



# **DISCIPLINE SANCTION POLICY**

**Offense Related Policy Extensions**

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## **1 DISCIPLINE SANCTION POLICY**

The discipline sanction policy and its tables of guidelines are a primary means of ensuring the integrity of the game and conformity across the province in assessing sanctions for misconduct. The discipline sanction guidelines are intended to provide a uniform platform for discipline to be carried out throughout the province and convey the relationship that exists between discipline at the club, district, league, provincial and national levels and BC Soccer's role in facilitating timely and appropriate discipline within BC.

The guidelines are an integral extension of the Conduct, Ethics and Discipline Standards and Policy. It instructs the intended application of discipline and the approved sanction levels to be applied uniformly across the province in discipline undertakings.

### **1.1 Decision Making and Sanctioning**

- 1) Decisions should be made based on the information available prior to the hearing and information that may be presented at the hearing.
- 2) The Discipline Committee has the right to withhold the decision at the end of the hearing, however the individual should be advised of the reason (Example: an extremely serious offence and the committee wishes to deliberate further).
- 3) A player or team official 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, except anyone accused of game official assault, threatening a game official or harassment of a game official, or any other such cause that the Discipline Committee feels is serious enough to warrant an indefinite suspension.
- 4) The Discipline Committee shall have the right to indefinitely suspend any person or organization until a decision is made if they feel that there is just cause to do so.
- 5) In the event a decision is withheld, the committee upon rendering a decision shall contact the person or organization and inform them of the committee's decision. The accused shall be notified in writing of the result of the hearing in accordance with the BC Soccer Discipline Rules.
- 6) Where suspensions are game-based, the committee should not increase or reduce the amount of games suspended to mimic a term suspension.
- 7) Where game suspensions are appropriate, as for a player or a team official then the sanction should be either a touchline suspension (no interference in the game and spectating from a distance) or a field suspension (which restricts all participation with the team while the suspension is in force).

- 8) A term suspension is appropriate for Game officials and Association officials and would include touchline, ground and administrative suspension (a ban from all soccer related activities while the suspension is in force).
- 9) Term suspensions should be assessed for cases where the seriousness of the misconduct is considered high and where the offence is exceptional; and for all game and association officials.
  - a. Assault against a match official
  - b. Combinations of violent conduct, serious foul play, threats, indecent behavior, abusive language
  - c. Where there is negative reference or discrimination to any one or more of the following: ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, gender or sexual orientation
  - d. Failure to report misconduct
  - e. Misconduct by a Game or Association Official
- 10) Other than for one game automatic suspension, sanctions initiate the day the decision is made available to the respondent either at a hearing or when the results of a hearing are provided to the accused.
- 11) In the case of an administrative sanction, the Discipline Committee may start the sanctions up to seven days after the results of the hearing are provided to the accused and only where the Discipline Committee can show that such delay is for the good of the game and that the likelihood of additional misconduct in the period of delay is minimal.
- 12) Wherein a result of a discipline hearing is withheld, the accused shall be sent a final determination no later than 30 days following the hearing.
- 13) Particularly for youth players, educational sanctions may be considered and encouraged where a learning outcome may be likely. Examples would include anger management, referee courses, introduction to coaching, cultural diversity / sensitivity. The requirements to attend would be set out by the Discipline Committee. A letter of apology or statements of personal learning and resolution to changed behavior may be considered as well. Educational sanctions may be in lieu of or reduce game and term suspensions or be a condition of reinstatement.
- 14) The Discipline Committee can with cause sanction any participant for any term including lifetime suspension if it is determined to be in the best interest of the game.

## **2 DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES RELATED TO RULE 10**

### **2.1 General Provisions**

Rule 10 Discipline of BC Soccer's Rules and Regulations provides BC SOCCER with the responsibility and the power to inquire into the conduct of any person or organization 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 person or organization 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.

The following discipline options are available in the sanctioning of misconduct:

- 1) Reprimand the person or organization;
- 2) Suspend the person or organization from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing, officiating and at their discretion may include acting as an officer of a member group in the Association for one or more league or provincial cup games;
- 3) Suspend the person or organization from the privilege of playing, coaching, managing, officiating and at their discretion may include acting as an officer of a member group in the Association for one or more playing seasons;
- 4) Suspend the person or organization from the privilege of playing, coaching managing, officiating and acting as an officer of a member group in the Association for an indefinite period;
- 5) Expel the person or organization from the Association;
- 6) In the case of an adult player, team official, team, Club, District or League, impose a fine and/or bond.

- 7) In the case of a spectator who is associated with the team, and who is reported for misconduct and is proved at a discipline hearing to have committed said misconduct, the club or league club or league may be subject to a levy of a performance bond to guarantee good behavior.

## 2.2 Sanction Guidelines for Infractions of Rule 10

- BC Soccer shall retain the right to jurisdiction for infractions of Rule 10 regardless of the domicile of the individual pursuant to the BC Soccer Discipline Rules. In the instance of misconduct occurring outside the lower mainland, BC Soccer 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.
- The Discipline Committee shall have broad powers to sanction persons and organizations with just cause and define sanctions that are in line with the misconduct including touchline (game), field (all training and coaching related activities), full / administrative (a total sanction from all soccer related activities) and / or fines / bonds.
- Organizations may be sanctioned and / or fined for the actions of their players, team officials, association officials and spectators.

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
1. Violation of Rules and Laws	i) Violated F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game and/or the Association's game rules;	As per the guidelines for the rules or the laws of the game in subsequent sections	Not normally	As per the guidelines for the rules or the laws of the game	As per the guidelines for the rules or the laws of the game	As per the guidelines for the rules or the laws of the game	Up to lifetime
2. Conduct on field	ii) Violated rules established from time to time by the Association governing the conduct of members on and off the field;	As per the guidelines for the rules or the laws of the game in subsequent sections	Not normally	Up to 12 month suspension	Up to a 60 month suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
3. Conduct unbecoming	iii) Behaved in a manner considered by the Board to be unbecoming of a member registered with the Association;	Full / Administrative	Up to \$1000	Up to 12 month suspension	Up to a 60 month suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension



Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
4. Not in the best interest of the game	iv) Behaved in a manner considered by the Board not to be in the best interest of the game of soccer or the Association;	Full / Administrative	Dependent on misconduct	Up to 12 month suspension	Up to a 60 month suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
5. Gambling	v) Bet on any soccer match;	Full / Administrative	Up to \$500	Up to 12 month suspension	Up to a 60 month suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
6. Offering consideration	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;	Full / Administrative	Up to \$500	Up to 60 month suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
7. Accepting consideration	vii) Accepted consideration pursuant to clause vi);	Full / Administrative	Up to \$500	Up to 60 month suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
8. Bringing the game into disrepute	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.	Full / Administrative	Dependent on misconduct	Up to 12 month suspension	Up to a 60 month suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension

### **3 DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR PLAYERS**

#### **3.1 General Provisions**

- 1) A player who is 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; whichever comes first. The player having served the one game suspension shall be eligible to resume playing. 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) If the incident that brings the player before the Discipline Committee is of a particularly egregious nature, involves an intentional or deliberate infliction of injury requiring ambulance transport or police involvement then the hearing will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- 3) In all instances of physical abuse of a match official or threatening verbal remarks concerning the safety of a game official the matter will be referred to the BC Soccer Judiciary Committee for their handling and any suspension resulting will affect both League and Cup play.

#### **3.2 Accumulated Cautions**

- 1) A player may receive an official caution (without expulsion) by the referee for:
  - a. Foul play
  - b. Dangerous play
  - c. Criticism of the referee or assistant's decisions, protests, etc.
  - d. Disparaging remarks about referee's, assistants, other players or any other person present at the match
  - e. Ill-mannered (incorrect) behaviour
  - f. Unethical (unsporting) conduct
  - g. Gamesmanship (time-wasting, deliberate hand ball etc.)
  - h. Temporarily leaving the field of play without notifying the referee
  - i. Other unsporting behaviour (feigning, rude gestures to the public, etc.)
- 2) If a player receives two (2) official 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. The following are the recommended punishments for an accumulation of yellow cards. These are not the mandatory punishments and Discipline Committees are encouraged to use their discretion.

- 3) A player 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, whichever comes first. An adult player must serve this suspension in the following game within the competition in which the cautions were earned.
- 4) A player who accumulates five (5) official cautions (yellow cards) within the period of one playing season will be required to appear before a Discipline Committee and shall be assessed a one (1) game suspension which must be served in the youth player's following league or cup game, whichever comes first. An adult player must serve this suspension in the following game within the competition in which the cautions were earned.
- 5) A player who accumulates six (6) official cautions (yellow cards) within the period of one playing season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Committee and shall be assessed a two (2) game suspension which must be served in the youth player's following league or cup game, whichever comes first. An adult player must serve this suspension in the following game within the competition in which the cautions were earned.
- 6) A player who accumulates seven (7) official cautions (yellow cards) within the period of one playing season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Committee and shall be assessed a five (5) game or 30 Day suspension which must be served in the youth player's following league or cup games, whichever comes first. An adult player must serve this suspension in the following game within the competition in which the cautions were earned. The Discipline for a player with five (5) or more cautions in a season will be referred to BC Soccer.
- 7) A player who accumulates eight (8) or more official cautions (yellow cards) within the period of one playing season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Committee and shall be assessed a minimum of 60 days suspension which must be served in the youth player's following league or cup games, whichever comes first. An adult player must serve this suspension in the following game within the competition in which the cautions were earned.
- 8) Notwithstanding, paragraphs "i through vii ", 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.
- 9) The district or league has the responsibility of informing the club and team of the accumulation of cautions and the subsequent suspensions.

### **3.3 Player Expulsion by a Referee**

- 1) Expulsion of a player by a referee for: Serious foul play; Very dangerous play; Violent conduct; Persistent protests against decisions by the referee and assistants; Leaving the field of play in protest without notifying the referee; Repeated misconduct despite a previous caution by a

referee; Extremely unethical conduct; Repeated gamesmanship; Insulting players, team officials or any other person present at the match; Racist or sexist comments; or Other serious acts of unsporting conduct incur additional sanctions in ADDITION to the one game automatic (mandatory minimum) suspension .

- 2) Players may be sanctioned under Rule 10 Discipline.
- 3) Where the Discipline Committee believes there is just cause, expulsions for five (5) or more games (touchline suspension) may instead be sanctioned as a term suspension of one or more months, and also include either a field suspension (includes a suspension from training with the team, coaching and refereeing) and / or an administrative ban (which includes suspension from all soccer related activities).
- 4) For second or third offences, or if there is progression or prolongation of misconduct, the Discipline Committee may consider a field or an administrative suspension as opposed to a touchline suspension.
- 5) Anyone under suspension for a period greater than twenty-four (24) months may request a review of their 'period of suspension' after at least one half of such suspension has been served.

### **3.4 Exhibition Games**

- 1) The rules governing discipline issues and penalties states that any person or organization 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.
- 2) Exhibition games do NOT count as games served for current suspensions.

### **3.5 Expectations of Players**

Players are the most visible representatives of the sport and must do their part to uphold the integrity of soccer. Players must:

- 1) Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, when such problems may limit their ability to travel, practice, or compete; or in the case of carded athletes, interfere with the athlete's ability to fulfill requirements under the Athlete Assistance Program;
- 2) Participate and appear on time, well-nourished, and prepared to participate to their best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, tryouts, tournaments, and events;

- 3) Adhere to Canada Soccer's requirements regarding clothing and equipment;
- 4) Never ridicule a participant for a poor performance or practice; and
- 5) Act in a good sporting manner and not engage in violent behavior, foul language, or offensive gestures.

### 3.6 Sanction Guidelines for Accumulated Cautions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
9. 1 Caution	Cautioned by the referee without expulsion – yellow card.	Touchline	None	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
10. 2 Cautions	Two cautions in one match and consequently 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.	Touchline	None	1 game, as per expulsion by referee	N/A	N/A	N/A
11. 3 Cautions	A player who accumulates three (3) cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Touchline	None	1 game	N/A	N/A	N/A
12. 5 Cautions	A player who accumulates five (5) cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Touchline	None	1 game	N/A	N/A	N/A
13. 6 Cautions	A player who accumulates six (6) cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Touchline	None	2 games	N/A	N/A	N/A
14. 7 Cautions	A player who accumulates seven (7) cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Touchline	None	5 games or 30 days	N/A	N/A	N/A
15. 8 or More Cautions	A player who accumulates eight (8) or more cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Touchline and / or field	None	Minimum 60 days	N/A	N/A	N/A

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
16. Additional Fines	Notwithstanding, paragraphs “i through v”, 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.	Touchline	As per league	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### 3.7 Sanction Guidelines for Players

- All sanctions for game related offences will have an automatic minimum of a 1 game suspension
- For serious offenses can convert to term suspensions
- Incorporation of educational sanctions is encouraged
- Players with a history of abusive behavior, physical contact or egregious behavior may receive lengthy extensions that may include multiple month or years regardless of when the historic infractions occurred

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
17. Serious Foul Play	Serious foul play	Touchline	None	1 to 5 games	5 games	10 games	6 - 12 months
18. Very Dangerous Play	Very dangerous play	Touchline	None	1to 5 games	5 games	10 games	6 - 12 months
19. Violent Conduct	Violent conduct	Touchline	None	2 - 8 games	5-10 games	5-20 games	6 - 12 months
20. Leaving Field of Play	Leaving the field of play in protest without notifying the referee	Touchline	None	1-2 games	2 - 5 games	Balance of season or 6 months + educational	N/A
21. Repeated Misconduct	Repeated misconduct, despite a previous caution by the referee	Touchline	None	1-3 games	2-5 games	Balance of season or 6 months + educational	N/A
22. Unethical Conduct	Extremely unethical conduct	Touchline	None	1-4 games	2-10 games	Balance of season or 6 months + educational	6 to 12 months
23. Gamesmanship	Repeated gamesmanship	Touchline	None	1-2 games	2-5 games	Balance of season or 6 months + educational	6 to 12 months



Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
24. Non- Directed Insults	Insulting players, team officials, or any other person present at the match If the language is loud enough to be heard by the game official and/or spectators, but not directed at any one person	Touchline	None	1 games	2-5 games	Up to Balance of season or 6 months + educational	6 to 12 months
25. Directed Insults	Insulting players, team officials, or any other person present at the match If the language is directed at another player, team officials or spectators and is loud enough to be heard by the game officials:	Touchline	None	1-2 games	2-5	Up to Balance of season or 6 months + educational	6 to 12 months
26. Other Acts	Other serious acts of unsporting conduct	Touchline or field	None	1-2 games	3 -10	Up to Balance of season or 6 months + educational	6 to 12 months
27. Racist or sexist comments	Dismissed or reported by a game official or other registrant for racist or sexist comments made during the game or in the vicinity of the playing field either during or after the game	Touchline or field	None	2-6 games	5-10 + educational	Balance of season or 6 months + educational	6 to 12 months
28. Physical Contact	Spitting, head-butting or intentional unethical physical contact with an Opponent or any other person	Touchline, field or administrative	None	3-12 games	3 -12 months	n/a	Up to 60months
29. Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams before, during, or after a game.	Administrative	None	6 Games / Weeks	3 -12 months	6 month	6 to 12 months
30. Persistent Protest	Persistent Protests against Decisions by the Referee and Assistants	Touchline	None	1-2 games	2-4	Balance of season or 3 months + educational	6 to 12 months

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
31. Verbal Abuse of an Official	Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures including personally insulting remarks, threatening	Administrative	None	6 games/ weeks	5-10	6 -12 months	6 - 12 months
32. Threatening a Game Official	Comments, gestures or motions that are threatening or can be perceived to be threatening	Administrative	None	6-12 games/ weeks	5-20	6 month suspension and up to 12 month	6 - 12 months
33. Physical Contact with a Game Official	Deliberate physical contact (i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempted physical contact or threatening	Administrative	None	6 - 12 months	6 - 60 months	1 year - lifetime	Up to lifetime
34. Spitting at a Match official	Spitting at a Match official (does not need to make contact)	Administrative	None	12 Months	12 – 60 months	12 months – lifetime	Up to lifetime
35. Striking a Game Official	Striking, spitting, kicking or any form of violent conduct, or attempted violent conduct	Administrative	None	6-60 months	12 – 60 months	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime
36. Persistent protest after ejection	Persists in protesting after ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline	None	n/a	2-4	12	6 to 12 months
37. Refusal to Leave the Field	Refusal to leave the field of play after ejection by the referee resulting in a game abandonment. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline	\$300	n/a	2-10 games	12-24	6 - 12 months
38. Remaining on the grounds	Does not leave the grounds fully or remains close to the touchline after ejection from the game, but does not result in game abandonment. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline	None	n/a	2-10 games	12-24	6 - 12 months

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
39. Returning to the field after ejection.	Returning to the field of play after an ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline	None	n/a	2-10 games	12-24	6 - 12 months
40. Abuse at a hearing	Reported for "using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at a discipline or appeal hearing panel member(s)	Administrative	None	n/a	3-12 months	n/a	Up to lifetime
41. Playing when under suspension	Knowingly participates in a game while under suspension	Administrative	None	n/a	6-12 months	24 - 60 months	Up to lifetime
42. Disrepute while under suspension	While under suspension, if attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game	Administrative	None	n/a	3-12 months	24-60 months	Up to lifetime
43. Denies Goal Scoring Opportunity	Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent	Touchline	None	Auto 1 only	Auto 2 only	Auto 5	N/A
44. Deliberate Handball	Denies the opposing team a goal or obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball	Touchline	None	Auto 1 only	Auto 2 only	Auto 5	N/A
45. Goal offences	Moving towards the players goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick	Touchline	None	Auto 2	Auto 3	Auto 5	N/A
46. Inciting hatred and/or violence during a match	Instigating hatred or violence directed at another individual or group.	Administrative	Up to \$2,500	12 Games	12-24 games	24-36 games	Up to lifetime
47. Non registered team	Plays on a team the player knows they are not registered on	Administrative	\$300	6 months	24 months	60 month	Up to lifetime

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
48. Falsification	a) Changed any information on a registration form without the consent of the person being registered on such form. b) Provided false or inaccurate information on a registration form. c) Knowingly registered with more than one team in a playing season without officially transferring. d) Falsified a signature on a registration form. e) Knowingly provided an invalid photograph of a person for the purpose of registering that person.	Administrative	Fine \$500 \$1,000 \$2,000	12 months	36 months	60 months	Up to lifetime

## **4 DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR TEAM OFFICIALS**

### **4.1 General Provisions**

- 1) A team official who is 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 team official, having served the one game suspension shall be eligible to resume coaching. 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) If the incident that brings the team official before the Discipline Committee is of a particularly egregious nature, involves an intentional or deliberate infliction of injury requiring ambulance transport or police involvement then the hearing will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- 3) In all instances of physical abuse of a match official or threatening verbal remarks concerning the safety of a game official the matter will be referred to the BC Soccer Judiciary Committee for their handling and any suspension resulting will affect both League and Cup play.
- 4) In all instances of misconduct involving racist or sexist comments the hearing will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- 5) In all cases of misconduct involving persistent dissent after an ejection or failure to leave the field after an ejection the hearing will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- 6) Discipline involving a game official or an association official (even if participating in another capacity) will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- 7) Anyone under suspension for a period greater than twenty-four (24) months may request a review of their 'period of suspension' after at least one half of such suspension has been served.
- 8) Educational sanctions may be considered
- 9) For misconduct by an adult against a youth see section 9

### **4.2 Exhibition Games**

- 1) The rules governing discipline issues and penalties states that any person or organization 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.
- 2) Exhibition games do NOT count as games served for current suspension.

#### **4.3 Expectations of Team Officials**

The team personnel-athlete relationship is a privileged one and plays a critical role in the personal, sport, and athletic development of the athlete. Team personnel must recognize the power inherent in the position of team personnel and respect and promote the rights of all participants in sport. This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy), informed participation, and fair and reasonable treatment. Team personnel have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights. Team personnel must also:

- 1) Ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the involved athletes;
- 2) Prepare athletes systematically and progressively, using appropriate time frames and monitoring physical and psychological adjustments while refraining from using training methods or techniques that may harm athletes;
- 3) Avoid compromising the present and future health of athletes by communicating and cooperating with sport medicine professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of athletes' medical and psychological treatments;
- 4) Provide athletes (and the parents/guardians of a minor) with the information necessary to be involved in decisions that affect the athlete;
- 5) Act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person;
- 6) Respect other team personnel;
- 7) Report any ongoing criminal investigation, conviction, or existing bail conditions, including those for violence, child pornography, or possession, use, or sale of any illegal substance;
- 8) Under no circumstances provide, promote, or condone the use of drugs (other than properly prescribed medications) or performance-enhancing substances and, in the case of minors, alcohol and/or tobacco;
- 9) Respect athletes playing with other teams;
- 10) Not engage in a sexual relationship with an athlete under 18 years old, or an intimate or sexual relationship with an athlete over the age of 18 if in a position of power, trust, or authority over the athlete;
- 11) Dress professionally, neatly, and inoffensively; and use inoffensive language, taking into account the audience being addressed.

#### 4.4 Guideline for Discipline of Team Officials

- All sanctions for game related offences will have an automatic minimum of a 1 game suspension
- For serious offenses can convert to term suspensions
- Incorporation of educational sanctions is encouraged
- For misconduct against youth by adults see section 9

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
49. Behavior unbecoming	Behavior unbecoming akin to foul play	Administrative	None	2-5 weeks	5-10	3-12 months	6-12 months
50. Dangerous Play	Behaving in a way that puts any player in danger or encouraging foul or dangerous play	Touchline	None	2-5 games	5-10	3-12 months	6-12 months
51. Violent Conduct	Violent conduct including attempting to, or actually, pushing, kicking, striking or spitting at or towards another person; threatening behaviour in any physical manner or physical action intended to provoke another person into a fight.	Administrative	None	3 - 12 months	6-24 months	24-60 months	Up to lifetime
52. Persistent Protest	Persistent protests against decisions by the referee and assistants	Touchline	None	2-5 games	2-10 games	2-12 months	N/A
53. Leaving field of play	Leaving the field of play in protest without notifying the referee or directing players to leave the play or show dissent	Touchline	None	2-5 games	2-10 games	2-12 months	N/A
54. Repeated Misconduct	Repeated misconduct, despite a previous caution by the referee	Touchline	None	1 game games	2-4 games	5	N/A
55. Unethical Behavior	Extremely unethical (unsporting) conduct	Administrative	None	2-10 weeks	1-6 months	3-12 months	6 to 60 month suspension
56. Gamesmanship	Repeated gamesmanship	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	2-5 games / weeks	5-10 games / weeks	3-12 months	6 to 60 month

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
							suspension
57. Verbally Abusive Behavior	Abusive, Insulting or Offensive Language and/or Behaviour or insulting players, team officials, or any other person present at the match If the language is loud enough to be heard by the game officials and/or spectators, but not directed at any one person	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	2-8 games / weeks	1-12 months	3-24 months	6 to 60 month suspension
58. Directed Verbally Abusive Behavior	Abusive, Insulting or Offensive Language and/or Behaviour or insulting players, team officials, or any other person present at the match If the language is directed at another player, team officials or spectators and is loud enough to be heard by the game officials and/or spectators:	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	2-8 games / weeks	1-12 months	3-12 months	6 to 60 month suspension
59. Unsporting	Other serious acts of unsporting conduct	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	2-8 games / weeks	1-12 months	3-24 months	6 to 60 month suspension
60. Racist or sexist comments	Dismissed or reported by a game official or other registrant for racist or sexist comments made during a game or in the vicinity of the playing field either during or after the game.	Administrative	None	4-12 games / weeks	2-12 months	6-60 months	Up to lifetime
61. Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams either before, during, or after a game.	Administrative	Fine to \$1,000	3 - 12 months	6-36 months	12-60 months	Up to lifetime



Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
62. Entering the field of play	Entering the field of play or leaving the technical area without the game official's permission	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	1-3 games / weeks	3-5 games / weeks	6-12	6-12 months
63. Persistent protest after ejection	Persists in protesting after ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	n/a	2-12 games / weeks	2-24 months	6-12 months
64. Refusal to Leave the Field	Refusal to leave the field of play after ejection by the referee resulting in a game abandonment. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	Fine \$300	n/a	2-12 games / weeks	2-24 months	6-12 months
65. Remaining on the grounds	Does not leave the grounds fully or remains close to the touchline after ejection from the game, but does not result in game abandonment. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	n/a	2-12 games / weeks	2-24 months	6-12 months
66. Returning to the field after ejection.	Returning to the field of play after an ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	n/a	2-12 games / weeks	2-24 months	6-12 months
67. Coaching when under suspension	Any breach of the terms of a suspension including coaching or participating in any soccer related activities; unless specifically allowed by BC Soccer in writing.	Administrative	Fine \$500	n/a	6 months additional	24-60 months	Up to lifetime
68. Disrepute while under suspension	While under suspension, if attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game	Administrative	None	n/a	n/a	24-60 months	Up to lifetime
69. Abuse at a hearing	Reported for "using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at a discipline or appeal hearing panel member(s)	Administrative	None	n/a	3-12 months	n/a	Up to lifetime

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
70. Play an ineligible player	Played an ineligible or suspended player in a sanctioned game or permitted a suspended player who is suspended from all soccer related activity	Administrative	Fine \$300	1-12 months	3-24 months	24-60 months	Up to lifetime
71. Verbal Abuse of an Official	Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures including personally insulting remarks, threatening	Administrative	None	2-12 games/weeks	2-6 months	6-12 months	Up to lifetime
72. Threatening an Official	Comments, gestures or motions that are threatening or can be perceived to be threatening	Administrative	None	1 to 6 months	2-6 months	6-12 months	Up to lifetime
73. Physical Contact with an Official	Deliberate physical contact (i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempted physical contact or threatening	Administrative	None	3-24 months	60 months	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime
74. Striking an Official	Striking, spitting, kicking or any form of violent conduct, or attempted violent conduct	Administrative	None	6 -24 months	12-60 months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
75. Assault	Any misconduct deemed assault	Administrative	None	24 months	60 months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
76. Failure to Control	<p>In failing to control players or spectators after request by the referee, the referee shall report the team official for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) failure to control players</li> <li>ii) failure to control spectators</li> <li>iii) failure to address game official harassment by team or spectators</li> <li>iv) foul, abusive, insulting or offensive language and é or behavior to players or spectators</li> </ul> <p>failure to identify a spectator responsible for misconduct towards a game official</p>	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	Fine \$300	2-8 weeks	4-12 weeks	3-12 months	6-24 months

## **5 DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR GAME OFFICIALS**

### **5.1 General Provisions**

- 1) In accordance with the BC Soccer Discipline Rules, BC Soccer has the power to enquire into the conduct of any person or organization acting in the capacity of an “official”, both on and off the field, who has violated rules established from time to time.
- 2) Game officials include registered individuals who perform as, but not limited to, referees, referee administrators, referee assignors, referee instructors and referee assessors.
- 3) Upon receipt of a written complaint of misconduct by an official, the Discipline Committee Chair shall convene a Discipline Hearing Committee.
- 4) A written complaint must be received by BC Soccer within 48hrs of the incident. Complaints received after 48hrs of the incident will be reviewed by the Discipline Committee Chair for determination of action.
- 5) 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.
- 6) In each case of alleged misconduct by an official, the official may be suspended from all soccer activities pending a hearing.
- 7) The Association shall notify the CSA of any discipline hearing decisions involving registered national or FIFA officials.
- 8) Any serious acts by an official considered extreme in nature may warrant suspensions in excess of the guidelines.
- 9) Discipline involving a game official for any serious offence will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- 10) Anyone under suspension for a period greater than twenty-four (24) months may request a review of their ‘period of suspension’ after at least one half of such suspension has been served.

### **5.2 Expectations of Game Officials**

Game officials play a critical role in ensuring the on-field integrity of the game and maintaining order and safety for all involved. They are the representatives of the laws of the game and must respect those laws in the application of officiating. Game officials must:

- 1) Conduct themselves with dignity both on and off the field of play, and by example seek to inspire the principles of fair play in others;

- 2) Adhere to all standards and directives established by Canada Soccer, International Football Association Board and FIFA;
- 3) Be neat in appearance and maintain a high level of physical and mental fitness;
- 4) Study and enforce the current Laws of the Game and any event-specific rules and regulations;
- 5) Perform their designated duties, including attending organized clinics and lectures, etc. and shall assist their colleagues in upgrading and improving their standards of officiating, instructing and assessing;
- 6) Adhere to the Canada Soccer's Anti-Doping Policy;
- 7) Honour any appointments accepted, unless unable to do so by virtue of illness or personal emergency;
- 8) Not publicly criticize other referees or Canada Soccer;
- 9) Not make any statement to the media (newspaper, television, radio, etc.) related to a game in which the referee has officiated, or to the performance of the players or other officials;
- 10) Not accept any appointment to officiate in any competitive game in which an immediate member of his/her family by marriage or common law is a registered player or coach. An immediate member of the family is a parent, a spouse, a son or daughter, a brother or sister;
- 11) Not accept any appointment to officiate in unsanctioned events;
- 12) Be fair, equitable, considerate, independent, honest, and impartial in all dealings with others; and
- 13) When writing reports, set out the true facts and not attempt to justify any decisions.

### 5.3 Guideline for Discipline of Game Officials

- All sanctions for game related offences will have an automatic minimum of a 1 game suspension
- For misconduct against youth by adults see section 9

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
77. Restriction on referee as a player	Playing in a match while registered as a referee in the same division / league (there is demonstrable conflict)	n/a	None	Reprimand	2 weeks	6 months suspension	N/A
78. Unaffiliated games	Registered official officiating unaffiliated matches	n/a	Associated game fee if officiating	Reprimand	6 months	12-60 months	N/A
79. Official Conflict of Interest	Assignments (Officiating matches in which a conflict of interest exists)	n/a	None	Reprimand	1 month	12-60 months	N/A
80. Cancellation	Cancellation of match assignment	n/a	None	Reprimand	1 month	12-60 months	N/A
81. Failure to report	Failure to submit official discipline and/or match report within 48 hours after a game	n/a	Associated game fee if officiating	Reprimand	1 month	12-60 months	N/A
82. Failure to show	Failure to report to the field: 30 minutes prior for open field competition; 2 hours for professional, national or international competition	n/a	None	Reprimand	2 weeks	6 months	N/A
83. Statements	Failure to refrain from public criticism of players, fellow officials or team personnel	n/a	Associated game fee if officiating	Reprimand up to 3 months	6 month	12-60 months	N/A
84. Fitness / appearance	Failure to adhere to Standards of Ethical Conduct, section H	n/a	None	Reprimand to 1 month	1 to 3 months plus game fee	12-60 months	N/A
85. Alcohol / drugs / tobacco	Failure to adhere to Standards of Ethical Conduct, section I	Administrative	Associated game fee if officiating	1-6 months	6 - 12 months	12-60 months	12-60 months

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
86. Language / behaviour	Use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language and/or behaviour	Administrative	Associated game fee if officiating	1-6 months	6 - 12 months	12-60 months	12-60 months
87. Violent conduct	Deliberate physical contact, such as pushing, pulling, charging, threatening or attempted physical contact	Administrative	None	Up to 12 month suspension	12-60 months	12-60 months	Up to Lifetime
88. Safety	Failure to ensure the safety of players and officials	n/a	Associated game fee if officiating	Reprimand to 1 month suspension	12-60 months	12-60 months	N/A
89. Discrimination / harassment / unprofessional conduct	Failure to comply with BC Soccer's Harassment Policy and/or the Standards of Ethical Conduct, section L	Administrative	Associated game fee if officiating	1 month to 6 month suspension	6 - 12 months	12-60 months	12 month Up to lifetime
90. Discipline	Failure to comply with the BC Soccer Discipline Rules, BC Soccer Constitution & Bylaws and/or Standards of Ethical Conduct, section M	n/a	Associated game fee if officiating	Reprimand to 1 month suspension	1 month to 3 month suspension	3 month to 6 month suspension	12 month Up to lifetime
91. Refereeing when under suspension	Any participation in sanctioned soccer while under suspension	Administrative	None	n/a	6-12 months	24-60 months	Up to lifetime
92. Disrepute while under suspension	While under suspension, if attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game	Administrative	None	n/a	6-60 months	12-60 months	Up to lifetime
93. Abuse at a hearing	Reported for "using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at a discipline or appeal hearing panel member(s)	Administrative	None	n/a	3-12 months	12-60 months	Up to lifetime

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
94. Public criticism	Publicly criticized any other game official or Soccer Organization; made derogatory statements to the media relating to any game in which he/she was involved concerning the performance of the players or other game officials.	Administrative	None	Reprimand and up to 6 months	3-12 months	12-60 months	Up to lifetime
95. Failure to report serious incident	Failed to report a serious game-related offence to his/her District Association.	Administrative	None	3-12 months	12-60 months	12-60 months	Up to lifetime
96. Racist or sexist comments	Dismissed or reported by a game official or other registrant for racist or sexist comments made during a game or in the vicinity of the playing field either during or after the game.	Administrative	None	3-12 months	12-60 months	12-60 months	Up to lifetime
97. Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams before, during, or after a game.	Administrative	None	3-12 months	12-60 months	24-60 months	Up to lifetime
98. Falsification	Any falsification of a game or referee report	Administrative	Fine First \$500  Second \$1,000  Third \$2,000	12 month suspension	36 month suspension	60 month suspension	Up to lifetime



Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
99. Non-affiliated soccer	Officiating in non-affiliated leagues, cup competitions or tournaments, without permission from BC Soccer,	Administrative	None	Up to 6 months  Possible removal from BC Soccer referee list	Up to 18 months  Possible removal from BC Soccer referee list	Up to 36 months  Possible removal from BC Soccer referee list	Up to lifetime  Possible removal from BC Soccer referee list

## **6 DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS**

### **6.1 General Provisions**

- 1) Association Officials include individuals who perform as, but not limited to, club, district, league and provincial association board members, directors, committee members, volunteers and paid staff; association official may also include clubs, districts and leagues as a whole as well as the individuals appointed or applied by it.
- 2) Upon receipt of a written complaint of misconduct by an official, the Discipline Committee Chair shall convene a Discipline Hearing Committee.
- 3) In each case of alleged misconduct by an official, the official may be suspended from all soccer activities pending a hearing.
- 4) Any serious acts by an official considered extreme in nature may warrant suspensions in excess of the guidelines for first, second or subsequent offences. Extreme or repeated misconduct may attract suspensions of 6 months, 12 months, 24 months, 60 months or lifetime.
- 5) Discipline involving a game official or an association official (even if participating in another capacity) will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- 6) Anyone under suspension for a period greater than twenty-four (24) months may request a review of their 'period of suspension' after at least one half of such suspension has been served.
- 7) Fines and bonds levied to Association Officials will be due by the organization that they are affiliated with, at the highest level to which they are affiliated first by position and second by District, League then Club.
- 8) Where the misconduct has caused material damage to others, the fine may include amounts in addition to cover the damages.

### **6.2 Expectations of Association Officials**

While ignorance of the Laws of the Game or of the rules is not a defense, depending on the nature of the charge, it is viewed that a participant in a position of authority or trust is held to a higher standard when going beyond the norms of proper behavior; i.e. behaving in an unsporting manner or not in the best interest of the game. Notably directors, committee members and staff should be aware of various rules, regulations, guidelines, programs and expectation within the soccer playing and administrative environment; and indeed, are charged with upholding and defending the same. Failure to act properly can be tantamount to unsporting or unethical behavior and brings the game directly into disrepute and lead to charges. BC Soccer, District, League and Club Directors, Committee Members, Staff and any other Association officials must:

- 1) Comply and be familiar with the various governance documents that apply to their responsibilities;
- 2) Act with honesty and integrity and conduct themselves in a manner which maintains the confidence of Members and other stakeholders;
- 3) Ensure that their organization's financial affairs are conducted with due regard for all fiduciary and operational responsibilities;
- 4) Conduct themselves openly, professionally, lawfully and in good faith in the best interests of Canada Soccer;
- 5) Be independent and impartial and not influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, expectation of reward, or fear of criticism;
- 6) Behave with decorum appropriate to both circumstance and position, and be fair, equitable, considerate, and honest in all dealings with others;
- 7) Keep informed about local, provincial and national sport community happenings, and general trends in sport;
- 8) Exercise the degree of care, diligence, and skill required in the performance of their duties pursuant to the laws under which Canada Soccer is incorporated;
- 9) Respect the confidentiality appropriate to the business at hand;
- 10) Ensure that Members are given sufficient opportunity to express opinions, and that all opinions are given due consideration and weight;
- 11) Respect the decisions of the majority and resign if unable to do so; and
- 12) Commit the time to attend meetings and be diligent in preparation for, participation in, and follow-up from such meetings.

### 6.3 Guidelines for Discipline of Association Officials

- All sanctions for game related offences will have an automatic minimum of a 1 game suspension
- For misconduct against youth by adults see section 9

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
100.Statements	Failure to refrain from public criticism of players, team officials, game officials, or association officials	Administrative	Fine \$500	Reprimand and up to 6 months	3-12 months	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime
101.Fitness / appearance	Failure to represent the association in the manner befitting an official with respect to personal appearance	Administrative	Fine \$200	Reprimand and up to 6 months	3-12 months	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime
102.Alcohol / drugs / tobacco	Appearing in public under the influence of intoxicants or not respecting the rules related to smoking and otherwise in public places as related to officiating or where it impacts the ability to officiate.	Administrative	Fine \$300	1-12 months	3-24 months	6-60 months	Up to lifetime
103.Language / behaviour	Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially using offensive gestures or foul and abusive language.	Administrative	Fine \$250	1-12 months	3-24 months	6-60 months	Up to lifetime
104.Violent conduct	Deliberate physical contact, such as pushing, pulling, charging, threatening or attempted physical contact	Administrative	Fine \$500	3-24 months	12-60 months	24-60 months	Up to lifetime
105.Safety	Failure to ensure the safety of any registered participant or spectator when acting as an official	Administrative	Fine \$500	1-12 months	3-24 months	6-60 months	Up to lifetime

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
106.Discrimination / harassment / unprofessional conduct	Failure to comply with BC Soccer's Harassment Policy and any acts that may be seen as discriminating	Administrative	Fine \$Up to \$10,000	3-24 months	6-36 months	12-60 months	Up to lifetime
107.Acting as an official when under suspension	Any breach of the terms of a suspension including acting as an official or participating in any soccer related activities; unless specifically allowed by BC Soccer in writing.	Administrative	Fine \$1,000	n/a	12-60 months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
108.Disrepute while under suspension	While under suspension, if attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game	Administrative	Fine \$1,000	n/a	12-60 months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
109.Unethical Behavior	Extremely unethical (unsporting) conduct as per	Administrative	Fine \$500	3-12 months	12-60 months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
110.Gamesmanship	Undertaking gamesmanship for the benefit of any player, team, league or association or other unfair advantage realized by the official's position	Administrative	Fine \$500	1-12 months	3-24 months	6-60 months	Up to lifetime
111.Verbally Abusive Behavior	Abusive, Insulting or Offensive Language and/or behaviour or insulting players, team officials, or any other person If the language is loud enough to be heard by the game officials and/or spectators, but not directed at any one person; includes written comments	Administrative	Fine \$500	1-12 months	6-60months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
112. Directed Verbally Abusive Behavior	Abusive, Insulting or Offensive Language and/or Behaviour or insulting players, team officials, or any other person present at the match If the language is directed at another player, team officials or spectators and is loud enough to be heard by the officials and/or spectators; includes written comments	Administrative	\$750	3-12 months	6-60months	Up to Lifetime	Up to a lifetime suspension
113. Unsporting	Serious acts of unsporting conduct	Administrative	Fine \$500	3-12 months	6-60months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
114. Other acts as a player, team official or game official	Any and all such other acts committed in the capacity as a player, team official or game official may attract the additional charge of bringing the game into disrepute as per RULE 10 a )viii)	Administrative	Fine \$500	3-12 months	6-60months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
115. Racist or sexist comments	Dismissed or reported by a game official or other registrant for racist or sexist comments made during a game or in the vicinity of the playing field either during or after the game.	Administrative	Fine \$300	3-12 months	6-60months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
116. Entering the field of play	Entering the field of play or leaving the technical area without the game official's permission	Touchline	None	2-3 weeks	4-8 weeks	6-24 months	6-12 months

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
117.Persistent protest after ejection	Persists in protesting after ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	n/a	3-12 weeks	6-24 months	6-12 months
118.Refusal to Leave the Field	Refusal to leave the field of play after ejection by the referee resulting in a game abandonment. Counts as a second or third offence.	Administrative	Fine \$300	n/a	3-12 weeks	6-24 months	6-12 months
119.Remaining on the grounds	Does not leave the grounds fully or remains close to the touchline after ejection from the game, but does not result in game abandonment. Counts as a second or third offence.	Administrative	None	n/a	3-12 weeks	6-24 months	6-12 months
120.Returning to the field after ejection.	Returning to the field of play after an ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.	Administrative	None	n/a	3-12 weeks	6-24 months	6-12 months
121.Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams either before, during, or after a game.	Administrative	Fine \$500	3-12 months	6-60 months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
122.Abuse at a hearing	Reported for "using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at a discipline or appeal hearing panel member(s)	Administrative	Fine \$500	n/a	3-12 months	12-60 months	Up to lifetime

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
123.Play an ineligible player	Played an ineligible or suspended player in a sanctioned game or permitted a suspended player who is suspended from all soccer related activity	Administrative	Fine \$300	3-12 months	6-60months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
124.Falsification	a) Changed any information on a registration form without the consent of the person being registered on such form. b) Provided false or inaccurate information on a registration form. c) Falsified a signature on a registration form. d) Knowingly provided an invalid photograph of a person for the purpose of registering that person.	Administrative	Fine \$500 \$1,000 \$2,000	3-12 months	6-60months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
125.Inducement	Induced or attempted to induce a registered player to leave his/her team before the end of that team's current playing season.	Administrative	Fine \$300	3-12 months	6-60months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime
126.Failure to register players	Participated in an organization's decision not to register some, or all of its players and teams with BC Soccer; and Leagues, Divisions, coaches and administrators	Administrative	Fine \$50/player up to \$5,000 plus registration fees.	6-12 months	6-60months	Up to Lifetime	Up to lifetime



Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
127. Promotion of non-affiliated soccer	Partnering with or promoting the interest of non-affiliated soccer.	Administrative	Fine 1 <sup>st</sup> - Up to \$2,000  2 <sup>nd</sup> - Up to \$5,000  3 <sup>rd</sup> - Up to \$10,000	Reprimand – 2 years	Up to 5 years	Up to a lifetime ban	Up to lifetime ban
128. Participating in non-affiliated soccer	Participated in non-affiliated leagues, clubs, cup competitions or tournaments, without permission from BC Soccer.	Administrative	Fine 1 <sup>st</sup> - Up to \$2,000  2 <sup>nd</sup> - Up to \$5,000  3 <sup>rd</sup> - Up to \$10,000	Reprimand – 2 years	Up to 5 years	Up to a lifetime ban	Up to lifetime ban
129. Non-affiliated teams participating in sanctioned soccer	Allowing a non-affiliated team or a non-registered player(s) to participate in a BC Soccer sanctioned event.	Administrative	Fine 1 <sup>st</sup> - Up to \$1,000  2 <sup>nd</sup> - Up to \$2,000  3 <sup>rd</sup> - Up to \$5,000	Up to \$1,000 fine and may be prohibited from having events sanction by BC Soccer in the future.	Fine + up to 1 year suspension and may be prohibited from having events sanctioned by BC Soccer in the future.	Fine + up to 5 year suspension and may be prohibited from having events sanction by BC Soccer in the future.	Up to a lifetime ban.

## **7 DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR SPECTATORS AND TEAM MISCONDUCT**

### **7.1 General Provisions**

- 1) Every organization 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.
- 2) Verbal abuse and insulting behavior of game officials by any person or organization is a breach of the BC Soccer Discipline Rules and subject to disciplinary action.
- 3) Persistent disputing of games official's decisions, persistent criticism including personally insulting remarks, threatening behavior, violent conduct or attempted violent conduct, and racist or sexist comments shall be investigated by the governing body in jurisdiction.
- 4) Organizations are required to investigate all such incidents and convene a Discipline Hearing. In the instance of violence or threatening behavior, 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) Anyone under suspension for a period greater than twenty-four (24) months may request a review of their 'period of suspension' after at least one half of such suspension has been served.
- 7) Fines and bonds levied to spectators and teams will be due by the organization that they are affiliated with, at the highest level to which they are affiliated by District then Club.
- 8) Where the misconduct has caused material damage to others, the fine may include amounts in addition to cover the damages.
- 9) Where reporting procedures for game officials are not provided by the relevant authority, district associations, leagues-in-membership and inter-district leagues shall advise their officials to act in accordance with the following procedures.
  - a. The Referee shall stop the game and approach the team officials to determine the name of the spectator and:
  - b. Instruct the team official to speak to the individual and request they cease and desist.
  - c. 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.

- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. The referee 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
- g. 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:
  - i. The team officials shall be required to attend a hearing.
  - ii. The spectator if identified shall be requested to attend the hearing.
  - iii. An official from the team's Club shall be afforded the opportunity to attend any hearing.
  - iv. The organization may be fined, suspended or expelled from the league in accordance with the governing authority's rules and regulations, and/or
  - v. Post a bond and / or pay a fine in accordance with the governing authority's rules and regulations or according to BC Soccer's guidelines.

## **7.2 Expectations of Parents and Spectators**

Spectators and Parents are an all important part of the game and necessary to maintain the sustainability of the game. In appreciating the game to its fullest potential, spectators and parents are expected to behave in a manner that does not bring the game into disrepute and patriciate in ways that ensure a healthy and safe environment. Spectators and parents must:

- 1) Encourage players to abide by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence;
- 2) Never ridicule a player for making a mistake during game play or practice;
- 3) Provide positive comments that motivate and encourage participants' continued effort;
- 4) Respect the decisions and judgments of officials and encourage athletes to do the same;
- 5) Respect and show appreciation to all competitors, and to the coaches, officials, and other volunteers who give their time to the sport; and
- 6) Refrain from entering the training or competition area and from interfering with any activities

### 7.3 Guidelines for Discipline of Spectators and Teams

- All sanctions for game related offences will have an automatic minimum of a 1 game suspension
- Educational sanctions may be considered
- For misconduct against youth by adults see section 9

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
130.Alcohol / drugs / tobacco	Appearing in public under the influence of intoxicants or not respecting the rules related to smoking and otherwise in public places	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	Up to 6 months	Up to 12 months	60 months to lifetime	Up to lifetime
131.Language / behaviour	Use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language and/or behaviour	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	Up to 6 months	Up to 12 months	60 months to lifetime	Up to lifetime
132.Persistent Protest	Persistent Protests against Decisions by the Referee and Assistants	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	Up to 6 months	Up to 12 months	60 months to lifetime	Up to lifetime
133.Violent conduct	Deliberate physical contact, such as pushing, pulling, charging, threatening or attempted physical contact	Administrative	None	3-24 months	6-60 months	60 months to lifetime	Up to lifetime
134.Verbally Abusive Behavior	Abusive, Insulting or Offensive Language and/or Behaviour or insulting players, team officials, or any other person If the language is loud enough to be heard by the game officials and/or spectators, but not directed at any one person; includes written comments	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	Up to 6 months	Up to 12 months	60 months to lifetime	Up to lifetime

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
135. Directed Verbally Abusive Behavior	Abusive, Insulting or Offensive Language and/or Behaviour or insulting players, team officials, match officials or any other person present at the match If the language is directed at another player, team officials or spectators and is loud enough to be heard by the officials and/or spectators; includes written comments	Field	Up to \$10,000	3 to 12 months	12 – 24 months	60 months to lifetime	Up to lifetime
136. Abuse at a hearing	Reported for "using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at a discipline or appeal hearing panel member(s)	Administrative	None	n/a	3-12 months	6 to 60 months	Up to lifetime
137. Racist or sexist comments	Dismissed or reported by a game official or other registrant for racist or sexist comments made during a game or in the vicinity of the playing field either during or after the game.	Field	None	1 to 12 months	Up to 12 months	60 months to lifetime	Up to lifetime
138. Entering the field of play	Entering the field of play or leaving the technical area without the game official's permission	Touchline	None	1-3 weeks	2-5 weeks	3-24 months	6-12 months
139. Persistent protest after ejection	Persists in protesting after ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.	Administrative	None	n/a	2-12 weeks	3-24 months	6-12 months

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
140. Refusal to Leave the Field	Refusal to leave the field of play after ejection by the referee resulting in a game abandonment. Counts as a second or third offence.	Administrative	Fine \$300	n/a	2-12 weeks	3-24 months	6-12 months
141. Remaining on the grounds	Does not leave the grounds fully or remains close to the touchline after ejection from the game, but does not result in game abandonment. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	n/a	2-12 weeks	6-24 months	6-12 months
142. Returning to the field after ejection.	Returning to the field of play after an ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	None	n/a	2-12 weeks	6-24 months	6-12 months
143. Mass expulsions / cautions	Where a referee sanctions at least five members of the same team during a match (caution/expulsion)	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	\$250	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
144. Confronting a match official	Where several players or officials of the same team threaten or harass match officials	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	\$1000	As per the guidelines for individuals	As per the guidelines for individuals	As per the guidelines for individuals	As per the guidelines for individuals
145. Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams either before, during, or after a game.	Administrative	\$500	3 to 12 months	Up to 12 months	60 months to lifetime	Up to lifetime

## **8 GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **8.1 General Provisions**

Over 120,000 people participate in BC Soccer affiliate leagues and millions more worldwide are actively engaged in online conversations involving soccer. Social media (twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) along with email, blogs, web sites, news sites and other channels for communication play an important role in communications. It can be a useful tool to help drive and promote soccer in British Columbia.

However if communication channels are not used in an appropriate and respectful way, they may give rise to complaints from individuals or organization alleging violations of relevant BC Soccer Rules, Regulations and Policies, including complaints that individuals are not acting in the best interest of the game of soccer or are demonstrating unethical or unsporting conduct and or behavior.

In the case of soccer in BC, if complaints are brought to the attention of BC Soccer and, following applicable disciplinary procedures, inappropriate behavior is proven, a number of sanctions are available ranging from formal warnings to suspensions from all soccer related activities, depending on the severity of the incident. It is important to recognize that the right to free speech is not a defence when comments have a deleterious effect on other individuals or brings the game into disrepute.

Charges related to communications will be dealt with through the Discipline Committee and the charge may fall under the broad category of Communications and Social Media Misconduct, relating to Rule 10 or as related to misconduct by Players, Team Officials, Game Officials or Association Officials. The transgressions will be dealt with the same procedures as with any other disciplinary or grievance matter.

### **8.2 Types of Communications and Social Media Misconduct**

- 1) Comments that bring the game into disrepute or are unsporting
- 2) Comments on ongoing disciplinary or sensitive / private issues / confidential issues or the posting of grievances
- 3) Abuse of individuals by means of bullying, victimization by means of racist, sexist or ageist comments
- 4) Abuse of individuals by means of insult or threat
- 5) Abuse of individuals by comments that are deemed personally insulting or damaging
- 6) Abuse of individuals by means of statements that are deemed defamation, such as the posting of damaging or libelous comments about a player, official, club, district, league or any other participant in soccer
- 7) Abuse of individuals by the divulgence of personal data; for example, giving away details of

personally identifying information, salary, political or religious beliefs or disciplinary records.

- 8) Abuse of individuals by or distributing inappropriate photographs, offensive or threatening comments or sensitive personal information might
- 9) Abuse of individuals by spreading of unsubstantiated rumors or the spreading of slander
- 10) Improper use of social media to force inclusion or exclusion; i.e. a coach requesting to friend a player
- 11) Other such comments that a person using best judgment would not broadcast widely in person in an open public and inclusive forum.
- 12) Commenting on, contributing to, reposting or sharing of comments related to 1 to 11 above



### 8.3 Guidelines for Discipline for Communications and Social Media Offenses

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
146.Communications offenses	Abusive, insulting or offensive language and/or behaviour or insulting players, team officials, or any other person by means of communications or social media	Field or Administrative	Up to \$1,000	Reprimand and up to 6 months suspension	3 to 24 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime

## **9 GUIDELINES FOR MISCONDUCT AGAINST YOUTH BY ADULTS**

### **9.1 General Provisions**

Clubs, district and league Discipline Committees may either hold their own hearings or request that reports of misconduct against youth by adults for the following be referred directly to BC Soccer:

- Dissent towards youth official
- Offensive, insulting or abusive language and / or gestures to a youth, youth official or in the proximity to youth
- Use of profanity to a youth, youth official or in the proximity to youth

In forwarding the request to BC Soccer it will attract sanctions of greater severity with the high likelihood of being seen as aggravated or serious. In most cases there will be an immediate sanction from all soccer related activities once the alleged misconduct is known.

BC Soccer will handle directly all misconduct against youth by adults that includes but is not limited to:

- Consuming alcohol or drugs or smoking in proximity to youth
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while in the proximity of youth
- Threatening remarks to a youth
- Improper or unwanted physical contact with a youth
- Coercion, suggesting, facilitating, or demanding youth to undertake unethical activity or breaks rules
- Harassment or bullying of youth
- Sexual innuendo, request for sexual favours or any sexual contact with youth or in the proximity of youth
- Lewd or improper behavior towards youth or in the proximity of youth
- Endangerment of youth
- Failure to provide a safe environment for youth
- Failure to protect youth

Where such misconduct may be considered a crime it will be referred to the police. Districts, leagues and clubs are accountable for the behaviors of their players, teams, officials and spectators and may be sanctioned.

Clubs, districts and leagues may be responsible for the acts of any of its players, officials or spectators and be subject to discipline.

## 9.2 Guidelines for Discipline for Misconduct against Youth by Adults

- Misconduct against youth by adults will be dealt with extreme severity by BC Soccer
- The police, and or other authorizes, will be informed for any activity that justifies greater attention
- Fine and bonds may be applied in all cases, and will be increased for second and third offences

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
147.Dissent	Any form of dissent – does not need to be an ejection	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	Up to \$500 fine and \$1,000 bond	1 to 3 months suspension	2 to 6 months suspension	6 to 12 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
148.Language	Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures – does not need to be an ejection	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	Up to \$500 fine and \$1,000 bond	3 to 6 months suspension	6 to 24 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
149.Profanity	Any use of profanity, threat remarks or physical contact – does not need to be an ejection	Touchline, Field and / or Administrative	Up to \$500 fine and \$1,000 bond	6 to 18 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
150.Contact or Threat	Any physical contact, gesture or strong language, that is unwanted, may be perceived to be threatening or assaultive	Administrative	\$500 fine and \$1,000 bond	3 to 24 months suspension	6 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
151.Lewd, Sexual Coercion or Harassment	Any abusive act	Administrative	\$500 fine and \$1,000 bond	6 to 24 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
152.Any other act	Any immoral, improper or unethical act; endangerment or failure to protect	Administrative	\$500 fine and \$1,000 bond	6 to 24 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension

\*If there is any doubt in the interpretation of these guidelines please contact BC Soccer Discipline.