

PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Updated March 2026



The Board of Directors is authorized to manage and update the organization's Rules and Regulations as needed. In keeping with this authority, the Board has approved a series of housekeeping changes, including updates to wording and revisions to the Masters age divisions.

These changes are now being circulated for your review and comment. While formal member approval is not required for these updates, we value your feedback and aim to maintain transparency and inclusivity in the process.

Additionally, we recognize the importance of ensuring our governance framework remains current. With that in mind, we plan to undertake a broader review of the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations, with the intention of completing this by the fall.

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1. Team Registration

All teams participating in a season must pay a non-refundable \$1,000 season deposit to secure their spot by the deadline provided for each season they are participating. This deposit will be credited to the league fees.

All teams at the time of registration in the designated registration system must pay their MSA affiliation fees.

Team Bond

All teams must pay a non-refundable \$150.00 registration deposit (Team Bond) prior to each season as determined by the Treasurer and approved by the Board.

- If depleted by any amount at any time during the season, the Team Bond must be replenished within two (2) weeks of an assessment by the Board. Failure to replenish the Team Bond shall result in the forfeiture of all remaining games until such time that payment has been made unless arrangements in writing have been made and approved with the Board.
- A team with a depleted Team Bond that will not be permitted to register for the following season until it has been replenished.
- Should a team withdraw from the League after the schedule has been published, the Deposit, and Team Bond will only be forfeited if there are outstanding fees that have not been paid to the League. Further, if the season schedule has been published by the League, the Team will be required to pay the remaining balance of all that season fees as determined by the Treasurer and approved by the Board.

Team/Player Registration

All teams must register online and submit any documents or information as required by the Board.

All players and team officials must register online using the Manitoba Soccer Association's current registration process, to be registered with a team in the Winnipeg Women's Soccer League (WWSL).

A team choosing not to participate in a season may lose their position in the League and must re-apply for admission, unless arrangements in writing have been made with the Board.

A team that has been dissolved, withdrawn or removed must re-apply for entry into the League.

Teams and/or individuals with fees outstanding to the League shall not be permitted to register until all fees are paid to the League.

At the time of registration, a team may apply to provide a home field to be used by the League as requested by the Convenor. Field credit, as determined by the Board, will be applied to the following season.

- The team providing the home field must ensure the field is maintained in a playable condition with an even playing surface, grass cut, field lined and the presence of nets and corner flags.

New Teams

Entry of new teams will be determined by the Board. The Board reserves the right to refuse any team entry into the League.

New Team Applications must be accompanied by:

- Divisional Placement request and justification
- Preliminary Roster indicating full names, date of birth and last team/league registered with

Team Ownership

Ownership of a team is established by primary contact (“the Owner”) noted on the team Registration Form filed by a team with the MSA/WWSL. The secondary contact may change from season to season; however, any change in the primary contact will be considered a transfer of ownership.

The Owner of a team is ultimately responsible for the payment of all fees imposed on a team by the Board, including all League registration fees, penalties imposed during a season, Team Bond fees and any other fees and/or penalties.

If an owner does not fulfill their responsibility for the payment of fees, players shall be held accountable for their portion of unpaid fees. The players will not be able to register until payment is made or proof of payment is provided to the Board.

Any team or owner wishes to transfer ownership of an existing team within the league must be submitted in writing indicating the following:

- Date and Season of Transfer.
- Full name and contact of the person assuming ownership.
- Letter signed by all applicable parties confirming the transfer of ownership submitted to the WWSL.

2. League Structure and Composition

The WWSL (the “League”) will comprise a Divisional Structure with the Divisions named:

- Premier (P),
- First (D1),
- Second (D2),
- Third (D3),
- continuing as required.

There will be separate Masters Divisions named:

- Masters Division 1 (M1),
- Masters Division 2 (M2),
- continuing as required.

Seasonally, as required, the League will also include Co-Ed Divisions named:

- Co-Ed 1 (C1),
- Co-Ed 2 (C2),
- continuing as required.

The League shall have the right to add or remove any Division(s) from time to time at its sole discretion.

The minimum number of teams per division is 4 teams.

3. Divisional Placement

The first-place team in each division may be promoted to the next highest division.

Exceptions include:

- Age Banded Divisions.
- Recreational Divisions.
- Shorter Season Divisions.

The WWSL has the right to place any team in any division they deem appropriate without the consent of the team, and it may do so at any time.

After the deadline date, requests will not be considered. A member of the Board acting as an Officer/Director of a team facing possible promotion or relegation or request reassignment will be recused from the process to determine that team's position.

4. Roster Size

Roster Size based on competition and division are outlined in the table below:

Division	Minimum Roster Size (Outdoor)	Minimum Roster Size (Indoor)	Max Roster Size	Game Sheet Maximum
Premier Division	16	12	25 Players	20 Players
First Division	16	12	25 Players	20 Players
Second Division	16	12	25 Players	20 Players
Third Division	16	12	25 Players	20 Players
Fourth Division	16	12	25 Players	20 Players
Fifth Division	16	12	25 Players	20 Players

Master's 1	16	12	25 Players	20 Players
Master's 2	16	12	25 Players	20 Players
Master's 3	16	12	25 Players	20 Players
Master's Recreational	16	12	25 Players	20 Players
Co-Ed Divisions	16	12	25 Players	20 Players

5. Tampering

As outlined and defined in the Manitoba Soccer Association's (MSA) Rules and Regulations.

Players and teams are expected to report any contraventions of the tampering policy to the League Complaints Committee or the Board President.

6. Team Officials/Coaching Staff

All teams must register with at least one team official.

All team officials must maintain a valid Sport Manitoba Respect in Sport certification.

All team officials on a team with any players under the age of 18 must have a current (within the last 3 years) satisfactory Police Information/Vulnerable Sector Check (EPIC).

7. Player Eligibility and Registration

As outlined and defined in the Manitoba Soccer Association's (MSA) Rules and Regulations.

A player may not register as a senior player until the WWSL indoor season, when they complete their youth playing career at 17 years of age and at the end of one season model league play within the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association (WYSA), or any other sanctioned league within the MSA, unless otherwise provided for in the MSA Rules and Regulations.

Players Registered with a Youth Recreational League in the current season are not eligible to register in the WWSL until the completion of the season.

Senior Eligibility (player status) including Co-ed

Active, as defined as currently rostered within a post-secondary institution; University players, playing on any level of a post-secondary team must register in Division 2 and higher in the WWSL.

Division 2 teams are not permitted to register more than 5 active university players on their roster. There are no registration limits for Division 1 and Premier.

(UPDATED MARCH 2026) Active Prairie Premier League Players (PPL) or designated semi-professional players are not eligible to register in WWSL concurrently as the PPL season. During the indoor season PPL or designated semi-professional players must register in top/premier

Players described above will be eligible to play in lower divisions 2 full years after their last season played.

Former Professional players must adhere to the Amateur Reinstatement Process as outlined in the Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations. Former professional players must wait a minimum of 3 calendar years to register in the WWSL lower divisions, including Masters divisions.

Masters Eligibility

All Masters players must be thirty (30) years of age as of January 1 of the calendar year in which they are registering to compete in Masters Division 1. As outlined in the [Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations](#).

All Masters players must be forty (40) years of age within the calendar year of the season to compete in Master's Division 2 and Master's 3/recreational.

Exemptions will apply for the 2025 and 2026 Outdoor Seasons only. Any players aged 35 and over as of January 1, 2025, and have played in the 2024 outdoor or indoor WWSL season will be eligible to play in Masters Division 2 or Recreational. (exemptions may apply)

8. Multiple Registrations

As per MSA rules and regulations, players are allowed to register for more than one Team provided they are in different competitions as outlined below.

- In Outdoor Competitions, Senior players may register with a maximum of two teams if the teams are in different competitions within the WWSL.
 - For example, a player may register concurrently for a Masters team, and a Senior team.
- In Indoor Competition, players may register with a maximum of three teams, if the teams are in different competitions within the WWSL.
 - For example, a player may register concurrently for a Co-Ed team, a Masters team, and a Senior team.
- Players are not eligible to register within the same competition. This includes teams in different divisions.

9. Player Transfer/Release

Players may release themselves from a team or transfer from one team to another team within the same league if the transfer deadlines and expectations are followed.

The player may contact the WWSL and request to be transferred or released. The team contact from the original team must be cc'd on the email request for approval of the release.

Team designates may also release a player from their team. The Team designate must contact the WWSL and include the player to be released via email.

A player is limited to two (2) transfers per season.

Suspended players are ineligible to be transferred while suspended.

10. Guest Players

Guest players are defined as players currently registered with the WWSL and playing in their respective competitions.

Teams can call up guest players from lower divisions within the same designated competition as well as cross competition guesting is applicable in the following formats:

- WWSL Senior 4 – can call guest players from Masters divisions
- WWSL Masters 3 – can call guest players from the lowest senior divisions
- WWSL Co-ed lowest division – can call female guest players from WWSL two lowest divisions and masters.

Outdoor Season: No more than a total of 3 guest players per game up to a total roster of 15 players on game day.

Indoor Season: No more than a total of 3 guest players during the Indoor season up to a total roster of 10 players on game day.

Exception for both seasons: Goal keepers; guest keepers are not a part of the 3 guest players, but a guest keeper must only play as a keeper when called up.

A single outfield player may not be called up more than 5 times to the same team per season.

Guest players called up during exhibition/friendly games will not be counted towards a player's call up maximum per team entitlement per season. Players must be registered in the WWSL to participate in exhibition/friendly games.

Players who are dual registered in multiple divisions are not eligible to guest in lower divisions in which they are registered.

- **Example:** Player A is registered in master's 1 and Senior 3 – they are NOT eligible to guest to lower senior or master's divisions. But are eligible to guest to co-ed division 4 as they are not registered in co-ed.
- **Example:** Player B is registered in Senior 3 and Co-ed 3. They are eligible to guest in higher senior and co-ed divisions; they are not eligible to guest in master's or lower divisions.
- **Example:** Player C is registered in senior 4, master's 2 and Co-ed 3. They are eligible to guest in higher senior divisions, master's 1 and higher co-ed divisions.

The guest player must have a properly authorized Guest Player Permit completed using the RAMP system, with approval from the home team delegate.

The guest player must be indicated with a “(G)” on the game sheet.

No guest player shall be permitted to play in League playoffs or end-of-season tournaments.

No registered youth guest players may be called up by Co-Ed teams.

(Updated March 2026) Masters Guest Players

Guest players used in the Outdoor and Indoor Masters Divisions must meet the age eligibility requirements set out in Section 7.

Masters age divisions are defined as

- Masters 1 (Masters Open): players must be 30 years of age or older as of January 1 of the current playing year.
- Masters 2 and 3 (Masters Over 40): players must be 40 years of age or older as of January 1 of the current playing year.

Registered Masters players are eligible for call up to any higher division of Masters.

Senior players registered with the League for the applicable outdoor or indoor season may guest play for a Masters team only if they meet the following criteria:

(a) General Age Eligibility:

All guest players must meet the minimum age requirement for the Masters division in which they are guest playing:

- Masters 1 minimum 30 years of age;
- Masters 2 and Masters 3 : minimum 40 years of age
- Age is determined as of January 1 of the current playing year.

(b) Masters 2 & 3 Division

- A Senior player may guest play in or Masters 2 and Masters 3 only if:
 - They are registered in one of the bottom two Senior divisions of the League; and;
 - They meet the 40+ age requirement as of January 1 of the current playing year.

(c) Masters 1 Division

- A Senior player may guest play in Masters 1 only if:
 - They are registered in any Senior open division of the League; and
 - They meet the 30+ age requirement as of January 1 of the current playing year.

Additional Guest Player Rules

1. A Senior player who is registered to any Masters team is not eligible to guest play for another Masters team.
2. No player may guest play for the same team more than five (5) times during a season.
3. Goal keepers are exempt from the maximum number of guest plays, provided they play exclusively as a goal keeper on all games.
4. A Masters team may only use guest players when
 - Indoor Season - it has ten (10) or fewer rostered players available for that game.
 - Outdoor Season - it has ten (15) or fewer rostered players available for that game.
5. Teams are responsible for ensuring guest player eligibility. Use of an ineligible guest player will result in a forfeit by the defaulting team.
6. Senior players are not eligible for grand-mothering for the purpose of Masters guest play eligibility.
7. Female players registered in the Co-ed Division are not eligible to guest play in any Women's division.
8. There are no Guest Players allowed for play off games.

Youth Guest Players

Youth Players are defined as players currently registered with the MSA, WYSA, or any other MSA sanctioned youth league.

Eligible Youth Players are permitted to guest in the WWSL at 16 years of age.

Youth Players playing premier, or in any designated league above recreational soccer environment are not eligible to guest in Division 3 and lower.

WYSA One Season Model Players are not eligible to guest during the WWSL Indoor Season.

Recreational players meeting the age requirements are eligible to guest in any WWSL Senior Division.

When guesting Youth Players, a team official/player must be present who has a valid, submitted CPIC.

To call up a guest player, team officials should contact the guest player's coach to obtain official permission to contact players' consenting parent/legal guardian to obtain permission for guesting and follow applicable guesting protocols.

11. Game Scheduling and Cancellation

An equal number (where possible) of home and away games will be scheduled for each team.

Requests for rescheduling games during the season will not be accepted except at the sole discretion of the Board.

Prior to each season, teams will be allowed to submit via email for a scheduling consideration with a maximum of three (3) dates on which the team cannot play. These dates may include, but are not limited to:

- events or circumstances in which the team is unable to provide the minimum number of players due to tournaments, fund-raisers, special events, etc.
- additional requests may be reviewed by the Board.

The scheduling consideration request must be received along with their team deposit for the season.

The decision to accept or deny the consideration(s) will be at the discretion of the Board.

When possible, the League will give teams a minimum of ten (10) days' notice to add a rescheduled game. With the consent of both teams, the League may add a rescheduled game on less than ten (10) days' notice.

Games may only be cancelled by the Assigned Referee, Groundskeeper, League Convenor, President and/or governing municipality. Regardless of the weather conditions, teams must come to the field prepared to play unless they have been notified of a cancellation on the WWSL website or by a member of the Board.

Teams outside of Winnipeg or teams with home fields are responsible for and must notify the League by 4:00 pm; should weather or field conditions require the game to be cancelled.

In the event of inclement weather, teams should take the following actions to determine the status of games.

- Check the website as it will be updated after 4:30 pm
- Check the WWSL Social Media Pages
- Team Representatives check their email

Defaults

As defined as a team not participating in a game resulting in the opponent being awarded a win.

The default fee per game will be one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for the first default and will increase by \$50 for each default thereafter (\$200, \$250 etc.)

A team must provide notice to the league before 4:00pm of the scheduled game day, any time after 4:01pm will result in a \$25.00 administration fee in addition to the default fee per game.

Default fines must be paid by the required date outlined on the default notice; failure to do so will result in subsequent forfeits until paid in full.

A team incurring three (3) defaults in a season may, at the sole discretion of the Board, be moved down one division for the next season.

A team with five (5) or more defaults may be removed from the League at the completion of, or at any time, during the season.

A team receiving the default victory will be awarded three (3) goals and three points in the standings. The score will be recorded 3-0.

12. Game Preparation

Teams must be ready to play and ready for referee inspection at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

The home team is required to provide the following if applicable:

- Two game balls
- Second set of uniforms/pinnies, in the event of a jersey conflict.

The game sheet including the full name of each player, uniform numbers, coach, team official(s), and/or trainer must be marked on the game sheet prior to the kick-off.

Teams must present the MSA generated and approved team ID cards at each game.

Exceptions will only be made with written permission of the League or in exceptional circumstances.

In a situation where an entire team's Player IDs are unavailable, the team official must produce the team's Player Cards by half time during Outdoor and by the end of the game indoors. If you fail to produce the cards within the required time frame, the game will be defaulted, and the offending team will be charged with a default.

16. The Game

Referee

If the referee is not present at the scheduled kick-off time, the teams may find an appropriate substitute referee. If a substitute referee is found, they should include their name and address on the game sheet too be paid for officiating the game.

If a substitute referee is not found, the game will be cancelled and will not be rescheduled. The game will be recorded as 0-0. If at the end of the season, the division's standings are affected because of this situation, at the sole discretion of the Board, the game may be rescheduled.

Outdoor Specific Rules

The WWSL Adheres to the IAFB/FIFA Laws of the Game

All League outdoor games shall consist of two forty-five (45) minute halves.

During the Outdoor season, there will be unlimited substitutions in all League games, with an unlimited number of players substituted at any one time.

Substitutions will only be made with the consent of the Referee during a stoppage of play.

A team must field a minimum of eight (8) to a maximum of eleven (11) players at kick-off for games during the outdoor season.

During the outdoor season teams may be granted a fifteen (15) minute grace period from the scheduled kick-off time to provide eight players. The game will not be extended; the grace period is included in the 90-minute match time.

Teams may finish the game with a minimum of seven (7) players.

Failure to field fewer than eight (8) players or ending a game with fewer than seven (7) players shall result in that team receiving a default, regardless of the actual outcome of the game.

Slide Tackling

In WWSL Masters Divisions and the lowest Senior division, any form of slide tackling (sliding on the surface within playing distance of the opponent to tackle for the ball) or attempting to slide tackle whether contact occurs with the ball or player is not permitted.

A player who commits a slide tackle or attempts to slide tackle an opponent shall be penalized by the awarding of a free kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred and will receive a caution.

Should a player of the defending team commit a slide tackle or attempt to slide tackle an opponent within their own penalty area, shall be penalized by the awarding of a penalty kick to the opposing team and receive a caution.

A goalkeeper is allowed to block a shot while going down on the ground (falling) with their hands, body, or legs. A goalkeeper is not allowed to attempt to slide feet first to play the ball, as this is a slide tackle and shall be penalized by the awarding of a penalty kick to the opposing team and receive a caution.

If the slide tackle is in the penalty area and is an attempt to play the ball for which the referee has awarded a penalty kick, the offending player shall be cautioned.

Indoor Specific Rules

In WWSL matches, the duration of the game shall be two equal periods of 25 minutes with a two (2) minute half-time interval. Additionally, a 5-minute warm-up will be allowed before the start of the game, time permitting.

During the Indoor season, there will be unlimited substitutions in all League games, and the substitutions can be made at any time and will be on the fly.

For Indoor season play, the League will follow the MSA Rules for Indoor Soccer (6 x 6 Competitions; ¼ field play or 9 x 9 Competitions; ½ field play), Exceptions include:

- League specific rule: teams are allowed to dress 20 players.
- Guest Players and Youth Call ups, refer to Section 11.

In WWSL and WWSL Co-ed matches, any form of slide tackling (sliding on the surface within playing distance of the opponent to tackle the ball) or attempting to slide tackle whether contact occurs with the ball or player is not permitted.

A team must field a minimum of four (4) to a maximum of six (6) players at kick-off for games during the indoor season for the quarter field play.

Teams playing in the Co-ed Division has the additional conditions:

- The goalkeeper may be of either gender.
- There shall be an equal or greater number of female players on the field than persons on each team for the duration of the game.
- The game shall not commence or continue if either team is unable to comply with this rule.

Teams may be granted a five (5) minute grace period from the scheduled kick-off time to provide four (4) players. The game will not be extended; the grace period is included in the 50-minute match time.

Teams require four (4) players to finish the game.

Failure to field fewer than the required four (4) players or ending a game with fewer than the required number of players; the game shall be declared a default, regardless of the actual outcome of the game. The offending team will be charged with a default.

Half Field Play Minimum Start

For the half field play, teams must field a minimum of six (6) to a maximum of nine (9) players at kick-off during the indoor season.

Teams may be granted a five (5) minute grace period from the scheduled kick-off time to provide six (6) players.

Teams require six (6) players to finish the game.

Failure to field fewer than the required number of players either at the beginning of the game or ending a game with fewer than the required number; the game shall be declared a default, regardless of the actual outcome of the game. The offending team will be charged with a default.

16. Statistics and Playoff/Division Championships

A division championship is awarded to the team with the most points at the end of the regular season. Points are awarded as follows:

- three (3) points will be awarded for a win,
- one (1) point for a tie and
- zero (0) points for a loss.

Regular season standings will be tracked for all leagues and divisions.

The tie-breaking procedure for teams with the same number of points in the standings will be as follows:

1. Overall wins (most wins overall)
2. Total season series points - most points, against tied teams if two teams are tied
3. Total season series goal differential - best GF/GA, against tied teams (only uses the games between tied teams)
4. Total goal differential - best GF/GA overall
5. Most goals scored overall in league play
6. Team with least games lost
7. Team with least red cards
8. Team with least yellow cards
9. Team with most clean sheets
10. Coin toss

Mercy Rule: There will be a cap on goals scored up to 5 maximum per game for Masters 3/ Masters Recreational and all Masters competition cross over games.

17. Playoffs (Indoor and Outdoor)

Seeding for playoffs will be based on the regular season standings

The playoff roster deadlines are August 15 (outdoor) and January 30 (Indoor).

If any playoff game that requires a winner ends in a tie the following procedure will take place:

- After regulation time the teams will proceed to penalty kicks as per FIFA regulations.

- No extra time will be played.

18. Post-Game Procedure

After a game, each team is encouraged to take a picture of the game sheet. Teams are recommended to keep a copy of their game sheets in the event of a dispute over game scores, goal scorers, or disciplinary matters arising from such games.

The Referee must email a copy of the game sheets within 24 hours of the game being played, or payment may be denied. Admin@winnipegwomenssoccerleague.com

The Referee must submit dismissal reports on approved MSA reporting documents within 24 hours of the dismissal.

19. Spectators

Teams are responsible for their spectators.

Team officials must ensure that the spectators do not verbally or physically abuse or intimidate the Referee, players, or team officials in any way.

Teams must comply with a Referees request to help control the players, fans, etc. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the League.

If a player, coach, team official or spectator is asked to leave the field, the team is responsible for ensuring that they leave promptly without incident and do not return to the field.

For Indoor season games, all non-playing individuals and spectators are not permitted at field level and must be seated within the facilities designated spectator seating areas.

Children on the Bench

(Updated March 2026) Refer to the WWSL Policy – Children on the Bench

20. Discipline, Complaints, Publication and Hearings

General

A Disciplinarian shall be appointed by the Board. The Disciplinarian's responsibilities will be:

- to act as the Chair of the Discipline Committee
- to act as the Chair of disciplinary hearings held by the Discipline Committee
- to decide whether a disciplinary hearing is required in cases where that discretion is given to the Disciplinarian by these Rules and Regulations

- to conduct investigations and take decisions regarding disciplinary matters when a hearing is not held under these Rules and Regulations
- to communicate decisions of the Disciplinarian or the Discipline Committee to the parties affected by the decisions
- to notify the Board when changes to FIFA, CSA, or MSA Rules and Regulations are such that they would require a change to the League disciplinary policies or procedures
- other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Board

A Discipline Committee shall be appointed by the Board. If required, the Committee shall be comprised of the Disciplinarian and two other members. The Discipline Committee's responsibilities will be:

- to conduct hearings and make decisions on disciplinary matters when a disciplinary hearing is held under these Rules and Regulations
- other duties as assigned by the Disciplinarian or the Board

One member of the Discipline Committee will be designated by the Board as the Assistant Disciplinarian. The Assistant will act in the place of the Disciplinarian when the Disciplinarian is unable to do so and will assume the authority and responsibility of the Disciplinarian while acting.

The Disciplinarian or other Members of the Discipline Committee shall recuse themselves from decisions where they would be or would appear to be in a conflict of interest regarding any of the parties involved. The Board will appoint replacements in these circumstances.

Clubs, Organizations, teams, players and club or team officials may be disciplined for:

- breaches of these Rules and Regulations
- breaches of applicable MSA, CSA, or FIFA Laws, Rules or Regulations
- failure to comply with Board, Disciplinarian, Discipline Committee decisions or Committee directives
- any other conduct on or off the pitch which is relevant to membership in, relationship to, and role within the League
- any conduct which will bring the game of soccer or the League into disrepute
- all cases of misconduct involving alleged physical assault, attempted physical assault or threatening behaviour towards a game official or any person shall be dealt with by the Discipline Committee of the MSA.

The Disciplinarian and the Discipline Committee shall have the authority to sanction clubs/organizations, teams, players and club and team officials in one or more of the following ways:

- suspension from all or any specific soccer activity related to the League, including, but not limited to, playing, coaching and personnel, indefinitely, for a period of time, or for a number of games
- imposition of a fine and/or performance bond, and/or payment of expenses related to the disciplinary hearing, with timelines for payment and further sanction for noncompliance
- expulsion from the League

For the purposes of this section, the “accused” refers to any club, team, player or club or team official whom could potentially be disciplined by the Disciplinarian or the Discipline Committee, based upon a report from a game official or a complaint filed by another party.

In conducting hearings or investigations and reaching decisions the Disciplinarian and the Discipline Committee shall be guided by the following:

- the principles of Natural Justice
- the severity and circumstances of the offence
- the fairness of the sanction under consideration
- the need for deterrence for the individual accused and for members of the League at large
- history of other misconduct or offences
- mitigating factors or circumstances
- CSA/MSA Mandatory Minimums

Matters adjudicated by the Disciplinarian or Discipline Committee will normally originate from a report from a game official. If the Board refers any matters which do not originate from a report from a game official, then the Board shall give specific instructions with respect to procedures and processes to the Disciplinarian or the Discipline Committee.

Report from Game Official

The Disciplinarian may act on a report from a game official without convening the Discipline Committee for a formal hearing, provided that:

- a. the Disciplinarian does not feel that the matter is such that a formal hearing is required in the circumstances
- b. the accused has not requested a formal hearing as provided in these Rules and Regulations

The Disciplinarian may convene a formal hearing before the Discipline Committee based upon a report from a game official for any of the following reasons:

- a. the seriousness of the offence in question and the potential discipline
- b. the need for a formal hearing in order to properly ascertain all of the relevant facts
- c. any other reason which the Disciplinarian considers to be relevant

Where the Disciplinarian acts upon a report from a game official without convening the Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinarian shall investigate to determine all of the relevant facts and shall communicate with all of the relevant parties, insofar as it is required to reach a decision.

An accused has a right to a formal hearing before the Discipline Committee on any matter arising from a report from a game official.

To exercise this right, the accused must inform the Board or the Disciplinarian before 4:00 pm of the first working day immediately after the event from which discipline could potentially arise or 4:00 pm of the first working day immediately after being notified of the discipline.

If the event in question is a situation which would trigger the MSA Mandatory Minimums based upon the report of a game official, then the accused is deemed to have received notice of the potential for further discipline at the time of the event.

Complaints

Any complaint regarding alleged misconduct or breach of these Rules and Regulations from a party other than a game official must be completed and submitted on the prescribed form via the League website. Acknowledgment of receipt of the complaint will be provided within five (5) working days.

Complaints filed by a party other than a game official will be referred to the Complaints Committee.

The Complaints Committee shall normally conduct a hearing if required. The complainant or the accused may request a hearing or make written submissions, if the Committee feels that written submissions are appropriate in the circumstances. If either the complainant or the accused wishes to have a hearing or the Committee feels there should be one, then a hearing will be held.

If the Complaints Committee concludes that the complainant has deliberately filed a false complaint, engaged in misconduct or acted in a malicious or vexatious manner, the Complaints Committee may sanction the complainant accordingly. This power is vested in the committee even if no counter complaint has been filed by the accused. It is within the authority of the Committee to discipline both parties, one party or neither party.

Publication

All disciplinary and complaints decisions and reports may be publicized, whether such a publication reflects on the character or conduct of any organization, club, team, player, or club or team official referred to therein.

In agreeing to be a member of the League the parties in question have agreed to these Rules and Regulations and have given their consent to said publication of the League's discipline and complaints decisions and reports.

Hearings

Discipline Committee and Complaints Committee hearing procedures:

- the chair introduces the members of the committee and other parties present
- the chair informs the attendees if the hearing is being recorded
- the chair explains that those present may only speak with the permission of the chair
- the chair reads the official's report or complaint which gave rise to the hearing
- the official or complainant is given the opportunity to present evidence and to call witnesses
- the accused is given the opportunity to ask questions of the official or complainant or their witnesses
- the official or complainant is given the opportunity to present evidence and call witnesses
- the official or complainant is given the opportunity to ask questions of the accused or their witnesses
- any member of the Committee may question any person giving evidence
- the official or complainant and the accused shall be allowed to make fine summations
- the Committee shall withdraw and deliberate in privacy

- the Committee may announce their finding at any time after the hearing or inform the parties that they need more time to deliberate and will notify them of the committee's decision within ten (10) working days.
- the Chair may, in their discretion, exclude any person other than the parties to the complaint from the hearing in the interest of a fair and orderly hearing or to avoid the undue influence third parties

Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee shall:

- Review appeal requests and decide if an appellant should be granted a hearing. If not, reasons should be provided to the appellant for the Committee's decision(s)
- Conduct appeal hearings and decide if an original decision of the League Discipline Committee or Complaints Committee should be upheld, overturned and/or amended
- Continuously review and evaluate Appeals Committee administrative document and policies to ensure compatibility with the League, MSA, and CSA Rules and Regulations and By-Laws.

Appeals Procedure

An appeal must be submitted within five (5) working days of receiving the decision to be appealed to the League Vice-President by registered mail, certified mail or personal service. In the absence of the Vice-President, the appeal may be directed to the President.

The appeal must be accompanied by an appeal deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) via e-transfer. This deposit will only be refunded if the League's original disciplinary decision is overturned.

The appellant shall submit a copy of the written decision being appealed or their understanding of the decision if they have not received the decision in writing.

The appeal must state the reasons (grounds) for appealing the decision:

- Errors alleged to have been made in procedures followed to arrive at the decision; or
- New facts that were not available when the decision was made; or
- Alleged incorrect interpretation of the relevant provisions under which the discipline was applied

The Board or appointed appeals committee may deny leave to appeal if they do not find valid reasons for an appeal and shall notify the appellant accordingly.

All protests or appeals submitted to the Board Committee or Appeals Committee shall be decided within ten (10) working days of being properly notified in writing of the protest or appeal.

The decision of the Board Committee or delegated committee shall be final and binding, except that the appellant may further appeal the decision to the Manitoba Soccer Association.

21. Amendments to Rules and Regulations

These Rules and Regulations may be amended at any time and from time to time by the Board in their sole discretion.

The Winnipeg Women's Soccer League Rules & Regulations are to be always followed unless otherwise advised by the League in writing.