



## BCCSL DISCIPLINE INFORMATION FOR THE '21-'22 PLAYING SEASON

See the following BCCSL website for League Rules & Regulations <https://bccostalsoccerleague.ca/>

### General Note:

Changes may occur in this document throughout the season due to COVID19 and other extenuating circumstances. All players, coaches and managers taking part in the League are subject to the BC Soccer Association Judicial Code and the decisions of the League (BCCSL) Discipline Committee. Each of the seven (7) districts submits the name of their discipline representative prior to the start of each season.

It is the responsibility of team officials to inform their players that they can be expelled for the following offences which include but are not limited to:

- Persisting in misconduct (two yellow card offenses in the same game)
- Denying a goal scoring opportunity
- Offensive, insulting, abusive language and / or gestures (includes Conduct Unbecoming & Fails to Respect the Decisions of the Game Officials)
- Serious foul play
- Violent conduct
- Biting or spitting at someone
- Failure to Control – this offense is specific to team officials

**Note:** As per Law 12: A player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

Referees can yellow and/or red card team officials as per FIFA/IFAB Laws of the Game #5 & #12.

Team officials are responsible for and can be reported for the behavior of their players/parents/fans: Failure to Address Harassment by Team or Spectators; Failure to Address Offensive, Insulting, Abusive Language and/or Gestures to another Player, Team Official, Association Official, Match Official and/or Spectator, etc. (A team official is described as: the coach, assistant coach, manager or other person registered with BC Soccer who oversees the operation of an affiliated team.)

Immediately following the end of the game, the referee will report any yellow or red card infractions on the discipline system and the player/team official who is reported will be suspended and will automatically be ineligible to play in the team's very next scheduled game pending either a hearing or further sanction. The names of ineligible players/team officials will have a line drawn through them on the team roster. Both the home and away teams can see this when they access the team roster.



If for some reason the suspended individuals name does not show with a line drawn through it on the team roster it is the responsibility of the team official to inform the opposition and manually draw a line through the name of suspended players/team officials prior to a copy being handed to the referee.

**Note:** Team rosters cannot be run off until Thursdays after noon of each week as time is required to input the suspension information on the website for any ineligible players/team officials.

Depending on the seriousness of the offense, the BCCSL Discipline Manager may levy automatic games suspensions for some offenses in accordance with the BC Soccer Judicial Code & Policies. The team officials will be informed of the suspension and that the player does not have to attend a hearing. If the team official disagrees with the number of games levied by the BCCSL Discipline Manager, they have the right to request a hearing within 24 hours of the suspension notice, by emailing the BCCSL Discipline Manager.

However, team officials should be aware that if the minimum number of games, as per the BC Soccer Judicial Code, has been levied by requesting a hearing it will not result in fewer games and may result in a higher suspension if it goes to a discipline committee panel.

The FIFA Disciplinary Code - 40 Match officials' reports: *Facts contained in match officials' reports and in any additional reports or correspondence submitted by the match officials are presumed to be accurate. Proof of their inaccuracy may be provided. Evidence would need to be provided proving that the referee's report isn't accurate for those accusations of falsification to be considered.*

See the following BC Soccer Judicial Code & Policies document for sanctions:

<https://www.bcsoccer.net/files/AboutUs/BylawsRulesRegsPolicies/2021JudicialCode.pdf>

**Note:** as per the *BSCA Judicial Code: Where there is a minimum or maximum Sanction provided, a Sanction below or above (accordingly) may not be imposed.* If the team official receives a notice that only indicates that the individual "must sit out the team's very next game" this means that the suspended individual will be eligible to return to play once that game has been completed.

This pertains only for offenses such as 2 cautions in the Same Match; Denying a Goal Scoring Opportunity and a 3rd Caution in a Season.

**PRE-GAME AND POST-GAME "HANDSHAKE"** or equivalent agreed ceremonial protocol between players and team officials will be communicated by the league.

If a player is sent off or a team official is expelled from a game they **MUST NOT** participate in the post-game gathering. They must immediately leave the vicinity of the field of play which includes the technical area and the bench area (be away from the bench/sidelines by 15 meters/50 feet.)



Referees can submit reports for players, team officials and spectators for misconduct that occurred even after a game is finished.

### The Automatic One Game

Following the EJECTION of the Player or EXPULSION of a Team Official as per FIFA / IFAB, all red cards carry an automatic one game suspension. This one game suspension is served automatically by sitting out the player or team official's very next League or Cup game (whichever comes first) after the game in which the red card was received. This automatic one game suspension is non-appealable.

*\*See Serving Your Discipline Suspension, page 4.*

The accused party shall be eligible to participate in soccer activities once the required automatic match suspension has been served, with the exception, of any individual accused of Assault of a Match Official.

Additional games may be levied by the League Discipline Manager or, depending on the offence, sanctioned by the Committee at a hearing.

### **The Discipline Hearing**

Once the referee's report has been received by the BCCSL Discipline Manager either automatic suspensions will be levied or a hearing date set depending on the infraction. Should a hearing be required the Discipline Committee will decide at that time what additional penalty, if any, will be imposed. The Committee can issue additional suspensions within the guidelines established by the Canadian Soccer Association and BCSA.

Discipline Hearing Meetings will be by Zoom video conferencing.

The participants do not have to have Zoom loaded on their electronics but they are encouraged to have a webcam. In the event that isn't possible then there are call-in numbers for meeting attendance.

**\*\*It is the responsibility of a team's official to inform their suspended players and that player's parent or guardian of any discipline "hearings" and sanctions pertaining to the suspended player.**

Meeting days and times for video conference meetings may vary depending on committee, player, parent or guardian and team official availability but are generally held on Wednesdays starting at 6:45pm.

Team officials are emailed in advance and at least one team official is required to attend the Zoom hearing. It is the team official's responsibility to confirm attendance ASAP to the BCCSL Discipline Manager. An Association Official/Representative may accompany an accused person; however, if the ejected individual is less than 19 years of age, they must be accompanied by an adult Advisor who is an



Association Official/Representative or their parent/guardian. The adult Advisor representing the individual should be given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the individual.

As per BC Soccer Rule 9, *Judicial Matters* regarding legal representation (paraphrased):

*iv) If an association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player wish to have a legal representative attend a BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league hearing, they must advise that BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league of this in writing ~~a minimum of 10 business days prior to the hearing~~ at least 48 hours prior to the start of the scheduled meeting.*

When lengthy suspensions are levied the committee will consider the seriousness of the offense, the time of year: mid-season break and end of season.

From time-to-time, the Discipline Committee may ask a team official and/or spectator to attend a “discussion” meeting to investigate a discipline matter brought to their attention that did not result in an ejection or referee’s misconduct report.

Failure to Appear rules apply in this case should the team official decline to attend without good cause.

#### **Failure to Appear.**

Any team official or player failing to appear at a scheduled discipline hearing or on a date specified by the League or a District Association shall be Indefinitely Suspended until the case has been dealt with by the Discipline Committee. A notice of an Administrative Suspension requires that the individual be notified of such action and is Indefinitely Suspended from all youth soccer related activities including practice, playing/coaching and refereeing until s/he attends a hearing.

Should an individual continue to participate in youth soccer activities while under suspension or after being placed on Administrative Suspension, they shall be required to appear before a Provincial Board Discipline Committee.

#### **Yellow Card Cautions**

Upon notification by the BCCSL Discipline Manager, anyone receiving three yellow cards in one season (not to be confused with two yellow cards in one game) must sit out the team’s very next game. The player does not have to attend a discipline hearing for receiving three yellow cards in a season.

Please note that on receipt of a fifth caution in a season that the player will be assessed another one game suspension and may be required to attend a hearing.



## **Serving Your Discipline Suspension**

**IMPORTANT:** As it takes about 24 hours to populate the scores, for purposes of keeping track of games sat out please report your scores immediately following the game. Suspensions must be served by “sitting out” the player or team officials very next game(s), league or cup, whichever comes first.

Please note that if a player or team official transfers to another team (“transfers or for any other reason”) from the time they were ejected from their previous team’s game and while awaiting the discipline committee’s ruling on the suspension, they must sit out any suspension levied with the new team. This includes in-district cup games, the BCCSL League Championship games and the BC Soccer Coastal Cup which is considered part of the Primary (Fall/Winter) Season.

**FIRST GAMES OF THE PLAYING SEASON:** If the games scheduled by the League, at the beginning of the season, are classified as exhibition games, carry-over suspensions must be sat out from the first scheduled game. Suspensions cannot be sat out in “exhibition” \*\* or tournament games.

(\*\*While the League may schedule “Exhibition” games for the first part of a season the term “Exhibition” in the context of discipline is where two teams might set up a friendly/exhibition game between themselves.)

BCSA Judicial Code, 6.5, 4i: A game must be played to its conclusion in accordance with the defined playing time, specified in the rules by age group, to be considered a game sat out for the purposes of serving a suspension. Only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension.

If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.

Please note the intent of 6.5, 4i is that if a match is played, or cancelled/forfeited because of the opposing team’s actions, then it would count towards the player/team officials’ serving of a suspension. (Note: weather related cancellations, where the opposition had no control over the circumstances, would not be sufficient reason to consider a game served.)

A suspended player may attend games but may not be in uniform or be involved in any way and must not fraternize with other team players, team officials or fans. Suspended players and team officials must stay back a minimum of 50 feet (15 meters) from the sideline; in other words, away from the area immediately surrounding the field of play.

Suspended team officials must arrange for someone else to fill their position. Suspended team officials must not coach verbally, by hand signals or any other means (including electronic / cellular devices) and must not fraternize with the players, coaching staff or fans to avoid being suspected of coaching while



under suspension. The team's players and coaching staff must be told not to approach the suspended player or team official before, during or after the game.

Also, such suspended players and team officials must NOT be involved in the team pre- or post- game gatherings. Players or team officials will not participate in any BCSA sanctioned soccer function while under suspension. This includes acting as a game official, handling equipment, field setup, coaching or assigning substitutions.

Players and team officials can, however, attend practices unless they have been sanctioned with Field or Administrative prohibitions. Suspended players or team officials who play, coach or referee while under suspension or, if attending as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings the game into disrepute shall be subject to further disciplinary action.

IMPORTANT: If a suspended player or team official has an in-district Coastal OR Community Cup or make-up game, their name must appear on the team list but be shown with a strike-through thus showing that the player did not play. Immediately after the above-mentioned cup game is completed a copy of the roster is required to be emailed to the BCCSL Discipline Manager so that the number of suspended games can be adjusted.

#### **6.5 SUSPENSIONS 4. Suspensions While Playing on Permit**

- a. A player who is suspended is not eligible to play on permit.
- b. Any Sanction applied while playing in a match under permit shall apply to future matches of the team for which the player is registered.

#### **Exhibition, Friendly or Games NOT SCHEDULED BY THE LEAGUE OR Where There is no Scheduled Referee & Teams Agree to Play**

Red and yellow cards received in exhibition or friendly games will be reported by the referee and players/team officials/spectators will be subject to normal discipline procedures. This also pertains to games where the referee scheduled referee doesn't show and the teams agree for someone else to referee the game.

Note: that for the purposes of discipline an exhibition/friendly game would be one set-up between two teams not to be confused with an exhibition game scheduled by the League.



### **BCCSL Rules and Regulations – Re-scheduling, g.**

If a referee does not appear for the game, team officials may agree on a referee ii. Should the game be played, then it is understood that the game stands as an official league game Any discipline arising is subject to normal discipline procedures.

**Complaints:** The discipline committee will not deal with issues/complaints that cannot be corroborated by the game official. The League, or one of its committees, may investigate complaints from team officials, abandoned games; teams with excessive cards, excessive no-shows or forfeitures, misconduct of teams, officials, spectators, or violation of field closures.

The Discipline, Protests / Appeals or Abandoned Game Committees may request the posting of a Performance Bond and/or fine in keeping with the Fine and Performance Bond Schedule. A bond is to guarantee good behavior and is returned if no similar incidents occur during a set time period. The discipline committee does not deal with referee complaints. They should be directed to your District or Club Head Referee. If the complaint is regarding the oppositions referee the District/Club Head Referee will forward it to the oppositions District/Club Head Referee.

**Right to Appeal to BC Soccer:** If the named person has attended a hearing and disagrees with the penalty assessed see BC Soccer Judicial Code #5 page 40 re: cause for appeal, appeal time frame & fee. See [www.bcsoccer.net](http://www.bcsoccer.net) for additional information.

BC Soccer Judicial Code 5. Appeals: (paraphrased) Make written application to [discipline@bcsoccer.net](mailto:discipline@bcsoccer.net) with a concise statement of facts stating the Bylaw, Rule or Regulation that was contravened and forward within 10 business days from notification of the suspension with the \$525.00 appeal fee (includes GST).

The mailing address is BC Soccer Association #250-3410 Lougheed Hwy., Vancouver, BC V5M 2A4

If the appeal is upheld the fee will be returned less an administrative fee.

**IMPORTANT:** Pending the hearing of the appeal, the original decision shall **not be** suspended unless the BCSA Judicial so orders. A decision may be amended to the disadvantage of the party lodging the appeal.

The following are **Grounds for Appeal** of a BCCSL Discipline Decision:

c. A decision cannot be appealed on its merits alone. An appeal may be heard only if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal.



**Sufficient grounds include the respondent:**

- i. Making a decision for which it did not have authority or jurisdiction as set out in governing documents;
- ii. Failing to follow procedures as laid out in the approved policies of the association;
- iii. Making a decision which was influenced by bias; Exercising its discretion for an improper purpose; or
- iv. Making a decision which was unreasonable.

As per the BCSA Judicial Code **these decisions which may not be appealed:**

d. An appeal against a decision rendered may not be appealed if the sanction pronounced is:

A warning ii. A reprimand iii. A suspension of three (3) or fewer matches or up to two (2) months iv. A fine of up to \$1000 imposed on a member or affiliated organization v. Decisions passed in compliance with the Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer.

**Suspensions Carrying Over**

Teams whose players were suspended in the last playing weekends of league scheduled games and who are involved in the Coastal Cup, which is considered to be part of the Primary Season, must sit out their suspension in that event. Any remaining games not sat out either in League play or Coastal Cup or Provincial Cup must be sat out in the first games of the upcoming season. (Coastal Cup in-District & League qualifying games leading up to Provincial Cup games.)

As per the BC Soccer Judicial Code & Policies for BC Soccer with regards to suspensions carrying over any player/team official under suspension whose team is considering playing in a Spring/Summer Soccer League (Secondary Season play – starting in April) should be aware of the following:

BCSA Soccer Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer

**6.5 SUSPENSIONS 4. Serving Suspensions c.**

Judicial Panels may determine if individuals suspended for a specific number of matches at the end of the primary season will be permitted to serve end of season Suspensions in an affiliated secondary season under their jurisdiction. d. The suspension(s) may carry over into any sanctioned activity, including tournament and Friendly Matches, but shall not constitute the serving of the suspension(s). e.

When any person within jurisdiction of the Association has been suspended for misconduct for a specific number of matches and the suspension is not completed within the current season, the suspension shall carry over into the following Youth or adult season. f. Where primary season and secondary season play overlap, any suspensions incurred during this period must be served: i. If the suspension was incurred during secondary season play, the individual must serve their suspension during their next league or cup match (es), whichever comes first, regardless of playing season. ii. If the suspension was incurred during



primary season play, the individual must serve this suspension during their next primary season league or cup match (es), whichever comes first. The individual may apply to the organization with jurisdiction for permission to participate in secondary season play while still under suspension in their primary season. h. It is the obligation of the person to have the organization under which they serve the suspension to provide proof that the suspension has been served in another organization. Documentation will show registration and dates of matches sat out.

Suspensions may carry over into sanctioned activities including tournaments and exhibition matches but do not constitute games sat out with regards to the suspension.

The discipline committee may allow a player to play in a tournament depending on the seriousness of the suspension but does not count as games sat out. Permission has to be requested to play in a tournament while under suspension. Permission may or may not be granted based on the severity of the send-off offence.

The suspended individual is also not eligible to participate in secondary season play (or other sanctioned soccer activities like summer tournaments) without the permission of the governing body that issued the suspension. The individual may apply to the organization with jurisdiction for permission to participate in secondary season play while still under suspension in their primary season.

These games do not count as games sat out. Players/team officials being reported in the last game of the season must attend a hearing. Players graduating to adult play, who have suspensions carrying over, will serve them in the first games of adult play.

Players and team officials who do not complete their suspensions in one season will sit out the remaining games in the following season. They must be officially registered with their district or adult league (for those players who have graduated from youth) for the upcoming season for the suspension to count.

**Note:** Spring/Summer Leagues are considered a *Secondary Season*. Players who are suspended in the BCCSL and have been granted permission to play in a Spring/Summer League cannot sit out their suspensions in that league however if a player in a Spring/Summer League gets suspended during the Spring/Summer season their suspension carries through to the BCCSL's Fall/Winter season including any cup games if a team is still cup tied.

Submitted by Jackie Larson, BCCSL Discipline Manager  
Submitted: November 9, 2021

NOTE: Subject to change.