



BC SOCCER

2016-2017 ADULT COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MEN AND WOMENS A CUP, B CUP, U21, MASTERS AND
CLASSICS**


PROVINCIAL
championships

Updated October 20, 2016

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1) Introduction

a. Application

- i. These rules shall apply to the Provincial Championships managed by the British Columbia Soccer Association (BC Soccer). Any variances for specific competition shall be as noted in these Rules.

b. Management of Competitions

- i. BC Soccer shall control the operation of these competitions. The draws and the scheduling of games up to the time League winners are declared may be delegated to the associations having jurisdiction.
- ii. The BC Soccer staff shall be responsible for managing and implementing the operational functions of the competition under the direction of the BC Soccer Adult Competitions Committee.
- iii. The BC Soccer staff shall be accountable to the Executive Director for these operational functions.
- iv. The Adult Competitions Committee shall have the authority to order any game that has been suspended or postponed prior to its finish, replayed, or played to a finish.
- v. Within the constraints of 1) c. i., BC Soccer, through its Adult Competitions Committee, may make such temporary rules governing specific situations not otherwise provided for, as are necessary to achieve the objectives of BC Soccer. *Such changes shall be communicated to all effected teams and their Leagues, and whenever possible prior to the commencement of the competition so altered.*

c. BC Soccer Constitution/Rules and Regulations Precedence

- i. In the event of any discrepancy between this document and the rules and regulations of the British Columbia Soccer Association, the later shall have precedence.
- ii. All games shall be played under BC Soccer's Adult Provincial Championships Competition Rules and Regulations as adopted by the Board each year.

d. BC Soccer Representatives

- i. BC Soccer, through its Adult Competitions Committee, shall appoint a BC Soccer Representative to the competition whose decision at the competition, on any matter not covered in these rules, shall be final and binding on all parties. Unless otherwise stated, this person shall be the Chair of Adult Competitions for BC Soccer.

e. Risk Management and Harassment

- i. Participants in the Adult Provincial Championships must adhere to BC Soccer's Conduct, Ethics and Discipline Standards and Policy.

2) Team Eligibility

a. Category/Level of Play

- i. Provincial Men's A and Women's A competitions are for affiliated teams of players registered under the A Category, and are currently competing in BC Soccer full member Adult Leagues.
- ii. Masters Provincial Men's competition is for affiliated teams of players registered under the Masters Category, and are currently competing in BC Soccer full member Adult Leagues.
- iii. Classics Provincial Women's competition is for affiliated teams of players registered under the Classics Category, and are currently competing in BC Soccer full member Adult Leagues.
- iv. Under 21 Provincial Men's and Women's competitions are for affiliated teams of players registered under the BUnder21 Category, and are currently competing in BC Soccer full member Adult Leagues.
- v. Provincial B Cup competitions are for affiliated teams of players registered as Category B and currently competing in Open age divisions with an full member BC Soccer Adult League.

b. Performance Bonds

- i. Each League in Membership is to guarantee teams' appearance as scheduled. A performance bond may be required.

c. Team Allocation

- i. Provincial Cup allocations will be determined annually by the Adult Competitions Committee.
- ii. Teams must confirm their allocations by January 15 each year.
- iii. A league will lose a berth in a provincial competition if a team from that league withdrew from that competition past the allocation declaration deadline (January 15) without a replacement team in place and a fine may be issued.

d. Coaching Qualifications

- i. Teams may not enter or take part in the Men's and Women's Provincial A Cup unless the Team Head Coach has completed the Community Stream coaching course called "Soccer for Life" or a higher level course in the Licensing Stream (C License, B Provincial, B National or A License levels).
- ii. Team Head Coaches who hold a B Pretest designation are still eligible for the 2017 Provincial Cup year only. For 2018 Provincial Cup competition and onwards, the B Pretest designation will cease to be recognized and those coaches will be required to complete the Soccer for Life course and/or higher levels as stated above.

3) Player Eligibility

a. Registration

- i. Any player whose application for registration has been accepted, and validated by the Registrar of the Association, for the current playing season, is eligible to play.
- ii. No player shall be allowed to play for more than one team in any one Adult *Provincial Cup* competition under the jurisdiction of this Association in one competition season.
- iii. Any team proven to have played an ineligible player shall be disqualified from further participation in the competition and subject to fines and discipline.
- iv. As per BC Soccer Rule 25 g), players must be registered at least seven (7) days prior to taking part in any Provincial Championship game, with the exception of youth player participation as covered in BC Soccer Rule 9 – Permits.
- v. Youth players may be allowed to play on a permit as per BC Soccer Rule 9, copied below:
 1. BC Soccer BC Soccer shall grant a registered youth player permission to play up any number of times with an Adult team in any one season providing the player has the consent of the affiliated youth team and the approval of the Youth District and the Adult League or designate and the Adult League has received the completed Permit and Parental Liability Form prior to the game. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. A copy of the authorized permit must be presented with the team list at game.
 2. A permit shall allow a registered youth player to play for an Adult team in a league or Adult cup game without affecting the player's youth registration status.
 3. Any player wishing to play on a permit with an Adult team must apply for permission to do so by completing a permit form supplied by BC Soccer.
 4. A permit is valid only for the day and game stated on the permit application form.
 5. Any disciplinary action applied while playing in a game under permit shall apply to all future games of the team for which the player is registered, and shall be subject to:
 - a. Disciplinary decisions shall be the responsibility of the discipline committee for the association or league governing the competition where the permitted player was charged with an offence.
 - b. Said discipline committee shall forward a copy of the discipline ruling to the district association where the player is registered and to the team official of the team to which the player is registered.

b. Declarations/Entry Forms

- i. Provincial Cup entry will require that an entry form from each League be submitted to BC Soccer on behalf of their respective teams.
- ii. The entry form and entry fee is due to BC Soccer no later than seven (7) days prior to the Adult Provincial Cup draw. This date is to be determined annually.

c. Age

- i. Provincial Men's A & B and Women's A & B competitions are for Open Age players who are currently competing in BC Soccer full member Adult Leagues.
- ii. Masters Provincial Men's competition is for male players who have reached 35 years of age before January 1 of the current playing season, and are currently competing in BC Soccer Adult Leagues.
- iii. Classics Provincial Women's competition is for female players who have reached 30 years of age before January 1 of the current playing season, and are currently competing in BC Soccer Adult Leagues.
- iv. Under 21 Provincial Men's and Women's competitions are for male and female players under the age of 21 currently competing in BC Soccer Adult Leagues.

d. ID Cards

- i. All players and team officials will be required to have a BC Soccer Photo Identification Card, or individual leagues' equivalent, which will be checked by the referee before each game.

4) Qualification

a. League Qualifying Competitions

- i. All entries to a BC Soccer Provincial Cup Competition must have been received by BC Soccer on or before the date approved by the Adult Competitions Committee as the entry deadline for the competition.
- ii. Each Adult League shall determine their own Provincial Cup qualifying competitions to fill their yearly allocations. Each League is required to submit to BC Soccer which competition(s) are designated as that association's qualifying play downs for a corresponding category of Provincial Cup competition. These must be submitted by December 15 of each season.

5) Team Rules

a. Roster

- i. A complete Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster form must be submitted with uniform colours specified and players clearly identified by uniform number. These forms require League signature of approval and are due to BC Soccer no later than 12:00pm on the date of the Adult Provincial Cup draw, or within 24 hours of qualification.
- ii. For all BC Soccer Adult Provincial Cup competitions, teams may dress a maximum of twenty (20) players at each game. Only players listed on the game day Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster form for the match in question are eligible to be seated on the team bench or in the team bench area.

b. Team Officials

- i. A team roster can include up to a maximum of five (5) team officials.

- ii. Only team officials listed on the team roster are eligible to be seated on the team bench and technical area during the game.
- iii. All coaching staff, managers and trainers must have a current BC Soccer ID Card, or League equivalent.
- iv. One (1) member of the team officials must be the same gender as the team. This team official must be present on the bench and in the changing rooms.

c. Transfer Deadlines

- i. As per BC Soccer Rules 7 – Transfers, players must be transferred seven (7) days before taking part in any Provincial cup competition.
- ii. The coastal/winter playing season transfer deadline is January 15th of the current year.
- iii. The interior/summer playing season transfer deadline is June 30th of the current year.
- iv. The transfer application shall be authorized by the Association prior to the player taking part in any competition with the new team
- v. A transferred player shall be not eligible to play for the new team in any cup competition in which the player has already competed during the current playing season.

d. Adult Player Pick Ups

- i. Adult player pick ups are not permitted for any BC Soccer Adult Provincial Cup competition.

e. Uniforms

- i. Teams participating in Provincial Championships are required to have two sets of uniforms (including socks and shorts) of different colours to avoid colour conflict. Only the **home** team must bring a second set.
- ii. Where the uniform colours of competing teams are similar, the home team must change. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other players and the officials.

f. Meetings

- i. All teams must have at least one team official attend a pre-competition meeting, if applicable. Failure to attend will result in a fine

g. Events and Ceremonies

- i. If there are any social, civic and official functions associated with the competition all teams must attend. Each team must also have in attendance one (1) team official from those listed on the Team Roster. Failure to attend an official function will result in a fine and the team being subject to discipline.

6) Game Rules

a. Laws of the Game

- i. All games are to be played in accordance with Federation International de Football (FIFA) Laws of the Game.

b. Substitutions

- i. In Provincial Men’s A and Women’s A Cup competition a maximum of five (5) substitutions shall be allowed during game play (including any extra time). Players that are substituted off may be substituted back on later in the game.
- ii. Unlimited substitutions may also be made at half time or at full time before any extra time.
- iii. In Masters, Classics, Adult B, or Under 21 competitions unlimited substitution shall be allowed.

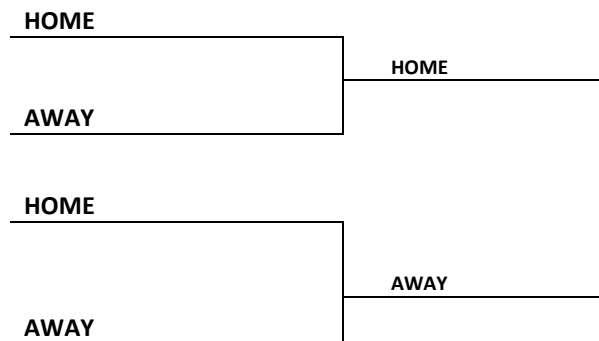
c. Duration of Play

- i. The duration of each game shall be two halves of forty-five (45) minutes each. In the event of a draw at the end of the regulation time of ninety (90) minutes, extra time shall be played consisting of two halves of fifteen (15) minutes each, for a total of thirty (30) minutes. If the game is still tied after extra time, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark, as per the FIFA rules.

7) Competition Rules

a. Scheduling

- i. After the Adult Provincial Cup Draw, the top team listed on the official cup bracket is deemed the Home Team.
- ii. Teams are required to schedule their own fields for all rounds leading up to the



Finals of Provincial Cup play. Teams must schedule and communicate the time, date and location of the game to BC Soccer by Tuesday at noon of that week. If the game details are not submitted to BC Soccer by Tuesday at noon, the Away team will become the Home team and is given the option of scheduling the game.

- iii. The Home team for any round of Provincial Cup except the finals must schedule the game for a date/time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday if it involves two lower mainland teams or two island teams. Alternatively, you must schedule a date/time on Saturday or Sunday that kicks off between 12:00pm and 4:00pm if the game involves one Lower Mainland team and one Vancouver Island team. Once confirmed with BC Soccer, the schedule will not be changed unless otherwise agreed to by both teams.
- iv. Fields must be scheduled for a minimum of three hours per game.

- v. Where games are played on open parks, the first named (i.e. home) team shall be responsible for marking out the grounds.
- vi. For Men's and Women's A Cup Competitions, every effort must be made by the schedulers to provide a field with adequate change rooms available for both teams.
- vii. All teams should be able to provide one net for the goalposts if necessary.

b. Format

- i. All Adult Provincial Cup Competition is Single Elimination format.

c. Ball

- i. In all games prior to the finals, the Home team shall supply the ball for the game, additionally; each team must have an extra ball on hand for use in case of an emergency.

d. Official Match Reports

- i. Each team shall be required to bring 2 completed and signed copies of their Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster form. These must be provided to the referee one hour prior to the start of each game.
- ii. The Provincial Cup Match Report/Roster is the official record of each Provincial Cup game, and each team shall be entitled to receive a copy of the completed form from BC Soccer after it has been duly signed and submitted by the referee.
- iii. It is the referee's responsibility to forward copies of the completed Match Report/Roster forms for each team and each game within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
- iv. If a team fails to complete or produce the appropriate paper work for a match without just cause, it may result in a fine and/or disqualification from the competition at the discretion of the Adult Competitions Committee.

8) Discipline

a. Tournament Discipline Committee

- i. Any disciplinary offence during Provincial Cup play will be handled as required by the BC Soccer disciplinary committee. Team officials will be notified if a player is required to appear before the BC Soccer Discipline Committee for a hearing.
- ii. For simple game related offences, automatic sanctions will be sent to the team and individual based on the referee report, and the BC Soccer Discipline Sanction Guidelines. Individuals always have the right to request an in person hearing for any offence or sanction. In this case the result of the hearing will override the automatic sanction

b. Suspended Players

- i. All discipline during Adult Provincial Cup play will abide by the BC Soccer Conduct, Ethics and Discipline Standards Policy Section 10.

- ii. In general, suspensions carried over from league play do not apply to Provincial Cup games. However, if the suspension is egregious or from All Soccer Related Activity, this will carry over to Provincial Cup games.
- iii. For game related offences, any suspensions incurred during Provincial Cup play must be served during the players next Provincial Cup Game and will carry over to future seasons Provincial Cup games while not affecting their status for league play. This is subject to change at the discretion of the BC Soccer Judicial Committee.

c. Red Cards

- i. Expulsion or Red Cards during Provincial Cup play shall result in an automatic one (1) game suspension and additional games if warranted based on the BC Soccer Discipline Sanction Policy guidelines. If BC Soccer or the accused requests, a disciplinary hearing will be conducted.

d. Cautions

- i. Cautions (Yellow Cards) received during all rounds of the Adult Cup Competition will accumulate and apply during that competition only and are as follows:
 - 1. Two cautions (Yellow Cards) in one game = ejection plus an automatic one game suspension
 - 2. Accumulation of two (2) cautions (Yellow Cards) in Provincial A, B, U21, Masters, Classics and Women's B Cup competition play = an automatic one game suspension
 - 3. Accumulation of further cautions (Yellow Cards) = performance review and additional disciplinary action as determined by the Discipline Committee
 - 4. Upon the conclusion of the quarter finals of all categories of Provincial Cup, and prior to the commencement of the semifinals, all Cautions (yellow cards) shall be removed from the record of all participating players. Note that any suspensions earned must still be served, but any/all accumulated cautions to that point are removed from the player's record.

e. Retirement of Suspensions

- i. Partially copied from BC Soccer Conduct Ethics and Discipline Standards and Guidelines, 10.7 – For all game only related suspensions confined to Provincial Cup play, a minimum of 2 games will be considered “served” at the conclusion of the Provincial Cup finals each subsequent year, regardless of whether or not that individuals team has qualified to compete in Provincial or not.

9) Administration of the Competition

a. Travel Assistance

- i. All teams travelling between the Greater Vancouver Region and Vancouver Island for Provincial Cup games and Finals are eligible for a travel grant of \$500.00 per team for every eligible game you participate in.

- ii. Travel grants will be paid to the team's league upon completion of the Provincial Championship.

b. Field Rental Grant

- i. BC Soccer will reimburse leagues \$80 for each home game their teams play during the Provincial Championships.
- ii. Field rental grants will be paid to the team's league upon completion of the Provincial Championships.

c. Protests

- i. The protest fee for any game is \$250.00. Protests must be filed in accordance with the BC Soccer Rules and Regulations - Rule #11 (Protests). In the event the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned. If the protest is denied, the fee will be forfeited.
- ii. The grounds upon which the protest is based must be included in a written submission, which must be forwarded to the Provincial Representative in attendance within 24 hours of the completion of the match being protested. The fee must accompany the protest.
- iii. The protest must contain the details of the protest, including the rule that was allegedly breached, and the evidence to support that claim. Protests can only be considered on the grounds of misinterpretation of FIFA Laws of the Game, on the eligibility of players, or on breaches of the Competition Rules and Regulations. (Rule 11.a.)

d. BC Soccer Representative

- i. BC Soccer will appoint one (1) BC Soccer Representative to act on BC Soccer's behalf at the Provincial Cup finals. The BC Soccer Representative shall:
 - 1. Arrange a meeting with the referee coordinator/scheduler, if necessary
 - 2. Convene and chair any hearings necessary to handle any discipline or protest arising at the competition
 - 3. Attend all official functions
 - 4. Submit a completed competition report to be submitted no later than twenty-one (21) days after the competition. No expenses will be reimbursed until the report is received.

e. Code of Conduct

- i. All participants at BC Soccer Provincial Championships are expected to:
 - 1. Act as ambassadors for their local clubs and leagues
 - 2. Participate in the Provincial Championships in the spirit of fair play, cooperation and respect for others at all times
 - 3. Comply with rulings by officials, coaches, managers, or any other person in a position of authority or responsibility
 - 4. Respect the rules of the sport, the British Columbia Soccer Association Competitions Rules and the BC Soccer Code of Conduct

5. Perform to their best ability in every competition and accept with pride the result their effort brings
 6. Respect the rights of the residents of the Host Association and members from other club, districts, and leagues
 7. Regard participation in the Provincial Championships as a privilege
 8. Reside in the designated Host Accommodation for the duration of the Championship
 9. Respect the Clean Air policy and ban on smoking at Championship venues and facilities
 10. Obey all federal laws, provincial laws and municipal by-laws, on alcohol consumption and illegal substance (drug) and tobacco use;
 11. Not abuse, damage or destroy facilities or equipment
 12. Not breach the requirements of the British Columbia Soccer Association Harassment Policy
- ii. Breach of an aspect of the code of conduct may result in a fine and/or expulsion from the tournament. See Appendix 1 – Schedule of Fines.

f. Trophies

- i. Annual trophies presented to teams at the Provincial Championship are the property of BC Soccer and are held by the championship team for a limited time only.
- ii. The championship team shall complete the Trophy Receipt Form before it is permitted to leave with the trophy.
- iii. The championship team is responsible for returning the trophy to BC Soccer by January 15th of the following year.
- iv. Upon return of the trophy, each team will be awarded a “Keeper” version of that trophy.

10) National Championships

a. Club Nationals

- i. Men’s and Women’s A Cup Provincial Champions qualify for the Canada Soccer Club Nationals held each year.
- ii. Masters and Classics Provincial Champions qualify for the Canada Soccer Club Regional/National Championships held each year.
- iii. Teams must notify BC Soccer within 14 days of winning Provincials if the team cannot meet its commitment to attend either Canada Soccer competition.
- iv. It is the responsibility of all Adult leagues to ensure that its member teams fulfill all Championship commitments once they have entered Provincial Championships up to the time a Provincial Champion is declared and the Canadian Club Championship is held. It is also a league's duty to monitor the progress of any member team(s) which qualifies as a result of their victory in the Provincial Championship for the Canadian Club Championships (Adult A Men’s and Women’s and Masters and Classics).
- v. Teams failing to attend a national competition will be fined.

11) Competition Location and Schedule Information

- a. The location of the Provincial Championship Finals weekend is rotated amongst the Greater Vancouver area, Burnaby, Richmond, the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island. Every third year, Vancouver Island will be the location for the finals.
- b. Schedule and location of the finals is to be determined each year by the Adult Competitions Committee.
- c. The finals will take place over one full weekend, all men's finals on one day and all women's finals on the other.

Appendix 1: Schedule of Fines

This section provides an outline of some general infractions that may be dealt with by the BC Soccer Adult Competitions Committee, made up of no less than 3 persons or an adjudicating body appointed by the committee. This section does not cover all instances in which a fine may be assessed or a bond imposed upon a player, team, team official or spectator for a violation of the BC Soccer Rules and Regulations. BC Soccer reserves the right to independently review each situation and use their discretion regarding all fines listed below.

- 1) Team fails to appear for a scheduled game without just cause**
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, \$750.00 fine, plus field and game official costs
- 2) A Team fails to comply with all pre-game requirements without just cause.**
Penalty: \$100.00
- 3) Failure to return a trophy by the deadline**
Penalty: \$500.00
- 4) Failure to return a trophy**
Penalty: \$500.00 plus the cost of replacing the trophy.
- 5) Team fails to commence a game or withdraws from the game after it has started unless so directed by the Referee**
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, \$500.00 fine plus field and game official costs
- 6) Team or teams held to be at fault for abandonment of a game**
Penalty: Forfeiture of the game, \$500.00 fine plus field and game official costs
- 7) If requested by referee – lack of spectator control by team official(s) including failure to address the referee.**
Penalty: \$100.00 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition
- 8) Harassment of referee, persistent criticism of the referee or disputing calls of the referee by team officials and/or players**
Penalty: Minimum \$250.00 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition
- 9) If requested by referee – failure to identify spectator(s) responsible for misconduct towards a referee or linesperson**
Penalty: \$100.00 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition
- 10) Player/team official, while under suspension and attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings the game into disrepute**
Penalty: \$300.00 fine and suspended from attendance at the game sites
- 11) Team fails to send a representative to pre-competition meeting**
Penalty: \$200.00 fine
- 12) Team fails to have a team official with sufficient coaching qualifications**
Penalty: \$100.00 fine

13) Team fails to provide a team roster or team Profile form 24 hours prior to the start of the draw.

Penalty: Each league is fined \$100 per team found in non-compliance

14) Team is at fault for losing or damaging an Annual Provincial Cup trophy.

Penalty: The cost of the repairs, or to replace the trophy, whichever is less.

15) A team or individual breaches the code of conduct.

Penalty: Up to \$1000.00 fine at the discretion of the Adult Competitions Committee.

16) Team fails to fulfill Provincial and/or Club National commitment

Penalty: \$1000.00, plus the CSA fines that are assessed to BC Soccer