



REGULATIONS • RÈGLEMENTS

2025



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1. CANADA SOCCER'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.1 Canada Soccer's National Championships (in French, "Championnats nationaux de Canada Soccer") are competitions owned and managed by Canada Soccer.

1.2 The National Championships take place annually and consist of the following six amateur divisions: Challenge Trophy for men's amateur soccer; Jubilee Trophy for women's amateur soccer; Boys' U-17 Cup; Girls' U-17 Cup; Boys' U-15 Cup; Girls' U-15 Cup.

1.3 For the purposes of these Regulations for the National Championships (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations"), wherever duly noted, "PTSO" refers to Canada Soccer's Provincial and Territorial Soccer Organisations (also known as Canada Soccer's Provincial and Territorial Member Associations).

1.4 For each division of the National Championships, at least one Participating Club from each PTSO is eligible to participate, subject only to regional preliminary qualifying series as may be determined by Canada Soccer and provided for in these Regulations. A Participating Club may not have more than one qualified team in any division of the National Championships.

1.5 These Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all participating Clubs taking part in National Championships (hereinafter: "Club") and of the Local Organising Committee (hereinafter: "LOC") by forming an integral part of the Hosting Agreement.

1.6 *Canada Soccer By-laws, Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations, and all Policies in force shall apply.*

1.6.1 Any reference in these Regulations to Canada Soccer By-laws, *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations, and Policies* refers to those valid at the time of application.

1.6.2 In the event of any conflict, *Canada Soccer By-laws, Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations* and Policies shall take precedence.

1.6.3 In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the translations of *Canada Soccer By-laws, Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations, and Policies*, the English version shall be authoritative.

1.7 Within the constraints of these Regulations, Canada Soccer, through its Organising Committee may adapt these Regulations to address specific situations not otherwise provided for, as necessary to address the competition objectives of Canada Soccer.

1.8 Any rights that are not ceded by the Regulations for the National Championships to the LOC or any PTSO or Club shall remain with Canada Soccer.

1.9 The Club's selected players, coaches, and staff members accredited for the National Championships are collectively referenced as the Team Delegation List (hereinafter: "Team Delegation List"). For the purposes of these Regulations, a youth is any person under the age of 18 before the 1st of January of the current year for Canada Soccer's National Championships.

1.10 The playing season referenced in these Regulations shall be the one ending in the calendar year in which the National Championships will be played (for the 2025 National Championships, the 2024-25 and 2025 seasons)

1.11 On entering the National Championships, all Clubs automatically undertake to:

- 1.11.1 Observe these Regulations;
- 1.11.2 Sign the Club Participation Agreement and comply with the terms therein;
- 1.11.3 Acknowledge that failure to comply with any of the requirements within these Regulations shall render any organisation or individual subject to disciplinary procedures; and
- 1.11.4 Observe the principles of fair play and abide by all Safe Sport principles being enforced by Canada Soccer.

2. CANADA SOCCER COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

2.1 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee is an Operational Committee of Canada Soccer appointed by the General Secretary to oversee competitions in accordance with its Terms of Reference. In addition to its overall responsibilities the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee has specific responsibilities for the National Championships including, but not limited to:

- 2.1.1 Replacing Clubs who have withdrawn from the National Championships;

- 2.1.2 Deciding on cases of each PTSO or Clubs failing to adhere to the timelines and/or the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents;
- 2.1.3 Settling cases of force majeure; and
- 2.1.4 Dealing with any other aspect of the National Championships that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations or Canada Soccer By-laws.

2.2 Any decisions taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee regarding the National Championships are final and binding, unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

3. CANADA SOCCER ORGANISING COMMITTEE

3.1 A Canada Soccer Organising Committee shall be appointed for each hosting location of the National Championships. It will consist of the appointed Match Commissioner, General Coordinator, Assistant General Coordinator, Supervisor of Officials, the LOC Chair, and any other persons deemed necessary.

3.2 The Canada Soccer Organising Committee shall be responsible for the in-venue operation and execution of the respective competition to which it is appointed. The duties of each position will be provided to the appointee.

3.3 The Match Commissioner (hereinafter: “Match Commissioner”) acts as the senior Canada Soccer appointee and is responsible for the overall management of the competition and specifically deals with disciplinary matters, protests, admissibility, and leads the crisis management team.

3.4 The General Coordinator (hereinafter: “General Coordinator”) is responsible for all operational aspects related to the staging of the competition.

3.5 The LOC Chair is responsible for all logistics and delivering the requirements of the Hosting Agreement.

3.6 The Supervisor of Officials (hereinafter: “Supervisor of Officials”) is responsible for the overall management of referees, assistant referees and fourth officials (hereinafter: “Match Officials”) as well as the referee assessors. The Supervisor of Officials is appointed to each competition by Canada Soccer Referees Committee.

4. LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE (LOC)

4.1 Canada Soccer appoints the hosts for the National Championships (hereinafter: "Host").

4.2 The Host is responsible for organising, hosting, and staging the selected National Championship competition. The Host shall set up a LOC in accordance with the Hosting Agreement to establish financial controls, budgets and reports, preparing concepts for review, and ensuring standards are met for each event. Canada Soccer Competitions Committee requires Hosts to complete Concepts of Operations in accordance with the timelines approved by Canada Soccer.

4.3 The obligations and responsibilities of the LOC with respect to the National Championships are stipulated in the Hosting Agreement.

4.4 The LOC shall ensure that any decision taken by Canada Soccer Competitions Committee relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

5. PTSO REPRESENTATIVES

5.1 Each PTSO must appoint a person to act as its representative (referenced in these Regulations as the "PTSO Representative") for each hosting venue of the National Championships in which their province or territory is competing. The PTSO Representative must:

- 5.1.1 Not be a member of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee, Team Delegation List, or immediate family of a person on the Team Delegation List, regardless even if they serve on the PTSO Board or staff from the PTSO;
- 5.1.2 Stay at the host hotel, unless dispensation has been granted by Canada Soccer, but not share a hotel room with any members of the Team Delegation List;
- 5.1.3 Be present in the host location for the entire duration of the National Championships. They must arrive with, or on the same day as, the first Club and depart with, or after, their last Club has left the host venue;
- 5.1.4 Be approved by the PTSO Board and hold Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) Clearance or Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC). For this purpose, an E-PIC or CRC with VSC clearance must have been issued within 12 months of the end date for respective competition;
- 5.1.5 Be present at all Canada Soccer mandated meetings, including the pre-departure meeting for Club coaches and staff (hereinafter: "Team Officials") traveling to the Canada Soccer National Championships;

- 5.1.6 Attend both the PTSO Representatives Meeting as well as the Pre-Competition Meeting;
 - 5.1.7 Attend all disciplinary hearings involving any member of the Team Delegation List from one of their Clubs;
 - 5.1.8 Attend daily meetings with the Match Commissioner during the competition;
 - 5.1.9 Be responsible to the Match Commissioner for the communication of all matters relating to the Clubs. In this regard, the PTSO Representative must be in possession of a cell phone that can operate in the host venue;
 - 5.1.10 Ensure that all members of the Club adhere to the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics;
 - 5.1.11 Ensure all members of the Club wear their Canada Soccer accreditation badge;
 - 5.1.12 Participate on a Competition Discipline Committee if appointed by the Match Commissioner during the competition;
 - 5.1.13 Attend all official functions of the competition and must be dressed appropriately as advised by the LOC; and
 - 5.1.14 Report all incidents of property damage by the Club(s) involved to the Match Commissioner and to the LOC Chair.
- 5.2 A Canada Soccer accreditation badge will be provided for only one PTSO Representative for each hosting location of the National Championships.

6. PARTICIPATING CLUBS

- 6.1 Clubs shall participate in one of the following competition categories:

National Championships

Adult/Senior Amateur – Men and Women’s
Open Age.

U-17 Cup – Youth Boys and Girls

All players under 17 years of age before 1 January of the current year.

U-15 Cup – Youth Boys and Girls

All players under 15 years of age before 1 January of the current year.

Other National Championships

As may be defined from time to time by Canada Soccer.

- 6.2 Each PTSO must confirm their participation for entry in the National Championships annually as determined by Canada Soccer.

6.2.1 Each PTSO must provide Canada Soccer with an overview of each of their qualifying competitions (which includes all league and/or cup matches that may lead into the final qualifying stage for the National Championships). The overview must be provided in a timely manner from the moment the PTSO declares for the upcoming National Championships (with updates to the overview provided as they become available). The overview must include:

- 6.2.1.1 Format and link to competition website;
- 6.2.1.2 Start date and end date;
- 6.2.1.3 List of all teams in all parts of league and/or Cup matches (including final standings);
- 6.2.1.4 Total number of matches

6.3 Each PTSO must advise Canada Soccer of its qualified Clubs immediately. Each Club must meet the minimum Canada Soccer Club Licensing Program requirement for that competition year in order to be eligible to participate in the National Championships.

6.4 On entering the National Championships, the Club automatically undertakes to:

- 6.4.1 Comply with the maximum number of players and Team Officials as defined in these Regulations;
- 6.4.2 Observe these Regulations and the principles of fair play;
- 6.4.3 Accept and obey all decisions taken by Canada Soccer and its officials under the terms of these Regulations;
- 6.4.4 Respect the deadlines as set by Canada Soccer and the LOC;
- 6.4.5 Participate in all matches of the respective National Championships in which the Club is scheduled to take part;
- 6.4.6 Accept all the arrangements relating to the respective National Championships made by Canada Soccer and the LOC;
- 6.4.7 Accept the usage by Canada Soccer, as well as the recording and broadcast of the images, names and records of all participants that may appear in connection with the National Championships; and
- 6.4.8 Ensure the provision of adequate insurance to cover the Club and any other person carrying out duties on its behalf against all risks, including, but not limited to, injury, accident and travel.

6.5 In addition, each Club shall be responsible for:

- 6.5.1 The actions of its Club members including the Team Delegation List and spectators; they must take all precautions necessary to prevent anyone from threatening or assaulting any other person at matches, especially the Match Officials and volunteers;
- 6.5.2 Paying for costs incurred not covered by the LOC during the course of its stay in the host venue;
- 6.5.3 Attending official media activities when requested to do so; and

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- 6.5.4 Attending official meetings, PTSO Representative meetings, disciplinary hearings, and other meetings called by Canada Soccer in-venue.
- 6.6 To be eligible to participate in the National Championships, a Club must have a minimum of 17 registered players who are eligible to participate in the Provincial Tournament leading to the National Championships.
- 6.6.1 Clubs must be able to field a minimum of 15 players to participate in the National Championships, including at least one goalkeeper. Clubs who fail to meet this minimum standard will be subject to sanction.
- 6.7 Each Club must be affiliated with its respective PTSO. Each Club's Team will be certified as eligible for the National Championships after their Team Delegation List has been approved by their PTSO. Only members of the Team Delegation List approved by the PTSO will be provided an accreditation badge for permission to enter any accredited areas.
- 6.8 No qualified Club(s) may be replaced without the approval of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee (see Article 8).
- 6.9 Any PTSO or Club that withdraws after the deadline will be subject to sanction in accordance with Articles 7.2 and 7.3.
- 6.10 Members of the Team Delegation List cannot temporarily leave and return to the National Championships, without prior approval of the Match Commissioner. Depending on the reason for leaving, players may be required to submit a return-to-play form.
- 6.10.1 Any member of the Team Delegation List who wish to permanently leave the National Championships must notify the Match Commissioner prior to their departure, confirmed by the PTSO Representative.
- 6.10.2 A player who receives any medical attention during the National Championships will be required to provide the Match Commissioner with a return-to-play form signed by the registered medical practitioner who attended the player.
- 6.11 Once a PTSO has declared its Clubs and before departure to the National Championships, the Team Officials and PTSO Representative must review these Regulations and attend a virtual preparation meeting where Canada Soccer will review expectations. Canada Soccer will provide the content for this meeting.

6.11.1 Following the Canada Soccer preparation meeting, Team Officials shall meet with their players and review these Regulations and expectations. Players are also to be informed of the procedures to follow, and who to contact, in the event of any problems during the competition.

6.12 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may reject the participation of any Club at its entire discretion where the Club fails to meet the criteria.

7. WITHDRAWAL, UN-PLAYED MATCHES, AND ABANDONED MATCHES

7.1 All Clubs undertake to play all of their matches.

7.2 Any Clubs failing to attend or withdrawing from a National Championship competition after the deadline shall be fined a minimum of \$2,500 plus any associated expenses incurred by Canada Soccer and/or the LOC.

7.3 Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, Canada Soccer may impose additional sanctions, including the expulsion from subsequent competitions.

7.4 Where a match is not played, except in the case of force majeure recognised by Canada Soccer Organising Committee, the Match Commissioner shall be presented with the facts. The Match Commissioner will determine if/when the match can be played and if any disciplinary action needs to be taken.

7.5 A Club must arrive at the venue for its scheduled match no later than 50 minutes before the designated kick-off time.

7.5.1 Failure to do so, without just cause, may result in the Club forfeiting the game or expulsion from the competition and all its scheduled matches declared null and void. The PTSO will be required to provide an explanation of the actions of its Club to Canada Soccer, and may be subject to sanction.

7.6 Where a match is abandoned because of floodlight failure, weather, or any outside influence, and more than 70 percent of the match has been played, the result at the time of abandonment will be recorded as the final score.

7.6.1 If the score is tied and the competition requires a result, the winner will be determined by the toss of a coin, which will be conducted by the General Coordinator in the presence of the Match Commissioner and the respective PTSO Representatives.

7.7 Where a match is abandoned because of floodlight failure, weather, or any outside influence, and less than 70 percent of the match has been played, the match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted. The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:

- 7.7.1 The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned;
- 7.7.2 No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
- 7.7.3 The Clubs can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- 7.7.4 Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- 7.7.5 Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- 7.7.6 The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by the Match Commissioner in consultation with the LOC; and
- 7.7.7 Any matters requiring further decision shall be dealt with by the Match Commissioner in consultation with members of the Canada Soccer Organising Committee as necessary.

7.8 Where a match is abandoned because of floodlight failure, weather, or any outside influence on the final day of the competition, regardless of how much of the match has been played, the result at the time of abandonment will be recorded as the final score. If the score is tied the winner will be determined by the toss of a coin, which will be conducted by the General Coordinator in the presence of the Match Commissioner and the respective PTSO Representatives.

7.9 Where match(es) is(are) cancelled or cannot take place because of adverse weather conditions, Canada Soccer will determine the subsequent action and outcome of the competition. This decision will be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

7.10 Where a match is abandoned as a result of a discipline issue from one of the competing Clubs, the matter shall be reported to the Match Commissioner who will convene a disciplinary hearing to decide the appropriate course of action. On the final day such issues will be referred to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for its action.

7.11 Where a Club forfeits a match, it is considered to have a loss of 3-0, unless the goal difference on the pitch is greater than 3-0, in which case the score at the time of abandonment is upheld. The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may take further action as deemed appropriate.

8. REPLACEMENT CLUBS

8.1 If a qualified Club is unable to participate in the National Championships, Canada Soccer Competitions Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion.

9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

9.1 Only players registered with a PTSO shall be eligible to compete in the National Championships. All players must be eligible to participate in their PTSO competition leading into the National Championships.

For the adult/senior National Championships, at least 12 players must be:

- 9.1.1 A Canadian Citizen; or
- 9.1.2 A Permanent Resident (as defined by the Government of Canada); or
- 9.1.3 A Protected Person (as defined by the Government of Canada).

For all competitions regardless of age category, any player that transfers from another country into Canada must obtain an International Transfer Certificate prior to registering and playing soccer in Canada.

9.2 The Match Commissioner may request proof of eligibility at any time. Failure to provide the proof will result in the player not being permitted to play. Proof of eligibility is as follows for:

- 9.2.1 Canadian Citizen – valid passport or birth certificate (or colour copy of birth certificate);
- 9.2.2 Permanent Resident – valid permanent resident card; or proof of permanent residency as provided by the Government of Canada;
- 9.2.3 Protected Person – documents as provided by the Government of Canada,

9.3 The deadline for registration with the PTSO shall be at least 35 days before the completion of the declared qualifying competition for the 2025 National Championships, but in all cases before 31 July 2025.

9.4 The deadline for player transfers shall be at least 35 days before the completion of the declared qualifying competition for the 2025 National Championships, but in all cases before 31 July 2025.

9.5 Transfers from a club in one PTSO to a club in another PTSO must be completed in writing, duly signed by the club and forwarded to the PTSO where the player is currently registered for final approval. A player will be considered transferred once the transfer has been accepted by the receiving PTSO.

9.6 Any player who registered with a club in one PTSO and then registered with a club in another PTSO without the proper inter-provincial transfer will be ineligible to play in the National Championships for that calendar year.

9.7 All registered players must be assigned to the team at least 21 days before the completion of the declared qualifying competition for the 2025 National Championships, but in all cases before 31 August 2025.

9.8 A player who is registered to a Club and appears on a match sheet in a standards-based league (BCSPL, APDL, OPDL, PLSJQ) is not eligible to participate at the National Championships in that same competition year. Players who appear on a match sheet under a trial permit (sometimes referenced as a “guest” player) are permitted to play at the National Championships (only one three-game trial permit which is valid for a maximum of 30 days).

9.9 A Club may not register additional players or have additional players assigned to the team after qualifying for the National Championships.

9.10 A Club may request to call up or pick up additional players that are not assigned to the team, in accordance with Article 24.

9.11 Any player registered as a professional player will only be eligible to play in an amateur competition after they are reinstated as an amateur player. A player must be reinstated as an amateur player at least 35 days before the completion of the declared qualifying competition for the 2025 National Championships, but in all cases before 31 July 2025.

9.12 An amateur player who is registered and is listed on a match sheet with a Club in a Professional League, Member Association Professional or Pro/Am League (sometimes referenced as semi-professional, such as League1 Canada) less than 90 days before the completion of the declared qualifying competition is not eligible to compete in the 2025 National Championships.

9.12.1 An exemption will only be granted if the player had a trial permit to play a maximum of one set of three trial matches per outdoor season with any Club in a Professional League, Member Association Professional or Pro/Am League, provided the

permit-to-play form (available from Member Associations) has been submitted and approved. Any such forms must be submitted to Canada Soccer at least 21 days before the opening match of the National Championships.

9.13 A player who is registered to an amateur club that has an amateur team participating in a Pro/Am League (including League1 Canada) and who has been called up to play maximum three matches with said amateur team, shall be deemed eligible to participate in the National Championships.

9.14 A player who participates in a regional Masters competition, organised by Canada Soccer, is eligible to participate at the National Championships in that same competition year.

For 2025, the following charts may be referenced to understand player eligibility for adult/senior National Championships.

| Registered or Participated Adult or Youth League (2024-25 / 2025) | #NatChamps |
|--|-------------------|
| Canadian Championship 2025 (appeared on a 2025 match sheet) | NO |
| Pro League (as a professional player) | NO |
| Pro League (as an amateur player) | See Article 9 |
| Pro League (with a trial permit) | See Article 9 |
| Pro League (with a development permit) | See Article 9 |
| Member Association Pro League or Pro/Am League (including League1 Canada) | NO |
| Pro/Am League (maximum three trial games) | See Article 9 |
| Amateur League (adult competitive) | YES |
| MLS NEXT (youth, any age) | NO |
| National Development Centres (youth, any age) | See Article 9 |
| PDP Championship 2025 (appeared on a 2025 match sheet) | NO |
| #PDP League (youth, at any age) | See Article 9 |
| Amateur League (youth competitive, any age) | See Article 9 |

9.15 A youth-aged player who has been registered as an adult/senior amateur player for the current season may not play in Canada Soccer's U-17 Cup or U-15 Cup, unless they have, upon request, been reinstated as a youth amateur player by their PTSO at least 60 days before the completion of the declared qualifying competition for the National Championships, but in no case later than 30 June 2025.

9.16 A youth-aged player who is registered to a team in a competitive youth league may not play in a younger age category (Canada Soccer's U-17 Cup or U-15 Cup), unless they have been transferred or re-registered to the younger age category by their PTSO at least 60 days before the completion of the declared qualifying competition for the National Championships, but in no case later than 30 June 2025.

9.17 A youth-aged player who is registered to a team in a standards-based league at any age category (BCSPL, ADPL, ODPL, PLSJQ) may not play in youth National Championships (Canada Soccer's U-17 Cup or U-15 Cup), unless they have been transferred or re-registered to the appropriate age category by their PTSO at least 60 days before the completion of the declared qualifying competition for the National Championships, but in no case later than 30 June 2025.

9.17.1 A youth-aged player from a standards-based league may, with approval, be called up to the adult/senior National Championships, in accordance with Article 24.

The following charts may be referenced to understand player eligibility for the Canada Soccer's Youth Competitions Network (Canada Soccer's U-17 Cup or U-15 Cup).

| Registered or Participated Youth or Adult League (2024-25 / 2025) | #NatChamps U-17 Cup | #NatChamps U-15 Cup |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Canadian Championship 2025 (appeared on a 2025 match sheet) | NO | NO |
| Pro League (as a professional player) | NO | NO |
| Pro League (as an amateur player) | NO | NO |
| Pro League (with a trial permit) | NO | NO |
| Pro League (with a development permit) | NO | NO |
| Member Association Pro League or Pro/Am League (including League1 Canada) | NO | NO |
| Pro/Am League (maximum three trial games) | See Article 9 | See Article 9 |
| Amateur League (adult competitive) | NO | NO |
| MLS NEXT (youth, any age) | NO | NO |

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| National Development Centres (youth, any age) | NO | NO |
| PDP Championship 2025 (appeared on a 2025 match sheet) | NO | NO |
| #PDP League (youth, at any age) | NO | NO |
| Youth Competitive U-18 League | NO | NO |
| Youth Competitive U-17 League | YES | NO |
| Youth Competitive U-16 League | See Article 9 | NO |
| Youth Competitive U-15 League | See Article 9 | YES |
| Youth Competitive U-14 League | See Article 9 | See Article 9 |
| Youth Competitive U-13 League | See Article 9 | See Article 9 |

10. ELIGIBILITY OF TEAM OFFICIALS

10.1 Each Club must have at least one Team Official identified as the same gender as the division in which the Club competes, be it men's soccer (including any boys' youth divisions) or women's soccer (including any girls' youth divisions). One such Team Official must be present within the technical area for every match (the role cannot be filled by a player) and must remain with the Club for every day of the competition.

10.2 Each Club must have at least one Team Official that has completed the CCES E-learning requirements as mandated by the Canada Soccer. A copy of the CCES certificate for each of the required courses must be submitted through the competition platform along with the Team Delegation List.

10.3 All accredited Team Officials must have completed proper Background Screening, including a Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) or Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) within the last 12 months.

10.4 Each Club's coaches are required to have the following in order to meet the coaching requirements for the National Championships:

1. Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screen or E-PIC
2. Soccer for Life – Theory Module
3. Soccer for Life – Practical Module
4. NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Module and/or Online Evaluation
5. Respect in Sport Activity Leader Program
6. NCCP Making Headway Module
7. NCCP Emergency Action Planning Module
8. NCCP Rule of Two Module

10.5 A Club may only include a youth-aged Team Official if an exemption has been granted by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee in accordance with Article 10.6. The youth-aged Team Official must meet the following criteria:

- 10.5.1 The respective Club has a coach mentorship program in place as part of the Club Developmental Plan, in which the youth-aged staff member is a participant;
- 10.5.2 As of 1 January 2025, the youth-aged staff coach must be at least 16 years of age, but under the age of 19 years;
- 10.5.3 The youth-aged staff coach must be at least one year older than the age division in which the Club is competing;
- 10.5.4 The youth-aged staff coach must have been a member of the Club's team staff during the season;
- 10.5.5 The youth-aged staff coach must comply with Canada Soccer and PTSO volunteer screening policies, including having valid E-PIC Clearance;
- 10.5.6 The youth-aged staff coach must be supervised by an adult Team Official at all times; and
- 10.5.7 The youth-aged staff coach must be supervised in the same manner as a youth-aged player as outlined in these Regulations.

10.7 Coaching qualifications are set annually by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee in consultation with Canada Soccer Technical Department. Please refer to your PTSO for the current requirements.

11. TEAM DELEGATION LIST (PLAYERS & OFFICIALS)

Each PTSO will ensure that Canada Soccer can announce a Club's qualification to the National Championships on the day that the Club qualifies. Within five days of qualification, the PTSO will provide:

- 11.1.1 Club Contacts, specifically the name(s) and email(s) of the person(s) that will be responsible for registering the Team Delegation List on Canada Soccer's competitions platform (COMET);
- 11.1.2 Club President contact, specifically the name and email of the Club President;
- 11.1.3 a copy of the Club's registered team roster for the National Championships division in which they have qualified.

11.2 Within 10 days of the Club's qualification, the Participating Club must complete the following requirements for participation in the National Championships:

- 11.2.1 Complete Canada Soccer's Club Participation Agreement;

- 11.2.2 Ensure that the Club's registered players from their qualifying competition have been added and linked to their "Club" on COMET for the National Championships, including each player's details and headshot image;
- 11.2.3 Ensure that all Team Officials (coaches and staff) from their qualifying competition have been added and linked to their "Club" on COMET for the National Championships, including each person's details, headshot image, and (when applicable) coaching certification number as well as CCES certification;
- 11.2.4 Provide team names (including leagues/divisions and age categories) for any teams or reserve teams within the Club structure from which potential call-up players may be considered.
- 11.3 At 21 days before the Pre-Competition Meeting for the National Championships (by 16 September 2025), all Clubs must submit their Team Delegation List and uniform colours (hereinafter: "Team Kit Colours") on COMET for the National Championships, specifically:
- 11.3.1 From the list of players linked to the "Club" on COMET, select a minimum of 15 players (including at least one goalkeeper) for their "Team" participating at the National Championships. Clubs can select maximum 21 players for an adult/senior National Championships or maximum 20 players for a youth National Championships (U-17 Cup or U-15 Cup);
- 11.3.2 From the list of Team Officials linked to the "Club" on COMET, select a minimum of two officials (including at least one official from the same gender as the division in which their players are competing) with a maximum of five Officials for their "Team" participating at the National Championships;
- 11.3.3 Through their "Team" page on COMET, show at least two variations of their Team Kit for outfield players (one combination with a light colour for the shirts and socks; another combination with a dark colour for the shirts and socks) as well as at least three variations of their Team Kit for goalkeepers (they must wear colours that are distinguishable from the outfield players).
- 11.4 By 14 days before the Pre-Competition Meeting for the National Championships, each PTSO must approve the eligibility of the Team Delegation List for the National Championships. Each Club must also identify each player's official Team Kit Number for the National Championships so that the same Team Kit Number is worn by the same player across entire week of the National Championships. Within the last 14 days before the National Championships, any and all changes may only be made with the approval of Canada Soccer.
- 11.5 Players and Team Officials from the Team Delegation List who have received Canada Soccer accreditation badge and are indicated as present on

the match sheet must occupy a position in the technical area unless dispensation has been granted by the Match Commissioner.

11.6 At the National Championships, all members of the Team Delegation List must wear their Canada Soccer accreditation badge starting before their arrival to all competition venues (including any official transportation to the stadiums and fields).

11.6.1 All players and Officials must wear their Canada Soccer accreditation badge to any official functions including the Opening Ceremonies and Official Medals Ceremony. All eligible players and Officials from the Team Delegation List must also wear their Canada Soccer accreditation badge in and around all areas of the official team hotel.

12. MATCH SHEETS

12.1 Clubs must submit their completed match sheets through Canada Soccer's competitions platform (COMET) no later than 45 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Once submitted, the roster is locked and no changes will be permitted to the match sheet unless approved by the General Coordinator or designate.

12.2 Clubs will list their players and Officials on each match sheet through COMET (Clubs must identify a starting goalkeeper and a starting captain for each match).

12.3 Each Club will be provided six substitution slips per match which may be used in the following manner: one "Half-Time" slip which may be used only at half-time for an unlimited number of substitutions; five regular slips that may be used during regulation time for five substitutions (one substitution per slip), but not after the full-time whistle in matches to be decided by a penalty shootout.

12.3.1 Eligible players may re-enter the match even after a previous exit through substitution, but may not re-enter if they were substituted out with a suspected concussion.

12.4 In accordance with the Laws of the Game, each Club may also use a "Concussion" substitution slip. Each Club will be permitted to use a maximum of one "Concussion" substitution in a match, regardless of the number of substitutions already used in the match. When a "Concussion" substitution is used by one Club, the opposing Club has the option to use an additional substitution for any reason.

12.5 If any of the 11 starting players submitted on the match sheet are not able to begin the match due to injury or illness, they may be replaced by any of the eligible substitutes as long as the General Coordinator or Assistant General Coordinator is officially informed prior to kick-off. The General Coordinator or Assistant General Coordinator will advise the opponent as well as the Match Officials. The Club may not add an additional substitute to the Match Sheet.

12.5.1 Further to the above, any injured or ill player who is removed from the start list will no longer be eligible to take part in the match, and thus cannot be used as a substitute at any time during the match. Such a change will not reduce the number of official substitutions that may be made by a Club during the match.

12.5.2 Although no longer eligible to be used as a substitute, the injured or ill player who was removed from the start list must be seated on the substitutes' bench unless medical attention is necessary. The player will be subject to the authority of the Match Officials and will be eligible for doping control selection.

12.6 Only the players who were identified on the official match sheet submitted to the General Coordinator/Assistant General Coordinator or were confirmed as a warm-up injury/illness replacement player, may start the match. In the case of any discrepancies of players on the pitch at the beginning of a match, the matter will be submitted to the Match Commissioner.

12.7 The minimum number of players required to start a match is seven, one of whom must be a goalkeeper.

12.8 If a player, from a Club with only seven players, leaves the field of play to receive medical attention, the match will be suspended until this player has received treatment and is able to return to the field of play. If the player is unable to return, the match is abandoned and the Club forfeits the match in accordance with Article 7.11. A report will be submitted by the referee to the Match Commissioner.

12.9 If a player from a Club with only seven players is sent from the field of play for a disciplinary offence, the match is abandoned. The Club causing the abandonment will forfeit the match and a report will be submitted by the referee to the Match Commissioner. See Article 7.11.

12.10 Adult players serving a suspension are not permitted to sit in the technical area. Youth-aged players must serve their suspension by sitting in a designated position in the technical area by the team bench (the suspended player must wear a bib as determined by the General Coordinator). This designated position is subject to approval of the Match Officials.

12.10.1 Suspended players sitting in the technical area may not take any part in the match, which includes any unwarranted engagement with Match Officials, opposing players, or Team Officials. Suspended players remain subject to the authority of the Match Officials.

12.11 A Club that is found guilty of fielding an ineligible player for any reason shall forfeit the match in accordance with Article 7.11.

13. FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

13.1 The format for each competition shall be determined in advance by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee and set out in the match schedule.

13.2 For the 2025 National Championships, Clubs will be seeded in each division based on their PTSO's highest final ranking in that same division of the 2024 National Championships.

13.3 Canada Soccer may include a "second" Club from any PTSO for any division of the National Championships. Canada Soccer will prioritise the addition of a "second" Club from the hosting location's PTSO. When a "second" Club from a PTSO not hosting the National Championships is included, it will be the second-place Club or runners up in the PTSO's declared qualifying competition.

13.3.1 Only Clubs from a declared PTSO qualifying competition with four or more teams may be considered for inclusion as a PTSO's "second" Club in the National Championships;

13.3.2 For the purposes of seeding Clubs in any division of the National Championships, the "second" Club(s) will be seeded below or after all the "first" Clubs.

13.4 Canada Soccer may, at its discretion, revoke the inclusion of any Club. If either the "first" or "second" Club from a PTSO is unable to compete, the PTSO may request permission from the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee to enter another Club. The decisions taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee will be final, binding, and not subject to appeal.

14. DURATION OF PLAY, STANDINGS & TIE-BREAKING CRITERIA

14.1 The duration of play and size of match ball shall be:

| AGE GROUP | REGULATION TIME | HALF TIME | EXTRA TIME | SIZE OF FOOTBALL |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Adult / Senior | 2 x 45 minutes | 15 minutes | No extra time | 5 |
| U-17 Cup | 2 x 40 minutes | 10 minutes | No extra time | 5 |
| U-15 Cup | 2 x 35 minutes | 10 minutes | No extra time | 5 |

14.2 Clubs will be presented a 30-minute warm-up period on the pitch before each match, subject to the condition of the pitch. The warm-up period will be monitored and any Club abusing the privilege will be subject to sanction. If the pitch is not in good condition, or if the warm-up sessions would negatively affect the state of the pitch for the match, or if the pitch will be used for ceremonies related to the National Championships, Canada Soccer may adjust, shorten and/or cancel the warm-up period.

14.3 In National Championships organised with a round-robin format for either four or five Clubs per group, three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw during the group phase. All matches organised in these groups will be played to regulation time only. Group standings shall be determined by points won at the completion of the round robin.

14.4 In National Championships organised with a round-robin format of three Clubs per group, three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw. Matches organised in these groups will be played to regulation time, unless the last match of a group has mathematically been determined as a head-to-head playoff.

14.5 In the last match of a round-robin format with three Clubs, if the Club not participating has either six points (guaranteed first place), zero points (guaranteed last place), has been suspended, or has withdrawn from part or all of the competition, then that last match becomes a playoff match that must be played to a decision.

14.5.1 In that playoff match, if the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the match will go straight to penalties in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

14.6 In National Championships (or parts thereof) whereby points are required to determine rankings for any reason, then Clubs will be ranked by points won across all matches played including group, knockout and playoff matches: three points for a win in regulation time, one point for a draw in regulation time.

- 14.7 The following tie-breaking criteria shall be used to determine standings:
- 14.7.1 Most points in all matches concerned;
 - 14.7.2 If two Clubs are tied on points after all matches concerned, then:
 - 14.7.2.1 Greater number of points in matches between the Clubs concerned (head-to-head competition);
 - 14.7.2.2 Greater goals difference in all matches concerned (goals scored minus goals conceded);
 - 14.7.2.3 Greater number of goals scored in all matches concerned; and
 - 14.7.2.4 Penalties as per the Laws of the Game, at a time and place decided by the Canada Soccer General Coordinator.
 - 14.7.3 If three or more Clubs are tied on points after all matches concerned, then:
 - 14.7.3.1 Greater goals difference in all matches concerned between the three (or more) Clubs tied on points (goals scored minus goals conceded);
 - 14.7.3.2 Greater number of goals scored in all matches concerned between the three (or more) Clubs;
 - 14.7.3.3 Greater goals difference in all matches concerned;
 - 14.7.3.4 Greater number of goals scored in all matches concerned;
 - 14.7.3.5 Drawing of lots to determine ranking at a time and place decided by the Match Commissioner.
 - 14.7.4 When penalties are required for a tie-breaking scenario, players under suspension are not eligible to participate. In such a case, the scenario does not constitute the serving of any disciplinary suspension already awarded.

14.8 For all matches that require a decision (including knockout, playoff, consolation, ranking and placement matches), if the score is tied after regulation time, the match will go straight to penalties in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

15. EQUIPMENT

15.1 Each Club shall have two sets of Team Kits (one “light” combination with a light colour for the shirts and socks; one “dark” combination with a dark colour for the shirts and socks). Each player shall be identified by the same number on all sets of Team Kits.

- 15.1.1 All Clubs must bring both the “light” Team Kit and “dark” Team Kit to every match;

15.1.2 All Clubs must bring at least two additional outfield shirts (one "light" and one "dark") that either has no number or has a number not allocated to any players on the Team Delegation List (in case an outfield player unexpectedly needs to switch their shirt because of a blood and/or damage to the shirt).

15.2 Goalkeepers must wear uniforms that distinguish them from the outfield players as well as the Match Officials. Each goalkeeper must have two sets of shirts, three sets of separate and different colour socks and may have a third goalkeeper shirt which must be numbered in the same way. Both the goalkeeper and substitute goalkeeper must wear the same colour uniforms.

15.2.1 A player who switches from goalkeeper to an outfield position will wear the appropriate outfield uniform when playing in that position, but they will still use their same number as listed on the Team Delegation List;

15.2.2 All Clubs must bring an additional goalkeeper shirt with a number that is not allocated to any player (in case an outfield player unexpectedly needs to switch to the goalkeeper position).

15.3 Canada Soccer will inform the Clubs of the colours that they shall wear for each match. Clubs who fail to wear the assigned colours, without the approval of the General Coordinator, will be subject to sanction.

15.3.1 Clubs who fail to wear the uniform number registered on the Team Delegation List without the approval of the General Coordinator will be subject to sanction.

15.4 During the match, substitutes must wear bibs of a different colour than the players on the pitch. Team Officials must also wear a colour different from the colours of the outfield players on the pitch.

15.5 Undershirts must be the same colour as the main colour of the shirt sleeve; undershorts/tights must be the same colour as the main colour of the shorts or the lowest part of the shorts. Players of the same Club must wear the same colour. Players that do not comply will not be allowed to enter the field until the Match Officials are satisfied that the equipment conforms to the Laws of the Game.

15.6 Where tape or a any material is applied or worn externally to a sock, it must be the same colour as that part of the sock to which it is applied or covers.

15.7 Players are not permitted to wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry (not even if it has been covered with tape), including but not limited to rings, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, and any other visible body piercing. An exception will be

made for medical alert bracelets which must be either made of Velcro or similar soft material, or covered with a sweatband.

15.8 Canada Soccer will supply sleeve badges with the official competition crest of the National Championships. Clubs shall affix the National Championships sleeve badge to the right-hand sleeve of the shirt, between the shoulder point and the elbow point, of both light and dark jerseys. If the goalkeeper has a third Team Kit, the National Championships crest must be affixed to these uniforms, too.

15.9 Each Club will bring the flag from their province or territory (6' x 3') to every match of the National Championships.

16. FIELDS OF PLAY, KICK-OFF TIMES, TRAINING SITES, AND FACILITIES

16.1 The selection of fields and kick-off times will be approved by Canada Soccer in consultation with the LOC.

16.2 The fields of play, accessory equipment and all facilities for each match shall be in optimum condition. All goals shall be equipped with white goalposts, a white cross bar and goal nets. Matches may be played on natural grass or artificial surfaces. Artificial surfaces must be approved by Canada Soccer. Where multi-purpose fields are proposed, all other sport appurtenances shall be removed.

16.3 Matches may be played in daylight and under floodlight. Where matches are played at night, the venue floodlighting installations must provide that the whole pitch is evenly lit. If some or all of the match is expected to be played under floodlight conditions, the floodlights should be switched on before the warmup period.

16.4 The LOC shall provide a training site for the Clubs. This should not be the same pitch as identified for the competition. Where the competition is played on artificial surface, the competition pitch may be used for training prior to the opening match provided that adequate maintenance is provided after each training session. The training site should be within reasonable travel distance from the team hotel. The training site should be equipped with adequate changing and washroom facilities.

16.5 The LOC shall manage the training site allocation and training times on an equitable basis. The Match Commissioner or General Coordinator shall rule on any disputes with their decision deemed final.

16.6 If an approved venue has a time clock, the time clock should not show the time allowed (otherwise known as additional time) before the end of each half.

16.7 All venues used for the National Championships shall be free of any and all commercial activities and identifications (including boards and signage), other than those approved by Canada Soccer, from at least one day prior to the opening match to the day following the final match on that field.

16.8 Smoking and/or vaping is not allowed in any of the accredited areas including but not limited to the technical area, the vicinity of the field of play, or within other competition areas such as the dressing rooms.

17. MEDICAL MATTERS & ANTI-DOPING CONTROL

17.1 After receiving any form of medical attention from any registered medical practitioner (including an Emergency Medical Technician or Doctor) during the National Championships, a player must submit a return-to-play form that has been signed by an attending medical practitioner. The signed form must be approved by either the Match Commissioner or General Coordinator before the player is allowed any further participation at the National Championships.

17.2 A player wearing a cast, brace or medical support must have their cast, brace, medical support or equipment checked and approved by the Supervisor of Officials before the Pre-Competition Meeting at the National Championships (or before their first match wearing the cast, brace or medical support). The Supervisor of Officials will determine the player's eligibility to play in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The Supervisor of Official's decision is final and binding for the whole National Championships.

- 17.2.1 Hard casts are considered dangerous and, as such, are not permitted for the National Championships;
- 17.2.2 A soft cast may be permitted as long as that cast does not present a danger to any individual on the pitch;
- 17.2.3 Modern protective equipment made of soft, lightweight, padded materials may be permitted as long as that equipment does not present a danger to any individual on the pitch;
- 17.2.4 Any player who uses a cast with the intent to intimidate or injure an opponent shall be sent off.

17.3 A player who, after an injury sustained at the National Championships, requires the use of a cast, brace, or medical support, that cast, brace, medical support or new equipment must be checked and approved by the Supervisor of

Officials. The player must also submit a return-to-play form that has been signed by an attending medical practitioner.

17.4 All members of the Team Delegation List are subject to the rules of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (hereinafter: “CADP”), which protects the integrity of sport, safeguards the health of athletes, permits elite athletes to participate in international competitions, fulfills obligations imposed by FIFA, and satisfies government policy that requires all financially-supported sport organisations to have World Anti-Doping Code-compliant programs.

17.4.1 Athletes including those participating in the National Championships, accept the rules of the CADP as a condition of participation in sport and agree to be bound by these rules.

17.5 Each Club will ensure that at least one Team Official has completed the “True Sport Clean” (Untracked) course as delivered by the Canadian Centre of Ethics in Sport (hereinafter: “CCES”). Proof of education (such as a screenshot of the online certificate) must be submitted to Canada Soccer.

18. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

18.1 Canada Soccer will review all disciplinary incidents in compliance with the FIFA and Canada Soccer Disciplinary Codes as well as any relevant FIFA Circulars or Directives with which Canada Soccer is required to comply.

18.2 Clubs and members of their Team Delegation List agree to comply with: the Laws of the Game; Canada Soccer By-laws; Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations; Canada Soccer Policies, in particular the Disciplinary Code, Anti-Doping Regulations, Code of Conduct and Ethics, as well any instructions or decisions that have any significance regarding the National Championships.

18.2.1 In addition, members of each Team Delegation List agree to: respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence; behave accordingly; and refrain from doping as defined by the Anti-Doping Policy.

18.3 The Match Commissioner shall investigate any formal complaint or protest prior to laying any charges of misconduct and shall form a Competition Discipline Committee to conduct a hearing and take appropriate action if necessary.

18.4 The Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee may, at its discretion, take action against any PTSO and/or Club whose players, Team Officials or spectators have been found guilty of misconduct and/or violence toward anyone present at a match, especially towards Match Officials.

18.4.1 A PTSO and/or Club may also be fined for offences committed by their supporters.

18.5 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee shall rule on any alleged breach of these Regulations by an individual or organisation. If the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee rules, at its sole discretion, that an individual or organisation has breached one or more of these Regulations, the specified penalty shall be applied. Canada Soccer will collect any financial sanction directly from the Member Association in accordance with the Participation Agreement. These decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.

18.6 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may refer an individual, Club or PTSO, found in breach of the Regulations, to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for further review.

18.7 Damage by any members of a Club to any property, other than their own, shall be the financial responsibility of, and dealt with equally, by the PTSO of the members involved in the incident and causing the damage. All such incidents must be reported to the Match Commissioner. Sanctions may be imposed by Canada Soccer where appropriate.

18.8 A youth-aged player at the National Championships shall not acquire, possess, purchase, or consume alcohol or any illegal drugs. Sanctions will be applied to an individual, Club, and/or PTSO, found in breach of this Regulation.

18.9 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may refer all issues of misconduct, wilful damage, and/or bringing the match into disrepute by an individual, Club and/or PTSO to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee.

18.10 Any player or Team Official dismissed from a match during the National Championships, except in their Club's final match of the National Championships, will receive, at minimum, an automatic one-match suspension. Along with the automatic suspension incurred, additional disciplinary action shall be imposed as follows:

18.10.1 In breaching the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, the file will be sent to Canada Soccer Ethics Committee;

18.10.2 For minor infringements of the Laws of the Game, action will be taken in accordance with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code;

18.10.3 For serious infringements of the Laws of the Game, action will be taken in accordance with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code and the Match Commissioner may conduct a disciplinary hearing;

18.10.4 For Team Officials dismissed from the technical area in accordance with the Laws of the Game, a minimum two-match suspension will be imposed;

- 18.10.5 For any misconduct against Match Officials, action will be taken in accordance with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code;
- 18.10.6 For disorderliness at the match and/or during the competition, expulsion from the National Championships and the file sent to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for further sanctions;
- 18.10.7 For team misconduct, action will be taken in accordance with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code.

18.11 Any player who accumulates a third caution during the National Championships shall receive a one-match suspension. The suspension will be served in their Club's next match.

18.12 Any Team Official who accumulates a second caution during the National Championships shall receive a one-match suspension. The suspension will be served in their Club's next match.

18.13 Any player or Team Official with an outstanding suspension, whether they were dismissed in their Club's final match of the National Championships or were serving a suspension through accumulation of cautions, will be referred to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for sanction.

18.14 Fines levied by Canada Soccer must be paid within 30 days after receiving written notification.

19. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS AND APPEALS

19.1 The Match Commissioner may, at their sole discretion, conduct a hearing for misbehaviour on or off the field of play. A Competition Discipline Committee shall be formed to conduct this hearing in accordance with the FIFA and Canada Soccer Disciplinary Codes and Canada Soccer By-laws, Rules and Regulations and Policies.

19.2 The Match Commissioner shall establish and chair a Competition Discipline Committee to conduct a hearing and take appropriate action if necessary (referenced in these Regulations as a "Competition Discipline Committee").

19.3 A Competition Discipline Committee shall include at least two PTSO Representatives.

19.4 Any decision taken by the Competition Discipline Committee shall be final as far as the competition is concerned, but further disciplinary sanctions may be imposed by the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee.

19.5 Misconduct by players or Team Officials reported by the referee shall be dealt with by the Match Commissioner or a Competition Discipline Committee prior to the Club's next match.

19.6 When summoned to a hearing by the Match Commissioner, any player or Team Official reported for misconduct must attend the hearing. The PTSO Representative shall accompany the player or Team Official to the hearing. In addition, the player or Team Official may be accompanied by a Team Official. The individual summoned for a hearing may, at the discretion of the Match Commissioner, appoint a representative to attend the hearing on their behalf. Anyone representing an accused must provide a signed proxy from the accused before being allowed to participate at a hearing.

19.7 Failure to attend a disciplinary hearing, after receiving written notification by the Match Commissioner to do so, shall result in immediate suspension until the player or Team Official involved requests a further hearing in writing and appears at that subsequent hearing.

19.8 The Competition Discipline Committee may hold a hearing into any allegation of misconduct off the field of play or bringing the match into disrepute. The Committee may take any disciplinary action if it sees fit, including suspension for the remainder of the competition. Furthermore, it may refer the matter to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for review and disposition.

19.9 An appeal may be lodged with Canada Soccer Appeals Committee in accordance with Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, unless the disciplinary sanction pronounced is:

- 19.9.1 a warning;
- 19.9.2 a reprimand;
- 19.9.3 a suspension for fewer than three matches or of up to two months;
- or
- 19.9.4 a decision passed in compliance with Canada Soccer Competition Regulations where such decisions are final and binding.

20. PROTESTS

20.1 For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, facilities, and footballs.

20.2 Unless otherwise stipulated, any protest arising out of any match in a Canada Soccer Competition shall be made in writing to the Match Commissioner or the General Coordinator within two hours of the match report having been finalized online. A protest fee of \$500 will be levied by Canada Soccer.

20.3 In all cases, the Competition Discipline Committee must rule on the protest, including the disposition of the protest fee, prior to the commencement of the next day's matches. Any decision taken by this Committee on a protest shall be final and binding, as far as the competition is concerned.

20.4 If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Competition Discipline Committee may impose a sanction.

20.5 The referee's decision regarding facts connected with play are final, including but not limited to the result of the match or even a decision as to whether a goal was scored is final and binding. Protests can not be made against decisions made by the referees as outlined in the Laws of the Game.

20.6 Protests or challenges in respect to player eligibility not ruled upon, or requiring further investigation, will be dealt with by the appropriate Canada Soccer Committee and may result in the overall standings being amended.

20.7 After the completion of the National Championships, any protest in regards to player eligibility already ruled on by the Match Commissioner, will not change the results of the competition.

20.8 If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations is not met, such protests shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match in the respective division of the National Championships has ended, no further protests under this article will be received.

21. COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

21.1 Canada Soccer is the owner of all of the rights around the National Championships. These rights include among others, audiovisual and radio recording rights, reproduction and broadcast rights, multimedia rights, sponsorship, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as logo and emblems and rights arising under copyright law, whether currently existing or created in the future, subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.

21.2 The Canada Soccer logo as well as any logos of the National Championships cannot be duplicated or manipulated by Clubs or the LOC.

21.3 Each Club shall grant Canada Soccer the right to use the Club's names, logos, badges and marks in connection with their participation in the National Championships for marketing and promotional purposes (including website, programs, etc.)

21.4 Each Club's playing and/or warmup shirts from the Team Kit may display the branding of Club sponsors, albeit with a maximum of four sponsor brands per Team Kit (with a maximum of two sponsors per side). This rule includes any sponsor branding that may be embedded in a league logo. The jersey manufacturer logo is exempt from this rule.

21.4.1 Clubs must have their sponsors list and use of sponsors approved by the Canada Soccer Business Development Department at least 14 days before the Pre-Competition Meeting for the National Championships;

21.4.2 Any Clubs that feature sponsors not approved by Canada Soccer will have to have those sponsors either covered or removed.

21.5 Clubs are permitted to display one banner featuring Club sponsor branding, provided the banner has been approved by the Canada Soccer Business Development Department at least 14 days before the Pre-Competition Meeting for the National Championships. The banner shall be no larger than 3' x 8' and must be displayed behind the team bench.

21.5.1 The Club's banner must not display any sponsor branding which conflicts with the sponsor categories of the National Championships. The banner must display the logo of the Club which indicates the relationship between the Club and its sponsors;

21.5.2 The Club's banner cannot be displayed at the Awards Ceremonies;

21.5.3 Any Clubs displaying a sponsor banner which has not been approved by Canada Soccer will be subject to a fine.

22. REFEREEING

22.1 The Match Officials shall be appointed to the National Championships by Canada Soccer working in conjunction with the LOC and PTSO.

22.2 Match Officials shall be appointed to individual matches in the respective competitions on behalf of the Canada Soccer Referees Committee by the Supervisor of Officials in venue.

22.3 The referee must complete their report through the Canada Soccer competitions platform (COMET) at the playing venue immediately after the

match. The report will be complete once the match has been set to “Played”. On the report form, the referee must note all occurrences of significance including goals, misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behaviour or misconduct by Team Officials or spectators, and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.

22.4 The decision of Canada Soccer Referees Committee is final and binding and not subject to appeal.

22.5 Match assessors, where appointed, must complete the online Incident Report Form for all matches.

23. LAWS OF THE GAME

Except where provided for in these Regulations all matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the National Championships and as laid down by the International Football Association Board. In accordance with IFAB direction, in case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the translations of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.

24. CALL-UP PLAYERS

24.1 A Club may request permission to call up (or pick up) players who might not otherwise be eligible within the deadlines set below. These requests must be submitted in writing on the appropriate form to their respective PTSO. Regardless of the decisions taken by the PTSO or the Canada Soccer Call-Up Panel, the final Team Delegation List must be separately approved by Canada Soccer.

24.2 Clubs may call up a maximum of three players to replace unavailable players already registered with the Club but who are unable to take part in the National Championships. Players called up from the Club’s approved team(s), as submitted to Canada Soccer when the Club qualified, may be approved by the PTSO in accordance with the Competition Regulations. The PTSO must confirm any call-up requests to Canada Soccer when the Team Delegation List is submitted on COMET.

24.3 Call-up requests must be submitted a minimum of 14 days prior to the start of the National Championships. The Canada Soccer Call-Up Panel will meet on select dates before the National Championships to consider any requests that can’t be approved by the PTSO, including players that may need

to be called up (or picked up) from a team not approved by Canada Soccer at the time of the Club's qualification to the National Championships.

24.4 The criteria for a player to be eligible for a call-up request will be as follows:

- 24.4.1 Call-up players must meet the age requirement outlined in Article 5 for the respective division of the National Championships in which they are competing;
- 24.4.2 Call-up players must be registered with the PTSO of the Club making the call-up request in accordance with Article 9 of these Regulations;
- 24.4.3 Call-up players must come from the Club's approved team(s), if such teams are in place;
- 24.4.4 Call-up players can not be selected from a team that has also qualified for another division of the National Championships taking place at the same time;
- 24.4.5 Call-up players must not have finished their 2024-25 or 2025 qualifying season with another Club, although they may start the 2025-26 season with a new Club and still participate at the 2025 National Championships with the Club in which they qualified during the 2024-25 or 2025 season (in which case the call-up player must have written permission from their new Club, as approved by the PTSO);;
- 24.4.6 For the adult/senior National Championships, call-up players must come from a lower adult/senior competitive level or should come from an approved youth team;
- 24.4.7 For the adult/senior National Championships, youth-aged call-up players must have participated with the adult/senior Club at least once in the past 12 months;
- 24.4.8 For the youth National Championships, call-up players must come from a lower level in the same age category or from the same competitive level in a younger age category;
- 24.4.9 For the youth National Championships, call-up players must not come from a higher level, including but not limited to those players currently enrolled with Canada Soccer's National Development Centres, identified as nationally-carded athletes, or registered with standards-based leagues;
- 24.4.10 For the youth National Championships, players who have registered in an older age group can not be selected to play in their own age group (as an example, a U-15 aged player registered on a U-16 or U-17 competitive team is not eligible to participate in the U-15 Cup).

24.5 Once a registered player has been replaced by a call-up player, the replaced player can not participate in any National Championships in that same year.

24.6 Where, after approval by the PTSO or Canada Soccer Call-Up Panel, a call-up player is injured and cannot compete in the National Championships, the Club may seek to replace this player with another call-up player. A medical certificate must accompany this request. Subject to meeting the criteria outlined in these Regulations, the Chair of Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may, at their sole discretion, approve this call-up request.

24.7 A Club may request a call-up goalkeeper within the 14-day window referenced in Article 28.3. Subject to meeting the criteria outlined in these Regulations, the Chair of Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may, at their sole discretion, approve the call-up request. Within their request, the Club must outline the reason(s) why the replaced goalkeeper is unable to participate.

24.8 Where a Club has exhausted its maximum number of call-up requests outlined in Article 28.2, a Club may submit additional call-up requests if their Team Delegation List has fallen below the mandatory threshold of 15 players. The Club, in conjunction with their PTSO, must provide in writing the reasons for their additional call-up request(s). Subject to meeting the criteria outlined, the Canada Soccer Call-Up Panel may, at their discretion, approve this call-up.

24.9 Replaced youth-aged players can not be added to the Team Delegation List as a Team Official, unless approved by the Canada Soccer Call-Up Panel.

24.10 Clubs may not replace any registered players who wish to play at the National Championships, unless medical instructions indicate that the injured player(s) should not play.

24.11 Decisions taken by Canada Soccer regarding call-up requests are final, binding and not subject to appeal.

25. TRAVEL

25.1 Canada Soccer shall make all air travel arrangements for Club and Match Officials for all Canada Soccer National Championships.

25.2 Each Club must arrive at the host location of the National Championships at least one day before the first match of the competition. At least one Team Official must arrive early enough to attend the Pre-Competition meeting on that day before the first match. Except in the case of force majeure, where a Club does not arrive at the hosting location in accordance with this Article, it will result

in expulsion from the competition at the Club's expense plus any expenses incurred by the LOC.

25.3 A Club shall be responsible for all costs incurred should any members of their Team Delegation List arrive in the host location more than two days before the first match of the National Championships.

25.4 For National Championships, the LOC is responsible for the Club's local ground transportation including: to and from the assigned airport; to and from official matches; to and from one training session; to and from any official functions.

25.5 Clubs must advise the LOC at least 21 days prior to traveling to the National Championships if they are using other methods of ground transportation. Failure to do so will result in the Clubs being responsible for any cancellation costs incurred by the LOC.

25.6 Clubs may, at their own expense, request additional training sessions through the LOC. Should a Club cancel a training session, they will be responsible for any cancellation costs incurred by Canada Soccer or the LOC.

25.7 All Clubs are required to respect the deadlines communicated by the LOC.

26. ACCOMMODATION

25.1 Clubs must stay in the hotels designated by the LOC. Clubs registered within a 50 km radius of the hosting location may request an exemption from this Article.

25.2 Parents shall not share the same hotel room as players.

25.3 Players and Team Officials shall not share hotel rooms.

25.4 Youth-aged players at any youth or adult/senior National Championships must be appropriately supervised by Team Officials from the Club.

25.5 Curfews shall be appropriate for the age of the players. Unless Team Officials from the Club have stipulated an earlier curfew time, all youth-aged players at any youth or adult/senior National Championships shall adhere to an "in-room" curfew of not later than 23:00 (local time).

25.6 The youth curfew time may be extended if the Club is attending an official function which runs past the established time.

25.7 All Team Officials and senior-age players shall adhere to a curfew as set by their PTSO.

27. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

27.1 The three medal-winning Clubs in each division will receive medals (either Gold, Silver or Bronze) for members of their Team Delegation List.

27.2 Whereby a member of the Team Delegation List has been dismissed before, during or after the last match in the National Championships, the Match Commissioner will have the discretion to decide if the person may participate in the Awards Ceremonies.

27.3 Whereby a member of the Team Delegation List has been suspended from their last match of the National Championships, that person may receive their medal during the Awards Ceremonies, providing that the period of suspension was completed at the end of the Club's last match.

27.3.1 In the event that a member of the Team Delegation List is serving a suspension that extends beyond their last match of the National Championships, the Match Commissioner will have the discretion to decide if the person will participate in the Awards Ceremonies. Whereby the person is not permitted to participate in the Awards Ceremonies, they shall receive their medal at a later time.

27.4 The Winners' Trophies presented to the winning Clubs at the National Championships remain the property of Canada Soccer. The Challenge Trophy and Jubilee Trophy will return to Canada Soccer's Office at the completion of the National Championships. The winning Clubs will be invited to take part in a post-celebration photo session with the Challenge Trophy and Jubilee Trophy, but the Clubs shall not be permitted to retain possession of these trophies.

27.5 For the youth National Championships, the winning Clubs for the U-17 Cup and U-15 Cup may return home with their Winners' Trophy on loan after their PTSO Representative has signed a receipt for the trophy and the shipping case. The PTSO shall insure the trophy while in possession of the Club and they will be responsible for any costs for repair or restoration of either trophy and/or shipping case.

27.5.1 The Club and their PTSO, at their expense, will ensure the safe return of the Winners' Trophy and its case by 30 April 2026 to the Canada Soccer Office.

27.5.2 Whereby a trophy and/or shipping case is not returned, lost, or broken beyond repair, the PTSO will be responsible for the replacement cost of the trophy and shipping case.

27.6 A Most Valuable Player (hereinafter: “MVP”) will be selected in each division of the National Championships. The MVP will be selected from the winning Clubs after which they will be presented an MVP trophy at the Awards Ceremonies. Canada Soccer, in consultation with the winning Club, will confirm the MVP for each division.

27.7 The Match Officials that officiate in the Final of each division will receive a Gold Medal for the National Championships. All Match Officials as well as PTSO Representatives will receive a commemorative medallion from the National Championships.

28. OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS

28.1 Each Club’s members are required to attend official functions associated with the National Championships. Any member not in attendance may face disciplinary action at the discretion of Canada Soccer.

28.1.1 At least one Team Official must attend the Pre-Competition Meeting as well as any other meetings called by the Match Commissioner;

28.1.2 For the youth National Championships, players must attend the Official Opening Ceremonies;

28.2 Each Club’s members must adhere to the following minimum standards to ensure that their Club, their PTSO and Canada Soccer maintain a good reputation:

28.2.1 Punctuality and appropriate dress, as required by the LOC, at all official functions;

28.2.2 Supervision by at least one Team Official to ensure that players are not left unattended at any official function;

28.3 The PTSO Representative must attend the Pre-Competition Meeting as well as any other meetings called by the Match Commissioner.

29. BREACH OF REGULATIONS

29.1 Where a breach of these Regulations occur, the Match Commissioner shall complete a Breach of Regulation Form and submit it to Canada Soccer. A copy of the form will be provided to the Club's PTSO Representative. Mitigating circumstances to be taken into consideration by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee must be provided by the PTSO to the Canada Soccer Competitions Manager within fourteen 14 days of the last day of competitions.

29.2 Canada Soccer has approved a schedule of fines which shall be levied by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee (see Annex A).

29.3 Any decision taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee on a breach of Regulations is final and binding and not subject to appeal.

30 ENFORCEMENT

These Regulations were approved by Canada Soccer in December 2024 and came into force immediately thereafter.

Any previous versions of these Regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to any matters that arose before these Regulations came into force.

Canada Soccer
Kevin Blue
CEO/General Secretary
Ottawa 2025

ANNEX A

APPROVED SCHEDULE OF MINIMUM FINES FOR BREACH OF REGULATIONS 2025

| | |
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| Failure to attend the National Championships (Club or PTSO withdrawing after the deadline). | \$2,500 plus expenses |
| Failure for a Club to participate in a scheduled match without just cause. | \$2,500 plus expenses. |
| Fielding an ineligible player who has not obtained an International Transfer Certificate at the National Championships. | \$2,500 - \$5,000 plus expense |
| PTSO Representative not in attendance at Pre-Competition Meeting or other meetings mandated by Canada Soccer. | \$500 per meeting |
| Club representative not in attendance at the Pre-Competition Meeting or other meetings mandated by Canada Soccer. | \$500 per meeting |
| Failure of Club representative or PTSO Representative to attend all official functions. | \$500 plus expenses |
| Failure to wear the assigned Team Kit colours. | \$500 |
| Failure to wear the registered Team Kit number. | \$250 - \$500 |
| Failure to have a second set of Team Kits. | \$500 |
| Failure to have the alternate set of Team Kits at the playing venue. | \$500 |
| Failure to have the National Championships crests on light and dark Team Kits (including a third goalkeeper jersey when applicable). | \$1,000 |
| Failure to return Winners' Trophy before 30 April 2026 | \$500 |
| Failure of the PTSO Representative to be present in the host location for the entire duration of the competition. They must arrive with, or on the same day as, their first Club and depart with or after their last Club. | \$500 - \$1,000 |
| Failure by a Club to comply with gender requirements for Team Officials. | \$1,000 |
| Failure to comply with requirements for Club signs/banners. | \$1,000 |
| Failure to submit required information to the Canada Soccer staff by the deadlines. | \$500 |
| Failure to submit the duly signed Club Participation Agreement to Canada Soccer staff at least 14 days prior to the start of the National Championships. | \$500 |
| Registering a youth-aged Team Official without an exemption from Canada Soccer. | \$500 |
| Submitting an incomplete match sheet. | \$250 - \$500 |
| Failure of participants to use appropriate washroom facilities at competition venues. | \$250 |

Where no penalty is specified, a breach of the Regulations shall carry a penalty as follows:

*By a PTSO – From a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$5,000 per breach plus any expenses incurred.

* By a Club – From a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$2,000 per breach plus any expenses incurred.

* By an individual – From a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$1,000 per breach plus any expenses incurred.



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