



## **British Columbia Soccer Association**

### **DISCIPLINE POLICY AND PROCEDURE GUIDE**

*Effective: January 2003*

*Each season, every District, League or Inter-District League or combination of either through interlock, shall forward the names and telephone numbers of the chairperson and members of their discipline committee to the Chairperson of the BCSA Discipline Committee as soon as such names is available.*

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**Provincial Cup Discipline – Interior Round Robin**  
**PART 1           General**

**Constitution:**

The purpose of the Association is to foster, develop and promote the game of soccer, in all its branches, in the Province of British Columbia and;

To govern the rules of play of the game of soccer in the Province of British Columbia

**By-Laws:**

**Article 1           Affiliation**

The Association shall be affiliated with the Canadian Soccer Association and subject to the Rules and Regulations of that body.

**Article 5           Duties of the Board of Directors and Officers**

Paragraph 6 f) To maintain all Rules & Regulations, which govern the game of soccer amongst the Active members and Associate Members of the Association

In accordance with Article 1 and Article 5;

The Rules and Regulations governing disciplinary matters are described in **Rule 11 – Discipline** and are interpreted in the Discipline Policy and Procedure Guide.

**Discipline Committees**

The committee shall be responsible for all matters of discipline referred to it under the jurisdiction of the Association, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any of the following matters:

- a) Alleged misconduct on the part of a member of a Club, Player, Team Official or any member that may bring the game of soccer into disrepute.
- b) Alleged breach of any of the Rules, Regulations or By-laws of the Association, District Association or League-in-Membership.

**Structure:**

Chair: Appointed or elected by a District Association or League-in-Membership

Members: Two other members, who may be either appointed or elected.

**Terms of Reference:**

- a) To inquire into all allegations of misconduct and to hold hearings when necessary
- b) To conduct such hearings in accordance within the provisions of Rule 11-Discipline
- c) To appoint discipline hearing committees as may be required from time to time to deal with specific issues
- d) To determine the disposition of all discipline matters brought before the committee

**Committee - General**

1. Meet in accordance with a schedule as established by the Association and District Association or League-in-Membership or Inter-district League.
2. Keep minutes of all hearings and a written record of decisions rendered.
3. Shall report the decisions to the District Association or League-in-Membership in accordance with committee reporting policy.
4. All committees either League or District shall make use of the B.C.S.A. On-line Discipline tracking system.
5. Shall report the decisions to the Association, by the on-line reporting system as specified by B.C.S.A
6. Shall retain all records of discipline hearings for a period of three years.

**PART 2            Rule 11 – Discipline**

1. The Board shall have the power to inquire into the conduct of any member in the member's capacity as a player, *team* official, *game official*, team, *club*, district or league, and may take disciplinary action where it is determined that a member has:
    - i) violated F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game and/or the Association's game rules;
    - ii) violated rules established from time to time by the Association governing the conduct of members on and off the field;
    - iii) behaved in a manner considered by the Board to be unbecoming of a member registered with the Association;
    - iv) behaved in a manner considered by the Board not to be in the best interest of the game of soccer or the Association;
    - v) bet on any soccer match;
    - vi) attempted to offer, either directly or indirectly, any consideration whatsoever to another team, player or players of any other team, with a view to influence the result of the match;
    - vii) accepted consideration pursuant to clause vi);
    - viii) committed any act or made any statement either verbally or in writing, or been responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any other matter which, in the opinion of the Association, is considered to be unsporting, insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the game into disrepute.
  2. Where the Board has made a determination pursuant to paragraph "a" above, the Board with respect to the member, shall do one or more of the following
    - i) reprimand the member;
    - ii) suspend the member from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing, *officiating* or acting as an officer of a member group in the Association for one or more league or provincial cup games;
    - iii) suspend the member from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing, *officiating* or acting as an officer of a member group in the Association for one or more playing seasons;
    - iv) suspend the member from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing, *officiating* or acting as an officer of a member group in the Association for an indefinite period;
    - v) expel the member from the Association;
    - vi) in the case of an adult player, team official, team, district or league, impose a fine *and/or bond*
  3. The Board shall have the power to impose an interim suspension with respect to a member pending a final determination pursuant to paragraph "b" Rule 11 – Discipline.
  4. In addition to its powers under paragraphs "b" and "c", Rule 11 – Discipline, the Board may make any other disciplinary decisions that it considers just.
  5. No player or member of any such team, *game official*, district, league or affiliated association so removed or suspended shall be eligible for membership in any other team, district, league or association affiliated with the Association without special permission of the Board.
- f) The Association may delegate and authorize officers of the Association to perform the functions and exercise the disciplinary powers vested in the Board and the Association under Rule 11 – Discipline
- g) In case of disputes between players, teams, districts, leagues, or affiliated associations, legal proceedings shall be taken only as a last resort, and then only with the consent of the Board.
- h) Every team, club, district, league or affiliated association is responsible to the Association for the actions of its players, officials and spectators, and is required to;
- take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting officials and/or players during or at the conclusion of matches.
- take all precautions to prevent the use of objectionable, insulting language and offensive behaviour.
- in any case of a breach of paragraph "h" (ii & iii), Rule 11 – Discipline, any player, official or spectator may be removed from any ground.

## BCSA Discipline Policies & Procedures.

- i) Players and / or officials reported for misconduct in a league, cup competition, tournament, exhibition or training game, may be allowed to continue to participate in all soccer activities until their case is dealt with, except:
  - i) Players or team officials reported for assault of Referees and/or Game Officials, shall stand suspended from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of the Association until their case has been heard, and dealt with, by the Association.
  - ii) A player (red card) or team official sent from the field of play will automatically be suspended for one (1) game. Suspensions shall apply to the player's or *team official's* next regularly scheduled league or cup competition game, whichever comes first. The player or team official, having served the one (1) game suspension shall be eligible to resume playing, *coaching, managing or officiating* unless notified by the Association that further disciplinary action is being applied. The one game suspension shall be carried from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was issued.
  - iii) A player or who accumulates three (3) cautions (yellow cards) within a period of one playing season shall be automatically suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's following league or cup game, *whichever comes first*. After having served the one (1) game suspension, the player shall be eligible to resume playing, unless notified by the Association that further disciplinary action is being applied. The one game suspension shall be carried from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was accumulated.
  - iv) A player who accumulates in excess of (3) cautions (yellow cards) within a period of one playing season shall be suspended one or more additional games pursuant to the Association Discipline Policy and Procedure Guide
  - v) For provincial cup play, a player who accumulates three (3) cautions (yellow cards) during provincial cup play, shall automatically be suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's next provincial cup game. Provincial Cup for youth teams is defined as all "A" Cup competition. and "B" Cup competition beyond district qualification (inter-district), (see Rule 25 – Rules for Provincial Cup Play –Youth). Provincial Cup for senior teams is defined as provincial cup play beyond league qualification (see Rule 27 – Senior Cup Competition Rules.)
- j) Any disciplinary action applied while playing in a game under permit shall apply to all future games of the team for which the player is registered, and shall be subject to:
  - i) *Disciplinary decisions shall be the responsibility of the discipline committee for the association or league governing the competition where the permitted player was charged with an offence*
  - ii) *Said discipline committee shall forward a copy of the discipline ruling to the district association where the player is registered and to the team official of the team to which the player is attached.*
- k) Any registered player or team official found guilty of an offence for which expulsion was the result for the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) instance in a twelve month period, *may* be assessed a maximum one (1) year suspension. Discipline records for the individual and all other pertinent information must be sent to the Association for review. The Association shall retain jurisdiction in this instance for all such cases regardless of the domicile of the individual.
- l) The Board, in carrying out its powers under Rule 11 – Discipline, shall follow the procedure for disciplinary hearings established by the Association.
- m) Where the control of discipline has been delegated to a district, league or affiliated association, all cases of players ordered off of the field of play as well as players and or officials reported for misconduct shall be dealt with by the organization or committee *pursuant to the Association Discipline Policy and Procedure Guide;*
  - ii) Given ten (10) working days notice unless a waiver is signed by the accused.
  - iii) Within fifteen workings (15) days of the incident
  - iv) Notwithstanding, districts and leagues in membership, or their members, may publish in advance the dates of regularly scheduled hearings, and giving of notice in "m", i) is waived.
  - v) If a hearing is not held by this time, the player's rights are temporarily reinstated until the disciplinary hearing is convened.

**BCSA Discipline Policies & Procedures.**

- n) In cases where an accused stands suspended pending a hearing, or for any adjourned hearing, the date for the hearing shall be set within:
  - i. 15 working days of the alleged incident
  - ii. 25 working days of the previous hearing
  
- o) In all cases of alleged game official assault by a player or by a team, club or district official, the hearing shall be convened within 30 days of receipt of the game official's report by the governing body.
  
- p) Wherein a result of a discipline hearing is withheld, the accused shall be sent a final determination no later than 15 working days following the hearing.
  
- q) Each discipline hearing held within the jurisdiction of the Association and its members shall be conducted pursuant to the Association Discipline Policy and Procedure Guide and in accordance with the following:
  - i) A Discipline Hearing Committee shall have no less than three members, one of whom shall act as Chairperson.
  - ii) Discipline Hearing committee shall record in writing any action taken under Rule 11– Discipline, paragraph “b”.
  - iii) In all cases, the party complained against shall have the right to appear and offer a full answer or defense to the charges when the case is heard.
  - iv) By mutual consent, in writing, of the accused and a Discipline Hearing Committee, any terms in Rule 11–Discipline, paragraphs “m” and “n” may be waived.
  
- r) No barrister or solicitor shall represent any such player, team, district, league or affiliated association at the hearing of any *misconduct*, protest, complaint or appeal, unless;
  - i) As an executive officer of the team, district, league or affiliated association concerned and has been for a period of three months immediately preceding the lodgment of the misconduct, protest, complaint or appeal,
  - ii) And whose name appears on the affiliation form of such team, district, league or affiliated association as an executive officer,
  
  - iii) *And, a person so identified, may only represent the player, team, district or league in the capacity of a team, club, district or league official.*
  
- s) The Board shall have the power to call any player, team, district, league or affiliated association to produce any books, letters or documents and other evidence the Board may desire.
  
- t) The Board may also, order the offending parties to pay all expenses incurred in hearing the case.

### **PART 3            Standard Terms**

Association	The British Columbia Soccer Association.
Advisor	An adult person who provides advice to a youth player required to attend a hearing in order to ensure that a specific party receives a fair and impartial hearing. The party may be a barrister or solicitor provided they meet the conditions of Rule 11-Discipline, Paragraph “r”. The advisor may not act as a witness at such hearing.
<i>Board</i>	<i>The Board of Directors of the Association, District Association or League-in-Membership elected or appointed to govern the operation of its members.</i>
Bond	A defined amount determined by a district or league which may be implemented in accordance with the jurisdiction’s rules and regulations and may be levied at the discretion of the enabling authority for the purpose of a member guaranteeing proper conduct; which shall be refunded without interest provided the conditions are met.
Club	An organization affiliated with a district, league-in-membership or the Association who shall observe the rules and regulations of the Association.
Discipline Committee	A group consisting of a minimum of three persons who are appointed or elected by an organization to adjudicate disciplinary matters in accordance with discipline policy consistent with the Association’s rules and regulations.
District	District Association primarily established for the purpose of organizing and administering youth age soccer in a defined area as per the current constitution
Exhibition Game	A game played which does not count in league standings or in cup competition.
Expulsion	To remove or suspend a member, which may include a team, from membership within the jurisdiction of a governing organization; to be ejected for misconduct at a sanctioned soccer activity
Fines	A non-refundable monetary amount assessed for breach of the rules and regulations by the Association or in accordance with district or league policy, however, <b><u>shall not be levied against any youth age player.</u></b>
Game Official Assault	Deliberate physical contact, (i.e. pushing, pulling, charging), or attempted physical contact, threats or threatening action, attempted violent conduct, violent conduct (i.e. striking, kicking, spitting, etc.)
Game Official	Referee, Assistant Referee or 4 <sup>th</sup> Official or a Club/Team Linesperson accepted by the Referee to act in that capacity or any other official acting on behalf of B.C.S.A., club, district or league.
Hearing Notice	A number of day’s notice consistent with the rules and regulations of the Association. Districts and leagues may publish in advance the dates of regularly scheduled hearings which shall waive the giving of notice.
Inter-District League	Two or more District Associations operating league under rules and regulations approved by the Association.
League	Senior Leagues- in-Membership, primarily established for the purpose of organizing and operating open age soccer as defined by the Association or a sanctioned league operating under rules and regulations approved by the Association.

**BCSA Discipline Policies & Procedures.**

**Standard Terms cont'd**

Misconduct Type	As defined in Rule 11 – Discipline and Part 11, Punishment Guidelines on which charges are based and penalties assessed.
Player	A player registered with the Association.
Response Days	A number of days an accused offender has to respond to a written request by a discipline committee or in accordance with discipline policy and procedures.
Soccer Related Activity	Activities that include administering, coaching, managing, playing or officiating in any sanctioned activity that falls under the jurisdiction of the Association or as determined by the Association.
Suspension Review	A request to the Association, District Association or League-in-Membership, for a review of a lengthy suspension, which may be considered by leave of the governing jurisdiction.
Suspension	Automatic game suspension which may not be appealed and must be served in the following league or cup match, whichever comes first, or a suspension for a specific number of games, a specific stated period of time, or from all soccer related activities.
Team Official	The coach, assistant coach, manager or other person registered with the Association who oversees the operation of an affiliated team.

## **PART 4           Rights and Responsibilities**

1. Players, team officials, administrators, game officials and spectators may only take part in, or attend games, on condition that they observe the published Rules & Regulations of the Association.
2. Every Club is responsible for the actions of its players, teams officials, administrators and spectators.
3. **Every club, district and league is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its players, team officials, administrators and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone present at games, and especially the game officials.**
4. In all cases of mistaken identity of an accused player, team official or administrator caused as a result of a team list error or other irregularities, the responsible team, club, district or league, shall properly identify the offending party involved.
5. **Affiliated District Associations, Leagues-in-Membership and Clubs shall ensure that their disciplinary rules, regulations, policies and procedures are consistent with those of the Association.**
6. Failure to observe timelines defined in the Rules and Regulations of the Association may render any disciplinary action taken after the expiration of the time, null and void in the event of appeal.
7. A member is accused of misconduct when they are reported in accordance with Part 5, Breaches of the Laws of the Game and/or paragraph “a”, clauses ii) through viii), Rule 11 – Discipline.
8. The accused shall be notified in writing, when the report alleging their misconduct is being heard, except where hearings are held in accordance with a published schedule.
9. Accused parties have the right to appear at a hearing at their own expense.
10. A game official must attend a Discipline Hearing if required to do so, by the organization adjudicating the case.
11. In all cases where a person has been charged in a criminal court with offenses of moral turpitude, the accused shall be suspended from all soccer activity until the case has been concluded in the criminal courts. The Association shall decide if further proceedings are warranted pursuant to the published Rules and Regulations of the CSA.
12. In the event that criminal charges are laid as a result of any incident that occurred in a game, the case should proceed, unless the accused requests a postponement of the hearing in accordance with the published policy. The results of the criminal case shall not influence the hearing of the case. Requests for postponement under these circumstances shall be granted however the accused shall remain suspended until their case is dealt with by the Discipline Hearing Committee.
13. Any accused player who is less than 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adviser, in accordance with the Association’s policy Part 7, Hearing Procedures, failing which the hearing will not proceed and the accused person shall be suspended, pending a subsequent hearing.
14. At a Discipline Hearing, each party required to attend may have no more than two observers attend the hearing unless otherwise requested by a Discipline Committee.

## **Rights and Responsibilities cont'd**

15. A person present at a Discipline Hearing in the capacity as an advisor, observer or Club or District Representative may not act as a witness at such hearing unless by specific permission of the adjudicating committee.
16. If an individual has sat out the required automatic game suspension and the committee is unable to hear the case before the next scheduled league or cup match, a player is eligible to play until the player attends a scheduled hearing.
17. All parties affected by a discipline decision have the right to receive a written copy of the decision and also, the specific Rights of Appeal information, including:
  - a) The name and address of the organization to which the decision may be appealed
  - b) The amount of the appeal fee
  - c) The timeline for appealing a decision
  - d) The criteria for the specific grounds for appeal
  - e) Method of notification; must be in writing and may be submitted by mail or facsimile.  
Fee for an appeal filed by facsimile must be remitted to the Association within the prescribed timeline
18. The timelines for appealing a decision shall only go into effect after the affected party has received a written copy of the decision and the Right of Appeal information.
19. A discipline decision shall remain in effect pending the result of the appeal pursuant to Rule 13-Appeals
20. Discipline Committees have a responsibility to investigate any formal, written complaint brought to their attention by the Association, their governing body, a member district, league-in membership or club.

## PART 5 Breaches of the Laws of the Game

The referee must report to the appropriate authority any misconduct or misdemeanor on the part of spectators, team officials, players, named substitutes or other persons which take place either on the field of play or in its vicinity at anytime prior to, during or after the match in question so that appropriate action can be taken by the authority concerned.

1. It is understood that any registered player or team official who is sent from the field of play or reported for misconduct, shall automatically be suspended from participating in the following league match, league cup or Provincial Cup match of their team.

*Interpretation: The next game whether league or cup game, whichever comes first.*

- a) The rules regarding discipline do not differentiate between games that are completed or abandoned for any reason. Therefore, the penalty for being cautioned or expelled from a game remains the same regardless of the situation surrounding the games outcome.
  - b) Suspensions shall be served for a continuous period, or for consecutive games, except where there is a break in the competition, in which case the suspension may be:
    - i) *Continued accordingly*
    - ii) *Continued during 'the active season'*
  - c) Players or team officials shall not participate in any sanctioned soccer activity while under suspension which includes:
    - i) Acting as a game official;
    - ii) Coaching in any way, either verbally or by hand signals or assisting the team in any way;
    - iii) Shall not be in match strip while standing with team members during any match.
    - iv) *Shall not participate in any exhibition match or tournament without the written permission of the discipline committee that rendered the decision.*
2. The suspension/s may carryover into any sanctioned activity, including tournament and exhibition matches, but shall not constitute the serving of the suspension/s.
  3. Breaching the suspension shall result in a further suspension as determined by a discipline committee of the Association, District, League- in- Membership or Inter-district league.
  4. Individuals having served their one game suspension, shall be eligible to play or act as team officials until their case is dealt with, unless otherwise advised or indicated in these guidelines pursuant to Rule 11 paragraph "m" iii).
  5. A Discipline Hearing Committee may:
    - a) Pursuant to Rule 11, paragraph "b", a Discipline Committee may reprimand, suspend, fine and/or bond (with or without suspension) with the exception; any player under the age of 18 at the time of registration, may not be assessed a fine.
    - b) May set timelines for payment of fines or bonds, and may set further terms of punishment for non-compliance.

## **PART 6            Automatic Game Suspension**

1. A player or team official sent from the field of play for misconduct or who engages in conduct for which the penalty under FIFA Laws of the Game would be expulsion from the field or game, shall be suspended without hearing and without appeal, from the following League or Cup game.\*\* The player or team official, having served the one game suspension shall be eligible to resume play, coach, manage or officiate. The one game suspension shall be carried from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was issued.
  
2. A player or team official who accumulates three (3) official cautions (Yellow cards) within a period of one playing season shall be automatically suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's following League or Cup game. After having served the one game suspension, the player shall be eligible to resume play unless notified that further disciplinary action is being considered. The one game suspension shall be carried from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was accumulated.
  
3. For provincial cup play, a senior player who accumulates two (2) cautions, yellow cards, or, a youth player who accumulates three (3) cautions during provincial cup play, shall automatically be suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's next provincial cup game. Provincial Cup for youth teams is defined as all "A" Cup competition and "B" Cup competition beyond district qualification (inter-district), (see Rule 25 – Rules for Provincial Cup Play –Youth). Provincial Cup for senior teams is defined as provincial cup play beyond league qualification (see Rule 27 – Senior Cup Competition Rules.)

\*\*            *Interpretation: The very next game whether league or cup competition.*

## **PART 7            Discipline Hearing Procedures**

The following procedures are to be used by Discipline Committees within the jurisdiction of the Association and should be the operating guidelines for hearing discipline cases. Rule 11 – Discipline, paragraph “q” provides for the minimum requirements for discipline committees. The procedures are consistent with the CSA Discipline Rule 12, paragraph “d” x).

### **Section A            Formal Hearing Guidelines**

1.        A Discipline Committee must be comprised of three members, one of whom shall act as a recording secretary, unless, by mutual consent, the accused has signed a waiver pursuant to Rule 11, paragraph “q” iv).
2.        A team official may represent players, however, if the player is less than eighteen years of age they must be accompanied by an adult. The individual representing the player should be given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the individual.
3.        The accused and their representative shall be present, or the hearing shall not proceed.
  - a)       Failure by any person to attend without valid reasons a regularly scheduled discipline hearing or after having been given notice to do so shall result in suspension of the accused. The suspension shall continue until the accused requests in writing a hearing and attends a hearing.
4.        Players, team officials charged with an offence must have the opportunity to respond to the charges either:
  - a)       in person.
  - b)       in writing (permission may be granted if the individual is unable to appear and has made a written request for such consideration).
5.        The Chairperson shall read the report and state the charge or at the discretion of the committee, may allow the accused to read the report.
  - a)       if the individual is unable to appear, a copy of the report should be mailed to the accused with a covering letter advising the date their reply is expected.
  - b)       match reports, which may accompany a referee’s report, do not have to be copied and given to the individual.
6.        The individual should be given the opportunity to answer to the charges as described in the report. Questions and/or clarification of the respondent’s statement should be asked after the individual has had an opportunity to reply.
7.        The Recording Secretary must record pertinent information for the record, in particular, any serious discrepancy that may exist between the game official’s report and the individual’s responses
8.        After questioning the individual, ask them if they have anything further they wish to add to their statement before a decision is made. Request the individual to withdraw while the committee discusses the case and makes a decision.
9.        The Discipline Hearing Committee shall consider the report and further evidence provided and shall decide on the case.

## Discipline Hearing Procedures cont'd

10. Call the individual back in and advise them of the committee's decision.
  - a) the accused shall be given a written record of the committee's decision
  - b) if the accused disputes the decision, advise them they have the right of appeal
  - c) appeal procedures must be outlined
  - d) inform the accused, if an appeal is considered, they are required to serve any assessed suspensions while the appeal process is pending.  
*Suspensions must be served as assessed unless given leave by the Provincial Board*
11. Decisions should be made based on the referee's report and information presented by the individual at the hearing.
12. You have the right to withhold the decision at the end of the hearing, however the individual should be advised of the reason i.e. an extremely serious offence and the committee wishes to deliberate further.
  - a) The accused shall be permitted to participate in their next league or cup match until a decision is made, provided the automatic game suspension has been served, excepting anyone accused of game official assault, threatening a game official or harassment of a game official.
  - b) In the event a decision is withheld, the committee upon rendering a decision shall contact the accused and team official and inform them of the committee's decision. The accused shall be notified in writing of the result of the hearing in accordance with Rule 11, paragraph 'p'.
13. Failure of the accused, without due cause, to remain at a discipline hearing shall be dealt with as follows:
  - a) an accused individual who refuses to participate in a Discipline Hearing, or who walks out of a hearing, thus preventing a Discipline Committee from rendering a decision on the case, shall stand suspended until such time they make a written request for another hearing and appear at a scheduled subsequent hearing.
  - b) notwithstanding, clause 'a', if a Discipline Committee determines that it has obtained sufficient evidence, prior to the walkout, to make a decision in the normal manner, it shall render its decision.
14. Members of Discipline Committees should appear impartial at all times. A structured formal process tends to impart this image.
15. Familiarity with players and officials must be discouraged, as it tends to detract from the process of a formal hearing.
16. If an individual has sat out the required automatic game suspension and the committee is unable to hear the case before the next scheduled league or cup match, a player is eligible to play until the player attends a scheduled hearing.

### ***Appendix B: Discipline Committee Report Form (Optional)***

#### **Note:**

The date of the offence, date of hearing and the three discipline committee's names should be recorded on the report form. In the event of an appeal, this information may be the determining factor if leave for appeal is granted.

## Discipline Hearing Procedures cont'd

### Section B Mail-In Hearing Procedures

The following procedures may be used as the operating guidelines for reviewing or hearing discipline cases that require the use of a mail-in system. Hearing guidelines are fully documented under the formal hearing procedures, Section A, The District, League-in-Membership or Inter-district league Discipline Committee, must approve a request for a mail-in review.

1. Players or team officials charged with an offence must have the opportunity to respond to the charges and shall be:
  - a) Sent a copy of the details of the charges
  - b) Allowed sufficient time to respond to the charges in writing
  - c) Allowed the opportunity to answer to the charges as described in the report
  - d) Advised the date their reply is expected
2. Record pertinent information in the record, in particular, any serious discrepancy that may exist between the game officials' report and the individual's responses. If a serious discrepancy exists, it may be necessary to convene a formal hearing.
3. A committee comprised of three members, none of whom may be associated with the accused, must review all pertinent information including the accused written response.
4. The individual must be advised in writing the decision of the committee. The decision may be communicated verbally to expedite matters, however, a written confirmation should be sent out within 48 hours. The appeal procedures should be outlined in the written notification of the committee's decision.
5. Once the individual has served the required automatic game suspension, they are eligible to play until the discipline committee has rendered a decision.
6. If the individual fails to respond to the charges by the date specified in your original notification they;
  - a) shall be suspended until the reply is received.
  - b) a notice of Indefinite Suspension shall be mailed to the accused

Mail-in procedures shall not be permitted for anyone accused of Deliberate Physical Contact or Violent Misconduct towards game officials. The Association shall appoint a committee to oversee hearing proceedings.

## **PART 8           Right to Waive**

The CSA Rule 12 – Discipline permits, with mutual consent of the accused and a Discipline Hearing Committee, waiving the Rules & Regulations governing Hearings, Timelines and Notices. In order to be consistent with the CSA, the Association’s Rules & Regulations include the waiver clause in Rule 11-Discipline, Paragraph “q” iv).

*Where hearing schedules are published in advance, timeline and notification requirements are waived and mutual consent is not required.* Signed waivers are required in all instances of a Discipline Committee comprised of less than three members.

### **Criteria**

1. The right to waive should only be considered if a situation arises that is unforeseen and the hearing cannot be rescheduled within the required timelines.
2. When a hearing has been scheduled and one member of the Discipline Committee is unable to attend or is detained, the option to waive may only be considered under the following criteria:
  - a) The offence is not of a serious nature
  - b) The adult representative for a registered youth age player agrees to sign the waiver
3. If the offence is of a serious nature or the offender has been subject to disciplinary action for prior offences, the right to waive should not be considered. The hearing should be adjourned and rescheduled at the earliest possible date. Pursuant to Rule 11-Discipline, paragraph “m” iii), the player’s rights are temporarily reinstated until a hearing is convened.
4. If the accused is unable to appear for valid reason, a Discipline Committee may offer the accused the option to respond in writing and waive the right to appear and offer a defense when the case is heard.
5. Waivers will not be considered if the offence is directed towards a game official.

### ***Appendix A: Waiver Form (Mandatory)***

## **PART 9 Request for Postponing a Hearing**

Any accused party required to attend a hearing may request one postponement for a scheduled or published hearing.

1. The Discipline Committee in jurisdiction may grant postponement of the hearing, on terms published in advance of the hearing. Where district associations, leagues-in-membership or inter-district leagues, do not have published terms, the following terms shall be met:
  - a) The accused must make submission no later than seven days prior to the date of that hearing
  - b) The accused shall state the reason for requesting the postponement.
  - c) The hearing shall be rescheduled within 15 working days of the alleged incident.
2. Governing jurisdictions may establish a fee schedule; however, any such fee shall be included in the enabling authority's fee schedule.
3. If the Request for Postponement is denied, the fee shall be refunded.
4. An accused party making submission to postpone a hearing is required to serve any required automatic game suspension and shall remain suspended until the Discipline Committee deals with the case. If a Discipline Committee is not able to reschedule the hearing within the required 15 working days, the accused shall be eligible to participate in soccer activities provided the required automatic suspension has been served.
5. Should the hearing be postponed by the Discipline Committee and the accused was prepared to appear, the hearing shall be rescheduled and the following terms shall be met:
  - a) The accused party shall not be assessed a fee
  - b) The accused party shall be eligible to participate in soccer activities once the required automatic game suspension has been served, with the exception, of any individual accused of Assault of a Game Official.

## **PART 10 Indefinite Suspension**

Failure by any person to attend, without valid reason, a Discipline Hearing after been given notice to do so in accordance with a district, league-in-membership or inter-district leagues discipline policy, shall stand suspended and deemed to be **Indefinitely Suspended**.

The individual is deemed to be under **Indefinite Suspension** and shall be notified they may **NOT** participate in any soccer activities under the jurisdiction of the Association pursuant to Rule 11- Discipline, paragraph “e”. The Discipline Committee in jurisdiction shall inform the district, league or inter-district league and in addition are required to inform the team officials responsible for the team by **Notice of Indefinite Suspension**.

1. Failure to attend a Discipline Hearing when required to do so, shall result in the accused remaining suspended until such time the suspended party requests in writing, another hearing and appears at a subsequent hearing and may be penalized in accordance with the published rules of the governing jurisdiction.
2. Should any individual continue to participate in soccer activities after being placed on Indefinite Suspension, they shall be ordered to appear before the District, League-in-Membership or Inter-district League Discipline Committee. The Discipline Hearing Committee shall assess a suspension in accordance with the Punishment Guidelines in Part 15, Participating in Soccer Activities While Under Suspension **in addition** to the suspension for the original offence

*Failure to know the rules shall not be considered a defense.*

3. Districts and leagues shall forward any Notice of Indefinite Suspension to the Association Discipline Committee within twenty-one days for distribution to Provincial Registrar and member organizations.

*Appendix C Notice of Suspension*

## **PART 11           Punishment Guidelines**

### **Section A           Accumulated Cautions**

If a player receives two cautions in one match and consequently is expelled the cautions **shall NOT** become part of the caution accumulation. The two cautions automatically constitute an expulsion. If however, after receiving a caution, the player is subsequently expelled for any offence, punishable by expulsion, the first caution shall become part of the record.

**a)           THREE Official Cautions:**           Rule 11 , paragraph “i” iii)

A player who accumulates three (3) cautions (yellow cards) within a period of one playing season shall be automatically suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player’s following league or cup game, *whichever comes first*. After having served the (1) one game suspension, the player shall be eligible to resume play unless notified that further disciplinary action is being applied. The (1) one game suspension shall be carried from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was accumulated.

**b)           FIVE Official Cautions**

Having accumulated the cautions as per paragraphs “i” iii), Rule 11, players receiving a further two (2) cautions (yellow cards) in the current season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Committee and shall be assessed a (1) one game suspension which must be served in the player’s following league or cup game, whichever comes first. The (1) one game suspension shall be carried from one season from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was accumulated.

**c)           SIX Official Cautions**

Having accumulated the cautions as per paragraph “a” and “b”, players receiving a further single caution (yellow card) in the current season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Committee and shall be assessed a (2) two game suspension which must be served in the player’s following league or cup game, whichever comes first. The (2) two game suspension shall be carried from one season from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was accumulated.

**d)           SEVEN Official Cautions**

Having accumulated the cautions as per paragraph “a” “b” and “c”, players receiving a further single caution (yellow card) in the current season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Committee and shall be assessed a (5) five game or 30 Day suspension which must be served in the player’s following league or cup games, whichever comes first. The game suspension shall be carried from one season from one season to the next if not served prior to the completion of the season in which it was accumulated.

Notwithstanding, paragraphs “a through d”, where a player is not a registered youth player, leagues-in-membership may, in addition, fine registered players pursuant to the leagues discipline policies, with the exception of those players registered under youth jurisdiction.

## Punishment Guidelines cont'd

### Section B Expulsion by a Referee for:

- i) Serious foul play
- ii) Very dangerous play
- iii) Violent conduct
- iv) Persistent protests against decisions by the referee and assistants
- v) Leaving the field of play in protest without notifying the referee
- vi) Repeated misconduct, despite a previous caution by a referee
- vii) Extremely unethical (ungentlemanly) conduct
- viii) Repeated gamesmanship
- ix) Insulting players, team officials, or any other person present at the match
- x) Other serious acts of unsporting conduct

The following actions or penalties are recommended **in ADDITION** to the one game automatic suspension and unless stated, is the **Mandatory Minimum penalty**.

**Expulsion** (Red Cards and Misconduct Reports) for actions against other players or team officials

#### 1. Receives Two Cautions in One Game

Repeated misconduct despite a previous caution by the referee CSA Rule 12 f) ii, (vi)

Repeated gamesmanship (time-wasting, deliberate hand ball, etc CSA Rule 12 f) ii, (viii)

- a) If two cautions are issued for infractions that individually is not cause for expulsion alone

First Offence: ONE additional game if warranted

Second Offence: TWO to FOUR additional games

Subsequent offences: Five additional games

#### 2. Abusive, Insulting or Offensive Language and/or Behaviour

Extremely unethical (ungentlemanly) conduct CSA Rule 12 f) ii (vii)

Insulting players, team officials, or any other person present at the match CSA Rule 12 f) ii (ix)

- (a) If the language is loud enough to be heard by the game official and/or spectators, but not directed at any one person:

First Offence: ONE additional game if warranted

Second Offence: ONE to THREE additional games

Subsequent offences: FIVE additional games

- (b) If the language is directed at another player, team officials or spectators and is loud enough to be heard by the game officials:

First Offence: ONE additional game if warranted

Second Offence: TWO to FOUR additional games or more if warranted

Subsequent offences: EIGHT additional games

### **Punishment Guidelines cont'd**

#### **3. Denies the opposing team a goal or obvious goal scoring opportunity -**

By deliberately handling the ball

First Offence:	Warning
Second Offence:	ONE additional game
Subsequent offence:	FIVE additional games

#### **4. Denies a obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent –**

Moving towards the players goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick

First Offence:	Up to TWO additional games
Second Offence:	Minimum THREE additional games
Subsequent Offences:	Minimum, FIVE additional games

#### **5. Serious Foul Play or Very Dangerous Play**

CSA Rule 12 f) ii (i) or CSA Rule 12 f) ii (ii)

First Offence:	Minimum TWO additional games
Second Offence:	FIVE additional games
Subsequent Offences:	Minimum, TEN additional games

#### **6. Violent Conduct**

CSA Rule 12 f) ii (iii) or CSA Rule 12 f) ii (x)

Attempting to, or actually, pushing, kicking or striking another person; threatening behaviour in any physical manner or physical action intended to provoke another person into a fight.

First Offence:	Minimum, TWO and up to FIVE additional games
Second Offence:	FIVE additional games
Subsequent Offences:	TEN additional games

#### **11. Spitting, at an Opponent or any other Person**

Extremely unethical (ungentlemanly) conduct Pursuant to CSA Rule 12 f) ii (vii)

First Offence:	EIGHT games
Second Offence:	12 month Suspension
Subsequent Offences:	24 month Suspension

**Note: Serious foul play or violent conduct considered extreme in nature may warrant suspensions in excess of the guidelines for first, second or subsequent offences.**

## Punishment Guidelines cont'd

### Section C      **Expulsion (Red Cards and Misconduct Reports) for actions against game officials**

#### 1.      **Persistent Protests against Decisions by the Referee and Assistants**

CSA Rule 12 f) ii (iv)

First Offence:	Minimum, TWO additional games
Second Offence:	Minimum, FOUR additional games
Subsequent Offences:	90 Day Suspension

#### 2.      **Abusive, Offensive or Insulting Language and/or Behavior**

Deliberate insulting conduct towards game officials including personally insulting remarks, threatening behavior without physical contact or threatening verbal statements.

First Offence:	One month suspension or FIVE games
Second Offence:	Two month suspension or TEN games
Subsequent Offence:	Six month suspension up to a 12 month Suspension

**Note:** The CSA recommends specific periods of time for lengthy suspensions. If monthly suspensions are contemplated, then the time of the *year* should be considered. Consideration should be made for end of season suspensions or if the player is graduating from youth to senior. Suspensions covering a specific period of time may be continued to cover the 'active season'.

#### **Pursuant to Rule 11-Discipline, paragraph "k",**

A player having been expelled for the third instance in a twelve month period shall be required to attend a BCSA Discipline Committee Hearing and may be suspended for a period of one year in addition to the penalty assessed by any District, League or Inter-district Discipline Committee.

**The reporting requirements for Rule 11, paragraph "k" are detailed in Part 12, Repeated Expulsions**

## **Section D Misconduct by a Team Official**

The following penalties are recommended for any Team Official reported for misconduct, which may or may not have resulted in an expulsion. An automatic one game suspension shall be served in addition to the penalties if the person charged was expelled.

The following offences are subject to the penalties recommended in **Punishment Guidelines, Section B**

### **1. Abusive, Insulting or Offensive Language and/or Behaviour**

If the language is directed at players, other team officials or spectators and is loud enough to be heard by the game officials:

### **2. Violent Conduct**

Attempting to, or actually, pushing, kicking or striking another person; threatening behaviour in any physical manner or physical action intended to provoke another person into a fight.

### **3. Spitting**

Extremely unethical (ungentlemanly) conduct Pursuant to CSA Rule 12 f) ii (vii)

**Note: Violent conduct considered extreme in nature may warrant suspensions in excess of the guidelines for first, second or subsequent offences.**

## **Misconduct Reported - a Team Official for actions against a Game Official**

The following offences are subject to the penalties recommended in **Punishment Guidelines, Section C**

### **1. Persistent Protests against Decisions by the Referee and Assistants**

CSA Rule 12 f) ii (iv)

### **2. Abusive, Offensive or Insulting Language and/or Behavior**

Deliberate insulting conduct towards game officials including personally insulting remarks, threatening behavior without physical contact or threatening verbal statements.

## **Misconduct Reported - a Team Official for actions against game officials, deemed to be an assault.**

The offender must be reported to the Association and may be subject to the penalties in Punishment **Guidelines, Section E**. The accused shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing by the Association

### **1. Deliberate physical contact i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, threatening or attempted physical contact**

### **2. Violent conduct or attempted violent conduct that includes striking, spitting or kicking**

## **Section E            Assault, Verbal or Physical of Game Officials**

The Association shall retain jurisdiction in this instance for all such cases regardless of the domicile of the individual pursuant to Rule 11- Discipline, paragraph “i”, i).

The Association shall investigate all cases of misconduct involving alleged physical assault, attempted physical assault or threatening behaviour towards a game official by any person and shall be dealt with by an Association Discipline Committee. In the instance of an assault occurring outside the lower mainland, the Association may appoint a Discipline Committee to investigate and deal with the matter in the domicile of the accused. In any such instance, the appointed committee Chairperson shall handle the case in consultation with the association’s Discipline Committee.

**Assault** is defined as deliberate physical contact by: striking, spitting, kicking, charging, pushing, pulling or holding, or threatening in a verbal or physical manner. If a player, team official or spectator assaults any match official in the above manner, a report of the incident must be forwarded immediately to the BCSA office.

In each case of alleged game official assault by a player or team official, the accused shall be suspended from all soccer activities pending a hearing by the Association’s Discipline Committee.

### **Procedures and Responsibilities:**

1. The game official must complete a written report and submit it to the district, league or inter-district league and the Association ***within 48 hours of the incident.***
2. The Association shall notify the alleged offender and/or their District or League-in-Membership that the accused is immediately suspended from all soccer-related activity and shall stand suspended pending a hearing.
3. The Association, in all instances, shall notify the accused that they stand suspended and are required to attend a hearing that shall be scheduled within 30 days of the receipt of the misconduct report.

In the event that criminal charges are laid as a result of an alleged assault in a game, the case shall proceed, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Association, unless the accused requests a postponement of the hearing. A request for postponement shall be granted but the accused person shall stand suspended until a Discipline Hearing Committee deals with the case. Upon hearing the case, any suspension period shall include the period during which the accused was suspended prior to the hearing.

Incidents involving spectators should be investigated by the District Association or League-in-Membership and a report must be filed with the Association so that a decision can be made as to the responsibilities of the team officials.

**Refer to Part 13, Guidelines for Spectator Incidents**

## **Punishment Guidelines for Assault, Verbal or Physical of Game Officials**

### **Expulsion or Misconduct** ( for actions against game officials)

#### **1. Deliberate physical contact i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, threatening or attempted physical contact**

First Offence:	ONE year suspension
Second Offence:	Minimum TWO years suspension up to FIVE years
Any Repetition:	FIVE years suspension

#### **2. Violent conduct or attempted violent conduct that includes striking, spitting or kicking**

First Offence:	FIVE years suspension
Second Offence:	TEN year suspension
Any repetition:	Lifetime Suspension, not to be reviewed

### **Suspension Review**

Anyone under suspension for a period greater than two years may request a review of their 'period of suspension' after at least one half of such suspension has been served.

**Refer to Part 18, Procedures for Suspension Review**

## SECTION F MISCONDUCT BY OFFICIALS

In accordance with Rule 11. Discipline, the BCSA has the power to enquire into the conduct of any member acting in the capacity of an “official”, both on and off the field, who has violated rules established from time to time.

“Officials” includes registered individuals who perform as, but not limited to, referees, referee administrators, referee assignors, referee instructors and referee assessors during sanctioned activities.

Upon receipt of a written complaint by the BCSA, the appropriate Discipline Committee Chair shall convene a Discipline Hearing Committee, consisting of at least three members, one of whom must be a registered official, will be convened to investigate a breach of the Code of Ethics and/or Standards of Ethical Conduct (see: Section A: Formal Hearing Guidelines, for Hearing process).

In each case of alleged misconduct by an official, the official may be suspended from all soccer activities pending a hearing by the appropriate Discipline Committee.

### **Procedures, Responsibilities and Definitions:**

1. A written complaint must be received by the BCSA within 48hrs of the incident. **Complaints received after 48hrs of the incident will be reviewed by the Discipline Committee Chair for determination of action.**
2. If warranted, the Association shall notify the alleged offender that they are suspended from all soccer-related activity and shall stand suspended pending a hearing.
3. The Association shall notify the alleged offender that they stand suspended and are required to attend a hearing that shall be scheduled within 15 working days (Districts: 14 days of the incident [Rule 11(m)(i)]) of receipt of the misconduct report.
4. **The Association shall notify the CSA of any discipline hearing decisions involving registered national or FIFA officials.**
5. The definition of “suspension” means: all soccer related activity.

### **The following penalties are recommended:**

#### **1. Restriction on referee as a player**

##### **Playing in a match while registered as a referee in the same league**

First Offense:	reprimand
Second Offense:	suspension: two games
Subsequent Offenses:	suspension: six months

#### **2. Unaffiliated games**

##### **Registered official officiating unaffiliated matches**

First Offense:	reprimand + associated game fee
Second Offense:	suspension: six months
Subsequent Offenses:	suspension: one year to lifetime

BCSA Discipline Policies & Procedures.  
**Misconduct by officials cont'd**

**3. Assignments**

**a. Officiating matches in which a conflict of interest exists**

First Offense: reprimand  
Second Offense: suspension: one month  
Subsequent Offenses: suspension: one year to lifetime

**b. Cancellation of match assignment**

First Offense: reprimand  
Second Offense: suspension: one month  
Subsequent Offenses: suspension: one year to lifetime

**c. Failure to submit official discipline and/or match report within 48 hours after a game**

First Offense: reprimand + associated game fee  
Second Offense: suspension: one month  
Subsequent Offenses: suspension: one year

**d. Failure to report to the field: 30 minutes for open field competition; 2 hours for professional, national or international competition**

First Offense: reprimand  
Second Offense: suspension: two games  
Subsequent Offenses: suspension: six months

**4 Statements**

**Failure to refrain from public criticism of players, fellow officials or team personnel**

First Offense: reprimand + associated game fee to suspension of one month  
Second Offense: suspension: six months  
Subsequent Offenses: suspension: one year to lifetime

**5. Fitness/appearance**

**Failure to adhere to Standards of Ethical Conduct, section H**

First Offense: reprimand  
Second Offense: suspension: one month + associated game fee  
Subsequent Offenses: suspension: one year

**6. Alcohol/drugs/tobacco**

**Failure to adhere to Standards of Ethical Conduct, section I**

First Offense: suspension: one month to six months  
Second Offense: suspension: one year  
Subsequent Offenses: suspension: lifetime

**7. Language/behaviour**

**Use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language and/or behaviour**

First Offense:	suspension: one month + one game fee ( <i>if officiating</i> )
Second Offense:	suspension: six months to one year
Subsequent Offenses:	suspension: one year to lifetime

**8. Violent conduct**

**a. Deliberate physical contact, such as pushing, pulling, charging, threatening or attempted physical contact**

First Offense:	suspension: up to one year
Second Offense:	suspension: one year to five years
Subsequent Offenses:	suspension: five years

**b. Violent conduct or attempted violent conduct that includes striking, spitting or kicking**

First Offense:	suspension: up to five years
Second Offense:	suspension: five years to ten years
Subsequent Offenses:	suspension: lifetime, not to be reviewed

**9. Safety**

**Failure to ensure the safety of players and officials**

First Offense:	reprimand + associated game fee
Second Offense:	suspension: one month
Subsequent Offenses:	suspension: one year

**10. Discrimination/harassment/unprofessional conduct**

**Failure to comply with the BCSA Harassment Policy and/or the Standards of Ethical Conduct, section L**

First Offense:	suspension: one month to six months
Second Offense:	suspension: six months to one year
Subsequent Offenses:	suspension: lifetime

**11. Discipline**

**Failure to comply with Rule 11 (Discipline) of the BCSA Constitution & Bylaws and/or Standards of Ethical Conduct, section M**

First Offense:	suspension: one month to three months
Second Offense:	suspension: three months to six months
Subsequent Offenses:	suspension: one year to lifetime

**12. Refereeing whilst under suspension**

**Failure to comply with Rule 11(b) (Discipline) of the BCSA Constitution & Bylaws**

First Offense:	suspension: six months to one year
Second Offense:	suspension: one year to five years
Subsequent Offenses:	suspension: lifetime

## **PART 12          Repeated Expulsion's**

***The Association shall retain jurisdiction in this instance** for all such cases regardless of the domicile of the individual. In the instance of an assault occurring outside the lower mainland, the Association may appoint a Discipline Committee to investigate and deal with the matter in the domicile of the accused. In any such instance, the appointed committee Chairperson shall handle the case in consultation with the association's Discipline Committee.*

Pursuant to Discipline Rule 11, paragraph "k",  
'any registered player or team official found guilty of an offence **for which expulsion was the result for the third instance** in a twelve month period, may be assessed a minimum one year suspension'.

**Note:**

Implied that the aforementioned shall include any party reported for a misconduct, which results in a suspension for a third instance in a twelve month period.

In accordance with the CSA Punishment Guidelines, the punishment may be in addition to any sentence imposed by a District or League Discipline Committee.

### **Procedure for Reporting**

Districts, Leagues- in-Membership and Inter-district leagues are required to submit the following information to the Association within fourteen days of the hearing.

- a) Referee's reports for the three expulsions
  - i) A suspensions as a result of accumulated cautions described in Part 11, Section A is not considered an expulsion and therefore should not be included in the accumulation
- b) Discipline hearing records which should include:
  - i) Names of the Committee members hearing each case
  - ii) Signed waiver for Rule 11, paragraphs "m" and "q" if applicable
  - iii) Correspondence or notes from hearings
- c) The dates for which the player or team official served any assessed suspensions.
- d) Player's or team official's discipline record since first registered with the District or League.

## **PART 13            Spectator and Team Misconduct**

Every team, club, district, league or affiliated association is responsible to the Association for the actions of its players, officials and spectators and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting game officials and/or players before, during or at the conclusion of any sanctioned game.

Verbal abuse and insulting behaviour of game officials by a team, team officials or spectators is a breach of the Rule 11-Discipline, Paragraph “a” clauses ii) through iv) and Paragraph “h” and subject to disciplinary action by a district or league-in-membership or inter-district Discipline Committee. Persistent disputing of games official’s decisions, persistent criticism including personally insulting remarks, threatening behaviour, violent conduct or attempted violent conduct shall be investigated by the governing body in jurisdiction.

District, league-in-membership and Inter-District leagues are required to investigate all such incidents and convene a Discipline Hearing. In the instance of threatening behaviour, a Discipline Committee may consult with the Association’s Discipline Committee, in order to establish jurisdiction. If the allegations are proven, the team shall be penalized in accordance with the governing authority’s rules and regulations which may include a fine and/or performance bond consistent with those of the Association.

### **Section A            Local Jurisdiction                           District Associations, Leagues-In-Membership & Inter-District League Jurisdiction**

#### **1.            Procedures for Reporting**

Where reporting procedures for game officials do not exist, district associations, leagues-in-membership and inter-district leagues shall advise their officials to act in accordance with the following procedures.

The Referee shall stop the game and approach the team officials to determine the name of the spectator and:

- a) Instruct the team official to speak to the individual and request they cease and desist
- b) If the team official refuses to identify the individual and speak to them, the Referee shall inform the team officials the game will not proceed until the said individual ceases and desists.
- c) If the spectator is unknown to the team, the team officials shall request the party to cease and desist and that the game may be abandoned by the game official.
- d) If the misconduct continues, the referee will inform the players and team officials that the game is being abandoned and that a game report will be forwarded to the governing body’s Discipline Committee.
- e) *Shall* report the TEAM OFFICIAL for:
  - i) failure to control players, if requested by the game officials
  - ii) failure to control spectators if requested by the game officials
  - iii) failure to address game official harassment by team or spectators if requested by game official
  - iv) foul, abusive, insulting or offensive language to players or spectators
  - v) failure to identify a spectator responsible for misconduct towards a game official if requested by the game official

#### **2.            Hearing Requirements**

The failure by Team Officials to control their players or spectators which results in a misconduct report or complaint by an official, shall be subject to the following:

- a) The team officials shall be required to attend a hearing
- b) The spectator if identified shall be requested to attend the hearing
- c) An official from the team’s Club shall be afforded the opportunity to attend any hearing.

**Spectator and Team Misconduct cont'd**

**3. Penalties**

Failure to control players and/or spectators if requested by the game officials  
Failure to address game official harassment by team or spectators if requested by game official  
Foul, abusive, insulting or offensive language to players or spectators  
Failure to identify a spectator responsible for misconduct towards a game official if requested by the game official.

- i)* May be fined, suspended or expelled from the league in accordance with the governing authority's rules and regulations, and/or
- ii)* Post a Performance Bond in accordance with the governing authority's rules and regulations or
- iii)* Where the governing jurisdiction does not have established good performance policy, the team officials shall be:

First offence:	Subject to a minimum \$100 fine and/or Post a Performance Bond in the amount of \$200
Second Offence:	Forfeiture of the Performance Bond Subject to a minimum \$200 fine Post a further Performance Bond in the amount of \$500 Shall be reported to the Association

**4. Game Abandonment**

Where a game is abandoned by a game official due to the action(s) of its players, team officials, administrators, or spectators and it is deemed a valid reason for abandoning the game, and the governing jurisdiction does not have an established policy, the team officials or the club on their behalf shall be:

First offence:	Subject to a minimum \$100 fine and Post a Performance Bond in the amount of \$500
Second Offence:	Forfeiture of the Performance Bond Post a further Performance Bond in the amount of \$1,000

Subsequent offences shall be reported to the Association and the team may be suspended from participating in any sanctioned activity under the jurisdiction of the Association pending a review.

- a)* A governing jurisdiction shall be empowered to determine if an abandoned game is forfeited, rescheduled, awarded to the opponent or indefinitely postponed.
- b)* Notwithstanding the above, a governing body may expel the team from membership, in accordance with established policy provided for the member's rules and regulations.

**Extreme lack of discipline and order, invasion of the field, objects being thrown, etc. by a team or their spectators must be reported to the Association.**

Performance Bonds and fines shall be remitted to the governing body in jurisdiction within seven days of the hearing. Failure by the team official or their Club to pay a fee, fine or performance bond imposed by a governing body's Discipline Committee, shall result in the team being suspended from district or league sanctioned activities until the assessed amounts are paid.

## Spectator and Team Misconduct cont'd

### Section B Association Jurisdiction

#### 1. Criteria

- a) Spectators or unidentified players or teams officials accused of Game Official Assault for:
  - i) Deliberate physical contact: i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, attempted physical contact or threatening behaviour
  - ii) Violent Conduct, attempted violent conduct, striking, spitting or kicking
- b) Game abandonment as a result of an assault on a game official perpetrated by a player, team official or spectator.
- c) Must be reported to the Association, District Association, League-in-Membership or Inter-district league within 48 hours of the incident.

#### 2. Procedures

- a) Team Officials are required to attend a hearing
- b) The spectator if identified shall be requested to attend the hearing
- c) An official from the team's Club, District Association or League-in-Membership shall be afforded the opportunity to attend any hearing.

Team Officials and a Club Representative shall be required to attend any hearing involving a Game Official Assault.

#### 3. Penalties

- a) The team may be suspended from participating in any sanctioned game within the jurisdiction of the Association pending the hearing.
- b) Failure by any party required to attend a hearing, without good cause, may result in the team being suspended from participating in any sanctioned activities within the jurisdiction of the Association.
- c) A team or team's Club shall be required to post a Performance Bond if the spectator incident involves in an assault of a game official.
  - i) Deliberate physical contact - Performance Bond in the amount of \$ 200
  - ii) Violent or attempted violent conduct, etc. - Performance Bond in the amount of \$ 500
  - iii) Repeat incidents - Performance Bond in the amount of \$1,000

The Club, District Association or League-in-Membership shall guarantee proper conduct of the individual for a period of one year

The team officials, Club, and District Association or League-in-Membership will be notified, in writing of the levy of any performance bonds.

The Performance Bond shall be remitted to Association, District Association or League-in-Membership as directed by the Associations' committee. Performance bonds shall be refunded, without interest, at the end of the performance period, provided there are no further incidents.

**PART 14            Performance Bonds and Fines**

The Association’s Rule 11-Discipline provides several options when assessing penalties for violations of the laws of the game, reported misconduct or breach of the rules and regulations. Offending parties, if found responsible, may be assessed a fine or ordered to post a performance bond in addition to any assessed suspension, subject to paragraph “b” vi). **The CSA prohibits the imposition of fines on youth age players.** Teams, team officials and organizations are not exempted from fine and performance bond policies.

Youth status shall apply to all players, under 6 through under 18, registered with the Association, on a youth application for membership. Youth players permitted to play for a senior team on permit, retain their youth registration status and are, therefore, not subject to fining penalties. A youth age player registering as a senior amateur player does not retain youth status and shall be subject to the discipline policies of the league or organization.

The Association permits the establishment of Performance Bond Policy by clubs, districts and leagues within the jurisdiction of the Association, from which fines may be deducted or performance guaranteed.

**Section A            Criteria for Fines and Performance Bond Policy**

1. Each governing organization shall define the amounts for its own schedule of fines, bonds and penalties to be implemented for discipline cases under its jurisdiction and shall include such schedule in its published rules prior to the start of the season.
2. The nature of the offences and penalties that may be assessed shall be documented in the policy statement or rules and regulations of the governing organization.
3. An enabling authority, at their discretion, may levy a bond for a specific period of time and purpose and, may also set further set terms of punishment for non-compliance.
4. A bond may be levied with or without assessing a suspension.
5. The governing organization is not required to pay interest on any Performance Bond paid on behalf of any person, team or organization, unless so stated in its rules and regulations.
6. Clubs, districts and leagues shall ensure the information is available to affiliated teams prior to the season commencing.

**Section B            Implementation Guidelines for Performance Bonds**

1. Where performance bonds are required to be posted by clubs or teams prior to the start of the season, it must be tendered to the district or league prior to commencement of the season.
2. If a performance bond is consumed prior to the end of the season, it shall be replaced.
3. Performance bonds or the remainder must be returned to the club or team at the end of the season or in accordance with the rules and regulations of the governing jurisdiction.

## Performance Bonds and Fines cont'd

### Section C Payment of Fines

#### Posted Performance Bond:

Where performance bonds are posted prior to season commencing, all fines assessed for offences by players, team officials or clubs, shall be taken from the bond.

#### No Posted Performance Bond

If districts or leagues at the commencement of the season do not require performance bonds, all amounts assessed for offences shall become due immediately and the club or team shall be notified of the amount of the fine. Failure to pay the fine shall be subject to the governing organizations' rules and regulations for non-compliance.

### Section D Procedure for Assessing Fines

The following procedures shall be followed for breach of a governing organizations' rules and regulations, violations of the Laws of the Game, e.g., cautions (yellow cards), expulsion, etc. or an offence bringing disrepute to the game.

1. The Association, district or league Discipline Committee shall review the misconduct reports, game reports or any formal complaint sent to them. ONLY WRITTEN REPORTS should be taken into consideration.
2. The assessment and payment of fines for violations of the Laws of the Game or leagues operating rules shall be assessed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the governing authority.
3. *Should the Association, district or league Discipline Committee decide a fine is appropriate, the offending party shall be given the opportunity to appear before a Discipline Committee hearing. If unable to attend, the party or parties may make a written request for permission to respond in writing.*
4. Formal notification of the hearing shall be sent to the Club and team officials and the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Association's Hearing Procedures.
5. Should a fine be assessed, the decision must be communicated in writing to the Club, Team and in the instance of a youth league Discipline Committee decision the, District Association.
6. A district or league Discipline Committee shall inform the secretary of the enabling authority, that a fine has been assessed and should be deducted from any posted performance bond.
7. Where a performance bond is not posted, the Discipline Committee shall inform the enabling authority the terms and conditions applicable to the fine.
8. Any party or parties subject to fining policy may only be assessed a fine by either the district or league, but not both, for any one specific offence.

## **PART 15      Participating in Sanctioned Soccer Activities while Under Suspension**

Member associations, leagues and inter-district league's jurisdiction for discipline shall extend to any registered player or team official who participates in any league or inter-district league match under the jurisdiction of the individual's governing organization.

The Association's jurisdiction for discipline shall extend to any registered player or team official who:

- a) Participates in a Provincial Cup match following a district or league's qualifying competition
- b) Any individual found to have committed a second offence

The Association shall have the discretion to investigate any complaint and in consultation with a member district association or league, make determination if the Association's Discipline Committee should adjudicate the matter.

### **Section A      Specifics Pertaining to Being Suspended**

Suspended players or team officials may not participate in any Association sanctioned soccer activity defined under Part 3, Standard Terms.

1. Suspended team officials must arrange for someone else to fill their position for the duration of their suspension. Suspended team officials are required to provide the Discipline Committee the name and contact information for any individual acting on their behalf.
2. The suspended team official, in turn:
  - a) may not be involved with the team or other officials before the game, during the game, at half time, or after the game (including the handshake).
  - b) may not complete or sign a team list
  - c) may not act in any manner that may be deemed to be coaching, either verbal or by physical actions, for example, hand signals.
3. Suspended players or team officials may attend their teams' matches but must stay well away from the field of play and may not be involved in any team activity.
4. Players must be told not to approach suspended team officials.
5. If the suspended player or team official is also a game official, they are not entitled to referee while under suspension.
6. Any suspended player or team official, if attending as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game shall be subject to further disciplinary action.

## Participating While Under Suspension cont'd

### Section B Punishment Guidelines

1. Any player **who knowingly** participates in a game while under suspension shall be subject to the following:

First Offence: assessed a 6 Month Suspension and in the case of a senior amateur player, may be fined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the governing authority.

Second Offence: referred to the Association's Discipline Committee

2. Any suspended team official who acts in a manner that may be deemed to be coaching or managing, while under suspension, shall be subject to the following:

First Offence: assessed a 6 Month Suspension and in the case of a senior amateur player, may be fined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the governing authority.

Second Offence: referred to the Association's Discipline Committee

3. Any suspended player or team official, while under suspension, if attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game shall be subject to the following:

First Offence: a further 6 Month Suspension in addition to the original suspension and in the case of a senior amateur player, may be fined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the governing authority.

Second Offence: shall be referred to the Association's Discipline Committee

**Notwithstanding;** punishment guidelines Paragraphs 1 through 3,

'A governing authority may expel a player or team official from membership in any team or league within their jurisdiction'.

*Any player or team official expelled by a district association or league-in-membership, shall be reported to the Association.*

**Any suspended player or team official, if attending as a spectator, is accused of Assaulting a Game Official must be reported to the Association within 48 hours of the incident.**

## **PART 16 Ineligible or Illegal Players**

### **Section A Criteria**

1. A player registered with an affiliated district association or league-in membership ***shall be considered 'ineligible' if suspended.***
2. A player *not registered* with the Association *is deemed to be illegal* and as such cannot be disciplined; however, ***a team official who knowingly plays an illegal player*** is subject to disciplinary action by a district association or league- in-membership Discipline Committee.
3. A player ***who knowingly*** contravenes Rule 5 – Player Registration, paragraphs “i” “k” and “x” and/or Rule 23 - Zoning ***'with the intent to deceive'*** shall be deemed to be an illegal player and is ineligible for league or cup competition.

Interpretation: a player may only be registered with one team at any given time during the current playing season.

4. Any player, team official, administrator or member who provides false information at the time of a player's registration shall be deemed to have contravened Rule 5 – Player Registration and/or Rule 23 – Zoning and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Section B Penalties and Punishment Guidelines**

1. A player or team official ***determined to be in violation*** of the above, shall stand suspended pending a discipline hearing by the governing authority pursuant to Rule 11- Discipline, paragraph “m” i).  
Pending a determination, the party or parties shall be eligible to participate in sanctioned activities unless notified otherwise by the governing jurisdiction.
2. A registered player ***who knowingly*** plays on a team that ***he is not registered with***, shall be deemed to be an illegal player, and shall be:  

First Offence:	assessed a 6 Month Suspension and in the case of a senior amateur player, may be fined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the governing authority.
Second Offence:	referred to the Association's Discipline Committee
3. A team official ***who knowingly*** plays an illegal player shall be subject to the following:  

First Offence:	suspended for a minimum a 6 Months and in the case of a senior amateur player, may be fined or expelled in accordance with the rules and regulations of the governing authority.
Second Offence:	referred to the Association's Discipline Committee
4. Any team official ***who knowingly*** plays a suspended player shall be subject to the following:  

First Offence:	assessed a 6 Month Suspension and may be fined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the governing authority.
Second Offence:	referred to the Association's Discipline Committee

**Ineligible or Illegal Players cont'd**

**Section C            Contravention of Rule 5 and/or Rule 23**

Contravention of Rule 5 – Player Registration and/or Rule 23 – Zoning, with the intent to deceive, shall be reported to the Association and shall be subject to the following disciplinary action.

**a)            Player, Team Official, Administrator**

Provided false information at the time of registration, release or transfer shall be:

1<sup>st</sup> Lifetime Offence:     1 year suspension

2<sup>nd</sup> Lifetime Offence:     3 year suspension

3<sup>rd</sup> Lifetime Offence:     5 year suspension

**b)            Club, League, District**

Provided false information at the time of registration, release or transfer or changed any information on a registration form without the consent of the person being registered shall be:

1<sup>st</sup> Lifetime Offence:     \$ 500 fine

2<sup>nd</sup> Lifetime Offence:     \$1,000 fine

3<sup>rd</sup> Lifetime Offence:     \$2,000 fine

A player proven to be registered under false pretenses shall be deemed to be ineligible and the team and club shall be subject to the following sanction:

The Club's team will forfeit all of the games in which an ineligible player played and the Club shall be subject to a minimum fine of \$500.

**Failure to Pay:**

Any Club, League or District Association failing to pay any fee, fine or bond imposed by a Discipline Hearing Committee operating under the jurisdiction of the association will be suspended and declared not in good standing until any imposed penalty is paid.

**Responsibility** for verifying player registration information is the responsibility of the Clubs affiliated to a District Association. Players registering directly with a league shall register in accordance with the members' rules and regulations.

**Jurisdiction** for sanctioning any party determined to be in violation of Rule 5 – Registration and /or Rule 23 – Zoning remains the responsibility of the District Association or Inter-district League unless instructed otherwise by the Association.

## **PART 17           Suspension Past the End of Season and/or Graduating Players**

### **1.           End of Season**

- a) When a player or team official within jurisdiction of the Association has been suspended for misconduct for a specific number of games and the suspension is not completed within the current season, the suspension shall carry over into the following senior or youth season.
- b) A player if expelled or suspended shall not be eligible for membership in any other affiliated team or league without special permission of the Association, pursuant to Rule 11-Discipline, paragraph “e”.

District or league Discipline Committees may determine if individuals suspended for a specific number of games at the end of the winter season, will be permitted to serve end of season suspensions in an affiliated summer league under their jurisdiction.

### **2.           Graduating Players (Youth to Senior)**

- a) A player who is no longer eligible for youth status at the end of the season and stands suspended for failing to appear, for a specific number of games or a specific period of time shall be reported to the Association. Districts are required to forward to the Association, the following information:
  - i) Suspended individuals name, Birth Date and Identification number
  - ii) Name of team and affiliated district
  - iii) Type of Misconduct
  - iv) Penalties assessed and remaining games to be served
  - v) Discipline record
- b) Graduating Players suspended for failure to appear at a hearing or suspended for a specific period of time will not be permitted to register with an affiliated league without permission of the Association. A list of graduating players not eligible for membership will be circulated to member organizations at the completion of the current season.

### **3           Tournament Eligibility**

- a) A district or league Discipline Committee may determine if individuals suspended for a specific number of games, at the end of the season, are eligible to participate in sanctioned tournaments within the district or leagues’ jurisdiction only with written consent of B.C.S.A.
- b) Players suspended for failure to attend a hearing, pending a hearing or a stated period of time, shall not be eligible to participate in sanctioned tournaments without special permission from the Association.

**The Association shall retain the jurisdiction in determining if a player suspended for a specific number of games or past the end of the season, shall be eligible to participate in Club or All-star Competitions.**

### *Appendix D       Notice of Suspension Carryover*

## **PART 18          Suspension Review**

Any party under a lengthy suspension as defined under Criteria, clause 2, may make application for reinstatement in a district, league-in-membership or the Association by making application for a review of the suspension.

### **Criteria**

1. A request for a suspension review shall be made to the organization which rendered the suspension.
2. Anyone under suspension for two years or longer may request a review of their 'period of suspension' after at least half of such suspension has been served.
3. Notwithstanding Paragraph 1, where a suspension exceeds five years, a review may be requested after three years of such suspension has been served.
4. A letter of recommendation from a Club, District Association or League must accompany any such request.
5. If reinstatement is denied following the Suspension Review, the suspended party has the right to make Leave for Appeal to the Association.
6. The suspended party shall be informed of the Association's Rules and Regulations governing Appeals.
7. A request for a Suspension Review for a suspension originating from a Game Official Assault shall be made to the Board of Directors of the Association.

## **PART 19           Expulsion Policy**

Pursuant to Rule 11-Discipline, Paragraph “b”), where the Board has made a determination in a matter which violated the Laws of the Game or violated the Rules & Regulations of the Association or behaved in a manner that brought the game into disrepute, the Board may expel a member from the Association.

Where discipline has been delegated to District Associations or Leagues-in-Membership, the governing jurisdiction shall be empowered to expel a member from participating in any activities under their jurisdiction, including membership, in accordance with the published Rules and Regulations of the enabling authority. The District Associations participating in an inter-district league competition shall be the determining authority upon receiving such recommendation from the Inter-district League Discipline Committee.

Members shall include;   Players, Team Officials, Team or any party pursuant to Rule 11-Discipline, paragraph “a”.

A governing jurisdiction, once having made the decision to expel a member from their organization, are required to report the party to the Association, whereupon, a determination shall be made, whether, the offender shall be expelled from the membership in the Association.

### **Procedure**

1. The governing jurisdiction shall provide a written report to the Association which shall include:
  - a) A copy of the members registration form
  - b) The offenders discipline records for a period of two years or, if less, the date first registered
  - c) A report which details the reasons why the offender should be expelled from the Association
2. Any member expelled by a governing organization shall be notified in writing of the expulsion and the reason for the ruling within seven days of such decision. The information shall be copied to the member’s Club.
3. The expulsion or removal of a team from a sanctioned league requires additional consideration, in as much, not all members of the team may warrant expulsion from the Association and would therefore be permitted to transfer to or sign with another team affiliated with the Association. In this instance, the governing jurisdiction shall provide a written report to the Association, which shall include:
  - a) The names of the offending team members and their registration forms
  - b) The Team affiliation form
  - c) The discipline records for all members of the team for a period of two years or if less, the date of affiliation
  - d) The names of any team members adversely affected by the decision who do not warrant such consideration
  - e) A report detailing the reason for the expulsion
4. The Club and Team Officials for any team expelled by the governing organization shall be notified in writing of the expulsion and the reason for the ruling within seven days of such decision

An individual not implicated in a team expulsion shall be allowed to retain their membership in the Association.

## **PART 20 Provincial Cup Discipline**

The Association's Discipline Rules and Regulations will apply to all players in provincial cup competition, including all suspensions currently being served. All discipline assessed in the current season, for misconduct which resulted in expulsion, shall apply to cup competition qualifying rounds.

All districts and leagues entering teams in cup competition must provide the Association with a list of the player suspensions currently in effect, at the start of the competition.

Yellow cards accumulated during the season, are not carried forward in cup competition and therefore do not become part of the accumulation record at the commencement of the competition.

### **Rule 11 – Discipline, paragraph “i”, v)**

For provincial cup play, a senior player who accumulates two (2) cautions, yellow cards, or, a youth player who accumulates three (3) cautions, yellow cards, during provincial cup play, shall automatically be suspended without hearing and without appeal from the player's next provincial cup game. Provincial Cup for youth teams is defined as all "A" Cup competition. and "B" Cup competition beyond district qualification (inter-district), (see Rule 25 - Rules for Provincial Cup Play -Youth). Provincial Cup for senior teams is defined as provincial cup play beyond league qualification (see Rule 27 - Senior Cup Competition Rules.)

### **Section A Accumulated Cautions**

- a) Cautions (yellow cards) received during all rounds of provincial cup play, senior and youth competitions will accumulate and apply during that competition only; if this is not possible, the suspension shall be annulled
- b) Accumulation of cautions (yellow cards) in cup competition play shall result in the player being assessed an automatic one game suspension which must be served in the following game of the competition and  
  
Accumulation of further cautions (yellow cards) shall result in a performance review and additional disciplinary action as determined by a review committee.
- c) The automatic one game suspension shall be served in following provincial cup game unless notified otherwise by the Association.

### **Section B Expulsion**

**Any player or team official expelled or reported for misconduct during a Inter-District Cup qualifying game or Provincial Cup match shall be referred to the Association's Discipline Committee.** That a copy of the official game report and discipline report shall be forwarded directly to B.C.S.A. Discipline Chair. Jurisdiction shall remain with the Association for all cases, however in regions outside the lower mainland; the Association may transfer the matter to a local district association, league or appointed representative in the area. In the instance of Violent conduct or attempted violent conduct towards an official, the Association may at their discretion, appoint an individual to oversee a discipline hearing.

### **Section C Expulsion: Players attached to Teams granted Dispensation**

#### BCSA Discipline Policies & Procedures.

Players or team officials ejected or reported for misconduct or required to serve an automatic game suspension for a Accumulated cautions must serve suspensions in Provincial Cup qualifying games or the Provincial Cup finals.

### Section D Provincial Regional Round-Robin Competition

The designated B.C.S.A. director of the competition shall be responsible for all discipline and shall provide the names of discipline committee members and all discipline records arising from the competition.

The Association retains jurisdiction for any case that involves Deliberate **Physical Contact, Violent Conduct or attempted Violent Conduct towards a game official.** In the event of an incident, the association Discipline Committee must be notified within 48 hours. Refer clause 10.

#### Procedures:

1. A pre-appointed B.C.S.A. appointed Discipline Committee shall handle discipline hearings on the day the offence occurs or prior to the next game in the competition.
2. The game official must report in writing all cautions and expulsion's to the B.C.S.A. appointed Discipline Committee following the game in which an offence occurred.
  - a) cautions shall be reported on the association Official Game Sheet used for the match and do not require a detailed misconduct report
  - b) expulsions shall be reported on the association Official Game Sheet and require the completion of a misconduct report.
3. Any player or team official expelled from the match shall be required to sit an automatic one game suspension plus additional penalties imposed by the B.C.S.A. appointed Discipline Committee.
4. Individuals expelled for a double caution must serve an automatic one game suspension but shall not be required to attend a discipline hearing. The suspension shall be served in the next league or cup game pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6.
5. Any player or team official required to serve a suspension/s shall serve the penalty with the team they are attached for the Round-Robin and Provincial Cup matches.
6. If any additional penalty is assessed, the individual shall serve such suspensions during the course of the Round-Robin tournament or the Provincial Cup competition in July with the exception of;
  - a) Players or team officials registered with a non-dispensed team and playing in a sanctioned league shall be eligible to serve a suspension in the next league or cup game, whichever, comes first.
  - b) Players or team officials attached to a team that *has been eliminated from competition* shall be eligible to serve any additional game suspensions in the district or inter-district league schedule.
7. If the offence occurs during the team's final game of the round-robin tournament, the B.C.S.A. appointed discipline committee shall:
  - a) if time permits, hold a discipline hearing and adjudicate the case
  - b) if the team to which the player or team official is attached is eliminated from the competition and time does not permit, refer the case to the individuals home district for adjudication
  - c) the referral should be made in writing and must include a copy of the referee's report.
  - d) report the case to Provincial Association Discipline Committee on the Discipline Summary Report
8. ANY District once notified of a discipline problem with an affiliated team, team official or registered player, shall hold a discipline hearing to review the incident if the matter has not been dealt with by the tournament committee. A discipline hearing report must be filed with the association Discipline Committee within ten days of receiving notification or **prior to the next round, if the team is advancing.**

#### Provincial Regional Round Robin Competition cont'd

9. A summary of all discipline incidents that resulted in a player, team official or team being expelled shall be

**BCSA Discipline Policies & Procedures.**

reported to the Association on a Discipline Summary Report. The summary report shall include;

- a) the individuals name
- b) name of the team, age division and home district
- c) offence reported
- d) penalty
- e) dates suspensions served and any outstanding game suspensions.
- f) misconduct reports for any player or team official expelled for Violent Conduct or Offensive Behaviour towards game officials must be copied and attached to the Discipline summary report.

10. In the case of a game official assault in a tournament, the offender shall be immediately suspended from all soccer activities, pending a hearing by the Association's Discipline Committee. All reports must be filed with the Association within 48 hours of the incident, by the hosting association.

**Note:**

If a game is abandoned due to a discipline problem the incident must be reported to the Chairpersons of the Provincial Cup and Discipline Committees within 24 hours of the incident and shall be subject to the sanctions outlined in Part 13 – Spectator and Team Misconduct, Section A, paragraph b).

**PART 21 National Club and All-Star Competition Discipline**

Discipline for these competitions will be handled by a CSA Discipline Committee at the competition venue.

Offences occurring during these competitions shall not apply to the offender's seasonal record UNLESS the information regarding the offence and the offender is forwarded by the CSA to the offender's Provincial Association for further review or a recommendation that the balance of a suspension be served in the jurisdiction of the offender.

In this instance, the offender shall be notified that a suspension must be served. Should the CSA recommend the Provincial Association further review an offence, a Discipline Hearing shall be scheduled with the individual.

Players or team officials are eligible to participate in soccer related activities until they are instructed to serve a suspension or appear at a Discipline Hearing.

## **PART 22            Tournament Discipline Procedures**

The Club, District or League hosting a sanctioned soccer tournament shall deal with tournament discipline problems. The Organizing Committee of every Association sanctioned tournament application is required to provide the names of the Chairperson, Tournament Discipline Chairperson and an alternate contact.

The Association retains jurisdiction for any case that involves Deliberate **Physical Contact, Violent Conduct or attempted Violent Conduct towards a game official.**

### **Procedures:**

1. A pre-appointed Tournament Discipline Committee shall handle discipline hearings on the day the offence occurs.
2. The game official must report in writing all cautions and expulsion's to the Tournament Discipline Committee following the game in which an offence occurred.
3. All discipline reported at a tournament and associated sanctioning (eg: suspensions) must be reported following the tournament to the Chair of the BCSA Discipline Committee. Failure to provide this information within thirty calendar days after completion of the tournament will result in the suspension of tournament sanctioning privileges for applicant and/or district/league in membership at the determination of the Discipline Committee
4. Any player or team official expelled from the match shall be required to sit an automatic one game suspension plus additional penalties imposed by the Tournament Discipline Committee.
5. If any additional penalty is assessed, the individual shall serve such suspensions during the course of the tournament.
  - 5.1.1. The Tournament Discipline Committee may, where justified, suspend any person dismissed during, or after a game, from all further participation in the tournament.
  - 5.1.2. If tournament rules and regulations provide for expulsion from the tournament for any offence, then any individual or team expelled shall be reported to the offender's home association or league. The offender's home district or league may require the individual to serve a suspension in accordance with the Association's punishment guidelines. Misconduct that results in the expulsion of a player or team official shall become part of the offender's discipline record.
6. If the offence occurs during the team's final game of the tournament, the hosting association shall:
  - 6.1.1. Refer the case to the District, League or the Provincial Association under whose jurisdiction the individual would normally appear for discipline.
  - 6.1.2. The referral should be made in writing and must include a copy of the referee's report.
7. ANY District or League-in-Membership once notified of a discipline problem with an affiliated team, team official or registered player, shall hold a discipline hearing to review the incident, if the matter has not been dealt with by the hosting association.
8. In the case of a game official assault in a tournament, the offender shall be immediately suspended from all soccer activities, pending a hearing by the Association's Discipline Committee. All reports must be filed with the Association within 48 hours of the incident, by the hosting association
9. Hosting Associations may refuse entry to a future event, to any team or individual for breach of tournament rules, including serious discipline problems. The matter should be reported to the team's or individual's home district or league.
10. A summary of all discipline incidents that resulted in a player, team official or team being expelled shall be reported to the Association on a Discipline Summary Report. The summary report shall include the individuals name, name of the team, division, home district or league, date of the offence, nature of the offence and any assessed penalty.

## **PART 23           Expulsion's in Exhibition Games**

The rules governing discipline issues and penalties states that any player expelled or team official reported for misconduct is required to serve an automatic one game suspension and does not differentiate between exhibition, league or cup games. The penalty for being expelled from a game remains the same regardless of the situation. Standard discipline policy must be followed for any misconduct that brings the game into disrepute.

The game official shall report the offence in writing, to the district association or league at the earliest opportunity. District Associations or League Discipline Committees shall follow standard hearing procedures upon receipt of the misconduct report. It is recommended that penalties imposed, follow the Association's discipline policy and suspension or suspensions be served in the player's next League, League Cup, or Provincial Cup match or matches, whichever comes first.

The offender shall be notified by the district or league they must sit out the automatic game suspension and is required to attend a Discipline Hearing. Having served the automatic game suspension, the offender shall be eligible to play, or in the case of a team official, coach or manager until Discipline Committee has dealt with the case.

It should be noted, that if a player, once notified, ignores the automatic one game suspension and participates in the following League, League Cup or Provincial Cup match, the individual shall be considered as 'playing while under suspension', and shall be disciplined as such.

Any player or team official reported for Assault of a Game Official, shall stand suspended from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of the Association until a Discipline Hearing is convened by the Association's Discipline Committee. Game officials are required to submit a written report to the district or league in jurisdiction and the Association within 48 hours of the incident.

## Part 24 Appeals – Discipline Committee Decisions

Any party, with leave of the Appeals Committee, may appeal disciplinary action taken by the Association, District Association, League-in-Membership or Inter-District discipline committee, provided the said appeal involves only an interpretation of the by-laws, rules and regulations or policies of the association.

Should an appellant be granted leave for appeal, the district, league or inter-district league committee is required to provide information to the Association's Appeal Committee. Pursuant to Rule 13 – Appeals, paragraph 4, a). A District Association, League-in-Membership or Inter-district Committee is required to:

1. File all documents used in reaching the decision, which shall include:
  - a) copy of the misconduct report
  - b) copy of the game report, if submitted by the game official
  - c) recorded minutes or notes from the hearing
  - d) copy of the discipline ruling
  - e) copies of all correspondence
  - f) other documentation requested by the committee
  
2. **Documentation must be filed within ten (10) working days** or within the timeframe directed by the Associations Appeals Committee.

**Note:**

Failure to respond to the Appeals Committee within the prescribed timeframe may result in a discipline committee's decision being overturned. The district association or league-in membership once notified that Leave for Appeal has been granted should ensure the Discipline Committee responds to the notice.