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## BCCSL DISCIPLINE INFORMATION 2019-2020 SEASON

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### General

It is the responsibility of team officials to inform their players that they can be expelled for the following:

- Persisting in misconduct (two yellow card offenses in the same game)
- Denying a goal scoring opportunity
- Offensive, insulting, abusive language and / or gestures
- Serious foul play
- Violent conduct
- Spitting at an opponent or any other person
- Failure to act in a responsible manner – **this offense is specific to team officials**

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

See the following BC Soccer Judicial Code & Policies document that takes effect September, 2019.

[https://bcsoccer.net/files/AboutUs/BylawsRulesRegsPolicies/judicial\\_code\\_and\\_policies\\_of\\_bc\\_soccer\\_20190923.pdf](https://bcsoccer.net/files/AboutUs/BylawsRulesRegsPolicies/judicial_code_and_policies_of_bc_soccer_20190923.pdf)

**IMPORTANT:** If a player is sent off or team official is expelled from a game they **MUST NOT** participate in the post-game handshake. They must immediately leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area including the bench area.

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

All players, coaches and managers taking part in the League are subject to the BCSA Judicial Code and the decisions of the League Discipline Committee. Each of the eight (8) districts submits the name of their rep prior to the start of each season and those details can be found on [www.bccysl.ca](http://www.bccysl.ca)

**See the new FIFA/IFAB Laws of the Game, 5 & 12, regarding referees showing yellow or red cards to team officials.**

### The Automatic One Game

As per FIFA / IFAB, all red cards carry an automatic one game suspension. This game is served automatically by sitting out the 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.

Additional games may be levied by the League Discipline Committee depending on the infraction.

### Where to Attend a Disciplinary Hearing

Should meetings be required they are generally held starting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at:

Willingdon Community Centre     1491 Carleton Avenue, Burnaby, BC

Should a hearing be required team officials are contacted in advance and at least one team official must be prepared to attend, with their player/s, the Wednesday immediately following the ejection, unless otherwise informed.

A player's parent may attend but must be made aware, in advance, that s/he is present as an observer only. At the time of the hearing the team official is the spokesperson for the player.

As per BCSA Rule 10, Discipline: [www.bcsoccer.net](http://www.bcsoccer.net) Clubs, teams, their team officials and/or players may have legal representation. All fees will be incurred by the club, team, team official and/or player who initiated the legal representation. If any of the aforesaid individuals wish to have legal representation at a hearing, they must advise the league and BC Soccer of this in writing prior to the hearing.

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.

### **The Discipline Hearing**

Once the referee’s report has been received by the BCCSL Discipline Manager, and depending on the infraction, a discipline hearing date may be set. It is the team official’s responsibility to contact the player/s.

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.

### **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 Indefinite Suspension requires that the individual be notified of such action and is Indefinitely Suspended from all youth soccer activities including refereeing until he attends a hearing.

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

**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.

The referee will report any yellow or red card infractions on the BC Soccer Discipline site and the player who is suspended will be removed from the Stacks roster for however many games s/he is suspended.

### **Yellow Card Cautions**

Multiple yellow cards have the same automatic one game provision. Anyone with 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 may be requested to attend a hearing.

### **Serving Your Discipline Suspension**

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 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.

Suspensions must be served by “sitting out” the team’s very next game(s), league or cup, whichever comes first. **This includes in-district cup games, the BCCSL Championship Finals and the BC Soccer Coastal Cup which is considered part of the Primary Season.**

Suspensions cannot be sat out in exhibition or tournament games.

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, and inform their discipline representative of that person’s name and contact information.

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 players 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 “handshakes”.**

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 can, however, attend practices unless they have been sanctioned with Field, Touchline 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.

### **Suspensions Carrying Over**

Suspensions may carry over into sanctioned activities including tournaments and exhibition matches but do not constitute games sat out with regards to their suspension. The committee may allow a player to play in a tournament depending on the seriousness of the suspension.

Players and team officials who do not complete their suspensions in one season will sit out the balance in the following season. They must be officially registered for the upcoming season for the suspension to count. U-18 players graduating to adult play, who have suspensions carrying over, will serve them in the first games of adult play.

As per the BC Soccer Judicial Code & Policies for BC Soccer with regards to suspensions carrying over. Regarding any player/team official under suspension whose team is playing in the Championship Finals or is considering playing in the Spring/Summer Soccer League should be aware of the following:

#### **4.5 SUSPENSIONS**

##### **3. Serving Suspensions**

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:

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(s), 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. The player 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.

## **Informing the Opposing Teams**

When a discipline matter, such as the suspension of a player or team official, has been ruled on by the Discipline Committee it will be obvious on the team roster that the suspended individual is not entitled to play in the specific game as the name will not show on the team roster.

## **“Exhibition” or “Friendly” Games**

While the League does not schedule “exhibition” or “friendly” games red and yellow cards received in “exhibition” or “friendly” games will be reported by the referee and will be subject to normal discipline procedures.

## **Right to Appeal**

Right to Appeal to BC Soccer: If the named person has been into a hearing and disagrees with the penalty assessed see BC Soccer Rule #12 re: appeal time frame & fee. See [www.bcsoccer.net](http://www.bcsoccer.net)

**BC Soccer Rule 12, Appeals:** (paraphrased) Make written application to the BCSA Executive Director [jasonelligott@bcsoccer.net](mailto:jasonelligott@bcsoccer.net) with a concise statement of facts stating the Bylaw, Rule or Regulation that was contravened and forward within 10 working days from notification of the suspension with the \$525.00 appeal fee. If the appeal is upheld the fee will be returned less an administrative fee. 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.

**See page 34 of the BCSA Judicial Code 5.1. General d. for decisions which may not be appealed.**

## **ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

### **IN-DISTRICT (PROVINCIAL) COASTAL CUP GAMES**

Teams that have players under suspension and who are scheduled to play in a cup game must cross out their player's name on the team list before giving a copy to the ref and opposing team AND email the BCCSL Discipline Manager a copy of the roster so that game can be deducted from their player's suspension.

### **“Even Though My Player Is Suspended My Roster Shows Him/Her Eligible To Play.”**

Please note that if a BCCSL scheduled game doesn't have a field assigned the player will not show on the Stacks site that s/he is suspended until the field is added or a TBD in the field location column.

Submitted by Jackie Larson, BCCSL Discipline Manager

**NOTE:** Subject to change.

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