating in a Cross-Border League; or
 - ii. 7 months prior to the start of the season of the league to which approval is sought.
- d) All applications must be accompanied by approvals from the USSF (not a local US association), the US League to which the Club is wishing to participate, a statement from the Member Association or any comparable domestic league, and specify, in detail, the exceptional circumstances that require the Club to participate in a cross border league rather than a domestic equivalent.
- e) Canada Soccer will review and evaluate the request and seek Board approval before submitting the application to Concacaf in accordance with its regulations and, subject to Concacaf approval seek FIFA authorisation in accordance with FIFA Statutes.

11. TEAMS

11.1 Designation

- a) Teams are formed by clubs and may be designated as either Professional or Amateur. A Club may not have more than one team per age group without approval from Canada Soccer or the Member Association
- b) Teams formed by Professional Clubs in Membership of Canada Soccer:

- i. Composed of registered players approved by Canada Soccer in Canada Connect
 - ii. May participate in only one approved League at a time.
 - iii. Players may move between teams at the discretion of the Club provided that the approval of Canada Soccer is obtained through Canada Connect prior to the player participating in a new team.
 - iv. Club must hold a current National Club License
- c) Clubs and/or teams participating in a Professional or pro/am Member Association League
- i. May be composed of both professional and amateur players approved by the Member Association in accordance with its regulations.
 - ii. May participate in only one approved League at a time
 - iii. Club must hold, at a minimum, a National 2 Club Licence.
- d) Amateur Teams:
- i. Shall be composed of amateur players registered with Canada Soccer or the respective Member Association
 - ii. May, with the permission of their respective Member Association and approval of Canada Soccer, play in a Professional league.
 - iii. Shall abide by Canada Soccer, Member Association and/or League rules.

11.2 Age Divisions

- a) A player may be registered to play in any Age Division, provided the player has not reached the stipulated birthday before January 1st of the calendar year of registration (the next calendar year for the coastal regions of British Columbia).

As of December 31, in the prior year of registration	Player is:	Eligible for:
	35 years (male) 30 years (female)	Masters/Classics
	18 years	Seniors
	Under 18 years	As per Competition Regulations for youth competitions

- b) No Member Association or League is permitted to require a Club to play in any age division, thus ensuring that membership and/or participation cannot be denied if a team isn't fielded in a specific age-group.

12. LEAGUES

- 12.1** A League shall be composed of a minimum of six (6) Clubs/teams, operating under an executive to provide competition for teams. Leagues shall not allow matches to be played until their rules are approved by Canada Soccer or by the appropriate Member Association from which sanction to operate the League was received.

12.2 No League shall govern an area, but it shall control, for League operation purposes, its member Clubs.

12.3 There may be three (3) categories of Leagues with the following descriptions:

- a) Professional League – a League that meets the requirements of membership to Canada Soccer whose Clubs all hold a current National Club Licence
- b) Member Association Professional or Pro/Am League– a League that meets the requirements of Canada Soccer and/or the Member Association and whose Clubs/teams hold a current National 2 Club Licence
- c) Amateur Leagues – note Clubs that participate in an amateur youth league must hold, as a minimum, the Canada Soccer Quality Soccer Club Licence at the commencement of season 2022.

12.4 Member Associations may request an amendment to the financial limitations of the Canada Soccer National 2 Club Licence in order to sanction a League comprising solely of Clubs from within its area of jurisdiction. Amendment requests must be forwarded to Canada Soccer for authorisation before sanction approval can be granted.

12.5 Every League under the jurisdiction of a Member Association shall submit its schedule of matches to the Member Association or, where appropriate, the District Association for approval. The Member Association or, where appropriate, District Association, may limit or restrict the schedule at any time during the season if the availability of grounds, playing dates, weather conditions or other factors so require.

12.6 A League may not play matches other than scheduled matches without the prior consent from Canada Soccer or from the relevant Member Association and/or where appropriate District Association, from which sanction to operate the League was received.

12.7 Competitions may not be conducted by any Club or League without the permission of Canada Soccer, the respective Member Association, or, if appropriate the District Association, as applicable.

12.8 Applications from any Club under the jurisdiction of another FIFA Member Association to participate in a League must first be submitted by the League via the Member Association to Canada Soccer’s Board of Directors for approval. Any Club making such application must have the approval of its respective FIFA Member Association.

12.9 Professional Leagues under the sanction and jurisdiction of Canada Soccer are required to pay an annual affiliation fee as determined by Canada Soccer Board of Directors annually.

13. JUDICIAL BODIES

13.1 The Judicial Bodies of Canada Soccer are:

- a) the Disciplinary Committee;
- b) the Appeal Committee;
- c) the Ethics Committee; and
- d) the Players’ Status Committee.

13.2 The responsibilities and functions of these bodies shall be stipulated in the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code* which shall comply with the *FIFA Disciplinary Code*, the *FIFA Code of Ethics*, the *FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players* and the *FIFA Statutes*.

13.3 The members of the Judicial Bodies shall not belong to any other Body of Canada Soccer at the same time.

13.4 Court of Arbitration for Sport

- a) Canada Soccer affirms, in accordance with Articles 59 and 60 of the FIFA Statutes, that any appeal against a final and binding FIFA decision shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, with the exception of appeals on violations of the Laws of the Game, suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months, or decisions passed by an independent and duly constituted Arbitration Tribunal of an Association or Confederation.
- b) Canada Soccer shall ensure its full compliance and that of its Members, Players, Officials, match agents, and intermediaries with any final decision passed by a FIFA body or Canada Soccer.

14. DISCIPLINE

14.1 General Conduct

- a) Players, Officials, and spectators may only take part in or attend games on condition that they observe the rules, regulations, and policies of Canada Soccer
- b) Every Club is responsible for the actions of its Players, Officials and spectators.
- c) Every Club and League is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its Players, Officials, and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone at games, especially the referee and assistant referees. Clubs and Leagues are expected to provide security for Players and Officials.
- d) Every Club and League is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent match manipulations.

14.2 Non-Discrimination

Anyone who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a defamatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or perpetrates any other discriminatory and/or contemptuous act, will be subject to sanction as outlined in the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code and/or the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics.

14.3 Misconduct

- a) In addition to matters referred to in any of Canada Soccer policies, *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code*, rules, or regulations, it shall be deemed misconduct if any person or organization has, in the judgment of a Discipline Hearing Committee, following a hearing of that Committee, committed any of the following offenses:

- i. Violated the Laws of the Game, or the rules and regulations of Canada Soccer or a Member Association or League;
- ii. Bet on any game other than registered lotteries or pools;
- iii. Offered or accepted, with a view to influencing the result of a game, consideration to or from any Association, Club, League, Player, Club/team official, or game official;
- iv. Criminal misconduct or human rights abuse;
- v. Any act or statement, verbally or in writing, which is considered to be ungentlemanly, insulting, or improper behaviour or is likely to bring the game into disrepute.

14.4 Membership Consequences

- a) When a Member Association, or where applicable a District Association, League, Club, Player, Official or Member is sanctioned, the Canada Soccer Board of Directors has power to suspend the offending Association, League, Club, Player, Official or Member from membership or connection with Canada Soccer.
- b) No suspended Player, Official, or Member of any such Association, League, or Club so suspended or removed from Canada Soccer shall be eligible for membership of any other Association, League, or Club belonging to, or under the jurisdiction, within Canada Soccer.

15. RIGHTS

15.1 Canada Soccer and its Members are the original owners of all of the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audio-visual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

15.2 Canada Soccer Board of Directors shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilized and draw up special regulations to this end. Canada Soccer Board of Directors shall alone decide whether these rights shall be utilized exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

16. DISTRIBUTION OF IMAGE AND SOUND

16.1 Canada Soccer and its Members are exclusively responsible for authorizing the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of Association soccer matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.

17. NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

17.1 Canada Soccer organizes and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:

- a) National Club Championship
- b) National Club Futsal Championship
- c) Canadian Championship

17.2 Canada Soccer Board of Directors may delegate to its subordinate Leagues the authority to organize competitions. The competitions organized by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organized by Canada Soccer. Competitions organized by Canada Soccer shall take priority.

17.3 Canada Soccer Board of Directors may issue specific regulations in respect of the national competitions as required.

18. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

18.1 Authority

- a) The authority for organizing international matches and competitions between FIFA Member Association teams and between Leagues and/or Clubs lies solely with FIFA. No match or competition shall take place in Canada without the prior permission of Canada Soccer, Concacaf, and FIFA.
- b) Canada Soccer shall not organize matches or make sporting contacts with Associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA.
- c) Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated with Canada Soccer cannot belong to another FIFA Member Association or participate in competitions on the territory of another FIFA Member Association without the authorization of Canada Soccer, the other FIFA Member Association, the relevant Confederations, and FIFA, except in exceptional circumstances.

18.2 Canada Soccer is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

18.3 Exhibition Games outside of Canada – Amateur Clubs

- a) Member Associations, and where applicable District Associations, Leagues and Clubs wishing to participate in exhibition games outside of Canada must obtain permission in writing from Canada Soccer at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of the proposed matches.

18.4 Exhibition Games in Canada – Amateur Clubs

- a) Member Associations, and where applicable District Associations, Leagues and Clubs wishing to arrange exhibition games in Canada between their amateur Club(s) and amateur Clubs from another FIFA Member Association shall request permission in writing from Canada Soccer at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of the proposed game. Canada Soccer shall have full power and authority to sanction or veto any such games.
- b) District Associations, Leagues and Clubs must obtain permission from their respective Association before seeking permission for exhibition games sanction from Canada Soccer.
- c) Games involving two foreign amateur Clubs will be permitted only under both of the following conditions:
 - i. The game is sanctioned by Canada Soccer, and the respective Member Association, or League; and
 - ii. The game is an integral part of a tournament in which there is at least one Canadian Club for every three foreign Clubs
- d) In special circumstances, to commemorate an important event, Canada Soccer Board of Directors, at its discretion, may vary the usual ratio of foreign and Canadian Clubs and any other conditions specified in 18.4c above.

- e) Permission granted by Canada Soccer to stage games involving amateur Clubs from other FIFA Member Associations shall be subject to such Clubs having permission from their own national associations to participate and the authorization from the respective Confederations and FIFA.
- f) Canada Soccer may grant permission to stage exhibition games on such terms and conditions as it may in its discretion deem appropriate.
- g) In granting or withholding authorization for an amateur exhibition game or exhibition tournament, Canada Soccer expressly declares that it accepts no liability for any financial or other commitments made by the organizer to foreign Clubs and to any other parties.
- h) Any matter not specifically covered by this section shall be at the discretion of the General Secretary.

18.5 International Friendly Matches in Canada – Professional Clubs and National Teams

- a) Canada Soccer shall be responsible for the hosting and staging of all its National Team matches in Canada.
- b) Any entity or person wishing to promote a match involving one or more foreign Clubs must first apply in advance to Canada Soccer to receive sanctioning for such a match. The entity or person promoting a match must be a voting member of Canada Soccer, a Club or League in Membership of, or affiliated to, Canada Soccer, or a licensed FIFA Match Agent. Once the application process has been completed, Canada Soccer shall promptly review such requests. Canada Soccer shall grant such sanction unless it determines that holding or sponsoring the international soccer competition would be detrimental to the best interest of the sport.
- c) An International Match is defined as a match between two teams (either two teams representing a FIFA Member Association, two club teams, two all-star teams, one team representing a FIFA Member Association and one club team, or a team representing a FIFA Member Association or club team and an all-star team) belonging to different members of FIFA. Any match involving two Clubs or teams belonging to the same FIFA Member Association but not Canada Soccer shall also be an international match.
- d) For all International Matches and International Tournaments, Canada Soccer approval is required. No public announcement of any International Match or International Tournament may be made until Canada Soccer grants sanctioning approval for the match or tournament. If a promoter or FIFA Match Agent conducts any advertising or makes any public announcements before approval has been granted by Canada Soccer, then it may discipline the Promoter and/or FIFA Match Agent, by fining them a minimum of \$1000 for each incident, by denying approval of the International Match or International Tournament, or by levying any other penalty or combination of penalties that the Federation deems appropriate in its sole discretion.
- e) Neither Promoter, FIFA Match Agent nor any other individual or entity shall use Canada Soccer's name for speculative or promotional purposes.
- f) **Application Process**

- i. An application for an international match or tournament must be submitted to Canada Soccer no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the intended match by submitting the following items:
 - 1) Name of and contact information of FIFA Match Agent or Promoter
 - 2) Application fee of \$100.00 for each foreign professional Club or National Team for each game to be played in Canada.
 - 3) Letter from the stadium confirming that the facility is on hold for the date of the event.
 - 4) Proof that the advertised participants have committed to participate, including provision of FIFA International Match Authorization Forms, and confirmation from the FIFA Member Association that it approves the Club or team to play in Canada.
 - 5) The rules and related documentation regarding the organization of the tournament addressing such issues as mode of competition, referees, discipline, etc., if applicable.
 - 6) Submission of an insurance certificate consistent with the insurance terms.
 - 7) A copy of the draft contract with the foreign professional Club(s) or team(s) clearly identifying the organizer's obligations to the foreign Club(s) or team(s).
 - 8) A legally binding commitment indemnifying Canada Soccer from any claims arising from the event.
 - 9) Submission of the appropriate performance bond in the form of a wire transfer, certified cheque approved by Canada Soccer and made payable to the "Canadian Soccer Association".
- ii. Once a complete application is received by the CSA, Canada Soccer will undertake a prompt review. Canada Soccer will "conditionally" approve the application unless it determines that holding the match or tournament in question would be detrimental to the best interest of the sport.
- iii. Canada Soccer will notify Concacaf and FIFA that the International Match or Tournament is taking place, that Canada Soccer recognizes the match or Tournament, and that the Clubs/teams in question will participate. If FIFA and Concacaf notify Canada Soccer that the Clubs/teams in question shall not be permitted to play or participate, Canada Soccer may revoke approval of the Match or Tournament.
- iv. If the application is rejected, any fee and documentation submitted by the applicant will be returned. In granting or withholding authorization for a match or tournament, Canada Soccer expressly declares that it accepts no liability for any financial or other commitments made by the organizer to foreign Clubs/teams and to any other parties.
- v. If the application is approved, the applicant will be advised of any conditions to be met in full for the grant of final approval.
- vi. The organizer shall forward a certified cheque or money order for the appropriate game fee(s), within thirty (30) days of the game(s) being held, along with a ticket manifest issued by the stadium authorities where the game(s) is played.

g) Performance Bonds and Game Fees

- i. **Performance Bond** – Due a minimum of 30 days before the match is played
 - 1. \$25,000 per match involving two foreign National teams or two foreign professional clubs.
 - 2. \$10,000 per match involving one Canadian professional club or one foreign National team, All-Star Match.
 - 3. \$2,500 per match for all other matches.

4. No bond is required for non-admission matches.
- ii. **Game fees** – due a maximum of 30 days of the game being played
 1. For each game involving a Professional Club in membership, an amount equal to eight percent (8%) of the gross gate receipts which will be disbursed according to FIFA regulations.
 2. For each game involving non-member Clubs, an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the gross gate which shall be disbursed according to FIFA regulations.
- h) **Match Officials**
- i. Referees, assistant referees, and fourth officials for all games be appointed by Canada Soccer. The promotor shall be responsible for all costs associated with the match officials, including game fees, per diem, travel and accommodation.
- i) **CSA Delegation**
- i. Canada Soccer at its discretion, may appoint a representative to attend any games involving foreign teams. Similarly, Canada Soccer may request the Member Association in whose territory the game is played to appoint a representative. In each case, the representative shall be accorded all privileges and courtesies by the organizer who shall extend to him or her any assistance necessary to fulfill his or her responsibilities. Any expenses incurred by the representative are to be paid by the organizer.
- j) **Complimentary Tickets**
- i. The Promoter and FIFA Match Agent shall at a minimum provide the following complimentary tickets and/or passes for each match:
 1. Canada Soccer Officials or Delegated Officials – two tickets per delegate
 2. Match Officials – ten (10) tickets (two tickets per match official and referee assessor)
- k) **Restrictions**
- i. In the event that an organizer of an exhibition game involving a foreign professional Club or National team requests a date and venue which is in conflict with a game being organized by Canada Soccer, Canada Soccer shall have preference of the date and venue.
 - ii. Canada Soccer may, after prior consultation with the Member Association, suspend all games scheduled in the area where a game involving a foreign professional or national team is being played.
 - iii. Canada Soccer will not allow a match involving foreign professional or national teams to be played within 48 hours of a regularly scheduled League regular season and/or playoff game in the same general metropolitan area, as defined by Canada Soccer where the game is proposed to be played.
 - iv. Any matter not specifically covered by this section shall be decided at the discretion of the General Secretary.

**REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND
CONTROL OF REFEREES**

19. REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF REFEREES

19.1 Preamble

Member Associations are responsible for the administration of Referees registered with Canada Soccer who reside in their area as determined by Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer has administrative responsibility for Referees who are serving members of the Armed Forces who are not serving within Canada.

Member Associations shall act as, or appoint, a Referees' Committee to carry out its functions under these Regulations.

19.2 Definitions

For the purpose of these Regulations the terms used will be defined as follows:

Referee A person registered as qualified under these Regulations who may be engaged as a Match Official.

Administer To carry out the administrative procedures relating to the registration and control of Referees as required or determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

Examine To supervise written and oral examination of Referees and Trainee Referee candidates to the requirements and standards determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

FIFA List Those Referees, nominated by Canada Soccer and selected by FIFA, eligible for appointment to international matches.

National Those Referees selected by Canada Soccer to be appointed to competitions and matches as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

League A Competition sanctioned under relevant Regulations by Canada Soccer or a Member Association.

Registration Period From 1 April in each year, or the date of successful completion of the Entry Level Referees Course if later - to the following 31 March.

Provincial Referee A Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or a Member Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate at the Provincial Level.

Regional Referee A Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or a Member Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate at the Regional Level.

District Referee A Referee who has completed, successfully, the Entry Level Referees Course, having reached the age of 16 years.

Youth Referee A District Referee between the ages of 14 – 16 years of age who has completed, successfully, the Entry Level Referees Course.

Futsal Referee A Referee who has completed, successfully, the Futsal Entry Level Referees Course, having reached the age of 16 years

Small-sided Referee A Referee who has completed, successfully, the appropriate Referees Course for soccer played by Clubs of less than 11 – a-side (excluding Futsal), as determined from time to time by Canada Soccer or a Member Association.

Associate Referee A fully registered Referee with their own Member Association of permanent residence, who wishes to officiate in another Province or Territory either by virtue of temporary residence, (eg University Student, temporary work assignment, etc) or by proximity to a Member boarder may apply to be an associate referee

Assessors Individuals authorised by Canada Soccer to carry out assessments at levels determined by from time to time by Canada Soccer

Assessments Written appraisals of a referee’s performance on the field of play, carried out by an Assessor, on behalf of Canada Soccer or a Member Association and submitted to the appropriate body.

Marks A numerical indication of a Referee’s performance on the field of play, awarded by an Assessor on completion of an Assessment, on a scale defined by Canada Soccer

Club Marks A numerical indication of a Referee’s performance on the field of play, reported by competing Clubs after a Match, on a scale defined by Canada Soccer .

Qualifying Games A match that may be counted towards promotion for a registered referee as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

Note: Irrespective of the number of games officiated on the same day in Tournaments or other Competitions, only one match per day may be recorded as a qualifying game.

Instructors Individuals authorised by Canada Soccer to carry out courses of instruction at levels determined from time to time by Canada Soccer

Entry Level Referees Course A course of instruction as determined by Canada Soccer leading to the qualification of Referee candidates.

Annual Review The review by Canada Soccer, a Member Association or Competition of its List of Match Officials entitled to be engaged for a Match in that Competition, to ascertain the suitability of each Referee to continue to be eligible to be retained on that list or within the classification. Such a review will take into consideration the Referee’s performance on the field of play as defined in these Regulations, as modified by any written instructions to a Member Association or Competition Canada Soccer from time to time.

For the purposes of these Regulations, Canada Soccer shall act through the Board, which shall delegate such functions to the Referees’ Committee.

19.3 Registration

- a) No person shall be appointed as a Match Official in any Match or Competition under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer either directly or indirectly unless registered in accordance with these Regulations. *[NOTE: A Competition may include in its regulations a provision by which a person who is not a Referee may carry out the duties of a Match Official in a specific Match but only in circumstances where a Referee cannot be appointed to that Match].*

- b) A referee must be registered with Canada Soccer through the Member Association within the area in which the referee resides. A referee will be required to pay the standard national registration fee to be determined annually by Canada Soccer and notified to the Member Associations by 30 September annually for the following registration period. Registration will run from the date of registration until the following 31 March. Member Associations may charge, in addition to the standard national registration fee, a registration fee not exceeding \$75 per registration period. A referee may become an Associate Referee with another Member Association upon payment of an Associate Fee not exceeding \$25 per registration period. The Memorandum attached to these regulations detail the responsibilities of Member Associations in respect of Referees administered by them.
- c) The Member Association which conducts the entry level course (including Futsal) or small-sided referee course will be responsible for the initial administration of a Referee. A Referee who changes residence from one Member Association administrative area to another will be required to complete a Provincial Transfer Form (Copy at Appendix A to the attached Memorandum of Member Associations Responsibilities for Registered Referees) and be transferred to the new Member Association for administrative purposes but will not be required to pay a further registration fee for that registration period.
- d) Referees shall not be registered with Canada Soccer until they are able to satisfy the Member Association of their date of birth in such a manner as shall be determined by Canada Soccer.
- e) A person below 14 years of age shall not be registered as a Referee.
- f) A Referee who has failed to register as a Referee with Canada Soccer for 2 consecutive seasons shall not be re-registered until an application has been considered by the Member Association within whose area the Referee resides at the time of application for re-registration.
- g) Member Associations may re-examine registered Referees administered by them as determined by Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer must be notified, by the Member Association, of the names of Referees who do not meet the standard determined by Canada Soccer
- h) Where considered not to be 'a fit and proper person' to act as a Referee the registration may be removed or suspended by the Member Association which administers the Referee or by Canada Soccer. Member Associations are to notify Canada Soccer of any action in this respect and are not permitted to take action under this rule in respect of FIFA and National List Officials. Canada Soccer may take any action it deems appropriate. Applications for the re-instatement of a Referee who has previously been disqualified under this Regulation must be referred to Canada Soccer for consideration.

19.4 Recruitment, Basic Referee Training and Initial Examination

- a) Canada Soccer and the Member Associations shall be responsible for the recruitment, basic training and initial examination, where required, of Referees.
- b) The requirements and standards for the Entry Level Referee Course shall be set annually by Canada Soccer
- c) All candidates shall be examined as to their suitability to be a Referee by an initial examination at the end of an Entry Level Referees Course. The initial examination shall be as prescribed by Canada

Soccer. Member Associations must notify Canada Soccer should they examine a candidate who is a serving member of the Armed Forces at the time of examination.

- d) The minimum age a candidate may be presented for the Entry Level Course is 14 years.
- e) Candidates who do not reach the standard required by Canada Soccer in the initial examination may not be presented for further examination until a period of 28 days has elapsed.

19.5 Classification

- a) On behalf of Canada Soccer each Member Association must classify Referees, not on the International or National List, administered by their Association. The classification period runs from 1 April in each year, or the date of successful completion of the initial examination, to the following 31 March.

As at 1 April in each year Referees are to be classified as follows:

International: Referees who are on the FIFA List of Referees.

National List: Referees selected by Canada Soccer to serve on the National List and who meet the requirements of Regulation 4 below.

Provincial Referee: Provincial Referees. This classification includes referees who have served at a higher level.*

**Where a Referee has achieved a level higher than Provincial Referee and is then not retained by Canada Soccer, the Referee is to be classified as a Provincial Referee, subject to meeting the requirements of Regulation 4, with the option of further promotion in the normal way or until a status of non-active is declared by the individual.*

Regional Referee:

District Referee: must be over the age of 16 years

Youth Referee: a District Referee over the age of 14 and under 16 years of age at the date of registration

Declared non-active Referees: those referees who no longer are active officials but who may wish to maintain their registration with Canada Soccer (this does not include accredited Assessors or Instructors who are no longer active referees)

- b) When a Referee changes residence from one Member Association to another, the classification level will be accepted by the Member Association into whose area the Referee has moved. (This regulation does not apply to small-sided Referees who may be required to undergo separate Provincial training prior to being re-registered)
- c) Referees must apply for promotion in writing. The Member Association must receive this request by no later than 1st March preceding the season in which the promotion is sought. Referees considered for promotion in the preceding season, but not advanced, will automatically be included in the promotion scheme for the following season unless they indicate otherwise, in writing, to the

their Member Association by 1st March following the decision of that Association. District referees who are being considered for promotion to Regional Referee may apply for promotion to Provincial Referee, in accordance with this clause, pending the decision of the Member Association in respect of the promotion to Regional Referee and subject to satisfying the criteria as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

- d) Promotion to Regional and Provincial Referee classification shall be based on a Referee's practical performance on the field of play. This will be determined by considering the Marks and Assessments by Assessors on a minimum of three games from outdoor, 11 a-side Competitions for players over the age of 16 years, over a minimum of 20 qualifying games during any one marking period, officiated in as a Referee. Such Marks and Assessments are to be collated by the Member Association from 1st April in any year until the last day of November in the same year. A further requirement for promotion is the completion of a minimum of five games, as an Assistant Referee, in the promotion season.
- e) In addition to their practical performance on the field of play Referees will be required to attend in-service training, as determined by Canada Soccer, successfully complete a written examination set by Canada Soccer and, where determined by Canada Soccer from time to time, successfully complete the appropriate fitness test prior to the promotion being confirmed.
- f) District Referee must serve a minimum of one complete Registration Period or 12 months in that classification, whichever is the shortest, and have completed a minimum of 20 qualification games, as a referee, in outdoor, 11 a-side Competitions for players over the age of 16 yrs before applying for promotion to Regional Referee. After this promotion a Referee can proceed at the rate they are capable, subject to satisfying the criteria as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time. No Member Association may impose any other qualification periods which cause delayed passage through the promotion pyramid.
- g) Youth Referee includes all District Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 as at 1st April each season. A Youth referee will automatically become a District referee on reaching the age of 16.

19.6 Promotion

- a) Selection and promotion within Regional Referees and above will be determined as follows:

International Level: Annual nomination by Canada Soccer to FIFA, selected from those eligible Referees, as at the date of nomination determined by FIFA.

National List: Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from Provincial Referee (following nomination by a Member Association to Canada Soccer from those Referees who satisfy the criteria, established by Canada Soccer from time to time), for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer.

Provincial Referees: Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from Regional Referee for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

Regional Referees: Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from Youth/District Referees for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

- b) Annually, National List Officials and above will be required to complete successfully a fitness test and a written examination, as determined by Canada Soccer, prior to having their classification confirmed. On initial selection for promotion to a higher-level Referees may be required to attend an interview to ascertain their suitability against criteria determined by Canada Soccer.
- c) On initial promotion to Regional Referee the Member Association who administers the Referee must allocate the Referee to an appropriate League.
- d) Canada Soccer will determine the acceptable number of matches required for consideration to be selected to National Referee.
- e) The responsibility of promoting Referees to Regional and Provincial Referee rests with the Member Association in which the Referee resides and who administers the Referee's registration. In accordance with the marking period all selections for promotion to must be made by 15 December each year and individuals notified of the outcome in writing.

19.7 Competitions

- a) Member Associations are to advise successful candidates on completion of the Entry Level Course, in writing, the local competitions on which they are eligible to officiate.
- b) Referees under the age of 16 are eligible to officiate only in Competitions for players aged under 16.
- c) Lists of Match Officials shall be determined each season by Canada Soccer or Member Association and only Match Officials included in such lists may officiate in matches during the season. A Competition or League may not remove or suspend a Match Official from its List at any time such power to act resting solely with Canada Soccer, or Member Association as appropriate under 19.9 below.
- d) Competitions may, subject to the approval of Canada Soccer, require match officials included in its list to successfully complete a minimum fitness standard prior to receiving appointments. Requests for approval, together with the proposed fitness standard, must be submitted to Canada Soccer by 1 September of the year preceding the implementation of such fitness standards.
- e) The practical performance on the field of play of Match Officials on a List shall be appraised and reviewed each season (for these purposes 1 April to 30 November annually). Competitions and Leagues shall provide annually to Canada Soccer or Member Association as appropriate a List of the Match Officials they have engaged with the Marks and Assessments obtained in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 12 of these Regulations. *Senior Provincial League Clubs are to mark referees on a scale of 1 - 100. An example of the marking Guide and form to be submitted by clubs is shown at Appendix A. This marking form is to be used by all Provincial Senior soccer leagues.*
- f) A Competition shall not have the power to act in relation to the Registration of a Referee. Any allegation of behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under Regulation 19.9 (a)(1) or (2) below must be reported to Canada Soccer, or Member Association in accordance with Regulation 19.9 (c) below.

- g) Referee Fees and Expenses are set by Canada Soccer, Member Associations or by Competitions in consultation with the sanctioning authority. Referees (or other appointed match officials) may not receive other financial reward or incentive, based on their on field of play performances from any Member Association or Competition other than the set fees and expenses. Member Associations are to set the maximum match official fees payable by Competitions and/or Leagues which it sanctions.

19.8 Training

- a) Canada Soccer shall identify the training requirements of Referees at all levels and be responsible for accrediting courses of instruction to meet those requirements.
- b) Referees will be required to attend accredited training at intervals determined by Canada Soccer. Only such training, delivered by accredited instructors, will be valid.
- c) Training may be delivered, at the appropriate levels, in conjunction with Member Associations, by instructors accredited by Canada Soccer.

19.9 Conduct of Referees and Action in Relation to Registration

- a) Canada Soccer or the respective Member Association, as appropriate, shall have the power to act at any time in relation to the registration of a Referee who has:
 - 1. Less than proficiently applied the Laws of the Game; or
 - 2. Committed a technical irregularity; or
 - 3. Proved to have been concerned as an agent for a Club or a Player in the transfer or attempted transfer and/or engagement of a Player; or
 - 4. Willfully mis-stated his/her age, or, date of birth; or
 - 5. As a player or coach, violated the Laws of the Game to such a degree that a Disciplinary Committee subsequently imposes a penalty of suspension from playing or coaching; or
 - 6. Been found to have committed an act of misconduct pursuant to the Rules of Canada Soccer or a Member Association.
- b) Only Canada Soccer, or Member Association may act in relation to the Registration of a Referee. Such action may be only through its Referees' Committee.
- c) Any behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under 19.9(a) (1) or (2) above must have been notified to or otherwise come to the attention of Canada Soccer or Member Association within 14 days of the relevant incident(s) for such to be acted upon under 19.9(a).
- d) A technical irregularity* under 19.9 (a)(2) above shall be any failure by a Referee to meet any requirement imposed on, or notified to, a Referee by Canada Soccer or Member Association as appropriate from time to time.

**A "technical irregularity" includes, but is not in any way limited to, any failure to comply with administrative requirements imposed on a Referee such as the requirements to file reports, answer correspondence, attend match venues or disciplinary hearings at a particular time, etc or any breach of Regulation*

- e) Where a Referee is alleged to have breached 1.9(a) (1) – (6) above, the Referees' Committee shall advise the Referee, in writing, of the relevant allegation(s) and supporting facts and state that the matter will be considered by the Committee or a duly appointed Commission thereof.

The Referee shall respond within 14 days and may either:

1. deny the allegation(s), setting out a statement of his case; or
2. request a personal hearing, in which case a fee of \$100 must accompany the request; or
3. admit the allegation(s). A Referee who admits the allegation(s) may set out any submissions which he wishes the Referees' Committee to consider when considering what, if any, action to take. The Referee may also request a personal hearing as above.

In considering any allegation at a personal hearing, a Referees' Committee or Commission thereof, may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the determination of the matter brought before it; and shall not be bound by any enactment of rule or law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.

- f) As a guide to the procedures to be followed at a personal hearing, the following may be used unless the Referees' Committee or Commission consider it appropriate to amend them:

1. The allegation(s) will be read out to the Referee, who will be asked if the allegation(s) are admitted or denied.
2. Evidence in support of the allegation(s) to be called.
3. Evidence in response to the allegation(s) to be submitted by the Referee, who may, with the permission of the Referees' Committee or Commission, be accompanied by a representative. (Any such representative shall not be permitted to give evidence as a witness).
4. The Referees' Committee or Commission and the Referee (as appropriate) shall be entitled to ask questions of any witness giving evidence in support of the allegation(s). The Referees' Committee or Commission shall be entitled to ask questions of the Referee, who may give evidence in defence of the allegation(s). The Referees' Committee or Commission may draw such inferences as it considers appropriate from the failure of the Referee to give evidence or answer a question.
5. In the event of evidence submitted in answer to the allegation(s) disclosing a point which the Referees' Committee or Commission considers was not covered in the evidence of, or not put to, any witness in support of the allegation(s), the Referees' Committee or Commission may recall and ask questions of such witness. The Referee or relevant representative may also ask questions.
6. After the evidence has been completed to the satisfaction of the Referees' Committee or Commission, the Referee or representative shall be entitled to make submissions based upon the evidence, but this may not include reference to facts not disclosed in the evidence presented to the Referees' Committee or Commission. At the conclusion of the submissions all persons shall withdraw whilst the Referees' Committee or Commission considers the evidence and submissions presented to it and determines whether the allegation(s) have been proved or not. After reaching a decision, the Referees' Committee or Commission shall recall the Referee and any representative and announce whether the allegation(s) are proved or not proved. The decision shall be subsequently confirmed in writing. As an alternative the Referees' Committee or Commission may, where it considers it appropriate, not announce its decision at the meeting but inform the Referee that such a decision will be communicated in writing.

7. Where the Referees' Committee or Commission find the allegation(s) proved, it shall have the power to act in relation to the Registration of the Referee as it considers appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, censure, a period of remedial training, suspension or removal of Registration.
- g) A Referee may be dealt with in the normal course as a participant for any alleged misconduct pursuant to the Rules of Canada Soccer (i.e. by a Disciplinary Commission), in addition to having issues relating to the Registration as a Referee considered by Canada Soccer or Member Association through its Referees' Committee in relation to the same behaviour. In such cases, a charge of Misconduct pursuant to the Rules of Canada Soccer shall be considered before any matter relating to the issue of Registration is dealt with by the Referees' Committee under Rule 19.9 (a)(6).
 - h) In circumstances where it is considered appropriate, the Referees' Committee may order that the Registration of a Referee be suspended with immediate effect, pending determination of a charge of Misconduct under the Rules of Canada Soccer or pending the determination of a charge under 19.9(a) (1) or (2) above and, in the latter case, the reason for such suspension is to be notified to the referee in writing and reported to the Commission hearing any resultant charge.
 - i) Action in respect of the Registration of Match Officials on the National List will be considered by the appropriate committee of Canada Soccer

19.10 Appeals against Decisions of the Referees' Committee

- a) Where Canada Soccer or Member Association, through its Referees' Committee, makes an order in relation to the registration of a Referee under Regulation 19.9, then there shall be a right of appeal by the Referee against the decision (other than as set out below).
- b) There shall be no right of appeal against a decision in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee taken as part of the Annual Review by Canada Soccer, Member Association or an appointing authority.
- c) Notice of an appeal against a decision of a Referees' Committee made under Regulation 19.9 must be lodged with Canada Soccer or appropriate Member Association within 14 days of notification of the decision appealed against, accompanied by a fee of \$250
- d) An Appeal shall be considered by an "Appeals Panel" comprising of Members of Canada Soccer Judicial Bodies or appropriate Member Association established specifically to deal with appeals from decisions under Regulation 19.9, none of whom shall have been party to the original decision. A decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding.
- e) The Notice of Appeal must :
 1. identify the specific decision(s) being appealed
 2. set out the grounds of appeal; and
 3. set out a statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based.
- f) The grounds of appeal shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:
 1. misinterpreted or failed to comply with any rules or regulations relevant to its decision; and/or

2. came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have arrived at; and/or
 - 3i. made an order, which is excessive.
- g) The Appeals Panel may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the just determination of an appeal brought before it, and shall not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.
 - h) The Appeals Panel shall proceed in the absence of any party, unless it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the failure of the party to attend, and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.
 - i) A decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.
 - j) The Appeals Panel shall have power to:
 1. allow or dismiss the appeal; or
 2. remit the matter for re-hearing or by the Referees Committee; or
 3. exercise any power which the body against whose decision the appeal was made could have exercised; or
 4. make any further or other order considered appropriate, either generally or for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.
 - k) Any fee may be returned or forfeited, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Appeals Panel, who shall also have the power to determine by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne.
 - l) As soon as practicable after the hearing, the Appeals Panel shall publish a written statement of its decision, which shall state:
 1. the names of the parties, the decision(s) appealed against and the grounds of appeal;
 2. whether or not the appeal is allowed; and
 3. the order(s) of the Appeals Panel.
 - m) The written statement shall be signed and dated by the Chairman of the Appeals Panel and be the conclusive record of the decision.

19.11 Appointments

- a) Registered Referees shall not officiate in any Competition or League, which is not sanctioned, or a Match in which unaffiliated clubs compete.
- b) The "Order of Precedence" of appointments, whether as a Referee or Assistant Referee, shall be as follows:
 1. International Appointments
 2. International Representative matches appointed by Canada Soccer
 3. The MLS; Canadian Championship
 4. Canadian Premier League (CPL)
 5. USL League One
 6. National Championships and all other Canada Soccer appointments

7. Senior Provincial Pro-Am League Competitions and USL League Two; WPSL; UWS
 8. Senior Provincial League Competitions/Cup or equivalent
 9. University and College Leagues
 10. Youth Provincial Standard based High Performance Leagues
 11. Youth Provincial/Territorial Association Cup Competitions
 12. Senior Regional Soccer
 13. Youth Regional Soccer
 14. All other local competition
- c) Referees must attend Personal Hearings when required to do so. At CPL level or above Match Officials appointments already received, take precedence over requests to attend Personal Hearings. On receipt of notification of a Personal Hearing Referees must close the date with all appropriate competitions.
- d) Where release from an appointment is required to enable a Referee to take a more senior appointment in the Order of Precedence, above, the relevant Member Association or Competition is expected to release the official to the requesting appointing authority.
- e) Once Canada Soccer or a Member Association has appointed a Match Official if, subsequently, the Match is postponed, abandoned or results in a draw and the re-arranged fixture is then scheduled to take place less than four complete days from the date of the original match, Canada Soccer or Member Association appointment will take priority over any other appointment already accepted by the Referee from a Competition lower in the Order of Precedence, unless Canada Soccer or Member Association waive their right to the services of the Match Official so appointed.
- f) "Fourth Officials" are appointed to certain competitions by Canada Soccer or Member Association. The duties and responsibilities of the Fourth Official are detailed in the Laws of Association Football and in the Competition Rules. Such appointments form part of the Order of Precedence within the Competitions listed above.
- g) "Standby/Reserve Officials" may be appointed to other Competitions but do not form part of the Order of Precedence and are not to be accepted by Referees in preference to an active appointment.

19.12 Conflicts of Interest

A Referee shall at all times act impartially. Where a Referee believes that there is a material interest conflicting with the duties and obligations of a Match Official and any other appointment, then the Referee shall decline to act or officiate and declare it to Canada Soccer (in respect of National List Officials) or the Member Association, whose decision in relation to any dispute or difference in such matters shall be final and binding.

19.13 Referees' Uniforms

- a) All Match Officials in Competitions under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer and Member Association must wear uniforms approved by the above mentioned Associations. Referees must wear an alternative colour uniform when there is a clash between the uniform shirts of the outfield players of one of the teams and the referee's first choice colour. The preferred alternative colours will be those specified by Canada Soccer from time to time.

- b) Match Officials are required to wear the current FIFA or the appropriate Canada Soccer badge which must be worn on the left breast pocket. No other competition or association badge may be worn.
- c) No advertising of any nature, save as set out below, is permitted on Match Officials' clothing without the consent of Canada Soccer.
- d) The following advertising is permitted:

The mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer or a combination of the same, may appear:

1. Once only on the shirt provided that it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres
 2. Once only on the shorts provided that in an area no greater than 20 square centimetres
 3. Incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to an area no greater than 12 square centimetres.
- e) Sponsor advertising in accordance with FIFA regulations is permitted only on the shirt sleeves and the total surface area of the advertising shall not exceed 200cm². Any sponsorship contract must be made between the sponsor and Canada Soccer. Individual Associations or Leagues are not permitted to enter into sponsorship contracts for referee uniforms.

19.14 Returns

- a) Annually, in accordance with the instructions of Canada Soccer from time to time, Competitions or Leagues shall provide to Canada Soccer or appropriate Member Association Lists of Match Officials assigned. Such Lists shall include the marks awarded by Clubs, and assessments where appropriate, during the specified period, together with any other information required.
- b) Not later than the date decided by Canada Soccer, Member Associations shall nominate suitable Referees for consideration by Canada Soccer for selection to the National List of Referees or Assistant Referees
- c) Competitions that have approval to administer fitness tests are to submit the results to Canada Soccer and the Member Association that administers the Referee.
- d) Member Associations are to submit by 1st June each year a complete list of registered Referees, by classification, in a format required by Canada Soccer.

19.15 Codes of Conduct

Match Officials shall be bound by Codes of Conduct such as are instructed by Canada Soccer from time to time.

19.16 Accredited Assessors

- a) Assessors will be accredited by Canada Soccer in accordance with the criterion outlined below:

District Assessors: Assessors who have completed the Basic Assessor Course and provided, for evaluation by the Member Association, a minimum of two assessments completed at the district level, which meets the standard as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time

Regional Assessors: Assessors, who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a District Assessor, attended In-service training, and whose assessments, having been evaluated by the Member Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

Provincial Assessors: Assessors, who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a Regional Assessor, attended In-service training, and whose assessments, having been evaluated by the Member Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

National Assessors: Assessors who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time, following nomination by a Member Association to Canada Soccer and those Assessors who satisfy the criteria, established by Canada Soccer from time to time, for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer

- b) Assessors must attend Assessor In-service training every two years, or as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time, to maintain their Accreditation. Reaccreditation will be dependent upon the Assessor having completed a minimum of 4 (8) assessments each year at the accredited level; attendance at the bi-annual in-service training; and evaluation of assessments by Canada Soccer or Member Association to the standard determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

19.17 Accredited Instructors

- a) Instructors will be accredited by Canada Soccer in accordance with the criterion outlined below:

District Instructors: Instructors who have attended the Basic Instructor Course and satisfied the Member Association that they have demonstrated the ability to instruct the Entry Level Course to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.

Regional Instructors: Instructors who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a District Instructor, attended In-service training, and whose Instructional ability, having been evaluated by the Member Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer to instruct at In-service training courses for referees up to and including Regional designation.

Provincial Instructors: Instructors who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a Regional (District) Instructor, attended In-service training, and whose Instructional ability, having been evaluated by the Member Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer, to instruct at In-service training courses for referees up to and including Provincial designation (Referee)

National Instructors: Instructors who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer following nomination by an Member Association, and those Instructors who satisfy the criteria as determined by Canada Soccer, with outstanding ability to instruct at In-service training courses and events for referees up to and including National List Officials.

- b) Instructors must attend Instructor In-service training every two years, or as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time, to maintain their Accreditation. Reaccreditation will be dependant upon the Instructor having completed a minimum of 4 courses at the accredited level; attendance at the

bi-annual in-service training; and an evaluation of instruction by Canada Soccer or Member Association to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.

By Order of the Board,

Appendix A

Guide To Club Marking of a Referees Performance

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the referee's **overall** performance, It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

<i>Mark Range</i>	<u>Comment</u>
91-100	The referee was extremely accurate in decision making and very successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play, adding real value to the game.
81-90	The referee was very accurate in decision making and successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play.
71 - 80	The referee was accurate in decision making and controlled the game well, communicating with the players, making a positive contribution towards fair play.
61-70	The referee was reasonably accurate in decision making, controlled the game quite well and communicated with players, establishing a reasonable degree of fair play.
51-60	The referee had some shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control, with only limited success in communicating with the players resulting in variable fair play.
50 and below	The referee had significant shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control with poor communication with the players which resulted in low levels of fair play

Notes

- Using a scale of up to 100 allows greater flexibility for clubs to distinguish between different refereeing performances more accurately.
- A mark within each mark range can be given to reflect the referee's performance e.g. a mark of 79 indicates a somewhat better performance than a mark of 71.
- **A mark between 71 and 80 represents the standard of refereeing expected.**

- When a mark of 50 or less is awarded, an explanation must be provided to the League, Competition or Member Association by completing the appropriate box on the marking form. It must include comments which could help improve the referee's future performances. Even where a referee has significant shortcomings there will have been some positive aspects which should be given credit; extremely low marks (below 20) should be very rare.

How to Decide on the Referee's Mark

The following questions focus on the key areas of a referee's performance. They are intended as an "aide memoire", are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the referee.

CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

- How well did the referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognized correctly?
- Were the *Laws of the Game* applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- Was the referee always within reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the referee use the assistants effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team, and did the referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- How well did the referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the referee's level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?
- Did the referee understand the players' problems on the day – e.g. difficult ground/weather conditions?
- Did the referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the referee pro-active in controlling of the game?
- Was the referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the referee appear calm and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or player pressure affect the referee negatively?

Final Thoughts

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.

- Judge the performance over **the whole game**. Don't be too influenced by one particular incident.
- Don't mark the referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.

Club Report on Match Referee
Form to be completed after every match

Club _____

Date _____

Competition _____

Home Club	
Away Club	

Referee	
---------	--

Referee's Performance

Please tick appropriate box	Below Expectations	Reasonable	Good	<i>Excellent</i>
a) Overall control				
b) Overall decision making				
c) Communication and player management				

The mark must reflect the referee's overall level of control, accuracy of decision making and management of and communication with players. When deciding on a mark consideration should be given to such aspects of the referee's performance as: impartiality, confidence, fitness, positioning, signalling, use of advantage, handling of major incidents

A mark between 91-100 would be regarded as 'excellent'

A mark between 71 and 80 would represent the standard expected

Mark out of 100

/100

SECTION 3. Additional comments (Continue overleaf if necessary)

If any area is marked "disappointing", or the mark awarded is 50 or less, detailed, constructive comments which could help improve the referee's future performances are required

Name (please print).....

Position held in club.....

Signature:.....

Please return to..... Within 48 hours of the match

Appendix B

Member Association Responsibilities for Registered Referees

Member Associations must provide, as a minimum, the following for referees administered by them:

Registration

Registrations for Referees must be in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees as amended by Canada Soccer from time to time. The Member Association will collect, on behalf of Canada Soccer the National Registration fee and, where appropriate, any Member Registration Fee. Associate Referee fees levied for Referees administered by another Member Association will also be collected by the Member Association.

Provision of Provincial Soccer Association Handbook

Member Associations should provide, as a minimum, the Provincial Cup Competition Rules, details of Club Secretaries and details of grounds/match venues.

Public Liability Insurance

Adequate cover for public liability insurance should be provided in accordance with individual Provincial requirements.

Recruitment and Basic Training of New Referees

The recruitment and training of new referees is an important area which Member Associations have responsibility towards the development of the future of the game. Canada Soccer supports this area with provision of material support and instructor development.

Mentor Scheme

It is recognised that mentoring is an aid to retention and Member Associations are encouraged to extend the service to referees wherever possible.

Promotion and Assessment Scheme

Member Associations are responsible for the promotion of referees up to Provincial Referee in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, by ensuring that referees are active at the appropriate level and are regularly assessed. Referees, outside the promotion scheme, who are administered by the Member Association, should be regularly assessed for development purposes.

In- Service Training

Referees below the National List are provided with in-service training by Member Associations. In-service training for Referees in the promotion scheme is mandatory in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees. Other in-service training should be provided for referees as appropriate.

Appointments

Member Associations make appointments to its individual Competitions. In addition, it is invited to make nominations in respect of National Competitions at the request of Canada Soccer Referees Department.

Fees

Member Associations set match officials fee limits to ensure parity across the Competitions and Leagues it sanctions.

Nominations to the National List

Member Associations are required to nominate eligible and suitable referees to join the National List from its Provincial Referees on request from The Canada Soccer Referees Department. Those Referees who are nominated for

consideration to the National List must have successfully met the criteria as determined by The Canada Soccer Referees Committee from time to time.

Allocation to Leagues

Referees successfully completing the entry level course are to be advised, in writing, in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, of the leagues and competitions on which they may operate.

Legal Advice

Member Associations may assist in the provision of legal advice where appropriate to referees. This could involve seeking advice from Canada Soccer on behalf of the referee in certain circumstances.

General Advice

General advice and guidance on all football related matters, including directives and information from Canada Soccer, should be promulgated by the Member Association to those referees it administers.

Transfers

Member Associations are responsible for ensuring that Provincial Referees and below who move to another Province are notified to the receiving Member Association. Canada Soccer Form is to be used for this purpose, a copy of which is at Appendix C to the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees. On receipt of that notification, the receiving Member Association should ensure that the referee is made aware of the refereeing activities in the Province.

Referee Discipline

The Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees devolve the responsibility for Referee discipline, of those referees not operating on the National List or above, to the Member Association who administers the Referees registration. A Referee may be dealt with in the normal course as a participant for any alleged misconduct pursuant to the Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations (ie by a Disciplinary Commission), in addition to having issues relating to the Registration as a Referee considered by the appropriate Referees Committee. Referees should be made aware of the process by which any acts of misconduct, or indiscipline in relation to their registration, will be dealt with by the Member Association.

Nominations to Referee Instructor Courses

Member Associations should identify those candidates it considers suitable to attend the Accredited Referee Instructors Course in accordance with the criteria notified by Canada Soccer from time to time.

Nominations to Referee Assessor Courses

Member Associations should identify those candidates it considers suitable to attend the Accredited Referee Assessor Course in accordance with the criteria notified by Canada Soccer from time to time.

Liaison with Canada Soccer Referee Department

Member Associations should make every use of the services of Canada Soccer Referee Department in the support of its responsibilities for registered referees.

In addition Member Associations are encouraged to consider offering the following to referees administered by them, dependent upon the size and make-up of the Member Association:

Schools of Excellence and Referee Academies

Member Associations are strongly encouraged to include a School of Excellence or Referee Academy for referees. Canada Soccer will support this with provision for instructor development and programmes specifically designed for referee development within this environment.

Personal Accident Insurance

Member Associations are encouraged to investigate the need for Personal Accident Insurance for referees.

APPENDIX C

**PA/T
REQUEST FOR A TRANSFER TO ANOTHER MEMBER ASSOCIATION**

A referee must register with Canada Soccer through the Member Association where they reside. The following form must be completed and forwarded to the Member Association with which you are currently registered.

FULL NAME.....

AGE AS AT 1 January (next).....**DATE OF BIRTH**.....

PREVIOUS ADDRESS.....

.....**POSTAL CODE**.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER

(H).....**(B)**.....

PREVIOUS MEMBER ASSOCIATION.....

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION.....**YEAR OBTAINED**.....

SEASON LAST REGISTERED.....

DATE OR YEAR OF EXAMINATION.....

NEW ADDRESS.....

.....**POSTAL CODE**.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER

(H).....**(B)**.....

DATE OF AVAILABILITY IN NEW AREA.....

DETAIL ANY RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING AVAILABILITY.....

.....

Signed..... (Referee)

**Circulation: Canada Soccer (National List Officials only)
 Current Member Association
 New Member Association**

**REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND
CONTROL OF REFEREES**

Futsal Edition

20. REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF REFEREES (Futsal Edition)

20.1 Preamble

Member Associations are responsible for the administration of Referees registered with Canada Soccer who reside in their area as determined by Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer has administrative responsibility for Referees who are serving members of the Armed Forces who are not serving within Canada.

Member Associations shall act as, or appoint, a Referees' Committee to carry out its functions under these Regulations.

20.2 Definitions

Provincial Futsal Referee	A Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate Futsal matches at the Provincial Level.
Regional Futsal Referee	A Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate Futsal matches at the Regional Level.
District Futsal Referee	A Referee who has completed, successfully, the Entry Level Futsal Referees Course, having reached the age of 16 years.
Youth Futsal Referee	A District Futsal Referee between the ages of 14 – 16 years of age who has completed, successfully, the Entry Level Futsal Referees Course.
Small-sided Referee	A Referee who has completed, successfully, the appropriate Referees Course for soccer played by teams of less than 11– a-side (excluding Futsal), as determined from time to time by Canada Soccer or Provincial Soccer Association.
District Futsal Referee Assessor	An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to complete assessments of Futsal Referees at the District Level.
Regional Futsal Referee Assessor	An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to complete assessments of Futsal Referees at the Regional Level.
Provincial Futsal Referee Assessor	An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to complete assessments of Futsal Referees at the Provincial Level.

National Futsal Referee Assessor	An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to complete assessments of Futsal Referees at the National Level.
District Futsal Referee Instructor	An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to deliver courses of instruction to Futsal Referees at the District Level.
Regional Futsal Referee Instructor	An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to deliver courses of instruction to Futsal Referees at the Regional Level.
Provincial Futsal Referee Instructor	An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to deliver courses of instruction to Futsal Referees at the Provincial Level.
National Futsal Referee Instructor	An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Member Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to deliver courses of instruction to Futsal Referees at the National Level.

20.3 Recruitment, Basic Referee Training and Initial Examination

- a) Canada Soccer and Member Associations shall be responsible for the recruitment, basic training and initial examination, where required, of Referees.
- b) The requirements and standards for the Entry Level Soccer Referee Course **and for the Entry Level Futsal Referee Course*** shall be set annually by Canada Soccer.
- c) All candidates shall be examined as to their suitability to be a Referee by an initial examination at the end of an Entry Level Referees Course. The initial examination shall be as prescribed by Canada Soccer and shall include eyesight and colour test. Member Associations must notify Canada Soccer should they examine a candidate who is a serving member of the Armed Forces at the time of examination.
- d) The minimum age a candidate may be presented for the Entry Level Soccer Referee Course **and for the Entry Level Futsal Referee Course*** is 14 years.
- e) Candidates who do not reach the standard required by Canada Soccer in the initial examination may not be presented for further examination until a period of 28 days has elapsed.

20.4 Classification

- a) On behalf of Canada Soccer each Member Association must classify Referees, not on the International or National List, administered by their Association. The classification period runs from 1 April in each year, or the date of successful completion of the initial examination, to the following 31 March.

- b) As of 1 September in each year Futsal Referees are to be classified as follows:

International: Futsal Referees who are on the FIFA List of Referees.

National List: Futsal Referees selected by Canada Soccer to serve on the National List and who meet the requirements of Regulation 5 below.

Provincial Referee: This classification includes referees who have served at a higher level. Where a Futsal Referee has achieved a level higher than Provincial Futsal Referee and is then not retained by Canada Soccer, the Referee is to be classified as a Provincial Futsal Referee, subject to meeting the requirements of Regulation 20.5 below, with the option of further promotion as defined in Regulation 20.5 below, or until a status of non-active is declared by the individual.

Regional Referee:

District Referee: A District Futsal Referee must be over the age of 16 years as of the date of registration.

Youth Referee: A District Futsal Referee who is over the age of 14 and under 16 years of age as of the date of registration.

Declared non-active Futsal Referees: Those referees who no longer are active officials but who may wish to maintain their registration with Canada Soccer (this does not include accredited Assessors or Instructors who are no longer active referees).

- c) When a Soccer Referee or **Futsal Referee*** changes residence from one Member Association to another, the classification level will be accepted by the Member Association in to whose area the Referee has moved. (This regulation does not apply to small-sided Referees who may be required to undergo separate provincial training prior to being re-registered).

20.5 Promotion

- a) Selection and promotion will be determined as follows:

International Level: Annual nomination by Canada Soccer to FIFA, selected from those eligible Referees, as at the date of nomination determined by FIFA.

National List: Soccer **and Futsal*** Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from Provincial Referee (following nomination by a Member Association to Canada Soccer, from those Referees who satisfy the criteria, established by Canada Soccer from time to time), for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer.

Provincial Referees: Soccer **and Futsal*** Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from Regional Referee for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

Regional Referees: Soccer and Futsal* Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from District Referee for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

*stand for new added regulation

20.6 Requirement for Futsal Referees

a) District Futsal Referee Requirements

1. Upon successful completion of the Entry Level Futsal Referees Course, together with a passing grade on the examination conducted as part of such course, successful referee candidates shall be classified as District Futsal Referees.
2. A Youth Futsal Referee shall automatically become a District Futsal Referee upon reaching the age of 16.
3. District Futsal Referees shall be eligible to officiate youth recreational games, youth competitive games and senior amateur games with game appointments based on the pyramid of officiating criteria established by the Member Association from time to time.
4. To maintain a District Futsal Referee classification, a Referee shall remain current by attending annual education programming as established by the Member Association from time to time, pay the annual fees as published by Canada Soccer, be in good standing and maintain registration each year.
5. Prior to applying for promotion to Regional Futsal Referee, a District Futsal Referee must serve a minimum of one complete Registration Period or 12 months in that classification, whichever is the shortest, and have completed a minimum of twenty (20) qualifying games.

b) Regional Futsal Referee Requirements

1. District Futsal Referees wishing to be considered for promotion to Regional Futsal Referee must:
 - a. Submit an application to the relevant Member Association no later than 1st August preceding the season in which the promotion is sought;
 - b. Attend a course of instruction conducted under the jurisdiction of the Member Association by an approved Futsal Referee Instructor;
 - c. Attend and pass the Regional Futsal Referee examination;
 - d. Within the two (2) years following a passing mark on the Regional Futsal Referee Examination, obtain a minimum of three (3) qualifying assessments over a minimum of 20 qualifying games by more than one Assessor, at least two of which must be in Senior Men's Competitive games with the other assessment obtained in another Competitive caliber game;

- e. Fulfill the annual fitness standards in supervised tests each of the following two (2) years following the Examination;
 - f. Candidates may be requested to complete additional assessments above the minimum to show proficiency of performance at the required level. In such cases, an extension beyond the two-year limit may be granted.
 - g. Candidates shall be not less than 18 years of age as of 1st September of the current registration year. Proof of age may be requested at the time of application.
2. Selections for promotion to Regional Soccer Referee shall be made by 15th June each year and individuals notified of the outcome in writing.
 3. On initial promotion to Regional Futsal Referee the Member Association who administers the Referee must allocate and assign the Referee to matches in an appropriate League.
 4. Regional Futsal Referees shall be eligible to officiate District Competitive, Regional Competitive, and Senior Competitive games.
 5. To maintain a Regional Futsal Referee classification, a referee shall remain current by:
 - a. Actively officiating within Canada Soccer;
 - b. Adhering to all Published Rules of Canada Soccer;
 - c. Be in good standing;
 - d. Attending annual education programming as established by the Member Association from time to time;
 - e. Pay the annual fees as published by Canada Soccer;
 - f. Maintain registration each year;
 - g. Successfully complete a minimum of one (1) formal assessment per year in an appropriate Senior Competitive game;
 - h. Fulfill the fitness test requirement for Regional Futsal Referees.

c) Provincial Futsal Referee Requirements

1. Regional Futsal Referees wishing to be considered for promotion to Provincial Futsal Referee shall:

- a. Submit an application to the relevant Member Association no later than 1st August preceding the season in which the promotion is sought;
- b. Perform as an above average Regional Futsal Referee for two (2) years;
- c. Attend a course of instruction conducted under the jurisdiction of the Member Association by an approved Futsal Referee Instructor;
- d. Attend and pass the Provincial Futsal Referee examination;
- e. Within the two (2) years following a passing mark on the Provincial Futsal Referee Examination, obtain a minimum of four (4) qualifying assessments over a minimum of 20 qualifying games by more than two Assessors, all of which must be in Senior Men's Competitive games;

- f. Fulfill the annual fitness standards in supervised tests each of the following two (2) years following the Examination;
 - g. Candidates may be requested to complete additional assessments above the minimum to show proficiency of performance at the required level. In such cases, an extension beyond the two year limit may be granted.
2. Selections for promotion to Regional Soccer Referee shall be made by 15th June each year and individuals notified of the outcome in writing.
 3. Provincial Futsal Referees shall be eligible to officiate in any amateur Futsal competition and may be appointed to inter-provincial competitions.
 4. To maintain a Provincial Futsal Referee classification, a referee shall remain current by:
 - a. Actively officiating within Canada Soccer;
 - b. Adhering to all Published Rules of Canada Soccer;
 - c. Be in good standing;
 - d. Attending annual education programming;
 - e. Adhering to all Published Rules of Canada Soccer;
 - f. Pay the annual fees as published by Canada Soccer;
 - g. Maintain registration each year;
 - h. Successfully complete a minimum of two (2) formal assessments per year in an appropriate Senior Competitive game;
 - i. Fulfill the fitness test requirement for Provincial Futsal Referees.

d) National Futsal Referee Requirements

1. Provincial Futsal Referees wishing to be considered for promotion to National Futsal Referee shall:
 - a. Submit an application to Canada Soccer no later than 1st August preceding the season in which the promotion is sought;
 - b. Perform as an above average Provincial Futsal Referee for two (2) years;
 - c. Attend a course of instruction conducted under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer by an approved Futsal Referee Instructor;
 - d. Attend and pass the National Futsal Referee examination;
 - e. Within the two (2) years following a passing mark on the National Futsal Referee Examination, obtain a minimum of four (4) qualifying assessments by more than two Assessors, all of which must be in Inter-Provincial Competitive games;
 - f. Fulfill the annual fitness standards in supervised tests each of the following two (2) years following the Examination;
 - g. Candidates may be requested to complete additional assessments above the minimum to show proficiency of performance at the required level. In such cases, an extension beyond the two year limit may be granted;
 - h. Candidates may be required to attend an interview to ascertain their suitability against criteria determined by Canada Soccer.

- i. The performance of referees who are being considered for promotion to National Futsal Referee should be assessed during top National tournaments.
- i. National Futsal Referees should be eligible to officiate in any Futsal competition in Canada and may be appointed to International competitions.
- k. To maintain a National Futsal Referee classification, a referee shall remain current by:
 1. Actively officiating within Canada Soccer;
 2. Adhering to all Published Rules of Canada Soccer;
 3. Be in good standing;
 4. Attending annual education programming;
 5. Pay the annual fees as published by Canada Soccer;
 6. Maintain registration each year;
 7. Successfully complete a minimum of three (3) formal assessments per year in an appropriate Inter-Provincial game;
 8. Fulfill the fitness test requirement for National Futsal Referees.

20.7 Appointments

“Third Referees” are appointed to certain Futsal competitions by Canada Soccer or Member Association. The duties and responsibilities of the Third Referee are detailed in the Futsal Laws of The Game and in the Competition Rules. Such appointments form part of the Order of Precedence within the Competitions listed above.

20.8 Accredited Assessors

- a) **District Futsal Referee Assessors:** Assessors who have completed the Basic Futsal Referee Assessor Course and provided, for evaluation by the Member Association, a minimum of two Futsal Referee assessments completed at the District level, which meets the standard as determined by Canada Soccer.
- b) **Regional Futsal Referee Assessors:** Assessors, who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a District Futsal Referee Assessor, attended In-service training, and whose assessments, having been evaluated by the Member Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer.
- c) **Provincial Futsal Referee Assessors:** Assessors, who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a Regional Futsal Referee Assessor, attended In-service training, and whose assessments, having been evaluated by the Member Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer.
- d) **National Futsal Referee Assessors:** Assessors who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer, following nomination by a Member Association to Canada Soccer, and those Assessors who satisfy the criteria, established by Canada Soccer for outstanding ability, as determined by Canada Soccer.

20.9 Accredited Instructors

- a) **District Futsal Referee Instructors:** Instructors who have attended the Basic Futsal Referee Instructor Course and satisfied the Member Association that they have demonstrated the ability to instruct the Entry Level Futsal Referee Course to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.

- b) Provincial Futsal Referee Instructors:** Instructors who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a District Futsal Referee Instructor, attended In-service training, and whose Instructional ability, having been evaluated by the Member Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer to instruct at In-service training courses for referees up to and including Provincial Referee.
- c) National Futsal Referee Instructors:** Instructors who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer following nomination by a Member Association, and those Instructors who satisfy the criteria as determined by Canada Soccer, with outstanding ability to instruct at In-service training courses and events for referees up to and including National List Officials.

REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF COACHES

21. REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF COACHES

21.1 General

Member Associations are responsible for the administration of Coaches in their area who are registered with Canada Soccer as determined by Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer has responsibility for Coaches who are serving members of the Armed Forces outside of Canada.

Member Associations shall act as, or appoint, a Coaches' Committee to carry out its functions under these Regulations.

Canada Soccer shall act as, or appoint, the Technical Committee to carry out its functions under these Regulations.

21.2 Definitions

For the purpose of these Regulations the terms used will be defined as follows:

"Administer" To carry out the administrative procedures relating to the registration and control of Coaches as required or determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

"Review" The review by Canada Soccer and its Member Associations to ascertain the suitability of each Coach to continue to be eligible to be licensed. Such a review will take into consideration the Coach's performance on the field of play as defined in these Regulations, as modified by any written instructions to a Member Association from Canada Soccer. For the purposes of these Regulations, the General Secretary of Canada Soccer shall delegate such functions to the Technical Committee.

"Observations of Competency" Written appraisals of a Coach's performance on the field of play, carried out by a Coach Evaluator, on behalf of Canada Soccer or one of its Member Associations and submitted to the appropriate body.

"Coach" A person registered as qualified under these Regulations who may be engaged as a Coach.

"Coach Evaluator" Individuals authorized by Canada Soccer or one of its Member Associations to carry out evaluations of Coaches at levels determined by Canada Soccer.

"Community List" Those Coaches who have been trained as a Community Stream Coach in either Active Start, Fundamentals, Learn to Train, or Soccer for Life.

"Community Stream Coaching Workshop" A course of instruction as determined by Canada Soccer leading to the qualification of Community Stream Coaching candidates.

"Demonstration of Competency" An opportunity for coaches to provide evidence of their learning through submitting assignments (i.e. Personal Development Plan), Practice Session Plans, Practice Session videos and/or videos of them coaching in a match. These submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by a Coach Developer assigned by Canada Soccer for National Licences (i.e. Children's, Youth, B or A Licence), or a Member Association for the C Licence.

"Observe" To supervise written, oral, and/or video examination of Coaching candidates to the requirements and standards determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

"League" A Competition sanctioned under relevant Regulations by Canada Soccer or a Member Association.

"Learning Facilitators" Individuals authorized by Canada Soccer or one of its Member Associations to carry out workshops at levels determined by Canada Soccer.

"Indicators of Learning" Outcome achievement by a coach evaluator on completion of the Observation of Competency.

"National List" Those Coaches who hold a current and valid Canada Soccer Children's Licence (Children's Development Stream), Youth Licence (Youth Development Stream), B Licence, A Licence or Pro Licence (Performance Stream).

"Provincial/Territorial List" Those Coaches who hold a current and valid Canada Soccer C Licence.

21.3 Registration

- (a) No person shall be named as a Coach in any match or competition under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer either directly or indirectly unless registered in accordance with these Regulations.

[NOTE: A Competition may include in its regulations a provision by which a person who is not a Coach may carry out the duties of a Coach in a specific Match but only in circumstances where a Coach cannot be appointed for that Match].

- (b) A Coach must be registered with Canada Soccer through the Member Association within the area in which the Coach resides.
- (c) Registration will run from the date of registration until the following 31 March.
- (d) A person below 16 years of age shall not be registered as a Coach. A Coach must provide proof of their date of birth in such a manner as shall be determined by Canada Soccer.
- (e) The Member Association that conducts the Community Stream workshop will be responsible for the initial administration of a Coach.
- (f) A Coach will be required to pay the standard national registration fee to be determined annually by Canada Soccer. Member Associations will be notified by 30 September each year regarding the registration fee for the following registration period.
- (g) A Coach who changes residence from one Provincial/Territorial administrative area to another will be required to complete a Provincial/Territorial Transfer Form and be transferred to the new Member Association for administrative purposes but will not be required to pay a further registration fee for that registration period.
- (h) A Coach who has failed to register as a Coach with Canada Soccer for two (2) consecutive registration periods shall not be re-registered until an application has been considered by the Member Association within whose area the Coach resides at the time of application for re-registration. The registration process can be considered as an application for re-registration.
- (i) Member Associations may re-assess registered Coaches administered by them as determined by Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer must be notified, by the Member Association, of the names of Coaches who do not meet the standard determined by Canada Soccer.
- (j) Where considered not to be 'a fit and proper person' to act as a Coach, the certification and/or registration may be removed or suspended by the Member Association which administers the Coach or by Canada Soccer. Member Associations are to notify Canada Soccer of any action in this respect.
- (k) Member Associations are not permitted to take action to remove or suspend the certification or registration of National List Coaches, but may refuse to accept the registration of a National List Coach under the terms of its registration policy or suspend a National List Coach from

active coaching through its discipline and/or misconduct processes. Canada Soccer may take any action it deems appropriate.

- (l) Applications for the re-instatement of a Coach who has previously been disqualified under this Regulation must be referred to Canada Soccer for consideration.

21.4 Basic Coach Training and Initial Examination

- (a) Canada Soccer and its Member Associations shall be responsible for the basic training and initial observation, where required, of Coaches.
- (b) The requirements and standards for the Community Stream Coach workshop shall be set annually by Canada Soccer.
- (c) All Community Stream candidates shall be trained to be a Coach by completing an online e-Learning module or modules, followed by a practical on-field module.
- (d) Coaches who do not first complete the online e-Learning module will not be permitted to take the practical on-field module.

21.5 Classification

- (a) On behalf of Canada Soccer, each Member Association must classify Coaches that are not on the National or Provincial/Territorial List administered by their Association. The classification period runs from 1 April in each year, or the date of successful completion of the observation of competency, to the following 31 March.
- (b) On 1 April in each year Coaches are to be classified as follows:
 - 1. National List: Coaches who hold one or more of the following current and valid Canada Soccer coaching licences:
 - a. Children's Licence
 - b. Youth Licence
 - c. B Licence
 - d. A Licence
 - e. Pro Licence
 - 2. Provincial/Territorial List: Coaches who hold one or more of the following current and valid Canada Soccer coaching licences:
 - a. C Licence
 - 3. Community List: Coaches who have completed their training in any of the four (4) Community Stream workshops:
 - a. Active Start
 - b. Fundamentals
 - c. Learn to Train
 - d. Soccer for Life

- (c) Declared non-active Coaches: those Coaches who are no longer active but who may wish to maintain their registration with Canada Soccer (this does not include accredited Coach Evaluators or Learning Facilitators who are no longer active Coaches)
- (d) When a Coach changes residence from one Member Association to another, the classification level must be accepted by the Member Association into whose area the Coach has moved.
- (e) In addition to successfully demonstrating practical competency in one or more training sessions and/or in one or more games, Coaches will be required to successfully complete all tasks and assignments associated with their respective Licence in order to be awarded that Licence.
- (f) All Canada Soccer Coaching Licences are valid for a period of three (3) years. To renew that Licence for a further three (3) years, the Coach will be required to acquire the minimum number of professional development points and complete any additional requirements as determined by Canada Soccer and outlined in the Maintenance of Certification and Professional Development Policy.

21.6 Competitions

- (a) Member Associations are to advise successful candidates following their completion of a Community Stream workshop or C Licence, as to which local competitions they are eligible to coach. This may be done through the setting of standards, general or competition rules and regulations, or website posting.
- (b) Lists of Coaches shall be determined each season by Canada Soccer and Member Associations and made publicly available.
- (c) A Competition shall not have the authority to take action against the registration or certification of a Coach as provided for by the terms of the Coaches registration. Any allegation of an alleged breach under Regulation 21.8 or 21.10 must be reported to the Member Association, which must report to Canada Soccer for National List Coaches. Competitions may suspend a Coach from active coaching through its discipline and/or misconduct processes.

21.7 Training

- (a) Canada Soccer shall specify the training requirements of Coaches at all levels and be responsible for accrediting courses of instruction to meet those requirements.
- (b) Coaches will be required to attend accredited training at intervals determined by Canada Soccer. Only training that is delivered by trained or certified learning facilitators, will be accepted.
- (c) Training may be delivered, at the appropriate levels, in conjunction with Member Associations, by learning facilitators trained or certified by Canada Soccer.

21.8 Conduct of Coaches and Action in Relation to Registration and Certification

- (a) Canada Soccer or the Member Association, as appropriate, shall have the authority to take action against a Coach as provided for by the terms of the coach's registration. Such action may be taken against a coach who has:
 - 1. Willfully misstated their age, or, date of birth; or
 - 2. As a player or coach, violated the Laws of the Game to such a degree that a Disciplinary Committee subsequently imposes a penalty of suspension from playing or coaching; or
 - 3. Been found to have committed an act of misconduct pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of Canada Soccer or the rules of the Member Association.
- (b) Any ruling against a coach through the discipline and misconduct processes will result in the review of the coach's registration and certification by Canada Soccer or the Member Association.
- (c) Any ruling against a coach through the discipline and misconduct processes regarding behaviour found to constitute a breach under 21.8 or 21.10 must be brought to the attention of Canada Soccer or the Member Association within 14 days of the relevant incident(s) decision for such to be acted upon in respect of the Coach Certification and/or Registration.
- (d) Only Canada Soccer or the Member Association has the authority to take action against the registration or certification of a coach as provided for by the terms of the coach's registration. Such action may only be taken through its Technical or Coaches' Committee.
- (e) In considering action against the registration or certification of a coach, the Coaches or Technical Committee may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the determination of the matter brought before it and shall not be bound by any enactment of rule or law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.
- (f) The Coach shall be given the opportunity to respond to the incident(s) decision within 14 days and set out any submissions which they wish the Committee to consider when considering what, if any, action to take. These submissions shall be made in writing.
- (g) As a guide to the procedures to be followed, the following may be used unless the Committee or Panel considers it appropriate to amend them:
 - 1. The incident report and any supplemental reports as well as the incident(s) finding and decision will be provided to the Committee or Panel for consideration.
 - 2. Any additional information or evidence in support of the incident decision will be provided to the Committee or Panel for consideration.
 - 3. Evidence in response to the incident finding and decision submitted by the Coach will be provided to the Committee or Panel for consideration.

4. After consideration of all information provided, the Committee or Panel shall make a decision as to any action against the registration or certification of the Coach as provided for by the terms of the Coaches registration. The decision shall be subsequently confirmed in writing.

5. The Committee or Panel shall have the power to take action as it considers appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, censure, a period of remedial training, suspension or of removal of Registration and/or Certification.

- (h) A Coach may be dealt with as a participant in any alleged misconduct pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of Canada Soccer or the Member Association and/or Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code (i.e. by a Disciplinary Panel) or that of the Member Association, in addition to having action taken against them as provided for by the terms of registration. In such cases, a charge of misconduct shall be considered before any matter relating to the issue of Registration is dealt with by the Coaches' Committee under Rule 21.8 (a) (b) or (c).
- (i) In circumstances where it is considered appropriate, Canada Soccer or the Member Association may order that the Registration of a Coach be suspended with immediate effect pending determination of a charge of misconduct; the coach will be notified of the reason for such suspension and reported in writing of the reason for suspension and reported to the Disciplinary Panel hearing any resultant charge.
- (j) Action in respect of the Registration of Coaches on the National List will be considered by the appropriate committee of Canada Soccer.

21.9 Appeals against Decisions of the Coaches' Committee

- (a) Where Canada Soccer or a Member Association, takes an action against a Coach under Regulation 21.8, then there shall be a right of appeal by the Coach against the decision (other than as set out below).
- (b) There shall be no right of appeal against a decision as provided in relation to the registration or classification of a Coach taken which is taken as part of the Annual Review by Canada Soccer, or Member Association.
- (c) Notice of an appeal against a decision made under Regulation 21.8 must be lodged with Canada Soccer or the appropriate Member Association within 14 days of notification of the decision appealed against and shall be accompanied by a fee of \$1500.
- (d) An Appeal shall be considered by an Appeals Panel comprised of members of the Canada Soccer Judicial Bodies or appropriate Member Association's Judicial Body established specifically to deal with appeals from decisions.

21.10 Codes of Conduct

Coaches shall be bound the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics.

21.11 Accredited Coach Evaluators

- (a) Coach Evaluators will be accredited by Canada Soccer in accordance with the NCCP criterion outlined below:
1. **Provincial/Territorial Coach Evaluators:** Coach Evaluators who are certified to evaluate candidates undertaking the Canada Soccer C Licence and B Licence
 2. **National Coach Evaluators:** Coach Evaluators who are certified to evaluate candidates undertaking the Canada Soccer Children's Licence, Youth Licence, A Licence and/or Pro Licence.
- (b) Coach Evaluators must attend Coach Evaluator in-service training as determined by Canada Soccer to maintain their accreditation. Re-accreditation will be dependent upon the Coach Evaluator having successfully completed a minimum of five (5) evaluations each year at the accredited level; attendance at in-service training; one (1) co-evaluation each year; and evaluation of assessments by Canada Soccer staff to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.

21.12 Accredited Learning Facilitators

- (a) Learning Facilitators will be accredited by Canada Soccer in accordance with the NCCP criterion outlined below:
1. **Community Learning Facilitators:** Learning Facilitators who have completed the Community Learning Facilitator training workshop and satisfied Canada Soccer that they have demonstrated the ability to facilitate the Community Coach workshops to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.
 2. **Provincial/Territorial Learning Facilitators:** Learning Facilitators who have completed the Provincial/Territorial Learning Facilitator training workshop and satisfied Canada Soccer that they have demonstrated the ability to facilitate the C Licence workshops to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.
 3. **National Learning Facilitators:** Learning Facilitators who have completed the National Learning Facilitator training workshop and satisfied Canada Soccer that they have demonstrated the ability to facilitate the Children's Licence, Youth Licence, B Licence, A Licence and/or Pro Licence workshops to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.
- (b) Learning Facilitators must attend in-service training as determined by Canada Soccer to maintain their accreditation. Re-accreditation will be dependent upon the Learning Facilitator having completed a minimum of two (2) workshops at the accredited level; attendance at in-service training; annual maintenance of a Coach Development – Personal Development Plan (CD-PDP); and, an evaluation of facilitation by Canada Soccer staff to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.

21.13. Member Association Responsibilities for Registered Coaches

- (a) **Personal Accident Insurance:** Member Associations are encouraged to investigate the need for Personal Accident Insurance for Coaches.

- (b) **Community Coach Training of New Coaches:** the training of new Coaches is an important area which Member Associations have responsibility towards the development of the future of the game. Canada Soccer supports this area with provision of material support and facilitator development.
- (c) **General Advice:** General advice and guidance on all soccer related matters, including directives and information from Canada Soccer, should be disseminated by the Member Association to those Coaches it administers.
- (d) **Coach Discipline:** the regulations devolve the responsibility for Coach discipline, of those Coaches not operating on the National List, to the Member Association who administers the Coach's registration. A Coach may be dealt with in the normal course as a participant for any alleged misconduct pursuant to the Rules of Canada Soccer (i.e. by a Disciplinary Panel), in addition to having issues relating to the Registration as a Coach considered by the appropriate Coaches' Committee. Coaches should be made aware of the process by which any acts of misconduct, or discipline in relation to their registration, will be dealt with by the Member Association.
- (e) **Nominations to Coach Evaluator or Learning Facilitator training workshops:** Member Associations should identify those candidates it considers suitable to attend the Accredited Coach Developer training workshops in accordance with the criteria notified by Canada Soccer.
- (f) **Liaison with the Canada Soccer Development Department:** Member Associations should make every use of the services of Canada Soccer's Development Department in the support of its responsibilities for registered Coaches.