



2025/26 Operations Manual

BC Soccer Premier League (BCSPL)

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides information on the guiding principles of the operations of the BC Soccer Premier League (BCSPL).

2. ORGANIZATION

The BCSPL is a standards-based youth training and competition program operated and administered by BC Soccer. As a standards-based development environment for girls and boys aged U14 to U18, the BCSPL is positioned as the highest level of youth development community soccer within BC.

The Canada Soccer Player Development Program (PDP), of which the BCSPL is a part of, forms an integral component of the Canada Soccer ecosystem as it provides the optimal local environment to prepare players for selection to the programs in the Excellence Stream. By introducing standards at the club level — all of which are informed by best practices in player development from leading nations around the world — Canada Soccer aims to help and support clubs to better focus their efforts on creating the best environment possible for player and coach development.

The BCSPL brings together identified players from the BC Soccer membership in training and match environments that support overall development, as well as provide further opportunities for player identification into higher levels of play including Provincial Programming, progression into adult community soccer, University, League1 BC, Professional, and ultimately, National teams programming.

3. BCSPL CLUB COMMITMENTS

1. BCSPL Teams

BCSPL Clubs shall field both a Girls and Boys team in each age category governed by their National Youth Club Licence, unless dispensation is given by BC Soccer.

2. Licence Agreement

All participating clubs in the BCSPL are required to comply with all BCSPL operational rules and regulations within this document along with upholding the rules, regulations, and policies of BC Soccer and meeting the on-going requirements of the Canada Soccer National Youth Club License.

3. Performance Management Review

- a) In order to maintain the high standards of technical, organizational and facilities excellence BC Soccer demands, all Clubs in the BCSPL shall be subject to ongoing and annual evaluation and review. Central to this process is the hosting of an annual Performance Management Review with each BCSPL Club.
- b) Performance Management reviews shall be held annually as directed by BC Soccer.
- c) BCSPL Clubs shall attend these reviews, either virtually or in-person, and provide all information requested in advance as well as at the meeting.
- d) Performance Management reviews shall assess the Club's adherence to and compliance with their obligations as outlined in the National Youth Club Licence Agreement and Player Development Program requirements.
- e) Performance Management reviews shall be an opportunity for BCSPL Clubs to bring forth issues to the BCSPL and BC Soccer and present feedback for the continuous improvement of the BCSPL's operations and effectiveness.

4. BCSPL League Fees

The league fee for 2025/26 is \$1,500 per team for the playing season.

- a) Invoices will be issued no later than August 1, 2025.
- b) Payment is due in advance of the start of the season; no later than September 6, 2025.

Changes to BCSPL League Fees for the next playing season will be shared with Clubs no later than January 31, annually.

5. BCSPL Engagements

- a) BC Soccer will provide a BCSPL Engagement Calendar annually which will include the following engagements organized by BC Soccer:
 - a. A minimum of three (3) collective BCSPL Club meetings to address BCSPL operations and effectiveness - two (2) meetings in-person and one (1) online.
 - b. Workshops for Operations, Referee Assignors, Referees, and Coaches.
 - c. Feedback surveys for Parents/Players as well as Clubs.
- b) A BCSPL Technical Working Group comprised of Club representatives with technical expertise, will collaborate with BC Soccer on items related to the alignment of the BCSPL with Canada Soccer Player Development Program (PDP) Technical Standards.
- c) A BCSPL Operations Working Group comprised of Club representatives with operational expertise, will collaborate with BC Soccer on items related to the alignment of the BCSPL with Canada Soccer Player Development Program (PDP) Operational Standards.

6. Completion of BCSPL Season

All BCSPL teams shall participate in all matches scheduled by BCSPL. Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary measures as outlined in Appendix A.

4. COMPETITION FORMAT

1. Match Format

- a) BCSPL teams shall play 11-a-side.
- b) Matches shall employ a size-5 ball.
- c) Field dimensions shall be as per FIFA regulations.
- d) Goal sizes shall be as per FIFA regulations.
- e) Laws of the Game as approved by IFAB shall be employed except in the instances noted in this Operations Manual, Match Day Regulations and in the Technical Manual.

2. Competition Season

The BCSPL regular season will operate from September to May each year.

- a) The BCSPL may schedule rest periods on public holiday-long weekends and a two-week midseason rest period.
 - i. The dates for scheduled breaks and the mid-season rest break are determined, based on PDP requirements and will be published annually by BC Soccer.
- b) The BCSPL must have a minimum of 8 weeks between the end of the season and the beginning of the next season.
- c) The preferred playing surface for BCSPL matches is grass, when available. Recognizing that;
 - i. Some clubs do not have access to grass fields for the full BCSPL season;
 - ii. Even those clubs that do have access often see those grass fields closed due to weather;
 - iii. The cost differential between grass fields and artificial turf fields is substantial thus clubs are not in the position to keep an artificial turf field on standby with no match scheduled on it.
- d) The recommended approach for field scheduling of BCSPL home matches is as follows:
 - i. For matches that do not involve Lower Mainland teams playing teams from Vancouver Island or the Okanagan:
 - i. For periods where grass field closures are unlikely but possible (eg. April to October), teams should schedule on grass fields where possible. Should the fields be unplayable, they must decide at least 48 hours prior to kick off and notify the visiting club/team of this, also at least 48 hours prior to kickoff, and give them the opportunity to provide a grass field. If they can, the match is moved to the opponent's grass field.
 - ii. If the visiting club/team also cannot provide a grass field, the home club can move the match to an artificial turf field no more than 5km further from the original grass field location for their opponent. If they are unable to do so, the visiting team must be given the opportunity to provide an artificial turf field for the match to be played on.

- iii. If neither team can provide a grass or artificial turf field due to weather conditions, the match will be re-scheduled as per league rules.
- iv. For matches scheduled in January, February, October and November, matches should be scheduled on artificial turf but if conditions allow for the match to be played on a grass field it can be moved up to 48 hours before kickoff to the grass field as long as the grass field is no more than 5km further from the original field location for their opponent.
- ii. For matches that involve matches between Lower Mainland teams and teams from Vancouver Island or the Okanagan:
 - i. Matches should be scheduled on artificial turf, but if conditions allow for the match to be played on a grass field it can be moved up to 48 hours before kickoff to the grass field as long as the grass field is no more than 5km or 10 minutes further from the original field location.
 - ii. The match change must not negatively affect the travel time and logistics of the opponent.

3. BCSPL Competition Structure

- a) The BCSPL may operate through regional conferences, or another method, as established and communicated annually by BC Soccer.
- b) The BCSPL shall be solely responsible for assigning BCSPL Clubs within the prescribed competition structure.
- c) Any changes to assignment and/or competition structure will be communicated in writing to all BCSPL Clubs thirty (30) days prior to such changes taking effect.

4. Competition Schedule

- a) The development of the BCSPL's Competition Schedule, including match dates, times and match official assignment, shall be the responsibility of BC Soccer.
- b) The BCSPL Competition Schedule framework, outlining the confirmed match weekend dates, will be determined and communicated to the Clubs by the following date(s) for the upcoming playing season:
 - i. By June 30 of the current year for the 2025/26 playing season.
 - ii. By January 31, 2026 for the 2026/27 playing season.
- c) Unless otherwise approved by the BCSPL, the standard kick-off times for BCSPL matches shall be:
 - i. Weekend: Kick-off times shall be between 09:00 to 19:00
 - ii. Weekdays: Kick-off times shall be between 18:00 to 21:00
- d) Unless otherwise approved by BCSPL, if extensive travel by teams is required (i.e. matches involving travel to/from the Island or Interior), kick-off times shall be between:
 - i. 12:30 and 16:00 for matches involving travel to/from the Island
 - ii. 13:00 and 15:00 for matches involving travel to/from Interior

- a) If both teams agree to an earlier kickoff time to accommodate ferry or bus travel, the request will be reviewed by the BCSPL General Manager and is subject to their approval.
- e) The Competition Schedule for the upcoming season shall be issued by BC Soccer no later than August 2nd, 2025, five (5) weeks prior to the League's first match day.
- f) Changes to the Competition Schedule, including postponement, may only be granted in exceptional circumstances at the sole discretion of the BCSPL.
 - i. The BCSPL and BC Soccer, to substantiate requests, reserves the right to request supporting evidence to determine an 'exceptional circumstance'
 - ii. The Rescheduling Timelines and Regulations, as set in the BCSPL Match Day Regulations, will be used where applicable.
- g) Request for Match Changes
 - i. A request must be submitted, in writing, to the BCSPL General Manager at least twenty (20) days prior to the match and is subject to the approval of the BCSPL via the BCSPL Match Change Request Form.
 - ii. All requests shall only be deemed completed once agreed upon in writing by both BCSPL Clubs involved, as well as confirmed by the BCSPL General Manager.
 - iii. Requests impacting only one team will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis where the final decision is made by the BCSPL.
 - iv. Any request for match changes once the BCSPL schedule has been finalized may result in additional fines as per Appendix A.
 - v. All requests must be filed through the *BCSPL Match Change Request Form*.
 - vi. Any request to change from a scheduled BCSPL match weekend due to team travel will be determined as a 3-0 forfeit in favour of the non-traveling team and the applicable fine will be issued according to Appendix A.
 - a. If both opponents are traveling on a BCSPL scheduled match weekend and request a match change, both teams will be issued the applicable fine according to Appendix A.
- b) Match Information submissions
 - i. All hosting match information must be sent to the BCSPL in the required format at the following timelines:
 - a. By August 15, 2025, for matches being played between September to December.
 - b. By December 15, 2025, for matches being played between January to March
 - c. By March 1, 2026, for matches being played between April to May
- h) Any costs associated with rescheduling matches shall be covered by the BCSPL Club submitting the request, unless exempted by the hosting organization.
 - i. Requests submitted less than twenty (20) days from match day may result in additional fines as per Appendix A.
 - ii. Requests submitted, or completed, less than seven (7) days from match day will not be accepted, save changes resulting from Force Majeure events such as inclement weather or exceptional field conditions.

5. **Competition Standings**

- a) For all age groups (U14-U18):
 - i. Teams will receive three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss.
- b) “BCSPL League Champions”:
 - ii. At the end of the BCSPL 2025/26 playing season (September to June), the team with the highest number of points in each age group and gender will be declared the “BCSPL League Champions”
- b) If two or more teams are equal on points, Standings will be determined as follows according to PDP requirements:
 - i. Greatest goal difference
 - ii. Greatest number of goals scored
 - iii. Greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the teams concerned
 - iv. Goal difference resulting from the matches between the teams concerned
 - v. Greater number of goals scored in all matches between the teams concerned
 - vi. Disciplinary records of all teams concerned
 - vii. Drawing of lots by the BCSPL

d) **Tiebreaker Policy for Unbalanced Schedules (Two or more Teams Tied on Points):**

In an unbalanced schedule, if two or more teams are tied on points, the tie will be broken by evaluating each team’s performance against the top half of the league standings.

- For leagues with an **odd number of teams**, the top half includes the greater portion (e.g., in an 11-team league, the top half includes 6 teams).
- For leagues with an **even number of teams**, the top half includes exactly half of the teams.

The following criteria will be applied **in order**:

1. Head-to-head result (for two-team ties only, if applicable)
2. Average points per game vs. top half
3. Goal difference vs. top half
4. Goals for vs. top half
5. Goals against vs. top half
6. Goals against (GA)

7. **Provincial Premier Cup**

All BCSPL Teams are automatically qualified to enter the BC Soccer Provincial Premier Cup. The Provincial Premier Cup is subject to the Rules and Regulations of BC Soccer regarding Provincial Premier Cup and operates under BC Soccer’s Competitions Committee.

All players must play a minimum of four (4) BCSPL regular season matches to be eligible for the Provincial Premier Cup. Dispensation may be considered in circumstances related to goalkeepers who do not meet the minimum match requirement.

6. *Player Development Program Championships*

- a) This event in 2026 is scheduled to be held in Quebec at the Under-15 and Under-17 Male and Female Divisions between teams from Player Development Program leagues in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta.
- b) For 2026, in an unbalanced regular season league schedule, the 2026 Provincial Premier Cup 'Champion' and 'Runner Up' of both the Under-15 and Under-17 age groups shall qualify for the event.
- c) For 2026, in balanced regular season league schedules, the winner of the Regular Season and the Winner of the Provincial Premier Cup will qualify for the competition.
 - i. If the two Winners are the same team, the Finalist of the Provincial Premier Cup shall qualify for the event.
- d) Competition details shall be released and communicated annually by both BC Soccer and Canada Soccer.

7. *Match Day Regulations*

All BCSPL matches shall be conducted in accordance with *BCSPL Match Day Regulations*.

8. *Travel*

- a) In the case where travel parameters include Neutral Site Matches, the BCSPL will assign a club host for these matches on a rotational basis. The appointed neutral site Club is required to provide fields, assignment of referees, Referee fees and associated field costs are to be reimbursed by the listed Home club, and minimum match day requirements must be met.
- b) All travel requires an even number of matches to ensure travel costs are kept to a minimum. Accommodations may be required to move match days, for example Boys to Sunday or Girls to Saturday, to accomplish this and sharing of transportation.
- c) Travel requirements will be based on the finalized Competition Schedule.
 - i. All efforts will be made for travel requirements for teams outside of the Lower Mainland to be scheduled at a 1:2 ratio. For example, within an age group, OUFC over a calendar year is to travel to CMFSC once and CMFSC to OUFC twice. Accommodations should be made wherever possible for this travel to be once per phase.

9. Match Hosting and Competition Venue Approvals

- a) Each BCSPL Club is required to host its home matches as per the published BCSPL Schedule.
- b) Home matches must be hosted at venues which meet the BCSPL Venue Hosting Criteria.
- c) The host BCSPL Club is responsible for the securing of venue permits or permission for venue use such that the venue is secured for BCSPL use on designated competition dates.
- d) The host BCSPL Club is responsible for all costs related to venue provision, including any ancillary costs such as floodlighting or change room rental.
- e) BCSPL Clubs must follow and adhere to the BCSPL Match Day Regulations when hosting home matches.

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM ROSTERS

1. Player Registration

BCSPL Clubs must register all players and team officials with BC Soccer via Districts and through the online Competition Management System [\[LINK\]](#).

The registration deadline for new registrations is Monday, May 4, or the Monday after the final match day of the BCSPL regular season, whichever date is earlier.

2. Team Declarations

- a) 2025/26 Season: Clubs submit their Team Declarations via the online Team Declaration Form by July 18, 2025
- b) 2026/27 Season: Clubs submit their Team Declarations via the online Team Declaration Form three weeks after the conclusion of 2026 Provincial Premier Cup

3. Team Roster

- a) BCSPL Clubs shall submit a list of BCSPL-registered players for each age group and gender permitted under its Licence Agreement, with a minimum of fourteen (14) BCSPL-registered players and a maximum of twenty-two (22) BCSPL-registered players.
 - a. 2025/26 Season: Submission of Registrations and Rosters by August 1, 2025
 - b. PDP Championship roster maximum is twenty (20) players
- b) BCSPL-registered players are considered committed to their BCSPL Club until the conclusion of the BCSPL Season.

- c) A player registered to a BCSPL team in an age group above their chronological age may not play down to a younger age group in the BCSPL
- d) Failure to submit any player(s) to the BCSPL Competition Management System shall result in their ineligibility to play in BCSPL matches.
- e) Player and Team Officials' information must be updated and kept current.
- f) After the BCSPL transfer deadline, a BCSPL Club shall not release any players until the conclusion of the BCSPL season, defined as the final match weekend date of the regular season schedule of the current calendar year, except in cases governed by this document or after conclusion of the BCSPL competition season, with written permission of the existing BCSPL Club to attend trials at any other organization.

4. Eligible Player

- a) An eligible player is a player who is properly registered with the league and who is not subject to any kind of suspension by the league or any other league which is in effect at the time.
- b) All players must be entered in BC Soccer's Competition Management System a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the required match.

5. Ineligible Player

- a) BCSPL players can be deemed not eligible to play due to the following reasons including, without limitation: waiting for an International Transfer Certificate (ITC), serving a league suspension, not age-eligible, not cleared by BCSPL/ Club Medical Staff, not listed in the Match Sheet or subject to other applicable sanctions.
- b) Any team using players not properly registered or cleared of sanctions by the BCSPL will be subject to disciplinary action under the Operations Manual and BC Soccer Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Operational Procedures.

6. PLAYER MOVEMENT

1. Permitting of Players

- a) A registered BCSPL player is eligible to play for a BCSPL team within their club in an older age division. No permit is required. The player must have their digital player card and be properly added to the match day roster of the older team in the BCSPL Competition Management System.
- b) The BCSPL will grant a BC Soccer-registered player from a team outside the league permission to play for a BCSPL team of his/her true age group, contingent that:
 - i. The player is registered within the same club, or an affiliation and development agreement (e.g. Player Pick-up Agreement) exists between two different clubs.

- ii. The BCSPL club permitting the player from another club must complete the online permit form, share a copy with the releasing club, and add the player to the BCSPL Competition Management System so they can be selected to the match day roster.
 - iii. The player may only be permitted to one BCSPL club during a BCSPL season
- c) Permit players will be permitted for regular season league matches.
- d) Players from outside the BCSPL are permitted to play in the BCSPL to their chronological age group only, as per regulations from 2023, 2024, 2025.
- e) Players under suspension shall not be eligible to play in the BCSPL or another league, including on permit, until they have served their suspension in the BCSPL
- f) Coaches under suspension shall not be eligible to coach in the BCSPL or another league until they have served their suspension in the BCSPL.
- g) Any disciplinary action applied from misconduct reported while playing in a match under permit shall be served during the very next league match(es) with the player's registered team and age group.
- h) Any player may permit from a lower division and league to a BCSPL team up to a maximum of eight (8) times per BCSPL season. Once the maximum number of permitted matches has been reached, the player must choose to either remain registered with their current team or register with the BCSPL team to continue participating in the BCSPL.
 - i. Participation is considered to be when a player is listed on a game sheet.
- a) Any Club playing a player on a permit that does not conform to the above Rules shall be sanctioned as for playing an ineligible player and may have permit privileges withdrawn.

2. Player Transfers

- a) BCSPL Players shall not transfer between BCSPL Clubs during the BCSPL season without the written agreement of the two organizations involved and confirmation by the BCSPL General Manager. The *BC Soccer Youth Application to Transfer* must be completed.
- b) BCSPL-to-BCSPL Player transfers between August 1 and October 31 shall be considered and authorized by the BCSPL in circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated that it is in the best interest of a player's ongoing development.
 - i. No Transfer will be approved if a Player is not in good standing with their registered club.
- c) For 2025/26, between August 1 and October 31, intra-league transfers for BCSPL registered players must be agreed to in writing by the Technical Directors of the two BCSPL Clubs involved and a completed online [Player Release Form](#) must be submitted. If no such agreement is reached, the matter will be referred to the BCSPL General Manager for a decision.
 - i. Where a player is released or transferred after the transfer deadline, the player will not be permitted to register with another BCSPL Club or be permitted into BCSPL, in any capacity, for the remainder of the 2025/26 BCSPL playing season.
- d) Players are free to move between BCSPL Clubs following the conclusion of the BCSPL season, defined as the final match weekend date of the regular season schedule and/or completion of the players' commitment to their BCSPL registered team, until August 1.

Agreement in writing from both BCSPL Clubs involved and a submitted online *Player Release Form* is required.

- e) Transfer of a Player's BCSPL registration between age groups within their club in the BCSPL is possible between August 1 and March 31.
- f) No player may be transferred more than once within the BCSPL in any given season.

3. *Player Recruitment and Solicitation*

- a) Recruitment refers to the practice of deliberate and proactive persuasion or enticement of an active player by an individual or individuals associated with another team or BCSPL Club, intended to convince the player to join their team or BCSPL Club and leave their current team or BCSPL Club.
- b) Active recruitment or solicitation of existing BCSPL players shall be prohibited at any time. All BCSPL Clubs shall be responsible for their staff, players, and parents' conduct in this regard.
- c) Any attempt to contact, entice or recruit players, coaches or staff from a BCSPL Club is not permitted.
- d) BCSPL Clubs shall be prohibited from using fee discounting measures as a means of indirect solicitation or recruitment of certain players to their program at any time.

7. TEAM AND MATCH OFFICIALS

1. Team Officials

- a) There shall be no less than three (3) and no more than six (6) team officials appointed to a BC SPL team and on the bench during a match as follows:
 - i. Head Coach
 - ii. Assistant Coach
 - iii. Apprentice Coach
 - iv. Goalkeeper Coach
 - v. Team Manager
 - vi. Technical Director or club technical representative
- b) For travel to or from Vancouver Island and the Interior, a minimum of two (2) staff members may be present on the bench during a match and must meet gender identity requirements outlined.
- c) The Head Coach or Assistant Coach must be of the same gender identity as the players and be present on the bench during a match.
- d) The Apprentice Coach, if one is appointed, must also be of the same gender identity as the players.
- e) Technical Directors cannot coach a BC SPL team. In extenuating circumstances, a Technical Director may apply for special dispensation to coach a BC SPL team for the short term with an action plan to appoint another qualified coach. All requests for a Technical Director to coach a BC SPL team must be submitted, in writing, to BC Soccer, who will have full authority to approve or reject the request.
- f) Staff members must only be listed in BC Soccer's competition management system for one match if multiple matches are taking place concurrently. Movement of staff between matches and technical areas is not permitted and is in violation of the Laws of the Game.
 - i. The only exception to this rule for regular season matches is for the Clubs' Technical Director. If a sanction is received within one match, the individual is no longer permitted to move from that match to any other concurrent matches.
- g) Teams must have a minimum of one (1) Team Official of the same gender identity as the players on the bench at all times.
- h) All Team Officials must have evidence of a clear Criminal Record Check (CRC) including Vulnerable Sector (VS) check that is no more than three (3) years old as of September 1 of the competition year.
- i) All Team Officials must hold a valid Respect in Sport Activity Leader certificate.

2. Coach Requirements and Certification

- a) Minimum qualifications are required for Team Officials assigned to BC SPL Teams in accordance with the assigned age group and respective position in alignment with the current *PDP Manual* ([LINK](#)).

- i. A Head Coach and an Assistant Coach with the minimum qualifications must be present at all training sessions and matches.
 - ii. Where a minimum requirement – found below – is not met or a foreign equivalent held for a Team Official, a Coach Development Plan must be submitted to BC Soccer for review and approval.
 - iii. Team Officials who do not hold the required certification cannot be assigned without written approval and an associated Action Plan to BC Soccer.
- b) Coach Certification
- i. All BCSPL Club’s designated Technical Lead must have completed the BC Soccer Technical Directors Diploma or have registered their intent to enroll on the next available course.
 - ii. Team Goalkeeper Coaches must have a minimum BC Soccer GK Goalkeeping Diploma or have registered their intent to enroll on the next available course.
 - iii. All BCSPL Clubs must complete and submit the BC Soccer Coach Profile Database* within the following requirements:
 - All coach ‘General Information’ must be completed 1 week minimum to the start of the BCSPL season, annually.
 - All coach ‘Observational Information’ must be completed on request within 4 weeks of the start of the season, annually.
- c) Head Coach & Assistant Coaches
- i. All BCSPL Head Coaches & Assistant Coaches must hold the following minimum qualification:

	2024 - 2025 (November)	2025 (December)
Head Coach	C License & or C Diploma upgrade	B Diploma
Assistant Coach	Soccer for Life	C Diploma

A Club may apply to BC Soccer for special dispensation if a coach does not meet the required standard for training and certification. All requests must be accompanied by an action plan to meet the requirements as quickly as possible.

The Canada Soccer National B Licence and Youth Licence are no longer being offered. Current Licences will be accepted for the duration of their validity after which they must be upgraded to the Concacaf-recognized Canada Soccer B Licence.

- d) Team Officials Registration
- i. Coaches (Head or Assistant), Technical Directors/BCSPL Club Head Coaches or other BCSPL Club representatives shall also register online and submit the required information to the BCSPL.
 - ii. Team Officials shall be identified in the BCSPL Competition Management System by the deadline annually published by BC Soccer.

**Live document updated as required.*

3. Match Officials (Referee) Requirements

- a) A minimum of one (1) Referee and two (2) Assistant Referees will be assigned to each BCSPL match.
- b) Annually, each BCSPL Club must provide a designated Club Referee Assignor that will assign home Match Officials on behalf of the BCSPL Club that adheres to the BCSPL Referee Assignor Agreement document [internal document].
- d) Any changes to the process of assigning Match Officials will be communicated in writing to all BCSPL Clubs thirty (30) days prior to such changes taking effect.
- c) BCSPL Club Assignors are recommended to assign Match Officials directly through the BCSPL Competition Management System, using the BC Refereeing Grading protocol.
- d) BCSPL Clubs are required to manage the Referee payment process using the pay scale listed below.

	U14, U15, and U16	U17 and U18
Referee	\$75	\$85
Assistant Referee	\$50	\$60

4. Safe Sport Requirements

- a) All Team Officials must have clear Criminal Record Check (CRC) including Vulnerable Sector (VS) check that is no more than three (3) years old as of September 1st of the competition year.
- b) All Team Officials must hold the following certifications, as outlined in the National Youth Club License:
 - a. Respect in Sport online training
 - b. Make Ethical Decisions
 - c. Making Head Way
 - d. Emergency Action Plan
- c) In addition, All Team Officials are required to adopt the requirements of the Responsible Coaching Movement:
 - a. The “Rule of 2”
 - b. Background screening

8. DISCIPLINE

1. *Jurisdiction*

- a) All BCSPL judicial matters (complaints, discipline, protests, appeals) follow the Policies of BC Soccer. The BCSPL General Manager may issue automatic suspensions for match play on behalf of a Judicial Body of BC Soccer.
- b) BC Soccer shall be responsible for handling all cases of reported misconduct for Players, Team Officials, Administrators or Clubs, as per 'Appendix B – Sanctioning' of the BC Soccer Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Operational Procedures [\[LINK\]](#).
- c) Each BCSPL Club is responsible for ensuring that its Players and Team Officials are aware of the BCSPL Discipline rules and of the discipline procedures used by the BCSPL.

2. *Reporting and Review of Discipline*

- a) Within twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of a BCSPL match, the Match Official shall submit the following items to the Competition Management System:
 - i. Match results and events
 - ii. Misconduct report for each incident of misconduct by a player, team official, administrator, or match official
 - iii. Special Incident Reports
- b) Unless otherwise indicated by BC Soccer, any Hearings shall take place on the next available date, and at least one (1) week after the date of the misconduct being reported.
- c) At the discretion of BC Soccer, the accused, or any other party called, may attend a Hearing remotely via communications technology that is duly approved by BC Soccer. Where permission to attend a Hearing via such a communication technology is not expressly approved by BC Soccer, attendance in person is assumed to be required by all parties involved.
- d) Misconduct and/or Special Incident Reports will be made available to the impacted Club(s) within 72 hours of receipt of the relevant Reports.

3. *General Discipline Rules*

- a) Cautions shall be recorded in the BCSPL Competition Management System. The accumulation of cautions shall only apply to BCSPL competitions, and any suspension will carry-over into Provincial Premier Cup.
 - i. Yellow card accumulation for **Players** is: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8...
 - ii. Yellow card accumulation for **Staff** is: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8...
- b) Where Players or Staff may accumulate cautions across multiple BCSPL competitions, the cumulative total will be applied, and any suspension would be served with their registered team.

- c) Suspensions are levied by the Judicial Body of BC Soccer as per 'Appendix B – Sanctioning' of the BC Soccer Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Operational Procedures [\[LINK\]](#).
- d) In the case of "suspensions for a stated period of time":
 - i. The "beginning date" of a suspension shall be determined by the Judicial Body of BC Soccer and will commence within an appropriate timeline following the Discipline Hearing in which the coach, player, team official was found guilty.
- e) In the case of "suspensions for a specific number of matches":
 - i. A player suspended for a specified number of matches shall serve such suspension in the BCSPL competitions (i.e. shall be suspended from a specific number of BCSPL matches) until the player's team has concluded its participation in that year's BCSPL competition.
 - ii. After a team has concluded its participation in that year's BCSPL competition, the player's remaining number of suspended matches shall be served in the following season of the BCSPL.
 - iii. If the player is not selected for or does not participate in the BCSPL the following season, the player's remaining number of suspended matches shall be served in his/her new team's league, league cup, and/or league playoff matches.
 - iv. BCSPL will communicate the specific matches from which the player is suspended to the Club, in writing, via email.
- f) A listing of all suspensions (resulting from misconduct in BCSPL competition) shall be posted on the BCSPL Competition Management website and can be accessed by the Team/Club.
 - i. Notice of any match suspension will be e-mailed to the designated club contact(s) (i.e. Technical Director, Administrative/Operations Manager, etc.) by 3:00pm PST on the Thursday following a match weekend.
 - ii. Suspensions due to yellow card accumulation will not receive email notifications from the BCSPL or the competition management system.

9. TECHNICAL PROGRAM STRUCTURE

1. Conduct

Each BCSPL Club will be responsible for the conduct of its players, team officials, members, and spectators attending any BCSPL event.

2. Player Development Commitment (Youth)

- a) All BCSPL Clubs must provide BC Soccer with their 2025/26 (upon request and in the template provided) training and competition plan that meets the following requirements:
 - i. All teams are provided with a 3:1 training-to-match ratio.
 - ii. All team session durations are a minimum of 90 minutes. Changes to this duration can be made for:
 - i. Matches within 24 hours of a BCSPL match start or completion
 - ii. Training sessions taking place after travel to and from the Island or Interior
 - iii. All teams are provided with a minimum of ½ field for 2 of 3 weekly sessions
 - iv. All teams are provided with a minimum of 1 full field for 1 of 3 weekly sessions; this session can be shared with another of the club's PDP teams for the purpose of intrasquad training.
 - v. All BCSPL Clubs must demonstrate alignment with the BC Soccer periodized training plan
 - vi. All clubs must supply up to date training schedules for all their teams, complete with time and location, to facilitate compliance visits that support ongoing training standards.
- b) All BCSPL Clubs must adhere to the BC Soccer Player Pathway, whereby higher-level programming or competition is prioritized over a player's BCSPL commitment. Environments that apply to this situation include:
 - i. BC Soccer Provincial Programming
 - ii. Professional Programming (e.g. Vancouver Whitecaps FC Academy & Vancouver Rise FC Academy and their professional teams)
 - iii. League1 BC
 - iv. Canadian Premier League (CPL)
 - v. Canada National Team Youth & Senior Team Programming
- c) All BCSPL Clubs must adhere to the scheduling of competition with higher-level programming (above the BCSPL) this includes competition scheduling with the Provincial Program and (Professional Club Programming) example Vancouver Whitecaps FC Academy & Vancouver Rise FC Academy.
- d) All BCSPL Club's must complete and submit the BC Soccer Player Profile Database* within the following requirements:
 - i. All player 'General Information' must be completed 1-week minimum to the start of the BCSPL playing season, annually.

- ii. All player 'Observational Information' must be completed on request within 4-weeks of the start of the season, annually.

**Live document updated as required.*

3. Player Evaluation and Selection Process

- a) All BC SPL Clubs must adhere to the player evaluation and selection process as outlined in the *U14 – U18 Evaluation & Selection Guideline* for the age groups below:
 - i. U14 to U18 Age Group - As per BC Soccer Rule 21 – Rules for the operation of the BC Soccer Standards Based Leagues, c) For the purposes of development only, a technical staff member of a club shall be permitted to approach the Technical Director responsible for any other club to request permission to contact players to offer an opportunity for promotion, such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any other contact shall be deemed poaching as described in Rule 6.
 - ii. All recruitment and solicitation complaints will be investigated thoroughly by the Judicial Body of BC Soccer.

4. Player Trials

BC SPL Clubs shall follow the *BC SPL U14 to U18 Evaluation & Selection Guidelines*.

- a) Any player invited to attend a trial for a PDP program must be given at least two (2) weeks of training and/or six (6) training sessions in which to be assessed.

5. Training (As of December 2025 onwards)

- a) The minimum volume of training (excluding matches & sport science related training) for BC SPL players during the playing season (September - May) is as follows:
 - i. 180 hours (4.5 hours/week), based on a 40-week season.
- b) Each team is expected to hold at least three (3) soccer training sessions per week, with at least one (1) day of rest per week during the BC SPL season.
- c) The maximum volume of training (excluding matches & sport science related training) for BC SPL players during the season (September - May) is the following:
 - i. 330 hours (7.5 hours/week) for U15+ Age Group, based on 44-week season.
 - ii. 264 hours (6 hours/week) for U14 Age Group, based on 44-week season.
- d) All BC SPL Clubs must agree to provide a periodized training plan and training curriculum, to be reviewed by BC Soccer and Canada Soccer.
- e) BC SPL Clubs must agree to provide the following with respect to training fields:
 - i. Outdoor Training
 - i. Quality fields of FIFA-approved dimensions for every training session. The minimum space permitted for training is one half of a field of FIFA-approved dimensions. At least one (1) training session per week must be conducted

- on a full field of FIFA approved dimensions; this session can be shared with another of the club's BC SPL teams for the purpose of intrasquad training.
 - ii. Portable goals must be available for use at all outdoor training sessions.
- ii. Indoor Training
 - i. Indoor facilities must be available for training during winter months (January – March/April) in regions where climate limits the use of outdoor fields in these months.
 - ii. Acceptable indoor facilities can include covered artificial turf (fixed or seasonal structure) or indoor gymnasium (minimum 16m x 32m).

6. Matches Outside of the BCSPL Competition

- a) Clubs and teams are expected to adhere to the BCSPL match schedule and should not prioritize other competitions or events over scheduled BCSPL matches.
- b) Clubs and teams must respect the yearly training plan, including rest and break periods.
- c) BCSPL Clubs wishing to participate in competitions outside of the BCSPL league schedule require written permission from the BCSPL General Manager and BC Soccer via the appropriate *BCSPL Application to Travel Out of Province Form* [[LINK](#)].

10. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Clubs may submit requests for dispensation regarding requirements within the 2025/26 Operations Manual and must be submitted via the link provided. *Requests for Dispensation* outside of the formal submission process will not be considered.

Clubs in the BCSPL may submit requests for dispensation to: ***BCSPL Operations Manual, Match Day Rules & Regulations***, and ***U14-U18 Evaluation & Selection Guideline*** to BC Soccer's Soccer Development staff via the BC Soccer office at the following online form ([LINK](#)).

- A rationale must be provided referring to the specific rule.
- Dispensation may or may not be granted at the discretion of BC Soccer's Soccer Development Staff in accordance with Player Development Program (PDP) requirements.
- Responses will be provided within seven (7) business days.

11. APPENDIX A – LEAGUE FINES

Fine	Fee
Late remittance of annual league fee	\$500.00
Missed Administrative or Operational deadline/requirement	\$100.00
Missed Technical deadline	\$500.00
Missed Technical requirement	\$500.00
Fine for not fielding a team in each required age group ** see <i>Request for Dispensation</i> process	\$1,000.00
Fail to meet Match Day Hosting Requirements	\$150.00
Fine for withdrawal of a committed team	\$500.00
Match forfeit fee	\$1,000.00
Match scheduling change (applicable to the club instigating a match change request)	\$35.00
Match scheduling change (applicable to team(s) traveling over a BC SPL scheduled match weekend)	\$250.00
Playing a suspended / ineligible / illegal player	\$150.00
Failure to meet Match Day Compliance Requirements* i) 1 st Offense ii) 2 nd Offense iii) 3 or + Offenses	i) \$50.00 ii) \$100.00 iii) \$150/instance

* Including adherence to Competition Management System requirements

12. APPENDIX B – SANCTIONING

BC Soccer Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Operational Procedures ([LINK](#))

13. APPENDIX C – KEY DATES

July 18:	Team Declaration Deadline
August 1:	Roster Submissions to Districts
August 2:	2025/26 Schedule Finalized
August 6:	Pre-Season Operations Meeting (online)
August 15:	Match Information sent to BC Soccer (Sept. – Dec.)
October 31:	BCSPL-to-BCSPL player transfer deadline
December 15:	Match information sent to BC Soccer (Jan. – Mar.)
March 1:	Match information sent to BC Soccer (Apr. – May)
March 31:	BCSPL transfer deadline between age groups within club
May 4:	Premier Cup roster submissions & deadline for new BCSPL registrations