



BC SOCCER

GLOBAL GAME. UNIVERSAL PASSION.

DISCIPLINE SANCTION POLICY

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1 Discipline Sanction Policy

The discipline sanction guidelines are a primary means of ensuring the integrity of the game and those that participate within it and principally to govern the rules of play of the game of soccer. 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 BCSA's role in facilitating timely and appropriate discipline within BC.

The guidelines are an integral extension of the Discipline Policy and Procedure Manual and instruct the intended application of discipline and the approved sanction levels to be applied uniformly across the province in discipline undertakings.

2 Standard Terms and Definitions:

1. Actual bias: the existence of a state of mind that leads to an inference that the person will not act with entire impartiality
2. Additive discipline: the basis that each additional act of misconduct attract sanctions that are cumulative and applied consecutively; further where the cumulative effect of game sanctions is significant, the sanction may be translated as administrative
3. Administrative suspension / ban: An administrative suspension, or full suspension, is a complete prohibition against participating in any sanctioned soccer activities for the duration of the suspension
4. Advisor: An adult person who provides advice to a youth player required to attend a hearing in order to ensure that a specific party receives a fair and impartial hearing. The party may be a barrister or solicitor provided they meet the conditions of the BC Soccer Discipline Rules; the advisor may not act as a witness at such hearing or in a legal capacity; advisors are only permitted for youth
5. Aggravating factors: are those factors, or circumstances, that tend to elevate misconduct to the higher level of sanctions where there is discretion in sanctioning or those factors that would tend to make an act of misconduct egregious
6. Apparent bias: when the conduct or behavior of the decision maker suggests that their decisions are not impartial
7. Assault: an intentional act by one person that creates an apprehension in another of an imminent harmful or offensive contact
8. Association: the British Columbia Soccer Association
9. Association official: any person appointed, volunteering for or employed by an organization participating in sanctioned soccer in BC, such as a club, district or league and that person may be, but not limited to, a director, committee member, administrator, team official, employee or volunteer
10. Automatic game suspension: the mandatory one game suspension that is served at the next game for game related evictions.
11. Board: The Board of Directors of the Association, District Association or League-in-Membership elected or appointed to govern the operation of its members
12. Bond: a defined amount determined by a district or league which may be implemented in accordance with the jurisdiction's rules and regulations and may be levied at the discretion of the enabling authority for the purpose of a person or organization guaranteeing proper conduct; which shall be refunded without interest provided the conditions are met
13. Brawl: a physical confrontation involving three or more players, team officials and/or spectators
14. Club: An organization affiliated with a district, league-in-membership or the Association who shall observe the rules and regulations of the Association
15. Club Official: a Club, District or League official (Ie Elected, Appointed or Paid member of a Club,

District or League

16. Concurrent discipline: where sanctions for misconduct are served at the same time; this is not the practice at the Association
17. Consecutive discipline: where sanctions are imposed one after another in an additive manner; this is the practice of the Association
18. Conflict of Interest: a situation in which a person has a duty to more than one person or organization, but cannot do justice to the actual or potentially adverse interests of both parties
19. Discipline Committee: A duly constituted committee consisting of a minimum of three persons who are appointed or elected by a League In Membership, Inter-District League or In-District League to adjudicate disciplinary matters in accordance with discipline policy consistent with the Association's rules and regulations
20. District: an association primarily established for the purpose of organizing and administering youth age soccer in a defined area as per the current constitution
21. District / Club Representative: in the context of a discipline hearing, it is an official from the accused home District or Club who accompanies the accused to the hearing; the Representative may not act as a witness at such hearing or in a legal capacity
22. Duty to Act Fairly: also known as natural justice, includes the policies, practices and procedures used to ensure confidence in the discipline system and hearing process such as being free of bias, providing prior notice, and the opportunity for self-representation
23. Egregious: those acts of misconduct on or off the field that are conspicuously bad, offensive or excessive that warrant sanctions at the higher end of the scale or special sanction in excess of the guidelines
24. Educational sanction: where a person under sanction is directed towards taking an action, such as attending a class or workshop, that has an intended educational or enlightenment outcome with the purpose of changing unwanted behaviors
25. Exhibition Game: A game played which does not count in league standings or in cup competition
26. Expulsion: To remove or suspend a person or organization, which may include a team, from membership within the jurisdiction of a governing organization; for having been ejected or reported for misconduct at a sanctioned soccer activity
27. Failure to control: is where a team official is unable to maintain control of their team or spectators to the extent that a referee is forced to abandon a match
28. Fair hearing: a hearing conducted impartially in accordance with due process for which a person or organization has had reasonable notice as to the time, place, and issues or charges, for which he they had a reasonable opportunity to prepare and then self-represent
29. Field suspension / ban: a sanction that prohibits the attendance at any game, practice or on field activity related to playing or officiating
30. Fines: A non-refundable monetary amount assessed for breach of the rules and regulations by the Association or in accordance with district or league policy, however, shall not be levied against any youth age player
31. Free of bias: behaving with impartiality and objectivity without preconception or predetermination

32. Game Official: Referee, Assistant Referee or 4th Official or a Club/Team Linesperson accepted by the
33. Game Official Assault: Deliberate physical contact, (Example: pushing, pulling, charging), or attempted physical contact, threats or threatening action, attempted violent conduct, violent conduct (Example: striking, kicking, spitting, etc)
34. Game –The 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 purpose 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
35. Hearing Notice: The number of days required to give notice consistent with the rules and regulations of the Association Districts and leagues may publish in advance the dates of regularly scheduled hearings which shall waive the giving of notice
36. High severity: where an act of misconduct approaches being egregious or as being in the more serious realm and possibly occurring with intent and malice
37. Imputed bias: when a decision maker has a personal stake in the outcome
38. In-District League: A league comprising of only one District
39. Individual / Person: is anybody, registered or otherwise, who participates in sanctioned soccer in any capacity such as a being a player, team official, game official, association official or spectator
40. Inter-District League: Two or more District Associations operating a league under rules and regulations approved by the Association
41. Laws of the game: are the codified rules that help define association soccer They are the only rules of soccer subscribed to by the sport's governing body FIFA
42. League –Leagues- in-Membership, primarily established for the purpose of organizing and operating open age soccer as defined by the Association or a sanctioned league operating under rules and regulations approved by the Association
43. Leaving the Park: An individual requested to leave the park or playing area, must leave the immediate area The individual will still be considered in the playing area or park if the individual continues to direct misconduct towards the playing area from outside of the park's limits
44. Low severity: where an act of misconduct is seen as being less serious with less negative consequences and possibly occurring without intent or malice
45. Mandatory: the minimum sanctions that are mandatory for certain game related offences.
46. Medium severity: where an act of misconduct does not fall outside of the bounds of the misconduct guidelines and would generally be in the average range of sanction
47. Misconduct Type: As defined in the BC Soccer Discipline Rules, Punishment Guidelines on which charges are based and penalties assessed
48. Mitigating factors: those factors that upon a decision of liability would tend to reduce the length of sanction
49. Natural Justice: also known as the duty to act fairly, includes the policies, practices and procedures used to ensure confidence in the discipline system and hearing process such as

- being free of bias, providing prior notice, and the opportunity for self-representation
50. Observer: in the context of a discipline hearing, it is a neutral / uninvolved person who accompanies the accused to the hearing; the observer may not act as a witness at such hearing or in a legal capacity and is simply observes the proceedings without any active involvement
 51. Phases of an incident: they are the multiple acts or timeline of misconducts that occur within a defined period of time such as the events preceding, including and following an eviction
 52. Physical: Any intentional body to body contact with another individual or official involved in a game
 53. Player: A participant registered with the Association
 54. Post-match: The time between the final whistle from the referee and the teams' departure from the confines of the fields and including parking area (not limited to)
 55. Pre-match: The time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the fields and including parking area (not limited to) and the whistle for kickoff from the referee
 56. Prior notice: being given an advance and timely written instruction to appear at a hearing and the requirements thereof
 57. Progressive discipline: the concept that any secondary or tertiary misconduct be dealt with more severely and the next level of sanctioning as per the discipline guidelines: ie any second offence that brings a person or organization before any discipline panel is dealt with more severely than the previously sanctioned offences
 58. Referee to act in that capacity or any other official acting on behalf of BC Soccer, club, district or league
 59. Response Days: A number of days an accused offender has to respond to a written request by a Discipline Committee or in accordance with discipline policy and procedures as per the specific club, district, league or association guidelines
 60. Rules and regulations: are those rules and regulations that are set from time to time by the Association or a member organization that govern the rules of play for sanctioned soccer
 61. Sanction: a penalty imposed by a discipline committee that may include suspension, fine or bond
 62. Severity: the degree of sternness in applying sanctions
 63. Soccer Related Activity: Activities that include administering, coaching, managing, playing or officiating in any sanctioned activity that falls under the jurisdiction of the Association or as determined by the Association At the discretion of the Discipline Committee the suspension may exempt anything they choose from "Soccer Related Activities" suspensions
 64. Spectator: Anyone person in attendance at game or soccer function who is not a Player, Team Official, Game Official or Association Official.
 65. Suspension (Automatic): Automatic one game suspension immediately following the ejection which may not be appealed and for Youth players must be served in the following scheduled league or cup match, whichever comes first For Adult players the suspension must be served in the following scheduled match within the competition or league in which the suspension was incurred
 66. Suspension (Match): A suspension from a match(s) is a ban from taking part in a future match(s)

or attending in the area immediately surrounding the field of play

67. Suspension (Term): A suspension for a specific stated period of time, will involve a suspension from all soccer related activities
68. Suspension Review: A request to the Association, District Association or League-in-Membership, for a review of a lengthy suspension, which may be considered by leave of the governing jurisdiction
69. Team Official: The coach, assistant coach, manager or other person registered with the Association who oversees the operation of an affiliated team
70. Threat: an expression of an intention to inflict pain, injury, evil, or punishment or the expression of the intent to do so if a condition is not met
71. Touchline suspension / ban: a sanction that prohibits the attendance at any game and in any participation as a player or team official or seeming in any way to instruct players or officials
72. Ungentlemanly / Unsporting: not adhering to the standards of moral, ethical or good sporting behaviors expected of persons involved in the game; not acting for the good of the game
73. Verbal Abuse: any verbal conduct directed at another individual or official involved in a game that calls into the character of the offended individual or constitutes a threat

3 Discipline Guidelines Related to Rule 10

3.1 General Provisions

Rule 10 Discipline of the BCSA Rules and Regulations provides BCSA 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 (ungentlemanly),

Where the Board has made a determination pursuant to paragraph 3.1 above, the Board with respect to the member, shall do one or more of the following:

- i) Reprimand the person or organization;
- ii) 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;
- iii) 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;
- iv) 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;
- v) Expel the person or organization from the Association;
- vi) In the case of an adult player, team official, team, Club, District or League, impose a fine and/or bond.
- vii) 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.



3.2 Sanction Guidelines for Infractions of Rule 10

- i) BCSA 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, BCSA 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.
- ii) 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.
- iii) Organizations may be sanctioned and / or fined for the actions of their players, team officials, association officials and spectators.

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Violation of Rules and Laws	i) Violated F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game and/or the Association’s game rules;	Lifetime	Discretionary	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 suspension
Conduct on field	ii) Violated rules established from time to time by the Association governing the conduct of members on and off the field;	Lifetime	Discretionary	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
Conduct unbecoming	iii) Behaved in a manner considered by the Board to be unbecoming of a	Lifetime	Discretionary	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



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
	member registered with the Association;								
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;	Lifetime	Discretionary	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
Gambling	v) Bet on any soccer match;	Lifetime	Discretionary	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
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;	Lifetime	Discretionary	Full / Administrative	Up to \$500	Up to 60 month suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
Accepting consideration	vii) Accepted consideration pursuant to clause vi);	Lifetime	Discretionary	Full / Administrative	Up to \$500	Up to 60 month suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
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 (ungentlemanly), insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the game into disrepute.	Lifetime	Discretionary	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

4 Discipline Guidelines for Players

4.1 General Provisions

- i) 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. 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
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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.
- iv) Discipline involving a game official or an association official (even if participating in another capacity) will be conducted by BC Soccer.

4.2 Accumulated Cautions

- i) 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 (ungentlemanly) 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.)
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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.

- iv) 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.
- v) 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.
- vi) 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.
- vii) 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.
- viii) 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.

4.3 Player Expulsion by a Referee

- i) 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 (ungentlemanly) conduct; Repeated gamesmanship; Insulting players, team officials, or any other person present at the match; Racist or sexist comments; Other serious acts of unsporting conduct. Incur additional sanctions ADDITION to the one game automatic suspension and unless stated, is the Mandatory Minimum penalty.
- ii) Players may be sanctioned under Rule 10 Discipline.
- iii) Where the Discipline Committee believes there is just cause, expulsions for five (5) or more games (touchline suspension) may be instead sanctioned as a term suspension of one or more

months and include either field suspension that would then include a suspension from training with the team, coaching and refereeing and / or administrative ban which would include suspension from all soccer related activities.

- iv) Where there is propagation or prolongation of misconduct, the Discipline Committee may consider field or administrative suspension as opposed to touchline suspension.
- v) For second or third offences the Discipline Committee may consider field or administrative suspension as opposed to touchline suspension.
- vi) 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.

4.4 Exhibition Games

- i) 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.
- ii) Exhibition games do NOT count as games served for current suspensions.

4.5 Sanction Guidelines for Accumulated Cautions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
1 Caution	Cautioned by the referee without expulsion – yellow card.	Season	Automatic	Touchline	None	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
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.	Season	N/A	Touchline	None	1 game, as per expulsion by referee	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 Cautions	A player who accumulates three (3) cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Season	Automatic	Touchline	None	1 game	N/A	N/A	N/A
5 Cautions	A player who accumulates five (5) cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Season	Automatic	Touchline	None	1 game	N/A	N/A	N/A
6 Cautions	A player who accumulates six (6) cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Season	Automatic	Touchline	None	2 games	N/A	N/A	N/A
7 Cautions	A player who accumulates seven (7) cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Season	Automatic	Touchline	None	5 games or 30 days	N/A	N/A	N/A



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
8 or More Cautions	A player who accumulates eight (8) or more cautions (yellow cards) within one playing season.	Season	Automatic	Touchline and / or field	None	Minimum 60 days	N/A	N/A	N/A
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.	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	As per league	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

4.6 Sanction Guidelines for Players

- All sanctions for game related offences are in addition to the one game automatic suspension
- Mandatory means that the sanction is defined
- Discretionary means that sanction can be adjusted by the discipline committee considering mitigating and aggravating factors

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Mandatory / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Serious Foul Play	Serious foul play	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	2 to 5 additional games	5 additional games	10 additional games	6 to 12 months
Very Dangerous Play	Very dangerous play	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	2 to 5 additional games	5 additional games	10 additional games	6 to 12 months
Violent Conduct	Violent conduct	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	2 to 5 additional games	5 additional games	10 additional games	6 to 12 months
Leaving Field of Play	Leaving the field of play in protest without notifying the referee	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	1 additional game if warranted	2 to 5 additional games	5 additional games for each subsequent	N/A
Repeated Misconduct	Repeated misconduct, despite a previous caution by the referee	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	1 additional game if warranted	2 to 5 additional games	5 additional games for each subsequent	N/A
Unethical Conduct	Extremely unethical (ungentlemanly) conduct	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	1 additional game if warranted	2 to 5 additional games	8 additional games for each subsequent	6 to 12 months



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Mandatory / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Gamesmanship	Repeated gamesmanship	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	1 additional game if warranted	2 to 5 additional games	5 additional games for each subsequent	6 to 12 months
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	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	1 additional game if warranted	2 to 5 additional games	5 additional games for each subsequent	6 to 12 months
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:	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	1 additional game if warranted	2 to 5 additional games	8 additional games for each subsequent	6 to 12 months
Other Acts	Other serious acts of unsporting conduct	Season	Automatic	Touchline	None	Up to 2 additional games	3 or more additional games	5 additional games for each subsequent	6 to 12 months
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	Lifetime	Discretionary	Touchline	None	3 to 10 additional games	10 additional games	6 month	6 to 12 months



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Mandatory / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Physical Contact	Spitting, head-butting or intentional unethical physical contact with an Opponent or any other person	Season	Automatic	Administrative	None	8 games	12 month suspension	24 month suspension	6 to 60 months
Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams before, during, or after a game.	Lifetime	Discretionary	Administrative	None	3 games and up to 10 additional	10 additional games	6 month	6 to 12 months
Persistent Protest	Persistent Protests against Decisions by the Referee and Assistants	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	2 additional games	4 additional games	90 day suspension	6 to 12 months
Abuse of an Official	Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures	Lifetime	Discretionary	Administrative	None	5 game suspension	10 game suspension	6 month suspension and up to 12 month	6 to 12 months
Insulting an Game Official	Deliberate insulting conduct towards game officials including personally insulting remarks, threatening behavior without physical contact or threatening verbal statements	Lifetime	Discretionary	Administrative	None	5 game suspension	10 game suspension	6 month suspension and up to 12 month	6 to 12 months
Physical Contact with a Game Official	Deliberate physical contact (i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempted physical contact or threatening	Lifetime	Automatic	Administrative	None	12 month suspension	60 month suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime
Striking a Game Official	Striking, spitting, kicking or any form of violent conduct, or attempted violent conduct	Lifetime	Automatic	Administrative	None	60 month suspension	120 month suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime
Persistent protest after ejection	Persists in protesting after ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.	Season	Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a - First offence is the ejection n/a	4 additional games	90 day suspension	6 to 12 months



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Mandatory / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
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.	Lifetime	Automatic	Administrative	\$300	n/a - First offence is the ejection	10 additional games	6 month suspension and up to 12 month	6 to 12 months
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.	Lifetime	Automatic	Administrative	None	n/a - First offence is the ejection	4 additional games	90 day suspension	6 to 12 months
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.	Lifetime	Automatic	Administrative	None	n/a - First offence is the ejection	4 additional games	90 day suspension	6 to 12 months
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)	Lifetime	Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a - First offence is the current charge	Additional 3 month up to 12 months suspension	n/a	Up to lifetime suspension
Playing when under suspension	Knowingly participates in a game while under suspension	Lifetime	Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a - First offence is the current charge	Current suspension plus 6 months additional	Current suspension plus 24 to up to 60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Disrepute while under suspension	While under suspension, if attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game	Lifetime	Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a - First offence is the current charge n/a	Additional 3 to 12 months suspension	Current suspension plus 24 to 60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	Season / Lifetime	Mandatory / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Denies Goal Scoring Opportunity	Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent	Season	Automatic	Touchline	None	Warning	1 additional game	5 additional games for each subsequent	N/A
Deliberate Handball	Denies the opposing team a goal or obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball	Season	Automatic	Touchline	None	Warning	1 additional game	5 additional games for each subsequent	N/A
Goal offences	Moving towards the players goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick	Season	Discretionary	Touchline	None	Up to 2 additional games	3 or more additional games	5 additional games for each subsequent	N/A
Non registered team	Plays on a team the player knows they are not registered on	Lifetime	Automatic	Administrative	\$300	6 months Suspension	24 months suspension	60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
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.	Lifetime	Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500 \$1,000 \$2,000	12 month suspension	36 month suspension	60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension

5 Discipline Guidelines for Team Officials

5.1 General Provisions

- i) 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
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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.
- iv) In all instances of misconduct involving racist or sexist comments the hearing will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- v) 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.
- vi) Discipline involving a game official or an association official (even if participating in another capacity) will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- vii) 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 Exhibition Games

- iii) 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.
- iv) Exhibition games do NOT count as games served for current suspension.

5.3 Guideline for Discipline of Team Officials

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Behavior unbecoming	Behavior unbecoming akin to foul play		Discretionary	Administrative	None	2 to 5 additional games if warranted	5 to 10 additional games	3 to 12 months suspension	6 to 12 months suspension
Dangerous Play	Behaving in a way that puts any player in danger or encouraging foul or dangerous play		Discretionary	Touchline	None	2 to 5 additional games if warranted	5 to 10 additional games	3 to 12 months suspension	6 to 12 months suspension
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.		Discretionary	Administrative	None	6 month to 12 month suspension	12 month up to 36 month suspension	24 months up to 60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Persistent Protest	Persistent protests against decisions by the referee and assistants		Discretionary	Administrative	None	2 to 5 additional games if warranted	2 to 10 additional games	3 to 12 months suspension	N/A
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		Discretionary	Touchline	None	2 to 5 additional games if warranted	2 to 10 additional games	3 to 12 months suspension	N/A
Repeated Misconduct	Repeated misconduct, despite a previous caution by the referee		Discretionary	Touchline	None	1 additional game if warranted	2 to 4 additional games	5 additional games for each subsequent	N/A



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Unethical Behavior	Extremely unethical (ungentlemanly) conduct		Discretionary	Administrative	None	2 to 5 additional games	5 to 10 additional games	3 to 12 months suspension	6 to 60 month suspension
Gamesmanship	Repeated gamesmanship		Discretionary	Touchline	None	2 to 5 additional games	5 to 10 additional games	3 to 12 months suspension	6 to 60 month suspension
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		Discretionary	Administrative	None	2 to 5 additional games	5 to 10 additional games	3 to 12 months suspension	6 to 60 month suspension
Directed 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:		Discretionary	Administrative	None	2 to 5 additional games	5 to 10 additional games	3 to 12 months suspension	6 to 60 month suspension
Unsporting	Other serious acts of unsporting conduct		Discretionary	Administrative	None	2 to 5 additional games	5 to 10 additional games	3 to 12 months suspension	6 to 60 month suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
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.		Discretionary	Administrative	None	6 month to 12 month suspension	12 month up to 36 month suspension	24 months up to 60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams either before, during, or after a game.		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$1,000	6 month to 12 month suspension	12 month up to 36 month suspension	24 months up to 60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Persistent protest after ejection	Persists in protesting after ejection by the referee. Counts as a second or third offence.		Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a as first offense has occurred	4 additional games	90 day suspension	6 month up to 12 month suspension
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.		Automatic	Administrative	Fine \$300	n/a as first offense has occurred	2 months suspension additional	6 month suspension and up to 12 month	6 month up to 12 month suspension
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.		Automatic	Administrative	None	n/a as first offense has occurred	4 additional games	90 day suspension	6 month up to 12 month suspension
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.		Automatic	Administrative	None	n/a as first offense has occurred	4 additional games	90 day suspension	6 month up to 12 month suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
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.		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	n/a as first offense has occurred	Current suspension plus 6 month additional	24 months up to 60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Disrepute while under suspension	While under suspension, if attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game		Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a as first offense has occurred	n/a as first and second offenses have occurred	Current suspension plus 24 to 60 month additional suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
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)		Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a as first offense has occurred	Additional 3 months to 12 months suspension	n/a	Up to lifetime suspension
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		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$300	3 month to 12 months suspension	12 month to 36 months suspension	24 months to 60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Abuse of an Official	Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures		Automatic	Administrative	None	1 to 3 months suspension	2 to 6 months suspension	6 to 12 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Insulting an Official	Deliberate insulting conduct towards game officials including personally insulting remarks, threatening behavior without physical contact or threatening verbal statements		Automatic	Administrative	None	1 to 3 months suspension	2 to 6 months suspension	6 to 12 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Physical Contact with an Official	Deliberate physical contact (i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempted physical contact or threatening		Automatic	Administrative	None	12 to 36 months suspension	60 months suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Striking an Official	Striking, spitting, kicking or any form of violent conduct, or attempted violent conduct		Automatic	Administrative	None	60 months suspension	120 months suspension	Lifetime suspension not to be reviewed	Up to lifetime suspension
Assault	Any misconduct deemed assault		Discretionary	Administrative	None	60 months suspension	120 months suspension	Lifetime suspension not to be reviewed	Up to lifetime suspension
Failure to Control	In failing to control players or spectators after request by the referee, the referee shall report the team official for: i) failure to control players ii) failure to control spectators iii) failure to address game official harassment by team or spectators iv) foul, abusive, insulting or offensive language to players or spectators failure to identify a spectator responsible for misconduct towards a game official		Automatic	Touchline	Fine \$300	2 additional games	4 additional games	90 day suspension	6 month up to 12 month suspension

6 Discipline Guidelines for Game Officials

6.1 General Provisions

- i) 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.
- ii) Game officials include registered individuals who perform as, but not limited to, referees, referee administrators, referee assignors, referee instructors and referee assessors during sanctioned activities.
- iii) Upon receipt of a written complaint of misconduct by an official, the Discipline Committee Chair shall convene a Discipline Hearing Committee.
- iv) A written complaint must be received by the BCSA within 48hrs of the incident. Complaints received after 48hrs of the incident will be reviewed by the Discipline Committee Chair for determination of action.
- v) 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.
- vi) In each case of alleged misconduct by an official, the official may be suspended from all soccer activities pending a hearing.
- vii) The Association shall notify the alleged offender that they stand suspended and are required to attend a hearing that shall be scheduled within 15 working days (Districts: 14 days of the incident or of receipt of the misconduct report).
- viii) The Association shall notify the CSA of any discipline hearing decisions involving registered national or FIFA officials.
- ix) 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.
- x) Discipline involving a game official for any serious offense will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- xi) 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.

6.2 Guideline for Discipline of Game Officials

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Restriction on referee as a player	playing in a match while refereeing in the same division of a league or same cup competition		Automatic	n/a	None	Reprimand	2 game suspension	6 month suspension	N/A
Unaffiliated games	Registered official officiating unaffiliated matches		Automatic	n/a	Associated game fee if officiating	Reprimand	6 month suspension	12 month and up to lifetime suspension	N/A
Official Conflict of Interest	Assignments (Officiating matches in which a conflict of interest exists)		Automatic	n/a	None	Reprimand	1 month suspension	12 month and up to lifetime suspension	N/A
Cancellation	Cancellation of match assignment		Automatic	n/a	None	Reprimand	1 month suspension	12 month and up to lifetime suspension	N/A
Failure to report	Failure to submit official discipline and/or match report within 48 hours after a game		Automatic	n/a	Associated game fee if officiating	Reprimand	1 month suspension	12 month and up to lifetime suspension	N/A
Failure to show	Failure to report to the field: 30 minutes prior for open field competition; 2 hours for professional, national or international competition		Automatic	n/a	None	Reprimand	2 game suspension	6 month suspension	N/A
Statements	Failure to refrain from public criticism of players, fellow officials or team personnel		Automatic	n/a	Associated game fee if officiating	Reprimand up to 3 months suspension	6 month suspension	12 month and up to lifetime suspension	N/A



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Fitness / appearance	Failure to adhere to Standards of Ethical Conduct, section H		Automatic	n/a	None	Reprimand to 1 month suspension	1 to 3 months suspension plus game fee	12 month to lifetime suspension	N/A
Alcohol / drugs / tobacco	Failure to adhere to Standards of Ethical Conduct, section I		Discretionary	Administrative	Associated game fee if officiating	1 month to 6 months suspension	6 month to 12 month suspension	12 months to lifetime suspension	12 months to lifetime suspension
Language / behaviour	Use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language and/or behaviour		Discretionary	Administrative	Associated game fee if officiating	1 month to 6 months suspension	6 month to 12 month suspension	12 months to lifetime suspension	12 months to lifetime suspension
Violent conduct	Deliberate physical contact, such as pushing, pulling, charging, threatening or attempted physical contact		Discretionary	Administrative	None	Up to 12 month suspension	12 month and Up to a 60 month suspension	60 months suspension	24 months up to lifetime suspension
Safety	Failure to ensure the safety of players and officials		Discretionary	n/a	Associated game fee if officiating	Reprimand to 1 month suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	N/A
Discrimination / harassment / unprofessional conduct	Failure to comply with the BCSA Harassment Policy and/or the Standards of Ethical Conduct, section L		Discretionary	Administrative	Associated game fee if officiating	1 month to 6 month suspension	6 month to 12 month suspension	Lifetime suspension	12 month up to lifetime suspension
Discipline	Failure to comply with the BC Soccer Discipline Rules, the BCSA Constitution & Bylaws and/or Standards of Ethical Conduct, section M		Automatic	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 suspension
Refereeing when under suspension	Any participation in sanctioned soccer while under suspension		Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a as first offense has occurred	6 to 12 months additional	24 to 60 months additional	Up to lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Disrepute while under suspension	While under suspension, if attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game		Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a as first offense has occurred	n/a as first and second offenses have occurred	24 to 60 months additional	Up to lifetime suspension
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)		Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a as first offense has occurred	Additional 3 to 12 months suspension	24 to 60 months additional	Up to lifetime suspension
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.		Discretionary	Administrative	None	Reprimand and up to 6 month suspension	3 to 12 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Failure to report serious incident	Failed to report a serious game-related offence to his/her District Association.		Discretionary	Administrative	None	3 to 12 months suspension	12 to 36 months suspension	24 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
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.		Discretionary	Administrative	None	6 to 12 months suspension	12 to 36 months suspension	24 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams either before, during, or after a game.		Discretionary	Administrative	None	6 to 12 months suspension	12 to 36 months suspension	24 months to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Falsification	Any falsification of a game or referee report		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine First \$500 Second \$1,000 Third \$2,000	12 month suspension	36 month suspension	60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension

7 Discipline Guidelines for Association Officials

7.1 General Provisions

- i) 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.
- ii) Upon receipt of a written complaint of misconduct by an official, the Discipline Committee Chair shall convene a Discipline Hearing Committee.
- iii) In each case of alleged misconduct by an official, the official may be suspended from all soccer activities pending a hearing.
- iv) 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.
- v) Discipline involving a game official or an association official (even if participating in another capacity) will be conducted by BC Soccer.
- vi) 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.
- vii) 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.
- viii) Where the misconduct has caused material damage to others, the fine may include amounts in addition to cover the damages.

7.2 Guidelines for Discipline of Association Officials

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Statements	Failure to refrain from public criticism of players, team officials, game officials, or association officials		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	Reprimand and up to 6 month suspension	3 to 12 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Fitness / appearance	Failure to represent the association in the manner befitting an official with respect to personal appearance		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$200	Reprimand and up to 12 month suspension	3 to 12 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
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.		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$300	Reprimand and up to 12 months suspension	6 to 24 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Language / behaviour	Use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language and/or behaviour		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$200	Reprimand and up to 12month suspension	12 month to 60 month suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Violent conduct	Deliberate physical contact, such as pushing, pulling, charging, threatening or attempted physical contact		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	6 to 24 months suspension	12 to 60 month suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Safety	Failure to ensure the safety of any registered participant or spectator when acting as an official		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	Up to 12 month suspension	12 to 60 month suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Discrimination / harassment / unprofessional conduct	Failure to comply with the BCSA Harassment Policy and any acts that may be seen as discriminating		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	12 to 60 month suspension	Up to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
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.		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$1,000	n/a as first offense has already occurred	Current suspension plus up to 24 to 60 month additional	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Disrepute while under suspension	While under suspension, if attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the game		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$1,000	n/a as first offense has already occurred	n/a as first and second offenses have already occurred	Current suspension plus 24 to 60 month additional	Up to lifetime suspension
Unethical Behavior	Extremely unethical (ungentlemanly) conduct as per		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	3 to 12 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	60 month Up to a lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Gamesmanship	Undertaking gamesmanship for the benefit of any player, team, league or association or other unfair advantage realized by the official's position		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	1 to 12 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
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		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	3 to 12 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	60 month to lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
Directed 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		Discretionary	Administrative	\$750	12 months suspension	60 months suspension	60 month to lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Unsporting	Serious acts of unsporting conduct		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	3 to 12 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
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)		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$300	12 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
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.		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$300	12 month suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams either before, during, or after a game.		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	12 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to a lifetime suspension
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)		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500	n/a as first offense has already occurred	Additional 3 month up to 12 month suspension	Additional 12 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
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		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$300	3 to 12 months suspension	12 to 36 months suspension	24 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
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.		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$500 \$1,000 \$2,000	12 months suspension	36 months suspension	60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Inducement	Induced or attempted to induce a registered player to leave his/her team before the end of that team's current playing season.		Discretionary	Administrative	Fine \$300	6 to 12 months suspension	18 to 24 months suspension	36 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Failure to register players	Participated in an organization's decision not to register some, or all of its players and teams with The BCSCA; and Leagues, Divisions, coaches and administrators		Automatic	Administrative	Fine \$50/player up to \$5,000 plus registration fees.	12 months suspension	24 months suspension	36 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension

8 Discipline Guidelines for Spectators and Team Misconduct

8.1 General Provisions

- i) 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.
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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.
- iv) 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.
- v) 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.
- vi) 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.
- vii) 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.
- viii) Where the misconduct has caused material damage to others, the fine may include amounts in addition to cover the damages.
- ix) Where reporting procedures for game officials do not exist, district associations, leagues-in-membership and inter-district leagues shall advise their officials to act in accordance with the following procedures.
 - 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 the BCSA guidelines.
- h. Sanctions may be found in the 12.3 Guidelines for Team Official Misconduct.

8.2 Guidelines for Discipline of Spectators and Teams

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Alcohol / drugs / tobacco	Appearing in public under the influence of intoxicants or not respecting the rules related to smoking and otherwise in public places		Discretionary	Touchline	None	Reprimand to 6 months suspension	Up to 12 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Language / behaviour	Use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language and/or behaviour		Discretionary	Touchline	None	Reprimand to 6 months suspension	Up to 12 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Persistent Protest	Persistent Protests against Decisions by the Referee and Assistants		Discretionary	Touchline	None	Reprimand t and up to 1 month suspension	1 to 3 months suspension	90 day suspension	N/A
Violent conduct	Deliberate physical contact, such as pushing, pulling, charging, threatening or attempted physical contact		Discretionary	Administrative	None	Up to 12 months suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	Lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
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		Discretionary	Field	None	Reprimand and up to 6 month suspension	Up to 12 month suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension



DISCIPLINE SANCTION GUIDELINES – Offense Related Policy Extensions

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
Directed 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		Discretionary	Field	None	Reprimand and up to 12 month suspension	12 to 60 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
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)		Discretionary	Administrative	None	n/a as first offense has already occurred	3 month to 12 month additional	12 to 24 months additional	Up to lifetime suspension
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.		Discretionary	Field	None	3 to 12 months suspension	12 to 36 months suspension	24 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension
Brawling	Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams either before, during, or after a game.		Discretionary	Administrative	\$500	3 to 12 months suspension	12 to 36 months suspension	24 to 60 months suspension	Up to lifetime suspension

9 Guidelines for Communications and Social Media

9.1 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 (ungentlemanly) 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 defense 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.

9.2 Types of Communications and Social Media Misconduct

- i) Comments that bring the game into disrepute or are unsporting (ungentlemanly)
- ii) Comments on ongoing disciplinary or sensitive / private issues / confidential issues or the posting of grievances
- iii) Abuse of individuals by means of bullying, victimization by means of racist, sexist or ageist comments
- iv) Abuse of individuals by means of insult or threat
- v) Abuse of individuals by comments that are deemed personally insulting or damaging
- vi) 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
- vii) 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.
- viii) Abuse of individuals by or distributing inappropriate photographs, offensive or threatening comments or sensitive personal information might



- ix) Abuse of individuals by spreading of unsubstantiated rumors or the spreading of slander
- x) Improper use of social media to force inclusion or exclusion; i.e. a coach requesting to friend a player
- xi) Other such comments that a person using best judgment would not broadcast widely in person in an open public and inclusive forum.
- xii) Commenting on, contributing to, reposting or sharing of comments related to i to xi



9.3 Guidelines for Discipline for Communications and Social Media Offenses

Short Name	Description of Misconduct	N/A	Automatic / Discretionary	Touchline, Field or Full / Administrative	Fine / Bond	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	Egregious
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 as per i to xii		Discretionary	Field	None	Reprimand and up to 6 months suspension	3 to 24 months suspension	60 months to lifetime suspension	Up to lifetime suspension



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