



2019 Handbook

BC Soccer Premier League

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General League Regulations

The following general league regulations are subject to change at the determination of the BC Soccer Premier league (“BCSPL” or “league”). General league regulations in effect shall be as posted on the BCSPL website.

1. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

a) **League Administrative Fee**

The league provides many services which include but are not limited to administrative, internet and website support, player registration with BC Soccer, referee scheduling, hosting of league meetings, marketing, public relations, and sponsorship support.

b) **Fines**

FINES WILL BE ASSESSED FOR VIOLATIONS OF LEAGUE RULES AND NOT MEETING MINIMUM STANDARD REQUIREMENTS. APPLICABLE FINES WILL BE AS SET ON THE LEAGUE WEBSITE, AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS AND WHEN DETERMINED BY THE LEAGUE.

c) **League Fee Payment Schedule**

Each season, the league administrative fee for each team is due on January 31. Each year this fee is based on the BCSPL approved budget.

2. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

a) **Governance**

BC Soccer oversees the operation of the BCSPL in accordance with BC Soccer Rule 26.

All competition in the league is governed by BC Soccer.

The BCSPL operates under its own Rules and Regulations that are approved annually by the BC Soccer board of directors, as well as pursuant to BC Soccer’s Competition Rules and Regulations as modified from time to time.

Discipline will be applied according to BC Soccer’s Conduct, Ethics and Discipline Standards Policy, and Procedures and Discipline Sanction Policy as modified from time to time.

b) **Playing Season**

The season will run from February through November (the “Regular Season”).

In the entry season for Under 13, the season will run from September each year to the following November. For example, for September 2018 – the U13 Girls & Boys teams, will play from September through November 2018 (as U13 intake BCSPL Teams), and then be renamed U13 BCSPL for February 2019 to November 2019.

c) **Match Day Hosting Requirements**

All clubs hosting matches will implement 5 minimum requirements as part of their presentation:

- 1) National Anthem to be played prior to the kickoff of every match
- 2) Announcements of line-ups prior to the kickoff of every match
- 3) Tents are to be provided over both team’s bench in every match
- 4) Ice/water available on site for all teams
- 5) Home clubs will have a designated first aid person with an emergency action plan on site for full game days at all times. For one-off or stand-alone games, the minimum requirement would be an emergency action plan in place

** For neutral hosted matches, a field with nets, corner flags and benches are the minimum requirements for the host club to provide





If you can't provide all 5 minimum requirements for a match you must notify the BCSPL General Manager. Not having a valid reason for missing a minimum requirement may result in being subject to league fines.

d) Provincial Premier Cup

The winner of the BC Soccer Premier Cup in the U15 and U17 Divisions will represent B.C. at the Canadian Club National Championships.

i. Premier Cup qualification - Phase 1

- Process: League standings will determine quarterfinal Provincial Premier Cup playoff matchups (1v8, 2v7, 3v6, 4v5)
- The 8th seeded BCSPL team before the quarterfinals may be required to play off against a district qualifier for the right to play in the quarterfinals.

*** The Provincial Premier Cup is subject to the Rules and Regulations of the BCSA in regards to Provincial Premier Cup and operates under the Competitions Committee of BCSA.*

ii. League Cup - Phase 2

- The BCSPL League Cup is the full fall season, and is a round robin competition with accompanying playoffs to determine the League Cup Champion
- The League Cup finals take place the third weekend of November

e) League Schedule

The league schedule is the responsibility of the BCSPL. The official schedule will be posted on the league's website. Clubs must comply with all league policies regarding cancellation, rescheduling of matches, and compensation to teams affected by cancellations or forfeits. Scheduling changes will not be allowed except under the most unusual circumstances.

Games must not be scheduled prior to 12:00pm for teams traveling to or from the Island and Okanagan and 9:00am between Lower Mainland teams, unless agreed upon in advance by both clubs. The latest match start times for Okanagan teams on Sundays playing in the Vancouver area would be 3:00pm.

i. Scheduling Changes Process

To change a scheduled match, the following process must be followed:

A Match Change Form must be completed by the team requesting the change and accompanied by a written agreement (email) from the opposing club before changes can be made. A new date must be provided and no changes will be accepted within 20 days of a match, except under special circumstances, i.e., weather, National Championships, and health related issues. Approved match changes with new dates are subject to a fee of \$35.00 to the club initiating the change.

Time changes within 20 days may only be allowed upon approval of the League Manager and both teams.

f) Match Point System

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

g) League Standings

The BCSPL is responsible for tracking and determining the official standings of all teams in the league.





Breaking ties in the league is accomplished by applying the following criteria:

- i. Head-to-head record based on total points in league matches.
- ii. Head-to-head goal difference.
- iii. Total wins in league matches.
- iv. Goal difference in league matches (goal average may be used if different number of scheduled matches).
- v. Goals scored in league matches.
- vi. Rankings based on points earned against top four group finishers. This tie-breaker will not be used if four or fewer teams comprise the group.
- vii. Lottery conducted by the BCSPL General Manager.

Note: If more than two teams involved in a tiebreaker situation have played each other an unequal number of times, these tie breakers will be skipped and advancement will be based off point percentage (total number of points earner divided by total possible points).

h) Match Length

AGE	GAME LENGTH	HALFTIME
Under 13	2 x 35 minutes	10 minutes
Under 14	2 x 35 minutes	10 minutes
Under 15	2 x 40 minutes	10 minutes
Under 16	2 x 40 minutes	10 minutes
Under 17	2 x 45 minutes	10 minutes
Under 18	2 x 45 minutes	10 minutes

i) Substitutions

U13 Age Group - Unlimited with no re-entry within the same half.

U14 to U18 Age Group - Seven (7) substitutions within open play of a match with no re-entry within the same half with unlimited at half time.

a. Substitution Procedure

Substitutes shall report and submit a substitution slip to the score keeper at midfield. To replace a player with a substitute there must be a stoppage in play and the referee must be informed. The player only enters the field of play after the player being replaced has left the field and after receiving a signal by the referee. The substituted player may leave the field from any boundary line.

b. Substitutions in overtime periods of League Cup matches

In extra overtime periods in League Cup matches, players may re-enter a match in the second overtime period if they were substituted in the first half of overtime play, granted the maximum number of substitutions has not been reached.

j) Incomplete Games

In the event that a match cannot continue through to full regulation time, the match will only count if one-half of the match was completed. If a match is suspended prior to the expiration of the first half due to inclement weather or extenuating circumstances, it will be rescheduled to some other date/time agreed upon by the competing teams and the BCSPL starting at the same minute that the match was originally suspended and with the same score. Referee fees will have to be paid again for the re-start. The Referee has the final decision on suspending matches due to weather or field conditions.

k) Postponements





In case of postponements, each home team shall communicate any delay of a postponement with the BCSPL General Manager and the opposing club. All efforts must be made to cancel/postpone a match before the visiting team leaves home because of inclement weather or situations considered acts of God.

Any postponed match must be rescheduled within (5) days of the original date of the match. Any non-played matches will result in no points being awarded to either team and the match will be recorded as a non-played match.

1) **Forfeits**

Should any team fail to appear for a scheduled league match or not be able to fulfill a scheduled fixture, the related Club shall incur a forfeit fee of \$250. The team will also incur a deduction of three (3) points in the league standings and a 1-0 win will be given to the opposing team.

1. Clubs impacted by a forfeit may claim all, or part, of the forfeit fee. This claim must be in writing to the BCSPL General Manager listing reasons for a claim, the requested claim amount, along with rationale. The General Manager will then determine each claim's validity and financial remuneration, if any, based on each claim's merit.

3. **TEAM ROSTERS & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

The team must have a minimum of 15 players on the roster to be eligible for the Provincial Cup competition, while the maximum roster size is based on the BC Soccer rules and regulations. Each club must have a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 18 (except 20 are allowed on rosters for U17 & U18) per team dressed in uniform, present, and eligible to participate in each match. These may include permit players.

a) **Registration Deadline**

All player registrations must be registered with the BCSPL and approved by the League Manager according to the agreed upon administrative timelines. Players added during the season must be added 48 hours prior to the match to be eligible for play.

b) **Official Roster**

The team rosters listed on the BCSPL website are the official player rosters of the club. Player and team information must be updated and kept current prior to each match.

Players are considered committed to their BCSPL club from January 1 through November 30. Any transfers or player movement to/from a BCSPL club requires Technical Director (TD) contact with the releasing and accepting clubs. All transfers must comply with BCSCA rules and regulations.

c) **Roster Submission**

All clubs will submit their rosters on the following timelines:

- i. U13-U18 age group
 - Clubs to commit their teams to the BCSPL by December 15 for the following season of play
 - Final roster with minimum 15 players per team submitted January 15
- ii. U13 intakes
 - Roster to be submitted August 15 for the fall mini season of play

d) **Eligible Player**

An eligible player is a player who is properly registered with the league and who is not subject to any kind of suspension by the league or any other league which is in effect at the time.





e) **Ineligible Player**

Players listed on the Official Roster, but not eligible to play due to reasons such as waiting for an International clearance, serving a league suspension, not age-eligible, not on the official match day roster or subject to other applicable sanctions shall be considered to be an ineligible player. Any team using players that have not been properly registered or cleared of sanctions by the league will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the league and subject to the BCSA Discipline Policy and Procedures.

f) **Illegal Player**

Any player that is not listed on the Official Roster, has not been registered and has not received a player ID card and competes in a match is considered an illegal player. Any team using an illegal player shall be subject to a loss of three points in the standings and forfeiture of each match in which the illegal player was used. The related club will be assessed a fine as outlined on the league's website and in effect at the time.

g) **Player ID Cards**

All players and coaches must present their Player /Staff ID card to the referee prior to the match. If the player or coach's picture is not on the card and the card is not laminated, that individual will not be eligible for the match. A player is not considered registered with the league until the player receives his/her player card or a letter of authorization from the BCSPL. If a card is lost, it must be reported to the BC Soccer Premier League General Manager and if a replacement card is not available, written permission is needed by the BCSPL Manager for the player to be eligible to play. Teams not showing ID cards when requested by match officials to do so can still play the game but may be required to forfeit the match at the League Manager's discretion resulting in a 1-0 default win for the opponent.

h) **Permitting of Players**

A registered BCSPL player is eligible to play for a BCSPL team in an older age division, subject to the league's underage player policy. No permit is required. The player must have their player card and be properly added to the match day roster of the older team.

The BCSPL shall grant a BC Soccer registered player from a team outside the league permission to play for a BCSPL team of his/her true age group or older age division, contingent on the player receiving the consent of the team and the approval of the Youth District with which he/she is registered.

Permits will be allowed for league and league cup matches, and at the discretion of the BCSA for the Provincial Premier Cup. Players from outside the league are allowed to "play down" on permit and with the BCSPL club to their true age group.

Players under suspension shall not be eligible to play under permit in the BCSPL or another league.

A permit is valid only for the team, day, and match stated on the permit application form.

An approved permit form for the permitted player must be presented to the match official prior to the start of the match. Any player with a permit must also present a valid BCSID card to be eligible to play.

In the case of Under 12 players being permitted, and without BCSID cards, only the permit is required.

Any disciplinary action applied from misconduct reported while playing in a match under permit shall be served during the very next match(s) with the players registered team.

Any team playing a player on a permit that does not conform to the above Rules shall be sanctioned as for playing an ineligible player, and may have Permit Privileges withdrawn.

i) **Transfer Deadline**

Between January 1 and May 31, intra-league transfers for BCSPL registered players must be agreed on by the technical directors of the two clubs involved. If no such agreement is reached, the matter will be





referred to a committee comprised of the league General Manager and two neutral persons of the Manager's choosing. Between June 1 and November 30, no intra-league (BCSPL to BCSPL) transfers will be allowed.

a) For any U13 players in phase 1 who are of the incoming intake birth year and are considered U12's "playing up" in phase 1, but don't yet have an established U13 intake team to transfer to as of May 31, these players can be moved to the intake team's roster as of August 1 when the BCSPL registers U13 intake players with BC Soccer. That player is then on the U13 intake roster for the duration of phase 2 play.

j) Cast Policy

The CSA Cast Policy will apply. Prior to the Pre-Competition Meeting any player wearing a cast or who intends to wear a brace or medical support is to be presented for inspection. The Match Official will assess the player's eligibility to play in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

k) Team Officials

There may be no more than 5 Team officials on the bench, who are either a: head coach, assistant coach, manager, goalkeeper coach, trainer or authorized Club official (e.g. Club Technical Director).

l) Criminal Record Check Clearances

All Team officials must have completed their CRC requirements, per BC Soccer's Criminal Record Check Policy by February 1st for the following season or their cards are to be removed by the club. Any new BCSPL staff should not receive Staff ID cards until CRC clearance is received by their club.

4. MATCH OFFICIALS

a) Assignments of Match Officials

Officials for each match are assigned by the BCSPL Referee Assignor(s) and must be in good standing and currently registered through the BCSA or CSA. There shall be a minimum of one (1) referee and two (2) assistant referees for each match.

b) Payment of Match Officials

The home team is responsible to pay the referee and referee assistants in cash after the match as per the referee payment schedule below.

Visiting teams must bring a cheque payable to the home team to cover 50% of the refereeing costs, or make other arrangements between clubs for payment.

Payment occurs only after the referee signs the match score sheet.

AGE	U13/U14	U15/U16	U17/U18
Referee	\$50	\$55	\$70
AR	\$25	\$30	\$35

c) Cancellation of Match Officials

In the case that matches need to be cancelled, match officials will have no match fees owing to them if they receive email notification of field closures by 8am the day of their scheduled match. If a match official receives no prior notification of a match cancellation, and upon arrival at the field declares or realizes the match is not playable for any reason, they will receive 50% of their match fees.





5. DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY

EA Sports BC Soccer Premier League (“**Premier League**”) acknowledges that disputes, that are not initially discipline-related, among participants in the Premier League can occur.

In keeping with the principles of promoting the game of soccer, sportsmanship as well as good citizenship, participants within the BCSPL are encouraged to resolve disputes at the lowest possible level of intervention or mediation and in a fair as possible, impartial way.

6. BCSPL JUDICIAL MATTERS

1. **General**

All BCSPL judicial matters (complaints, discipline, protests, appeals) follow the Judicial Code & Policies of BC Soccer.

The BCSPL League Manager may issue automatic suspensions for match play on behalf of the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer.

2. **Automatic Sanctions and Notification of suspension**

The BCSPL League Manager will inform players and/or team officials of automatic sanctions resulting from match play. Clubs will be notified by the BCSPL office on a weekly basis when a player or team official must serve a suspension, this will be via the suspension list circulated each Thursday by 3:00pm. Players and/or team officials who receive automatic sanctions may request a hearing. Such a request shall be submitted the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer via the BC Soccer office.

3. **Suspensions**

A player or coach that was suspended in a match must serve the suspension with the team that they are registered with. No player or coach may participate with another team within the club until suspension has been served with said team.

When a player or team official has been suspended for misconduct for a specific number of games and the suspension is not completed within the current season, the suspension shall carry over into the following season.

All cumulative disciplinary records and suspensions will carry over and into any end of season league cup finals/playoffs.

4. **Match day suspension guidelines**

Players and coaches sent off from the field are not permitted to watch the match from within their team’s designated area.

Additionally, coaches are not then permitted to communicate with their team, staff, or players during the remainder of the match. The type of communication prohibited would include: cellular, electronic/digital, written, or verbal. Players or coaches returning to the field of play during or directly following the match are subject to additional sanctions.

5. **Fines**

The CSA prohibits the imposition of fines on youth age players. Teams, team officials and organizations are not exempted from fine and performance bond policies.





7. LEAGUE FINES

Match forfeit fee.....	\$250
Missed administrative deadline.....	\$50
<i>(this is for something like the player registration deadline or scheduling deadlines that are agreed upon by all clubs)</i>	
Game scheduling change.....	\$35
<i>(Applicable to the club instigating a game change request)</i>	
Late remittance of annual league fee.....	\$150
Not maintaining minimum match day standards.....	\$75
<i>(Applicable unless pre-match approval given by GM to waive)</i>	
Playing a suspended/illegal player.....	\$150
Fine for withdrawal of a committed team.....	\$150





8. CONTACTS

		<p>General Manager: Matt Holbrook gm@bcspl.ca Referee Manager: Igor Cvetkovski igorc@bcsoccer.net</p> <p>BCSPL Advisory Group Chair: Carlos Grosso carlos8@shaw.ca BC Soccer Director of Soccer Development: Chris Cerroni chriscerroni@bcsoccer.net</p>	
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