



**BC COASTAL SOCCER LEAGUE DISCIPLINE
INFORMATION 2023-2024**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- The BC Coastal Soccer League (BCCSL) website is an invaluable resource for everything that relates to the league and its operation. You can visit the site by clicking [here](#).
- Changes (updates, clarifications, etc.) may occur in this document throughout the season, please check back regularly for the latest updates.
- Each of the seven (7) districts submits the name of their discipline representative prior to the start of each season. These representatives will serve as the District's Discipline Liaison to the BCCSL
- Team Official Definition: the coach, assistant coach, manager or other person registered with BC Soccer, and the League, who oversees the operation of an affiliated team.

LIST OF OFFENSES

All players and team officials taking part in the BCCSL are subject to the BC Soccer Association Discipline document and the decisions of the BCCSL Discipline Committee. The BC Soccer Complaints, Discipline & Appeals [document](#) contains expanded descriptions and definitions of offenses and sanctions including those listed below and others.

It is the responsibility of team officials to inform their players (and their parents) that they can be expelled for the following offenses which include but are not limited to:

- Persisting in misconduct (Receives a Second Caution in the Same Match)
- Denying a goal scoring opportunity
- Offensive, insulting or abusive language and / or action(s)/gestures (includes Conduct Unbecoming and Failure to Respect Decisions by the Match Official)
- Serious foul play
- Violent conduct
- Spitting at someone (does not need to make contact)
- Failure to Control (players or spectators, Failure to Identify individuals) – this offense is specific to team officials

Note: As per Law 12: *A player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area. This also applies to any team official that has been ejected by the match official.*

TEAM OFFICIALS

- Referees can yellow and/or red card team officials as per FIFA/IFAB Laws of the Game #5 & #12.
- Team officials are responsible for not only their own behaviour and actions, but those of their players, parents, and fans. Team officials may be sanctioned for failure to address poor behaviour and actions as per the BC Soccer Complaints, Discipline, and Appeals Policy:
 - Failure to Address Harassment by a Team or Spectators;
 - Failure to Address Offensive, Insulting, Abusive Language and/or Gestures to another Player, Team Official, Association Official, Match Official and/or Spectator, etc.

GAME OFFICIAL REPORTING AND EXPULSIONS/SUSPENSIONS

- Referees can submit reports for players, team officials and spectators for misconduct that occurred in the surrounding area even after the final whistle has blown ending the game.
- Immediately following the end of the game, the referee will report any yellow or red card infractions or Special Incident Reports on a forum agreed upon by the League.
- Expulsion by a referee may incur additional sanctions in ADDITION to the one-match automatic (mandatory minimum) suspension.
- **Note:** as per the BCSA Discipline Sanction document: *Where there is a minimum or maximum sanction provided, a sanction below or above (accordingly) may not be imposed.*
- The player/team official who is reported will be suspended and will automatically be INELIGIBLE to play in the team's very next scheduled game.
- The BCCSL Discipline Manager may levy automatic games suspensions for some offenses in accordance with the BC Soccer Discipline Sanction document.
 - Where the Discipline Manager has determined a hearing is not required, the team official(s) will be informed of the suspension by email and that the player is not required to attend a hearing.
- It is the team official's responsibility to inform the player of the suspension.
- If the team official disagrees with the number of games levied by the BCCSL Discipline Manager, they have the right to request a hearing within 24 hours of the suspension notice, by emailing the BCCSL Discipline Manager.
 - However, team officials should be aware that if the minimum number of games, as per the BCSA Discipline Sanction document, has been levied; by requesting a hearing it will not result in fewer games and may result in a higher suspension if it goes to a discipline committee panel.
- The FIFA Disciplinary Code - 40 Match officials' reports: *Facts contained in match officials' reports and in any additional reports or correspondence submitted by the match officials are presumed to be accurate. Proof of their inaccuracy may be provided. Evidence would need to be provided proving that the referee's report isn't accurate for those accusations of falsification to be considered.*
- If the team official receives a notice that only indicates that the individual "must sit out the team's very next game" this means that the suspended individual will be eligible to return to play once that game has been completed.
 - This automatic one game suspension generally only pertains to offenses such as *2 cautions in the Same Match; Denying a Goal Scoring Opportunity* and *a 3rd Caution in a Season.*
- Depending on the seriousness of the offense a virtual hearing may be necessary. Team officials will be informed by email of the date and time.

THE AUTOMATIC ONE-GAME SUSPENSION

- Following the EJECTION of the Player or EXPULSION of a Team Official as per FIFA / IFAB, all red cards carry an *automatic one game suspension*. This one game suspension is served automatically by sitting out the player or team official's very next League or Cup game (whichever comes first) after the game in which the red card was received. This automatic one game suspension is non-appealable.

*See *Serving Your Discipline Suspension*, page 8.

- Pending notification of a hearing the accused party shall be eligible to participate in soccer activities once the required automatic match suspension has been served, with the exception, of any individual accused of Assault of a Match Official.

TEAM ROSTERS

- The names of ineligible players/team officials will have a line drawn through them on the team roster and the word INELIGIBLE. Both the home and away teams can see this when they access the team roster.
- If for some reason the suspended individual's name does not show with a line drawn through it on the team roster it is the responsibility of the team official to inform the opposition and manually draw a line through the name of suspended players/team officials prior to a copy being handed to the referee and the opposing team official.
- **Note:** Team rosters cannot be run off until noon the day prior to the week's scheduled game as time is required to input the suspension information on the website for any ineligible players/team officials. Where games are scheduled on the weekend this would mean Thursday not earlier than noon.

PRE-GAME AND POST-GAME "HANDSHAKE"

- Or equivalent agreed ceremonial protocol between players and team officials will be communicated by the league.
- If a player is sent off or a team official is expelled from a game, they **MUST NOT** participate in the post-game gathering. They must immediately leave the vicinity of the field of play which includes the technical area and the bench area (be away from the bench/sidelines by 15 meters/50 feet.)

THE DISCIPLINE HEARING

- Once the referee's report has been received and reviewed by the BCCSL Discipline Manager will either levy the automatic suspension(s), as per the *BCCA Discipline Document*, or if the BCCSL Discipline Manager determines the necessity, a virtual hearing date will be set, depending on the seriousness of the infraction.
- Should a hearing be required the Discipline Committee, made up of a panel of up to three members, will decide at that time what additional penalty, if any, will be imposed. The BCCSL Discipline Manager or Discipline Committee can issue additional suspensions within the guidelines established by the Canadian Soccer Association and the BCCA Discipline Sanction document.
- An email with the date, time and link for the virtual hearing will be sent to the team official(s) by the Monday morning following the reported red card/expulsion.
- Virtual discipline hearing meetings will be held **by Zoom** video conferencing (unless otherwise informed) and are held on Wednesdays starting at 6:45pm.
- The participants do not have to have Zoom loaded on their electronics but they are encouraged to have a webcam. In the event that isn't possible then there are call-in numbers for meeting attendance.
- It is the responsibility of a team's official to inform their suspended players and that player's parent or guardian of any discipline suspensions and/or scheduled "hearings".
- Team officials are required to forward the Zoom details and instruct their players to read the referee's report so they can be prepared to discuss the issue with the Discipline Panel at the hearing.
- Team officials are to also forward any communication to a team official who has been reported and whose contact information is not on the League's site.

HEARING PROCESS & WHO IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND WITH THE YOUTH PLAYER

- If you are required to attend a virtual meeting, participants will be placed in a “waiting room.” As there may be other cases scheduled on the night of your hearing, your patience is appreciated if the case scheduled prior to yours is taking longer than expected.
- Team officials are emailed the date, time and virtual meeting details in advance and at least one team official is required to attend the hearing along with the player and at least one of their parents/guardians.
- It is the team official’s responsibility to confirm attendance ASAP to the BCCSL Discipline Manager. An Association Official/Representative may accompany an accused person; however, if the ejected individual is less than 19 years of age, they must be accompanied by an adult Advisor who is an Association Official/Representative or their parent/guardian. The adult Advisor representing the individual should be given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the individual.
- As per the BC Soccer Discipline Sanction document, page 25: *Judicial Matters* regarding legal representation (paraphrased):
 - iv) *If an association, league, club, team, team official, referee, and/or player wish to have a legal representative attend a BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league hearing, they must advise that BC Soccer member, affiliated club or sanctioned league of this in writing. In the case of a BCCSL discipline hearing it must be at least 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled meeting.*
- When lengthy suspensions are levied the committee will consider the seriousness of the offense, the time of year: mid-season break and end of season.
- From time-to-time, the Discipline Committee may ask a team official and/or spectator to attend a meeting to investigate a discipline matter brought to their attention that did not result in an ejection. These are usually referee’s misconduct reports. The discipline committee may offer suggestions as to how to avoid future instances as was reported and as well may result in a warning and/or reprimand to curtail the alleged issues.
- Depending on the case, harsher sanctions may apply in keeping with the BC Soccer Discipline Sanction document.

FAILURE TO APPEAR

- *Failure to Appear* rules apply in this case should the individual decline to attend without good cause.
- Any team official or player failing to appear at a scheduled discipline hearing or on a date specified by the League or a District Association shall be Indefinitely Suspended until the case has been dealt with by the BCCSL Discipline Manager or Discipline Committee. A notice of an Administrative Suspension requires that the individual be notified of such action and is Indefinitely Suspended from all youth soccer related activities including practice, playing/coaching and refereeing until s/he attends a hearing.
- Should an individual continue to participate in youth soccer activities while under suspension or after being placed on Administrative Suspension, they shall be required to appear before a Provincial Board Discipline Committee.

SERVING YOUR DISCIPLINE SUSPENSION

- Most suspensions are game-based.
- IF YOU HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED WEEKS, ADDITIONAL WEEKS or MONTHS (suspension time frame), this means these weeks/months will commence once any games, if levied, are scheduled unless there is a break in the competition. Note: “weeks” can be calculated into “games” depending on the time of the season.
- **If there is a break in the schedule** due to, for instance, postponement or cancelation of the schedule by the League for any reason but not limited to the time of year (mid-season break, season's end), inclement weather or *any other reason*, game suspensions and the **suspension time frame in weeks/months** will pause at the time the break starts and will restart once the game schedule resume.
- Players/Team officials who are also referees may not accept assignments while under suspension.
- **IMPORTANT:** As it takes about 24 hours to populate the scores, for purposes of keeping track of games that have been sat out please report your scores immediately following the game.
- Suspensions must be served by “*sitting out*” the player or team officials very next game(s), league or cup, whichever comes first. Suspended players and team officials will have INELIGIBLE beside their name on the team roster.
 - a) A suspended player must serve the suspension with the team that they were playing with at the time of the offense.
 - b) Time served will be recorded based on that team’s schedule.
 - c) No suspended player or team official may participate with another team until the suspension has been served with said team
- Suspended players and team officials must **NOT** be involved in the team pre- or post- game gatherings.
- A suspended player may attend games but may not be in uniform or be involved in any way and must not fraternize with other team players, team officials or fans.
- Suspended players and team officials must stay back a minimum of 50 feet (15 meters) from the sideline; in other words, away from the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- Suspended team officials must arrange for someone else to fill their position. Suspended team officials are not permitted to communicate with their players or staff while under suspension.
- Suspended team officials must not coach verbally, by hand signals or any other means (including electronic / cellular devices) and must not fraternize with the players, coaching staff or fans to avoid being suspected of coaching while under suspension. The team’s players and coaching staff must be told not to approach the suspended player or team official before, during or after the game.
- Players or team officials will not participate in any BCSA sanctioned soccer function while under suspension. This includes acting as a game official, handling equipment, field setup, coaching or assigning substitutions.
- Players and team officials can, however, attend practices unless they have been sanctioned with Field or Administrative prohibitions.
- **BCSA Discipline document 2.1:** A game must be played to its conclusion in accordance with the defined playing time, specified in the rules by age group, to be considered a game sat out for the purposes of serving a suspension. Only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension.
- **Please note** the intent of 2.1 is that if a match is played, or canceled/forfeited because of the opposing team’s actions, then it would count towards the player/team officials’ serving of a suspension. Note: weather related cancellations, where the opposition had no control over the circumstances, would not be sufficient reason to consider a game served.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION

- An administrative suspension means that you cannot participate in any sanctioned soccer activities (including matches or practices) for the duration of the suspension. This includes but is not limited to coaching, playing, refereeing, and/or managing.
- Suspended players or team officials who play, coach or referee while under suspension or, if attending as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings the game into disrepute shall be subject to further disciplinary action.
- **IMPORTANT:** If a suspended player or team official has an in-district Coastal OR Community Cup or make-up game, their name must appear on the team list but be shown with a strike-through thus showing that the player did not play. Immediately after the above-mentioned cup game is completed a copy of the roster is required to be emailed to the BCCSL Discipline Manager so that the number of suspended games can be adjusted.

YELLOW CARD CAUTIONS

- Upon notification by the BCCSL Discipline Manager, anyone receiving three yellow cards in the Primary (regular League) season (not to be confused with two yellow cards in one game which do not become part of the accumulated cautions total) must sit out the team's very next game.
- If the 3rd Caution in the Primary season was reported in the last game of the regular League season the suspension is required to be sat out in the first scheduled Coastal (Regional) Cup Game. The player is not required to attend a discipline hearing for receiving three yellow cards in a season.
- DO NOT sit out your player until you are notified.
- While suspensions carry over into Coastal Cup, yellow card accumulation does not carry over into Coastal (Regional) Cup or Provincial Cup.
- From the BCCSL General Manger memo:
- *For discipline, yellow card accumulations, or any suspensions to be levied, move with the player. A few examples: a. If a player accumulates 3 yellow cards playing for 3 different teams in their club, they will receive a suspension tagged to the team they received the 3rd yellow card with that triggered such a suspension. They would then be required to serve a one game suspension until that team plays their next game, or at the discretion of the BCCSL Discipline Manager in cases where the team may not have further games scheduled b. If a player normally plays for the U13 Butterflies but plays a game for the U14 Dragons, and then receives a red card while playing for the Dragons, the suspension would be served until the Dragons play their next game(s). Again, there may be discretion involved by the BCCSL Discipline Manager if the Dragons don't have any further games scheduled but other teams in the club do.*

COASTAL(REGIONAL) & PROVINCIAL CUP CAUTIONS (AND OUTSTANDING GAME SUSPENSIONS FROM LEAGUE OR COASTAL CUP)

- Coastal Cup is a qualifying Regional competition for Youth BC Provincial A and B Cups. Teams entering Coastal Cup are entering the Provincial Cup and by entering, teams are committing to compete in the Provincial Cup Finals if they qualify through the Coastal Cup.
- *Yellow card accumulations will NOT be carried over from the regular season to Provincial Championship or Regional qualifying games. However, any suspensions issued for yellow card accumulation during the regular season that go beyond the regular season will carry over to the Coastal Cup (Regional) games.*
- **Please note:** *Cautions (yellow cards) received during all rounds of a (Provincial Cup) competition accumulate and apply during that competition only; they do not carry forward into league play or other*

competitions. In other words, accumulated cautions count starts fresh from the beginning of the upcoming season.

HOW THE LEAGUE TRACKS SUSPENDED PLAYERS

The majority of players will receive red cards while playing for the team they are registered to for the season and will sit out the suspension in that team's scheduled games. However, some players may be "picked/borrowed" to play up a level and/or division in their club for specific games. If a player is red carded while playing for a "borrowing" team they will be suspended from play until the number of games sanctioned for the offense is sat out in the "borrowing" team's schedule.

EXPLANATION: The player is suspended and cannot be added to a roster through fluid movement in

Qscriptor. The player's name is not selectable and it will show as INELIGIBLE. If the player is already on a roster there is a strike through their name and they are shown with the

INELIGIBLE label.

MATCHES THAT ARE ABANDONED, CANCELLED OR FORFEITED

- **If a match is abandoned, canceled 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.

EXHIBITION GAMES

- If the League schedules games at any time during the season that are classified as Exhibition, players or team officials who are under suspension will not be entitled to play/coach in those games as the team list will reflect that they are INELIGIBLE. Scores must be reported following the games completion by the team's official in order for the system to record it as a game sat out.
- Suspensions cannot be sat out in "friendlies" ** or tournament games. (** Suspensions cannot be sat out in games where two teams might set up a "friendly" game between themselves.)

FRIENDLY GAMES NOT SCHEDULED BY THE LEAGUE (OR WHERE THERE IS NO SCHEDULED REFEREE & TEAMS AGREE TO PLAY THE GAME)

- Red and yellow cards received in exhibition or friendly games will be reported by the referee and players/team officials/spectators will be subject to normal discipline procedures. This also pertains to games where the scheduled referee doesn't show and the teams agree for someone else to referee the game.
- *Please note* that all red cards reported from "friendly" games will be adjudicated by a District Discipline Committee. Where there are cards for both teams then it is advised that both Districts confer with each other as to how best to handle the discipline. Note: that for the purposes of discipline a friendly game would be one set-up between two teams not to be confused with an "exhibition" game scheduled by the League.

BCCSL Rules and Regulations – Re-scheduling, g).

- If a referee does not appear for the game, team officials may agree on a referee ii. Should the game be played, then it is understood that the game stands as an official league game
- Any discipline arising is subject to normal discipline procedures.

COMPLAINTS AT THE LEAGUE LEVEL, FINES & POSTING OF PERFORMANCE BONDS

- The discipline committee will not deal with issues/complaints that cannot be corroborated by the game official. The League, or one of its committees, may investigate complaints from team officials, abandoned games; teams with excessive cards, excessive no-shows or forfeitures, misconduct of teams, officials, spectators, or violation of field closures.
- The Discipline, Protests / Appeals or Abandoned Game Committees may request the posting of a Performance Bond and/or fine in keeping with the Fine and Performance Bond Schedule. A bond is to guarantee good behavior and is returned if no similar incidents occur during a set time period.
- The BCCSL discipline committee does not deal with referee complaints. They should be directed to your District or Club Head Referee. If the complaint is regarding the opposition's referee the District/Club Head Referee will forward it to the opposition's District/Club Head Referee.
- **Note:** the referee's name is not required in order to submit a complaint about a referee; that information can be found out by the investigating person as long as you have provided the game details (date, time, field, division and teams involved.)

COMPLAINTS & RIGHT TO APPEAL TO BC SOCCER

- If the named person has attended a hearing and disagrees with the penalty assessed see BC Soccer Discipline document, cause for appeal, appeal time frame & fee. See www.bcsoccer.net for additional information.
- BC Soccer Discipline document – Appeals, page 22: (paraphrased) Make written application to <https://app.integritycounts.ca/org/itpsport> with a concise statement of facts stating the Bylaw, Rule or Regulation that was contravened and forward within 10 business days from notification of the suspension with the \$525.00 appeal fee (includes GST). The mailing address is BC Soccer Association #250-3410 Lougheed Hwy., Vancouver, BC V5M 2A4
- If the appeal is upheld the fee will be returned less an administrative fee.
- **IMPORTANT:** If a sanctioned individual or organization appeals a decision, the individual or organization is required to abide by the decision while the appeal process is pending unless a temporary stay of decision is granted which prevents the decision from taking effect until the appeal is decided.
- For clarification purposes this means: a discipline decision stands pending the outcome of the appeal.

SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO APPEAL TO BC SOCCER

- The following are **GROUND FOR APPEAL** of a BCCSL Discipline Decision:
 - A decision cannot be appealed on its merits alone. An appeal may be heard only if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal.

SUFFICIENT GROUNDS include the respondent:

- Making a decision for which it did not have authority or jurisdiction as set out in governing documents; ii. Failing to follow procedures as laid out in the approved policies of the association; iii. Making a decision which was influenced by bias; Exercising its discretion for an improper purpose; or iv. Making a decision which was unreasonable.
- As per the BCSA Discipline document: The Automatic One Match Suspension that is served at the very next match for match-related dismissals **may not be appealed**.
- The Appeals hearing panel may dismiss the appeal, or allow the appeal and, among other things, revoke the sanction or findings, or impose a different sanction. In each case, the hearing panel must give reasons in writing for its decision.

SUSPENSIONS CARRYING OVER

- Carryover suspension and how they work
 1. Primary Season - BCCSL, Secondary Season – Spring/Summer League (i.e. Cascadia).
 1. If a player is suspended during the primary season that suspension carries over into all competitions tied to the primary season which includes Coastal Cup and Provincial Cup. It does not carry over into the secondary season (Spring/Summer League).
 1. If a player is suspended in the secondary season their suspension, if not fulfilled in the secondary season carries over into the **new** Primary Season but not into Provincials if their team is participating in them.
- Suspensions may carry over into sanctioned activities including tournaments and exhibition matches but do not constitute games sat out with regards to the suspension.
- The discipline committee may allow a player to play in a tournament depending on the seriousness of the suspension but does not count as games sat out. Permission has to be requested to play in a tournament while under suspension. Permission may or may not be granted based on the severity of the send-off offense.
- The suspended individual is also not eligible to participate in the Secondary season play (or other sanctioned soccer activities like spring/summer tournaments) without the permission of the governing body that issued the suspension. The individual may apply to the organization with jurisdiction for permission to participate in Secondary season play while still under suspension in their primary season.
- Permission will be determined depending on the reason for the suspension.
- These games do not count as games sat. Players/team officials being reported in the last game of the season must attend a hearing or depending on the seriousness of the offense may be levied games in accordance with the BC Soccer Discipline document. Players graduating to adult play, who have suspensions carrying over, will serve them in the first games of adult play.
- Players and team officials must be officially registered with their district or adult league (for those players who have graduated from youth) for the upcoming season for the suspension to count as sat out.

NOTE: Subject to change.