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### CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

#### GENERAL

Team officials are responsible for the behaviour and actions of their players and spectators at any soccer event. Member Clubs are responsible for the behaviour and actions of their team officials, players and spectators at any soccer event. Member Clubs are expected to educate their team officials and take any precautions necessary to prevent its team officials, players and spectators from abusing, threatening or assaulting anyone at a soccer event, including the referee(s).

The Member Clubs shall ensure that their disciplinary rules, regulations, and procedures are consistent with those of UISA.

Any BC Soccer Misconduct Report from another district or provincial association, received by UISA shall be regarded as such and may be reviewed by the UISA Discipline Committee. Any additional suspension(s) and/or fine(s) may be applied to the individual(s) as the UISA Discipline Committee determines.

#### JURISDICTION

All discipline issues are confidential, and outcomes are not shared with third parties. The district takes all disciplinary matters very seriously and do our due diligence and investigations under the jurisdiction stated by BC Soccer.

All discipline, complaints, and appeals under the jurisdiction of BC Soccer as outlined below will be reviewed, managed, and investigated by ITP Sport in collaboration with BC Soccer Discipline and Appeals Chairs:

- Any form of excessive physical assault
- Language and/or profanity directed at a Match Official
- Attempted abuse of a Match Official
- Intimidating and/or threatening behavior
- Misconduct involving racist or sexist comments
- Complaints or inquiries referred to it by another Provincial Association
- Misconduct by an Association Official within Members or Affiliated Organizations (even if participating in another capacity)
- Misconduct at BC Soccer's Provincial or Regional Competitions
- Any other matter directly related to BC Soccer which the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer, in their sole, discretion chooses to handle



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Full Member Organizations of BC Soccer (Youth Districts and Adult Leagues) are empowered to handle any/all matters that relate to individuals and clubs that are registered within them, unless specifically specified in BC Soccer's Discipline Policy.

Exceptions:

- If the person being brought to discipline is a District or league Administrator/Executive. This should be referred directly to BC Soccer.
- Where the Youth Districts involved have given Jurisdiction to the Inter District League in which they participate.

Affiliated Soccer Organizations in general are empowered to handle any/all matters that are completely internal to the club itself. For example, teams and/or players that are not following the organization's Code of Conduct.

Exceptions to this would be if the person being brought to Discipline is a Club Administrator/Executive. This should be referred to their direct governing body to avoid any clear conflict of interest.

The Judicial Chair of BC Soccer holds the jurisdiction for discipline over all of its member organizations. The main areas in which BC Soccer administers discipline directly are:

- BC Soccer Provincial Championships and Regional Qualifying Competitions
- Club/District/League Administrators and Executives
- Egregious Offenses
- Referee Abuse
- Abuse Against Youth by an Adult
- Matters that are referred to BC Soccer for any number of reasons

All discipline matters reported to UISA will be taken seriously. The discipline committee/district will contact the club to watch the complaint affects. This may involve two clubs. Correspondence shall remain confidential and prompt responses of due processes will be delivered by the clubs Discipline Committee or board of directors

Assault is dealt with by BC Soccer



<b>Competition</b>	<b>Type of Offence</b>	<b>Administered by</b>
UISA Leagues	Offence against Referee, physical contact, threats	BCSA
	OIAL to Referee, persistent criticism, disputing	UISA District
	Other participant offences, not at Referees	UISA District
UISA Events/Tournaments	Offence against Referee, physical contact, threats	BCSA
	OIAL to Referee, persistent criticism, disputing	UISA District
	Other participant offences, not at Referees	UISA District

## CHAPTER 2. MATCH RELATED DISCIPLINE

### GENERAL

This code describes and categorizes varying infractions and outlines the penalties applied to such infractions. This code also states the order of processes. Not all infractions may be listed specifically; however, infractions of similar intent and/or consequence will receive like suspensions.

The discipline committee/district shall have the authority to apply additional sanctions or suspend any portion of a suspension, fine, bond or other discipline action at their discretion.

The discipline committee/district has the right to uphold or decrease the suspension, fine or bonds applied under the discipline by review process and in extraordinary cases increase the penalty according to the circumstances and severity of the incident. However, please note, protesting and challenging a discipline by review decision, the participant is giving up his/her opportunity for a one-match reduction in suspension (in lieu of the right to challenge the decision).

The discipline committee may reduce any fine or suspension which a party would otherwise receive, if the discipline committee, acting reasonably, determines that the behaviour of the party subject review was primarily defensive.

Decisions of the committee/district are based on the preponderance of the evidence that being just enough information to make it more likely than not that the alleged misconduct occurred. This preponderance is based on the more convincing evidence and its probable truth or accuracy, and not the amount of evidence. Misconduct, as defined by the discipline code sections may be adjudicated either by review and/or by hearing.



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When UISA receives a misconduct report from a referee the UISA Discipline Committee will review that report. The UISA Discipline Committee reviews misconduct reports contextually, and at its discretion may reduce or remove any fine, suspension, or disciplinary penalty which an individual has received.

The referee(s) exercise the powers granted by the rules and regulations upon entering the field of play, its surrounding area, and extends to the time upon leaving the field of play and its surrounding area.

The decisions of the referee(s) regarding details connected with play, including whether a goal scored is good, and the results of the match are final (this should be recognized when filing a protest, request for a hearing, or appeal).

UISA has a Match Report form for team officials to complete regarding any on-field incidents which may occur.

The UISA Discipline Committee/District will have the ability to review any complaint brought to its attention by whatever means and take necessary action if the evidence presented warrants this. All complaints must be in writing and signed with all parties identified when possible.

In the event of an abandoned match, the referee will report it on the UISA Game Report. The UISA Discipline Committee will review each incident and any disciplinary action required will be sent out accordingly.

### ABUSIVE AND THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

UISA has adopted a behavioural stance against individual(s) who feel the need to harass, insult, threaten or assault others at any soccer event where a UISA team is involved. Referees are instructed to immediately dismiss any team official(s) or spectator(s) who are abusing them or any other person(s) in an unacceptable manner, whether it is directed toward them or not. If the abuse or behaviour continues in any way during the match, the referee is instructed to abandon the match, and indicate on the match report what has occurred along with submitting an BCSA Misconduct Report to UISA within 48 hours following the incident.

UISA Discipline will review all incidents reported on a case-by-case basis and administer any discipline to those who may have caused the match to be abandoned.

Note: The referee no longer is required to dismiss the person(s) from the match, for UISA Discipline to review the issue.

Note: The referee's name is not required to submit a complaint about a referee; that information can be found out by the investigating person if you have provided the match details (date, time, field, division and teams involved.)

### RACISM AND HARASSMENT

Anyone who publicly disparages or discriminates against someone in a defamatory manner of race, language, religion, or ethnic origins will be brought before the UISA Discipline Committee to answer to the charge of "conduct likely to bring the match into disrepute."



### LIST OF OFFENCES:

All players and team officials taking part in the district are subject to the BC Soccer Association Discipline document and the decisions of the UISA discipline committee. The BC Soccer Complaints, Discipline & Appeals contains expanded descriptions and definitions of offenses and sanctions including those listed above.

It is the responsibility of team officials to inform their players (and parents) that they can be expelled for the following offences 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 (including conduct unbecoming and failure to respect decisions by the match official)
- Serious foul play
- Violent conduct
- Spitting at someone (doesn't 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*

## CHAPTER 3. PROCESS

### SUSPENSIONS AND EJECTIONS

Most of discipline actions are handled administratively. Some discipline actions of a more serious nature may go directly to the discipline committee/district for their consideration. Generally, players have the option of attending a hearing; however, occasionally players or teams are required to attend a hearing before a suspension will be applied. When misconduct is reported to the UISA Office, the player and team official are advised, and provided with an immediate outcome of the next hearing date as well as a copy of their misconduct report and further instructions.

Players and teams are solely responsible for tracking all cards throughout the season. The player statistics shown on the website for carded players is intended to assist only. All Game Reports for a team must be reviewed to determine the total number of cards for any player and be awarded by UISA.



If a player is sent off or a team official is expelled from a match, they **MUST NOT** participate in the post-match 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 AUTOMATIC ONE MATCH SUSPENSION

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

Upon receiving a third yellow card, that player must sit out their next immediate match or receive further discipline. Players and teams may review player statistics by reviewing their teams' schedules and standings or confirm by email to our office.

Ejected players must be out of the line of sight of the referee and/or not in a position to influence or interfere with match or team officials, or participants from the match.

Suspensions must be served immediately after the infraction.

For an individual to have served a match suspension, their team must physically play a league or cup match, or a district schedule tournament match without their service. Suspensions can only be served on the team the player is registered to.

Suspension shall be consecutive between seasons. Cautions accumulated in a single season, shall be nullified at the end of the season (except when it is in the third caution in the last match of the season). Suspensions carry into the next season played.

Any participant under suspension shall not involve themselves with the match in any manner, other than as a spectator. They shall not enter the dressing room or sit on the bench.

Team officials, while suspended, are not allowed in any way to influence, or be perceived to be influencing, the outcome of the match, including but not limited to, talking to players advising of such things as positioning on the field, calling for substitutions, or meeting with players before or during the match.

Most suspensions are match based.



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- 1) All suspensions are served with the team with which they were received unless the discipline committee specifically mentions separate terms;
  - a) Suspension matches are counted against league matches, promotional / relegation matches, provincial qualifiers and provincials.
  - b) If there is a break in the schedule due to postponement or cancellation of the schedule by the League for any reason but not limited to the time of year, inclement weather or any other reason, match suspensions and the suspension time frame in weeks/months will pause at the time the break starts and will restart once the match schedule resumes.
- 2) Players/Team officials who are also referees may not accept assignments while under suspension.
- 3) Suspended players and team officials must NOT be involved in the team pre- or post- match gatherings.
- 4) A suspended player may attend matches but may not be in uniform or be involved in any way and must not fraternize with other team players, team officials or spectators.
- 5) Suspended team officials are not permitted to communicate with their players or staff while under suspension.
- 6) Players or team officials will not participate in any BCSA sanctioned soccer function while under suspension. This includes acting as a match official, handling equipment, field setup, coaching or assigning substitutions.
- 7) If a match is 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 match served.

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSIONS

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 match into disrepute shall be subject to further disciplinary action.

### YELLOW CARD CAUTIONS

- Upon notification by the UISA Discipline Manager, anyone receiving three yellow cards in the Primary (regular League) season (not to be confused with two yellow cards in one match which do not become part of the accumulated cautions total) must sit out the team's very next match.
- Do not sit out your player until you are notified





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### 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 MATCHES

If the League schedules matches 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 matches as the team list will reflect that they are INELIGIBLE. Scores must be reported following the matches completion by the team's official in order for the system to record it as a match sat out.

Suspensions cannot be sat out in "friendlies" \*\* or tournament matches. (\*\* Suspensions cannot be sat out in matches where two teams might set up a "friendly" match between themselves.)

### FRIENDLY MATCHES NOT SCHEDULED BY THE LEAGUE

Red and yellow cards received in exhibition or friendly matches will be reported by the referee and players/team officials/spectators will be subject to normal discipline procedures. This also pertains to matches where the scheduled referee doesn't show and the teams agree for someone else to referee the match. Please note that all red cards reported from "friendly" matches 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 match would be one set-up between two teams not to be confused with an "exhibition" match scheduled by the League.



TABLE 1.0 Offences by Team Officials

<b>Failure to stay within the technical area – including but not limited to entering the field illegally;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	1 match suspension after sufficient warnings
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	To be determined by District Discipline Committee

<b>Language and/or profanity directed towards players and/or spectators;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	2 match suspension after sufficient warnings
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	To be determined by District Discipline Committee

<b>Failure to behave in a responsible manner towards players and/or spectators, that ensure a safe environment for all those involved;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	2 match suspension after sufficient warnings
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	To be determined by District Discipline Committee

<b>Persistent Criticism or disputing of decision;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	1-2 match suspension after sufficient warnings
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	To be determined by District Discipline Committee

<b>Language and/or profanity directed at a Referee</b>	
<b>Use of Offensive, insulting, abusive language in disputing decisions;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	Immediate ejection with an automatic 6 match suspension
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	To be determined by District Discipline Committee

<b>Unsportsmanlike Conduct</b>	
<b>Tearing up match reports, removing jersey to prevent identification, refusal to provide name to Referee;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	Immediate ejection
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	To be determined by District Discipline Committee

<b>Intimidating or Threatening Behaviour</b>	
<b>Attempting to threaten or intimidate referee or people close to referee (family, friend, colleague) on the field;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	12-16 match suspension or refer to ITP



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2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	Refer to ITP
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<b>Intimidating or Threatening Behaviour</b>	
<b>Attempting to threaten or intimidate referee or people close to referee (family, friend, colleague) on the field and continuing off the field;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	24-36 match suspension or refer to ITP
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	Refer to ITP

<b>Physical Contact with Referee</b>	
<b>Deliberate with no Violent Conduct;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	2 match suspension or refer to ITP following immediate ejection
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	To be determined by District Discipline Committee – refer to ITP

<b>Physical Contact with Referee</b>	
<b>Deliberate Violent Conduct;</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	2–5-year suspension – refer to ITP following immediate ejection
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	Lifetime ban – refer to ITP

<b>Harassment or Bullying</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	Refer to ITP
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	24-36 match suspension

Suspensions for offences falling under multiple categories will be assigned at the discretion of the UISA Discipline Committee.

### CHAPTER 4. THE DISCIPLINE HEARING

- Once the referee’s report has been received and reviewed by the UISA discipline manager will either levy the automatic suspension(s), as per the BCSA discipline document and UISA Discipline Code, or if the UISA Board/ED/Discipline Committee determines the necessity, a virtual hearing date will be set up, depending on the seriousness of the infraction.
- Should a hearing be required the discipline committee will decide at that time what additional penalty, if any, will be imposed. The UISA Discipline Committee can issue additional suspensions within the guidelines established by the Canadian Soccer Association and the BCSA Discipline Sanction document.



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- An email with the date, time and link for the virtual hearing will be sent to the team official(s) following the reported red card/expulsion.
- Virtual discipline hearing meeting will be held on zoom unless otherwise informed.
- The participants do not have to have zoom loaded on their electronics, but they are encouraged to have a webcam. If 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 communications to a team official who has been reported and whose contact information is not on the League's site.

All disciplinary code items are subject to change.