



CANADIAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

October 1, 2014

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1. GENERAL

- 1.1** The Canadian Soccer Association (Canada Soccer) shall affiliate with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF), and/or any other sports organizations as the Canada Soccer Board of Directors may determine.
- 1.2** Canada Soccer shall organize soccer in Canada according to the Laws of the Game as decided by the 'International Football Association Board' subject to any change considered by the Canada Soccer Board of Directors to suit the conditions under which the game is played in Canada.
- 1.3** At all Annual Meetings, documents will be provided in both official languages. At Annual Meetings in Quebec, simultaneous translation shall be provided.
- 1.4** Whenever there is a conflict between Canada Soccer By-Laws and these Rules and Regulations, the By-Laws shall prevail.
- 1.5** Whenever there is a conflict between these Rules and Regulations and any other Canada Soccer documents or policies (with the exception of the Canada Soccer By-Laws), these Rules and Regulations shall prevail.

2. PROMOTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS

- 2.1** Canada Soccer shall promote friendly relations between its Members, clubs, officials and players, and in society, for humanitarian objectives.
- 2.2** Every person and organization involved in the game of soccer in Canada is obliged to observe the Canada Soccer by-laws, rules and regulations, and principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.
- 2.3** Canada Soccer shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between Members, clubs, officials and players of Canada Soccer.

3. NEUTRALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

- 3.1** Canada Soccer is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
- 3.2** Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.
- 3.3** Canada Soccer is open to all soccer organizations and all soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or national origin.

For the purposes of registration on gender-based amateur teams, a player may register with the gender team with which the player identifies, and confirmation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held, and

part of a person's core identity. Documentation satisfying the herein stated standard includes, but is not limited to, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider, counsellor, or other qualified professional not related to the player. This policy shall not apply to the Canada Soccer's National Teams programs, but application of this or a similar policy shall be re-evaluated at such time as FIFA addresses the issue. This policy shall not apply to Professional Leagues.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1** Canada Soccer will have categories of membership as defined in Canada Soccer's By-Laws.
- 4.2** Canada Soccer may, for good cause, refuse membership to any organization or individual.
- 4.3** In addition to the categories of Membership, Canada Soccer shall consider accepting as members those Canadian clubs participating in an international professional league. Clubs, accepted as members in this manner, shall be regarded as part of the Professional Club category of membership.
- 4.4** In addition to the requirements for each class of membership described in Canada Soccer's By-Laws, the following information will also apply:
- a) Association Members must:
 - i. Promote, develop, and govern the game of soccer for all ages and genders
 - ii. Administer discipline and appeals according to the standards of Canada Soccer
 - iii. Administer amateur player registration
 - iv. Approve and monitor all tournaments within their jurisdiction
 - v. Maintain accurate written and financial records and submit an annual audited financial statement to their members and to Canada Soccer
 - b) Life Members must:
 - i. Be nominated in writing by a member or by Canada Soccer Board of Directors at least forty-five days prior to an Annual Meeting
 - ii. After being nominated, require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting delegates present at an Annual Meeting of Canada Soccer
 - c) League Members must:
 - i. Provide competition for professional clubs and ensure the clubs comply with the standards established by Canada Soccer
 - ii. Administer discipline and appeals according to the standards of Canada Soccer
 - iii. Maintain accurate written and financial records and submit an annual audited financial statement to their members and to Canada Soccer
 - iv. Consist of teams based in a minimum of two Provincial/Territorial Associations or a minimum of one Provincial/Territorial Association and one U.S. State
 - d) All Members must:
 - i. Promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardize the integrity of matches, competitions, Players, Officials and Members or give rise to abuse of Association soccer.

- 4.5 Affiliated Clubs, Leagues and Associate Members shall be subordinate to and recognized by Canada Soccer. Their by-laws and regulations must be approved by the Board of Directors of Canada Soccer.
- 4.6 Affiliated Clubs, Leagues and Associate Members shall make all decisions on any matters regarding their Membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.
- 4.7 In any case, no natural person or legal entity (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club, League or Associate Member, whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized.

5. PLAYER STATUS

- 5.1 Under Canada Soccer regulations, players may be defined as either amateur or professional.
- 5.2 A professional player is a person who receives or has received payment for playing or who signs a professional registration form of the Canada Soccer.
- 5.3 An amateur player is any person other than a professional player. An amateur player may not receive and retain any remuneration for playing except expenses directly related to a game or games which have actually been incurred by the player.

In situations where an amateur player receives permitted consideration or remuneration as specified in these Rules, the player must produce a copy of the expense receipt whenever requested to do so by Canada Soccer.

- 5.4 Registration of Professional Player
 - a) A professional player who signs a contract with a Professional Club Member shall be registered on a Canada Soccer professional player registration form. A professional player is not a member of a club and may not play for a club until registration is confirmed by the General Secretary of Canada Soccer.
 - b) A professional player who signs a contract with a Provincial/Territorial Association Member shall be registered with Canada Soccer through the Provincial/Territorial Association.
- 5.5 Registration Timelines
 - a) Players signing contracts with Professional Clubs may only be registered with Canada Soccer during one of two registration periods each year as defined by the General Secretariat in compliance with FIFA regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. As an exception to this rule, a professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of the registration period may be registered outside the registration period.
- 5.6 Registration Procedure
 - a) A club may enter into a contract with a professional player for any length of time that is mutually agreeable between the player and the club.

- b) The contract must:
 - i. State clearly and accurately all terms of engagement
 - ii. Meet the minimum requirements of the FIFA Professional Football Contract Standards
 - iii. Adhere to Canadian Law
 - iv. Be executed by all parties and fully completed when the player signs the registration form
- c) A properly completed professional form and a photocopy of the executed players' contract showing the commencement date of the signing, expiration date, financial details, option periods, and full insurance coverage details relating to the player shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of Canada Soccer within five (5) days after being signed by the player.
- d) Should it be discovered that a professional player was contracted with conditions other than those disclosed and set forth in the contract, Canada Soccer will have full power to deal with the affected parties.
- e) If a contract contains conditions other than remuneration for playing soccer, Canada Soccer, if investigating the contract, will restrict decisions solely to the question of remuneration for playing soccer.
- f) Provisional contracts in writing may be made between clubs and players for not more than twenty-eight days if permitted by League rules and/or Collective Bargaining Agreements.
- g) Once filed, a contract can only be terminated in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the specific terms of the filed agreement.
- h) Registration under this rule is not effective until it is acknowledged by the General Secretary of Canada Soccer.
- i) The General Secretary of Canada Soccer shall notify the interested Provincial/Territorial Association or Professional League of the registration of each professional player within seven (7) days after filing of the properly completed form by forwarding a copy of the registration form.
- j) Canada Soccer's Board of Directors will establish a limit on the number of players, who are not Canadian citizens or landed immigrants, who apply for registration with Professional teams that play in Leagues sanctioned by Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer will work with other sanctioning bodies to ensure any required Canadian content is met.

5.7 Period of Registration

- a) A professional player under contract shall be registered for the period of the contract. Registration for contract option terms will also be required. Such option term registration shall be automatically cancelled if option is not exercised.

5.8 Transfer and Releases

- a) A player registered on a professional club form may be transferred to another club or may be released by his or her club.

- b) A properly completed transfer or release form under this rule shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of Canada Soccer within five (5) days after being signed by the club, and after proper approval by the club's professional league or Provincial/Territorial Association.
- c) A transfer or release under this rule is not effective until it is acknowledged by the General Secretary of Canada Soccer.

5.9 Registration Exclusivity and Player Loans

- a) A professional player may not play for any club other than the club for which he/she is registered unless:
 - i. The club has filed a completed notice of player loan to the other club with the General Secretary of Canada Soccer and this notice has been acknowledged by the General Secretary; or
 - ii. The player will be playing for the other club or team in a non-competitive game such as an exhibition, all-star or benefit game provided the club with which the player is registered is in agreement.

5.10 Notice of Player Loan Procedure

- a) A properly completed notice of player loan form shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of Canada Soccer within five (5) days after being signed by the club. The loan period may not be for a longer period than the expiration date of the players registration form in accordance with Section 5.7.
- b) The club that has accepted a player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer the player to a third club without the written authorization of the club that released the player on loan and the player concerned.
- c) A player loan may be cancelled at any time by the loaning club which shall forward a properly completed notice of loan cancellation form to the General Secretary of Canada Soccer.
- d) A player loan or loan cancellation is not effective under this rule until it is acknowledged by the General Secretary of Canada Soccer.
- e) The General Secretary of Canada Soccer shall notify the Secretary of each Provincial/Territorial Association or Professional League of each player loan or loan cancellation within seven (7) days after filing of the properly completed form by forwarding a copy of the form.

5.11 Amateur Reinstatement

- a) A professional player may be reinstated as an amateur player as provided by this rule.
- b) A professional player who is currently registered as a professional player with any club can apply to Canada Soccer to be reinstated as an amateur only with the permission of their club or Professional League with which that club is affiliated.
- c) An application for reinstatement as an amateur must be made on either the Canada Soccer reinstatement form or the applicable Provincial/Territorial Association reinstatement form and filed with the General Secretary of Canada Soccer.

- d) The General Secretary shall issue approval of the reinstatement to amateur status within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the request, appropriate fees, and compliance with these rules. However, the player's reinstatement to amateur status is not effective until the day after 30 days have elapsed from the day that player complete in his or her last match with his or her club as a professional player.
- e) A professional player who is not currently registered as a professional player with any professional division club or league, who has not been a party to a professional player contract with a professional division club or league for a period of one year or longer, and who has not applied for reinstatement as an amateur under Section 5.11 of this policy, shall be automatically reinstated to amateur status by the General Secretary unless the player affirmatively state to the General Secretary in writing that he or she does not wish to be reinstated to amateur status. Reinstatements under Section 5.11 shall take effect on the 366th day after the date the player was last a party to a professional player contract with a professional division, club or league.
- f) A Professional player reinstated as an amateur player after July 31 in any year is not eligible to play in any National Club Championship in that calendar year.
- g) A Professional player may not be reinstated as an amateur more than once in any one calendar year.

5.12 Professional Player Restrictions

- a) A player under Professional contract is not allowed to serve on the Canada Soccer's Board of Directors.
- b) Players who are registered in Canada shall not play for any team outside of the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer without an International Transfer Certificate and a release from their previous club.
- c) Players may be registered with a maximum of three (3) clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, providing the player has fully complied with his or her contractual obligations toward his or her previous clubs.

5.13 Registration of Amateur Players

- a) Restriction of Players
 - i. All players must be registered in order to compete.
 - ii. A player who wishes to participate as an amateur with a Professional Club Member must register directly with Canada Soccer.
 - iii. All other amateur players must register with Canada Soccer through their Provincial/Territorial Association.
 - iv. An amateur player may not be restricted as to the team he/she may play for due to his/her race, religion or national origin.
 - v. An amateur player may only be registered for one team at a time except as provided in the appropriate rules of Canada Soccer and/or the Provincial/Territorial Association. A player

may not register or play for more than one team in the same League, Cup, or youth age-group competition.

- vi. An amateur player may register with any team, provided the player complies with the rules and regulations of the Provincial/Territorial Association and any competition in which the team has entered.
- vii. A player is bound to the team for which he or she has signed, unless transferred or released as provided in these Rules, until the end his or her League's playing season.
- viii. Players shall not be permitted to sign with a team after the completion of the League's playing season for the purpose of participating in a National Competition, unless authorized to do so by the "Rules for National and Regional Competitions". The General Secretary may authorize special provisions for British Columbia.
- ix. An amateur player shall be insured against accidents which may occur during play. The insurance must be provided in a manner approved by the Provincial/Territorial Association.
- x. Provincial/Territorial Association shall have full powers in the matter or registration or release of all amateur players within their respective jurisdictions in the matter and under the conditions set forth in this rule.

5.14 Amateur Registration Timelines

- a) For all players registered with a Provincial/Territorial Association, the deadline for player registration shall be established by that Provincial/Territorial Association.
- b) Amateur players registering with a Provincial/Territorial Association must be registered at least one day prior to a game taking place, and all amateur players must be registered a minimum of seven days in advance before participating in any Cup Competition leading to a National Competition.
- c) The effective date of registration is the date when Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association Secretary officially authorizes the registration.
- d) For all amateur players registering with Professional Clubs in Membership of Canada Soccer, the deadline for player registration shall be established by their respective Professional Leagues.

5.15 Player Status Disputes

- a) Disputes between clubs regarding the rights to a Professional player, and/or disputes between a player and a club about free agent status, will be decided by Canada Soccer's Player Status Committee. Regulations published by FIFA, as well as the provisions of these Rules, shall guide the Committee's decisions. FIFA's regulations shall prevail if there is a discrepancy.

6. TRANSFERS

6.1 The status of players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by the General Secretary of Canada Soccer in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.

6.2 Amateur Players – In-Province Requests

- a) After registering with one club, a player may not play with another club (in the same Provincial/Territorial Association) in the same season unless the registered player requests a transfer to another club by giving notice in writing to his or her current club at least seven (7) days before transferring. The Club shall then submit the transfer request to the Secretary of the Provincial/Territorial Association for approval. The transfer will take immediate effect upon approval by the Provincial/Territorial Association.
- b) No team, club, league, District Association or Provincial/Territorial Association shall unreasonably refuse an In-Province transfer request.
- c) An amateur player registered with an amateur team who has been refused an In-Province transfer by that team shall be allowed to appeal, without paying a fee, to his or her club, League, District Association, Provincial/Territorial Association, or to Canada Soccer.
- d) An amateur player registered with a Professional team who has been refused an In-Province transfer by that team shall be allowed to appeal, without paying a fee, to his or her League or to Canada Soccer.
- e) Appeals must be resolved within 30 days of the date the appeal was received.

6.3 Amateur Players – Out-of-Province Requests

- a) After registering with one club, a player may not play with another club (in a different Provincial/Territorial Association) in the same season unless the registered player requests a transfer to another club by giving notice in writing to his or her club at least seven days before transferring. The Club shall then submit the transfer request to the Secretary of the Provincial/Territorial Association for approval. The transfer will take immediate effect upon approval by the Provincial/Territorial Association.
- b) The Provincial/Territorial Association approving the transfer may require proof of residency before approval.
- c) Provincial/Territorial Associations must consider the following factors when approving a transfer:
 - i. The reason for the transfer request
 - ii. The designation of the player as being a member of the national youth development program
 - iii. The player's access to a higher level of competition with the club to which he or she is seeking to transfer
- d) No team, club, League, District Association or Provincial/Territorial Association shall unreasonably refuse an Out-of-Province transfer request.
- e) When a transfer request is approved by the Provincial/Territorial Association, an Inter-Provincial Transfer Certificate will be issued to the new Provincial/Territorial Association.
- f) A player obtaining an approved transfer may re-register with the new club in the following seasons regardless of residency requirements.

- g) An amateur player registered with an amateur team who has been refused an Out-of-Province transfer by that team shall be allowed to appeal, without paying a fee, to his or her club, League, District Association, Provincial/Territorial Association, or to Canada Soccer.
- h) An amateur player registered with a Professional team who has been refused an Out-of-Province transfer by that team shall be allowed to appeal, without paying a fee, to his or her league or to Canada Soccer.
- i) Appeals must be resolved within 30 days of the date the appeal was received.

6.4 Amateur Players – Transfer Limits

- a) A player is only permitted two In-Province transfers during a single playing season within the jurisdiction of a District Association. Once transferred, a player cannot be transferred back to the team with which he or she was originally registered until 30 days have passed.
- b) A player is only permitted one In-Province transfer within the jurisdiction of the Provincial/Territorial Association. If, however, there are no District Associations in a Province/Territory, players in that Province/Territory shall be entitled to three In-Province transfers within the jurisdiction of such Provincial/Territorial Association. Once transferred, a player cannot be transferred back to the team with which he or she was originally registered until 30 days have passed.
- c) A player is only permitted one Out-of-Province transfer within the jurisdiction of the Canadian Soccer Association, except if a player transfers back to the team with which he or she was originally registered.

6.5 Amateur Players – Transfer - General

- a) For a player who comes to Canada on or after the player is 12 years of age, the player must request and receive an international clearance from Canada Soccer.
- b) Players who are registered in Canada shall not play for any team outside of the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer without an International Transfer Certificate and a release from Canada Soccer.
- c) If a club declares a registered player surplus to their requirements, the player may be granted a release from that club by filing a form to be supplied by the Provincial/Territorial Association and may request either an In-Province or Out-of-Province transfer.
- d) Notice of all approved transfers shall be immediately sent to the Club and District Association Secretaries. Except for National Championship competitions and any other Cup Competition in which the player has competed, the transferred player shall be eligible, after a time limit established by the Provincial/Territorial Association (of no more than seven days and no less than one day), to play in all games for the new team.
- e) All transfers are subject to an administration fee set by the Secretary of the Provincial/Territorial Association granting the transfer and must be paid before the transfer is completed.
- f) Any player registered for a team which has, with the consent of the District or Provincial/Territorial Association, ceased to operate or been declared defunct, may be

transferred to any other team by making an application to the Provincial/Territorial Association. The Provincial/Territorial Association may waive all or any part of the administration fee.

- g) It is an offence for any club to induce or attempt to induce a registered player to leave his or her team before the end of the current season. The offence shall be dealt with by the Provincial/Territorial Association or League (if the club and the player are under the same jurisdiction) or by Canada Soccer (in all other cases).
- h) A player playing under a trial game permit shall not be allowed to transfer to a third team during the period of such permit.
- i) Subject to the rules and regulations of the Provincial/Territorial Association concerned, an amateur player may be transferred to a Professional club upon payment of a fee to the Provincial/Territorial Association with which the player is registered.
- j) Provincial/Territorial Associations shall distribute training compensation payments to the amateur club(s) involved in the development of the player in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on Status of Transfer of Players.

7. TRIAL GAMES WITH PROFESSIONAL CLUBS IN MEMBERSHIP

7.1 Amateur to Professional

- a) Amateur Players are allowed to play a maximum of two sets of three trial games per calendar year with any Professional Club team in membership with Canada Soccer, provided a permit-to-play form (available from Provincial/Territorial Associations) has been submitted and approved.

8. TRIAL PERMITS FOR CLUBS IN MEMBERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL ASSOCIATIONS

8.1 Amateur - General

- a) An amateur player may apply for a three-game trial permit to the appropriate Provincial/Territorial Association.
- b) A trial permit is valid for a maximum of thirty days and only in the Province/Territory in which the permit is issued.
- c) Amateur players are limited to two trial permits per season, but not with the same team. The first trial permit must expire between the completion of the trial with the first team and the start of the trial period with a second team.
- d) After a trial period, an amateur player who registers as a Professional shall not receive a trial permit or a transfer to play for an amateur team during the same current year, except when permitted by the Professional Players Restrictions section of these Rules.
- e) When an amateur player playing with a trial permit plays in a game, the Professional team must list the number of the permit on League team sheets.

- f) The amateur team may retain priority rights to the services of a player who is under permit.
- g) Appropriate penalties will be imposed on both the team and the amateur player if any section of these Rules is violated.
- h) An amateur player who has signed a trial permit is not allowed to play for a Professional team until the permit has been filed with the Provincial/Territorial Association and the player has paid the trial permit fee. The Secretary of the Provincial/Territorial Association will notify the Secretary of the Professional League when the permit has been filed and the fee has been paid.

8.2 Reserve Teams

- a) A Reserve team defined as either:
 - i. Any team of the same club, operating under a common executive, that plays in a lower level competition or age category than the team for which it is the Reserve team
 - ii. An amateur or professional team of a lower category/division which has entered into a signed agreement to that effect with a Professional team of a higher category/division. Such agreement must receive the written approval of the Province/Territory and Canada Soccer.
- b) In competitions sanctioned by Canada Soccer and/or by a Provincial/Territorial Association, no more than three professional players may participate in any one of the Reserve team's games.
- c) No Professional player may play in a Reserve team's game leading to a Canada Soccer amateur national championship.
- d) Additional restrictions may be imposed by a Professional League and, in the case where a team is registered as an amateur team, the respective Provincial/Territorial Association.

9. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- 9.1** A Professional team operating under the jurisdiction of a League sanctioned outside of Canada is permitted to operate within the player registration limits of that League and is exempt from this section of these Rules.
- 9.2** For Professional teams operating under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer, based upon the number of teams within a club's structure, each team may only have 30 players per age group.

10. CLUBS

- 10.1** A club is an organization operating one or more teams under a common executive.
- 10.2** Professional
 - a) Should a Professional Club in Membership of Canada Soccer and within the area of two or more Provincial/Territorial Associations desire to form an inter-provincial professional league, it must submit an application to Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer shall approve or reject the application

and advise both the club and the Provincial/Territorial Association of its decision. The league, if sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer.

- i. A Professional Club in Membership of Canada Soccer wishing to affiliate with a domestic professional league must apply to Canada Soccer no later than 120 days prior to the start of the league schedule:
 1. The club submits an application to Canada Soccer;
 2. Within 30 days, Canada Soccer will approve or reject the application and advise the club of its decision. Approvals may not be unreasonably withheld
- b) Should an amateur club under Provincial/Territorial jurisdiction and within the area of two or more Provincial/Territorial Associations desire to form an inter-provincial professional league, it must submit an application to their Provincial/Territorial Association, which in turn, shall forward the application, together with their recommendations, to Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer shall approve or reject the application and advise both the club and the Provincial/Territorial Association of its decision. The league, if sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer.
 - i. An amateur club under the jurisdiction of a Provincial/Territorial association wishing to affiliate with a domestic professional league must apply to the provincial/Association under whose jurisdiction it operates no later than 120 days prior to the start of the league schedule;
 - i. The club submits an application to the Provincial/Territorial Association;
 - ii. Within 30 days, the Provincial/Territorial Association will forward its own recommendation to Canada Soccer;
 - iii. Within 30 days, Canada Soccer will approve or reject the application and advise both the club and the Provincial/Territorial Association of its decision. Approvals may not be unreasonably withheld.

10.3 Amateur

- a) Amateur clubs, all of which are in the area of one District Association, that form a League must make an application for sanction to the District Association. The League, if sanctioned, will then be under the jurisdiction of that District Association.
- b) Amateur clubs forming a league consisting of teams within the area of two or more District Associations shall make application for sanction to each of the District Associations. If the application is granted by the District Associations, it shall be forwarded to the Provincial/Territorial Association for approval. The league, if sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Provincial/Territorial Association. However, the Provincial/Territorial Association may place the league under the jurisdiction of the District Association within the area of which the majority of the teams play their home games.
- c) Should there be any difference of opinion among the District Associations having the right to sanction and to jurisdiction, a District Association may appeal to the Provincial/Territorial Association.
- d) Should an amateur club within the area of two or more Provincial/Territorial Associations desire to form an inter-provincial amateur league, it must obtain the consent of the District Associations to which it belongs (if applicable) and apply to the applicable Provincial/Territorial Associations. If

the application is granted by the Provincial/Territorial Associations, it shall be forwarded to Canada Soccer for approval. The league, if sanctioned, shall be under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer.

- e) Should an amateur club desire to enter a team in a United States-based league, the club shall obtain the consent of the District Association to which the club belongs and the consent of the Provincial/Territorial Association to which the District Association belongs. If the application is approved by the Provincial/Territorial Association, it shall be forwarded to Canada Soccer for approval.
- f) Provincial/Territorial Associations shall define the District Associations under their jurisdiction. All clubs in that district must be members of the District Association

10.4 Club Licensing

- a) Canada Soccer shall operate a Club Licensing System in accordance with the principles of the Club licensing regulations of CONCACAF and FIFA.
- b) The objective of the Club Licensing System is to safeguard the credibility and integrity of Club competitions, to improve the level of professionalism of Canada Soccer, to promote sporting values in accordance with the principles of fair play as well as safe and secure match environments, and to promote transparency in the finances, ownership and control of Clubs.
- b) The Board of Directors of Canada Soccer shall issue club licensing regulations governing the Club licensing system. The club licensing regulations shall stipulate to which clubs the system applies. As a minimum, the Club Licensing System must be implemented in respect of top-division clubs which qualify for CONCACAF club competitions on sporting merit.

11. TEAMS

11.1 Designation

- a) Teams are formed by clubs and may be designated as either Professional or Amateur.
- b) Professional teams formed by Professional Clubs in Membership of Canada Soccer:
 - i. Composed of registered Professional players as determined by the Professional Soccer Standards of Canada Soccer.
 - ii. May participate in only one approved League at a time.
- c) Professional teams formed by Provincial/Territorial Associations:
 - i. Composed of registered Professional players as determined by the Provincial/Territorial Professional Soccer Standards as approved by Canada Soccer.
 - ii. May participate in only one approved League at a time.
- d) Amateur teams:
 - i. May, with the permission of their Provincial/Territorial Association and approval of Canada Soccer, play in a Professional league.
 - ii. Shall abide by Canada Soccer, Provincial/Territorial Association and/or League rules.

11.2 Age Divisions

- a) A player may be registered to play in any Age Division, provided the player has not reached the stipulated birthday before January 1st of the calendar year of registration (the next calendar year for the coastal regions of British Columbia).

As of December 31	Player is:	Age Division
	35 years	Masters/Classics
	18 years	Seniors
	17 years	Under 18
	16 years of age	Under 17
	15 years of age	Under 16
	14 years of age	Under 15
	13 years of age	Under 14
	12 years of age	Under 13
	11 years of age	Under 12
	10 years of age	Under 11
	9 years of age	Under 10
	8 years of age	Under 9
	7 years of age	Under 8
	6 years of age	Under 7
	5 years of age	Under 6
	4 years of age	Under 5
	3 years of age	Under 4

- b) Mini Soccer is a developmental game played by youth athletes aged 4 to 10 on a small field, with small goals and with a sized #3 or #4 soccer ball. The number of players and other rules for Mini Soccer shall be defined by Provincial/Territorial Associations, which may also extend the game to higher age youth divisions.
- c) No Provincial/Territorial Association or League is permitted to require a team to play in any age division.

12. LEAGUES

- 12.1** A League, composed of a minimum of four (4) teams, is an organization operating under an executive to provide competition for teams.
- 12.2** No league shall govern an area, but it shall control, for League operation purposes, its member teams.
- 12.3** There may be two categories of Leagues with the following descriptions:
- a) Professional League – a league that meets the requirements of the Professional Soccer Standards of Canada Soccer
 - b) Amateur Leagues
- 12.4** Provincial/Territorial Associations may amend the financial limitations of the Professional Soccer Standards of Canada Soccer in order to sanction Professional League comprising solely of teams from

within its area of jurisdiction. Amendments must be forwarded to Canada Soccer for confirmation before sanction approval can be granted.

- 12.5** Leagues shall not allow matches to be played until their teams and rules are approved by Canada Soccer or from the Provincial/Territorial Association or District Association, as appropriate, from which sanction to operate the League was received.
- 12.6** Every League under the jurisdiction of a Provincial/Territorial Association shall submit its schedule of matches to the Provincial/Territorial Association or District Association, as appropriate, for approval. The Provincial/Territorial Association or District Association, as appropriate, may limit or restrict the schedule at any time during the season if the availability of grounds, playing dates, weather conditions or other factors so require.
- 12.7** A League may not play matches other than scheduled matches without the prior consent from Canada Soccer or from the Provincial/Territorial Association or District Association, as appropriate, from which sanction to operate the League was received.
- 12.8** Competitions may not be conducted by any club or league without the permission of the District Association, Provincial/Territorial Association, or Canada Soccer, as applicable.
- 12.9** Applications from any team under the jurisdiction of another FIFA Member Association to participate in a league must first be submitted by the league via the Provincial/Territorial Association to Canada Soccer's Board of Directors for approval. Any team making such application must have the approval of its respective FIFA Member Association.
- 12.10** Professional teams forming a League under the sanction and jurisdiction of Canada Soccer are required to pay an annual affiliation fee.

13. JUDICIAL BODIES

- 13.1** The Judicial Bodies of Canada Soccer are:
 - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
 - b) the Appeal Committee;
 - c) the Players' Status Committee.
- 13.2** The responsibilities and functions of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of Canada Soccer, which shall comply with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 13.3** The members of the Judicial Bodies shall not belong to any other Body of Canada Soccer at the same time.
- 13.4** Disciplinary Committee
 - a) The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a Chair (who shall have legal qualifications), Deputy Chair, and a number of members deemed necessary by the Chair;
 - b) The function of this body shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of Canada Soccer. The Committee shall render decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of Canada Soccer, the Chair may rule alone;

- c) In accordance with FIFA, the Committee may enact the sanctions described in these by-laws and the Disciplinary Code of Canada Soccer against Members, officials, players, clubs and match and players' agents;
- d) These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of general meetings and the Board of Directors with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.

13.5 Appeals Committee

- a) The Appeal Committee shall consist of a Chair (who shall have legal qualifications), Deputy Chair and a number of members deemed necessary by the Chair.
- b) The function of this Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of Canada Soccer. The Committee shall render decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of Canada Soccer, the Chair may rule alone.

13.6 Court of Arbitration for Sport

- a) Canada Soccer affirms, in accordance with Articles 59 and 60 of the FIFA Statutes, that any appeal against a final and binding FIFA decision shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, with the exception of appeals on violations of the Laws of the Game, suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months, or decisions passed by an independent and duly constituted Arbitration Tribunal of an Association or Confederation.
- b) Canada Soccer shall ensure its full compliance and that of its Members, players, officials and match and players' agents with any final decision passed by a FIFA body or Canada Soccer.

14. DISCIPLINE

14.1 Jurisdiction

- a) Any person or organization reported for misconduct, and all cases of misconduct involving alleged physical assault, attempted physical assault, or threatening behaviour shall be dealt with by a Discipline Hearing Committee of the Provincial/Territorial Association or League, as applicable, except as otherwise stipulated herein.
- b) Provincial/Territorial Associations or any affiliated District Association shall have the power to deal with violations of the Laws of the Game, the rules, regulations, and policies of Canada Soccer, or misconduct by any of their clubs or Associations, or by any of their players, officials, or members. In all cases, the appellant and respondent shall have the right to appear and make statements at a hearing.
- c) Provincial/Territorial Associations and Leagues shall ensure that their disciplinary rules, regulations, and procedures are consistent with those of Canada Soccer and any discipline hearing shall be conducted in accordance with these rules and regulations.
- d) Canada Soccer shall have direct jurisdiction only in the following matters:
 - i. Complaints or enquiries referred to it by another National Association;

- ii. Misconduct by any person arising from participation in Canada Soccer's National Teams Program;
 - iii. Misconduct at Canada Soccer's National or Regional Competitions;
 - iv. Misconduct by a Provincial/Territorial Association or League, or any of their officers and officials;
 - v. Misconduct arising from any international event (in or outside of Canada) where participation is given prior approval by Canada Soccer;
 - vi. Any other matter directly related to Canada Soccer which Canada Soccer, in its sole discretion, chooses to handle.
- e) All alleged offenses, other than those involving physical contact with game officials or attempted physical contact with game officials, shall be dealt with by the District Association or League in whose jurisdiction the alleged offence took place.
 - f) All hearings involving physical contact with game officials or attempted physical contact with game officials shall be dealt with by Provincial/Territorial Association, or, in the case of Professional Leagues, by Canada Soccer.
 - g) Canada Soccer, in its sole discretion, may delegate its jurisdiction to a Provincial/Territorial Association or League.

14.2 General Conduct

- a) Players, officials, and spectators may only take part in or attend games on condition that they observe the rules, regulations, and policies of Canada Soccer.
- b) Every club is responsible for the actions of its players, officials and spectators.
- c) Every club and League is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its players, officials, and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone at games, especially the referee and assistant referees. Clubs and Leagues are expected to provide security for players and officials.
- d) Every club and League is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent match manipulations.

14.3 FIFA Amendment on Non-Discrimination

- a. Anyone who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a defamatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or perpetrates any other discriminatory and/or contemptuous act, will be subject to match suspension for at least five matches at every level. Furthermore, a stadium ban and a fine will be imposed on the perpetrator. If the perpetrator is an official, a fine will be imposed. If spectators display banners bearing discriminatory slogans, or are guilty of any other discriminatory and/or contemptuous behaviour at a match, the appropriate body will impose a sanction on Canada Soccer or club that the spectators concerned support and force it to play its next official match without spectators. If the spectators cannot be identified as supporters of one or the other Association or club, the host Association or club will be sanctioned accordingly. Any spectator who is guilty of any of the offences specified under this rule will be banned from entering any stadium for at least two years. If any player, Association or club official or spectator perpetrated

any kind of discriminatory or contemptuous act as described by this rule, three points will automatically be deducted from the team concerned, if identifiable, after the first offence. In the case of a second offence, six points will automatically be deducted, and for a further offence, the team will be relegated. In the case of matches without points, the team concerned, if identifiable, will be disqualified. The Confederations and Associations are required to incorporate the provisions of this rule in their statutes and to enforce the sanctions stipulated. If any Association infringes this rule, it will be excluded from international soccer for two years.

14.4 Misconduct

- a) In addition to matters referred to in any of the Canada Soccer's policies, rules, or regulations, it shall be deemed misconduct if any person or organization has, in the judgment of a Discipline Hearing Committee, following a hearing of that Committee, committed any of the following offenses:
 - i. Violated the Laws of the Game, or the rules and regulations of Canada Soccer or a Provincial/Territorial Association or League;
 - ii. Bet on any game other than registered lotteries or pools;
 - iii. Offered or accepted, with a view to influencing the result of a game, consideration to or from any Association, Club, League, player, team official, or game official;
 - iv. Criminal misconduct or human rights abuse;
 - v. Any act or statement, verbally or in writing, which is considered to be ungentlemanly, insulting, or improper behaviour or is likely to bring the game into disrepute.

14.5 Timelines and Notices

- a) Any individual or organization accused of misconduct shall be given at least ten (10) business days notice of any scheduled hearing into the allegation and shall be given at least ten (10) business days notice if their presence at a hearing is requested by a Discipline Hearing Committee. In the event of alleged individual misconduct, a copy of this notice will also be sent to the individual's organization.
- b) Provincial/Territorial Associations or Leagues, or their Members, may publish in advance the dates of regularly scheduled hearings.
- c) Requests for any postponement of a hearing must be received at least five (5) business days prior to the date of the hearing, accompanied by the approved fee in the form of a certified cheque or money order, which shall be refunded if the request is denied.
- d) In cases where an accused is suspended pending a hearing, or for any adjourned hearing, the date for the hearing shall be set within fifteen (15) business days of the receipt of the misconduct report, for a date to be set/scheduled no later than twenty-five (25) business days from the date of receipt of the misconduct report (or previous hearing).
- e) The decision of the hearing will be sent to the accused no later than fifteen (15) working days after date of the hearing.
- f) By mutual consent, in writing, the accused and the Discipline Hearing Committee may modify the timelines in this section.

- g) Failure to observe timelines established in this section will invalidate the decision of the hearing. The decision may then be appealed.

14.6 Hearings

- a) Each discipline hearing will be conducted in accordance with the following:
 - i. A Discipline Hearing Committee shall have no fewer than three members, one of whom shall act as Chair;
 - ii. One of Committee members will act as Recording Secretary; or a non-voting Recording Secretary (not a member of the Committee) shall be appointed to attend the hearing;
 - iii. An accused may be accompanied by legal counsel, only with the permission of the organization with jurisdiction over the discipline, or representative;
 - iv. The accused, or his/her accredited representative, must be present or the hearing cannot proceed;
 - v. Failure to appear at a discipline hearing when due written notice has been given will result in suspension of the accused until he or she requests, in writing, and attends another hearing;
 - vi. A request for a new hearing must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of \$1000.00;
 - vii. Postponement of the hearing may be granted by the Committee in advance of the hearing.
- b) With all required individuals present, the hearing shall proceed as follows:
 - i. The Chair shall read the misconduct report and state the charge;
 - ii. The author of the report (if present) will be given an opportunity to amplify or qualify the report;
 - iii. The accused shall be allowed to ask relevant questions of the author of the report (if present) or to make submissions or statements on his or her own behalf;
 - iv. The accused and the author of the report (if present) may call witnesses to the incident;
 - v. Discipline Hearing Committee members may question the author of the report (if present) and/or the accused and/or any witness;
 - vi. The author of the report (if present) and the accused will be allowed to make final summations before withdrawing;
 - vii. The Discipline Hearing Committee shall consider the report and any further evidence and, within the applicable timelines, decide on the case;
 - viii. The accused will be notified in writing of the result of the hearing within the applicable timelines.
- c) The presence of the game officials is not required at any hearing unless the accused requires their presence, and only then on condition that the accused pay in advance for such attendance and related expenses of the officials. In the absence of the game officials, the game officials' report (in the form of a game sheet or other document), shall be regarded as a written submission and entered in as evidence at the hearing.
- d) Any misconduct report from another National Association shall be regarded as a written submission at the hearing.

14.7 Sanctions

- a) The Discipline Hearing Committee shall have the power to order the accused any of the following sanctions, in any combination:

- i. to be suspended from any or all specific soccer activity either permanently, indefinitely, or for a stated period of time;
 - ii. to be suspended for a specific number of scheduled games in a designated competition;
 - iii. to be fined;
 - iv. to receive a written notice of admonishment;
 - v. to prepare and deliver a letter of apology;
 - vi. to pay all expenses of the Discipline Hearing Committee.
- b) The Discipline Hearing Committee will set timelines for the payment of any costs or fines, and may set further terms of punishment for non-compliance.
 - c) In all cases of alleged physical assault, attempted physical assault, or threatening behaviour toward a game official, the accused shall be suspended from all soccer activities from the date of the alleged incident until a hearing has been held and the case has been decided.
 - d) In all cases where a person has been charged with a Criminal Code of Canada offence(s) involving youths, the accused shall be suspended from all soccer activities until the case has been concluded in the Criminal Court, and if necessary, a hearing has been held and the case has been decided.
 - e) Suspensions shall be served for a continuous period, or for consecutive games, except when there is a break in the competition, in which case the suspension may be continued accordingly.
 - f) All suspensions shall be from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer.
 - g) Provincial/Territorial Associations and Leagues, and their Members, shall use Canada Soccer's Sanction Guidelines when determining sanctions.

14.8 Membership Consequences

- a) When a Provincial/Territorial Association, District Association, League, club, player, official or member is sanctioned, Canada Soccer Board of Directors has power to suspend the offending Association, League, club, player, official or member from membership or connection with Canada Soccer.
- b) No suspended player or member of any such Association, League, or Club so suspended or removed from Canada Soccer shall be eligible for membership of any other Association (Provincial/Territorial or District), League, or club belonging to or under the jurisdiction within Canada Soccer.

14.9 Sanction Guidelines

- a) There are two main types of in-game conduct that create the need for supplementary discipline:
 - i. Yellow cards (cautions without expulsion) for conduct such as:
 - 1. Unsporting behavior;
 - 2. Dissent by word or action;
 - 3. Persistent infringement of the laws of the game;
 - 4. Delaying the restart of play;

5. Failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick, or throw in entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission;
 6. Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.
- ii. Red cards (expulsions for actions against other players, team officials, or game officials) for conduct such as:
 1. Serious foul play;
 2. Violent conduct;
 3. Spitting at an opponent or any other person;
 4. Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within own penalty area);
 5. Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or penalty kick;
 6. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
 7. Receiving a second caution in the same match.
- b) Additional misconduct creating the need for supplementary discipline as outlined in the FIFA Disciplinary Code includes:
- i. Misconduct against opponents or persons other than the match;
 - ii. Misconduct against match officials;
 - iii. Brawl;
 - iv. Unidentified aggressors;
 - v. Team misconduct;
 - vi. Inciting hatred and violence;
 - vii. Provoking the general public;
 - viii. Ineligibility;
 - ix. Unplayed match and abandonment;
 - x. Offensive behavior and fair play;
 - xi. Discrimination;
 - xii. Threats;
 - xiii. Coercion;
 - xiv. Forgery and falsification;
 - xv. Corruption;
 - xvi. Doping;
 - xvii. Failure to respect decisions.
- c) The severity of the penalty imposed upon the individual shall be determined by the decision-making body having jurisdiction with consideration to and application of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, and as follows:
- d) The following disciplinary sanctions are recommended for the following specific acts of misconduct:
- i. A player receiving three (3) cautions during the current season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Hearing Committee, and if found guilty of the offences for which the cautions were given, shall be suspended for one match.
 - ii. A player who receives another two (2) cautions (5 in total) during the same season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Hearing Committee, and if found guilty of the offences for which those cautions were issued, shall be suspended for one match.

- iii. A player who receives a further single caution (6 in total) during the same season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Hearing Committee, and if found guilty of the offence for which the caution was issued, shall be suspended for two matches.
 - iv. A player who receives a further single caution (7 in total) during the same season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Hearing Committee, and if found guilty of the offence for which the caution was issued, shall be suspended for five matches.
 - v. It is strongly recommended that anyone receiving three red cards (expulsion) by match officials in one calendar year be suspended for a minimum of one calendar year.
 - vi. For persistent misconduct, or foul or abusive language toward other players or team officials, based on officials' reports or yellow/red cards:
 - 1. First Offence – two games suspension;
 - 2. Second Offence - five games suspension.
 - vii. For violent conduct or serious foul play:
 - 1. First Offence - five games suspension;
 - 2. Second Offence - ten games suspension.
 - viii. For persistent criticism or disputing of game officials' decisions
 - 1. First Offence - two suspension;
 - 2. Second Offence - five games suspension;
 - 3. Third Offence - fifteen games suspension.
 - ix. For use of foul, abusive or insulting remarks toward game officials:
 - 1. First Offence - five games suspension;
 - 2. Second Offence - ten games suspension;
 - 3. Third Offence - one year suspension.
 - x. Deliberate physical contact (i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, etc.), attempted physical contact, or threatening gestures toward game officials:
 - 1. First Offence - one year suspension;
 - 2. Second Offence - five years suspension.
 - xi. Striking, spitting, kicking, or any form of violent conduct, or attempted violent conduct toward game officials:
 - 1. First Offence - five years suspension;
 - 2. Second Offence - ten years suspension.
- e) The game officials are defined as the referee and assistant referees of a sanctioned game that is about to begin, is in progress, or has just concluded. The actions or misconduct of the offending party may have taken place before, during, or shortly after the game.
- f) Offences against game officials that occur away from the stadium or the field of play (e.g., parking lot, bathroom, dressing rooms, etc.) are still considered to be misconduct by the offending party.
- g) A Discipline Hearing Committee may, at its discretion, take action against any Club whose players, officials or spectators have been found guilty of misconduct and/or violence toward anyone present at a game and especially towards game officials. Clubs may also be fined for offences committed by their supporters.

14.10 Any suspension that is one year or longer must be reported to Canada Soccer for membership notification.

15. APPEALS

15.1 Jurisdiction

- a. The following decisions may be appealed to Canada Soccer:
 - i. Decisions by a Provincial/Territorial Association or League that involve an interpretation or a breach of Canada Soccer policies or regulations, or the policies or regulations of the Provincial/Territorial Association or League;
 - ii. Decisions of the Player Status Committee that involve an interpretation or a breach of Canada soccer policies or regulations, or FIFA policies or regulations;
 - iii. Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee that involves only an interpretation or a breach of Canada Soccer policies or regulations, or the policies or regulations of the Provincial/Territorial Association or League;
 - iv. Decisions taken by Canada Soccer under the provision of its Harassment Policy that involve only an interpretation or a breach of that policy.
- a) Provincial/Territorial Associations and Leagues shall include, with all decisions, a notice that indicates the following information:
 - i. Association rules regarding appeals;
 - ii. Association address where the appeal is to be lodged;
 - iii. Method of payment and amount of fee;
 - iv. Statement of fact document.
 - v. Decisions which may be appealed to Canada Soccer.
- b) To submit an appeal, an appellant must:
 - i. Apply in writing to Canada Soccer within ten business days after receipt of the decision being appealed. The application must contain:
 1. Decision being appealed;
 2. Reason for Appeal;
 3. Notice to Other Party(ies);
 4. Statement of facts;
 5. Rule or regulation that has been contravened;
 6. Remedy sought;
 7. Three hard copies of the submission;
 - ii. Send the application and the required appeal fee of \$1000.00 to Canada Soccer.
- c) Upon submitting an appeal to Canada Soccer, a decision shall be suspended until the appeal hearing unless the Canada Soccer Appeals Committee so orders. An appeal shall not defer the decision, except in the event of any financial sanction, fine or penalty that is being contested.
- d) Canada Soccer will appoint a staff representative to serve as Appeals' Secretary to manage appeals.
- e) When a Provincial/Territorial Association or League decision is appealed, the Appeals' Secretary will request a reply to the appeal from the Provincial/Territorial Association or League which must be submitted to both the Appeals' secretary and appellant within fifteen business days of the request.

- f) The Chair of the Appeals Committee will decide to grant or deny the appeal. Appeals will not be unreasonably denied. The decision to deny or grant the appeal may not be appealed. When an appeal is granted, an Appeals Committee will be appointed and a hearing will be held.

15.2 Hearings

- a) Appeal Hearings will take the following form:
 - i. The Appeals Committee will consist of at least three members, one of whom shall be the Chair, and a Court Reporter.
 - ii. Any individual who has participated in the original decision, or is connected to the appellant or a responding organization, shall not be a part of the Appeals Committee;
- b) Parties shall be given a minimum fifteen days written notice of the Appeal Hearing but the Appeals Committee may, in appeals that require urgency, waive or shorten this time period, at its own discretion.
- c) The Appeals Committee will determine the format of the hearing, including the written statements submitted by the parties and any oral arguments.
- d) The Appeals Committee may, at its sole discretion and without holding a Hearing, decide an appeal if, on the basis of the written documentation submitted to it, it is evident that the by-laws and/or regulations have been breached or not.

15.3 Decision

- a) The Appeals Committee shall render a decision within twenty working days of the Appeal Hearing to the parties.
- b) In deciding the appeal, the Appeals Committee may reaffirm, revoke, or amend a decision against which an appeal has been lodged. The Appeals Committee is not bound by the remedies requested. A decision may be amended to the disadvantage of the party lodging the appeal.
- c) The Appeals Committee shall give written reasons for its decision to all parties to the appeal.
- d) The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding without any further appeal by the parties.

15.4 Appeal Restrictions

- a) A party is only entitled once to appeal any decision.
- b) Appeals will not be heard for decisions rendered by Canada Soccer's Competitions Committee in cases that deal with national competitions, where decisions are final and binding, as outlined in the Rules for National Championships.
- c) Appeals will not be heard for any matter arising out of a competition under the jurisdiction of a Provincial/Territorial Association or League whose rules provide that decisions in such matters are final and binding.

16. RIGHTS

- 16.1** Canada Soccer and its Members are the original owners of all of the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audio-visual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.
- 16.2** The Board of Directors shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilized and draw up special regulations to this end. The Board of Directors shall alone decide whether these rights shall be utilized exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

17. DISTRIBUTION OF IMAGE AND SOUND

- 17.1** Canada Soccer and its Members are exclusively responsible for authorizing the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of Association soccer matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.

18. NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- 18.1** Canada Soccer organizes and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:
- i. All Stars Championship
 - ii. National Clubs Championship
 - iii. Canadian Championships
- 18.2** The Board of Directors may delegate to Canada Soccer's subordinate Leagues the authority to organize competitions. The competitions organized by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organized by Canada Soccer. Competitions organized by Canada Soccer shall take priority.
- 18.3** The Board of Directors may issue special regulations to this end.

19. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

- 19.1** Authority
- a) The authority for organizing international matches and competitions between Association teams and between Leagues and/or Club teams lies solely with FIFA. No match or competition shall take place in Canada without the prior permission of Canada Soccer, CONCACAF, and FIFA.
 - b) Canada Soccer shall not organize matches or make sporting contacts with Associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA.
 - c) Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated with Canada Soccer cannot belong to another Association or participate in competitions on the territory of another Association

without the authorization of Canada Soccer, the other FIFA Member Association, the relevant Confederations, and FIFA, except in exceptional circumstances.

19.2 Canada Soccer is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

19.3 Exhibition Games outside of Canada – Amateur Clubs

- a) Provincial/Territorial Associations, District Associations, Leagues and Clubs wishing to participate in exhibition games outside of Canada must obtain permission in writing from Canada Soccer's General Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of the proposed matches.

19.4 Exhibition Games in Canada – Amateur Clubs

- a) Provincial/Territorial Associations, District Associations, Leagues and Clubs wishing to arrange exhibition games in Canada between their amateur team(s) and amateur teams from another National Association shall request permission in writing from Canada Soccer's General Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of the proposed game. Canada Soccer shall have full power and authority to sanction or veto any such games.
- b) District Associations, Leagues and Clubs must obtain permission from their respective Provincial/Territorial Association before seeking permission for exhibition games sanction from Canada Soccer.
- c) Games involving two foreign amateur teams will be permitted only under both of the following conditions:
 - i. The game is sanctioned by Canada Soccer, a Provincial/Territorial Association, or League
 - ii. The game is an integral part of a tournament in which there is at least one Canadian team for every three foreign teams
- d) In special circumstances, to commemorate an important event, Canada Soccer Board of Directors, at its discretion, may vary the usual ratio of foreign and Canadian teams and any other conditions in this section of these Rules.
- e) Permission granted by Canada Soccer to stage games involving amateur teams from other National Associations shall be subject to such teams having permission from their own National Associations to participate and the authorization from the respective Confederations and FIFA.
- f) Canada Soccer may grant permission to stage exhibition games on such terms and conditions as it may in its discretion deem appropriate.
- g) In granting or withholding authorization for an amateur exhibition game or exhibition tournament, Canada Soccer expressly declares that it accepts no liability for any financial or other commitments made by the organizer to foreign teams and to any other parties.
- h) Any matter not specifically covered by this section shall be at the discretion of the General Secretary.

19.5 International Friendly Matches in Canada – Professional Clubs and National Teams

- a) Canada Soccer shall be responsible for the hosting and staging of all of its National Team matches in Canada.
- b) Any entity or person wishing to promote a match involving one or more foreign teams must first apply in advance to Canada Soccer to receive sanctioning for such a match. The entity or person promoting a match must be an Association Member or club or league affiliated with Canada Soccer or engage the services of a licensed FIFA Match Agent. Once the application process has been completed, Canada Soccer shall promptly review such requests. Canada Soccer shall grant such sanction unless it determines that holding or sponsoring the international soccer competition would be detrimental to the best interest of the sport.
- c) An International Match is defined as a match between two teams (either two teams representing a FIFA Member Association, two club teams, two all-star teams, one team representing a FIFA member and one club team, or a team representing a FIFA member or club team and an all-star team) belonging to different members of FIFA. Any match involving two teams belonging to the same FIFA member but not Canada Soccer shall also be an international match.
- d) For all International Matches and International Tournaments, Canada Soccer approval is required. No public announcement of any International Match or International Tournament may be made until Canada Soccer grants approval for the Match or Tournament. If a promoter or FIFA Match Agent conducts any advertising or makes any public announcements before approval has been granted by Canada Soccer, Canada Soccer may discipline the Promoter and/or FIFA Match Agent, by fining them a minimum of \$1000 for each incident, by denying approval of the International Match or International Tournament, or by levying any other penalty or combination of penalties that the Federation deems appropriate in its sole discretion.
- e) Neither Promoter, FIFA Match Agent nor any other individual or entity shall use Canada Soccer's name for speculative or promotional purposes.
- f) Application Process
 - i. An application for an international match or tournament must be submitted no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the intended match by completing a completed application form with the following items:
 - 1) Name of and contact information of FIFA Match Agent.
 - 2) Application fee of \$100.00 for each foreign professional team or National Team for each game to be played in Canada.
 - 3) Letter from the stadium confirming that the facility is on hold for the date of the event.
 - 4) Proof that the advertised participants have committed to participate, including provision of FIFA International Match Authorization Forms.
 - 5) The rules and related documentation regarding the organization of the tournament addressing such issues as mode of competition, referees, discipline, etc., if applicable.
 - 6) Submission of an insurance certificate consistent with the insurance terms.
 - 7) A copy of the draft contract with the foreign professional team(s) clearly identifying the organizer's obligations to the foreign team(s).
 - 8) A legally binding commitment indemnifying Canada Soccer from any claims arising from the event.

- 9) Submission of the appropriate performance bond in the form of a wire transfer, certified cheque approved by Canada Soccer and made payable to the “Canadian Soccer Association”.
- ii. Once a complete application is received by Canada Soccer, Canada Soccer will undertake a prompt review. Canada Soccer will “conditionally” approve the application unless it determines that holding the match or tournament in question would be detrimental to the best interest of the sport.
 - iii. Canada Soccer will notify CONCACAF and FIFA that the International Match or Tournament is taking place, that Canada Soccer recognizes the match or Tournament, and that the teams in question will participate. If FIFA and CONCACAF notify Canada Soccer that the teams in question shall not be permitted to play or participate, Canada Soccer may revoke approval of the Match or Tournament.
 - iv. If the application is rejected, any fee and documentation submitted by the applicant will be returned. In granting or withholding authorization for a match or tournament, Canada Soccer expressly declares that it accepts no liability for any financial or other commitments made by the organizer to foreign teams and to any other parties.
 - v. If the application is approved, the applicant will be advised of any conditions to be met in full for the grant of final approval.
 - vi. The organizer shall forward a certified cheque or money order for the appropriate game fee(s), within thirty (30) days of the game(s) being held, along with a ticket manifest issued by the stadium authorities where the game(s) is played.
- g) Performance Bonds and Game Fees
- i. Performance Bond – Due a minimum of 30 days before the match is played
 1. \$25,000 per match involving two foreign Men’s National Teams or two foreign professional clubs.
 2. \$10,000 per match involving one Canadian professional club or one foreign Men’s National Team, All-Star Match.
 3. \$2,500 per match for all other matches.
 4. No bond is required for non-admission matches.
 - ii. Game fees – due a maximum of 30 days of the game being played
 1. For each game involving a Professional Club in membership, an amount equal to eight percent (8%) of the gross gate receipts which will be disbursed according to FIFA regulations.
 2. For each game involving non-member Clubs, an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the gross gate receipts of which two and one-half percent (2.5%) shall be remitted to the Provincial/Territorial Association in whose territory the game is played and the remainder shall be disbursed according to FIFA regulations.
- h) Match Officials
- i. Referees and linesmen for all games involving a foreign team will be appointed by Canada Soccer. The referees/linesmen fees will be the responsibility of the Promoter/FIFA Match Agent.
- i) Canada Soccer Delegation
- i. Canada Soccer, at its discretion, may appoint a representative to attend any games involving foreign teams. Similarly, Canada Soccer may request the Provincial/Territorial Association in whose territory the game is played to appoint a representative. In each

case, the representative shall be accorded all privileges and courtesies by the organizer who shall extend to him or her any assistance necessary to fulfill his or her responsibilities. Any expenses incurred by the representative are to be paid by the organizer.

- j) Complimentary Tickets
 - i. The Promoter and FIFA Match Agent shall at a minimum provide the following complimentary tickets and/or passes for each match:
 - 1. Canada Soccer Officials or Delegated Officials – two tickets per delegate
 - 2. Game Officials – ten (10) tickets (two tickets per game official, one reserve referee and one referee supervisor)
- k) Restrictions
 - i. In the event that an organizer of an exhibition game involving a foreign professional or national team requests a date and venue which is in conflict with a game being organized by Canada Soccer, Canada Soccer shall have preference of the date and venue.
 - ii. Canada Soccer may, after prior consultation with the Provincial/Territorial Association, suspend all games scheduled in the area where a game involving a foreign professional or national team is being played.
 - iii. Canada Soccer will not allow a match involving foreign professional or national teams to be played within 48 hours of a regularly scheduled League regular season and/or playoff game in the same general metropolitan area, as defined by Canada Soccer, where the game is proposed to be played.
 - iv. Any matter not specifically covered by this section shall be decided at the discretion of the General Secretary.

20. REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF REFEREES

Provincial/Territorial Associations are responsible for the administration of Referees in their area registered with Canada Soccer as determined by Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer has responsibility for Referees who are serving members of the Armed Forces who are not serving within Canada.

Provincial/Territorial Associations shall act as, or appoint, a Referees' Committee to carry out its functions under these Regulations.

For the purpose of these Regulations the terms used will be defined as follows:

"Referee" A person registered as qualified under these Regulations who may be engaged as a Match Official.

"Administer" To carry out the administrative procedures relating to the registration and control of Referees as required or determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

"Examine" To supervise written and oral examination of Referees and Trainee Referee candidates to the requirements and standards determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

"FIFA List" Those Referees, nominated by Canada Soccer and selected by FIFA, eligible for appointment to international matches.

"National List" Those Referees selected by Canada Soccer, eligible for appointment to games in the MLS, NASL and other matches as determined from time to time.

"League" A Competition sanctioned under relevant Regulations by Canada Soccer or a Provincial/Territorial Association.

"Registration Period" From 1 April in each year, or the date of successful completion of the Entry Level Referees Course if later, to the following 31 March.

“Provincial Referee” A Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate at the Provincial/Territorial Level.

“Regional Referee” A Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate at the Regional Level.

“District Referee” A Referee who has completed, successfully, the Entry Level Referees Course, having reached the age of 16 years.

“Youth Referee” A District Referee between the ages of 14 – 16 years of age who has completed, successfully, the Entry Level Referees Course.

“Futsal Referee” A Referee who has completed, successfully, the Futsal Entry Level Referees Course, having reached the age of 16 years

“Small-sided Referee” A Referee who has completed, successfully, the appropriate Referees Course for soccer played by teams of less than 11 – a-side (excluding Futsal), as determined from time to time by Canada Soccer or Provincial Soccer Association.

“Associate Referee” A fully registered Referee with his or her own Provincial/Territorial Association of permanent residence, who wishes to officiate in another Province/Territory either by virtue of temporary residence, (eg University Student, temporary work assignment, etc) or by proximity to a Provincial border may apply to be an associate referee.

“Assessors” Individuals authorized by Canada Soccer to carry out assessments at levels determined by Canada Soccer.

“Assessments” Written appraisals of a referee’s performance on the field of play, carried out by an Assessor, on behalf of Canada Soccer or Provincial/Territorial Association and submitted to the appropriate body.

“Marks” A numerical indication of a Referee’s performance on the field of play, awarded by an Assessor on completion of an Assessment, on a scale defined by Canada Soccer.

“Club Marks” A numerical indication of a Referee’s performance on the field of play, reported by competing Clubs after a Match, on a scale defined by Canada Soccer.

“Qualifying Game” A match that may be counted towards promotion for a registered referee as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time. Note: Irrespective of the number of games officiated on the same day in Tournaments or other Competitions, only one match per day may be recorded as a qualifying game.

“Instructors” Individuals authorized by Canada Soccer to carry out courses of instruction at levels determined by Canada Soccer

“Entry Level Referees Course” A course of instruction as determined by Canada Soccer leading to the qualification of Referee candidates.

“Annual Review” The review by Canada Soccer, Provincial/Territorial Association or competition of the List of Match Officials entitled to be engaged for a match in that competition, to ascertain the suitability of each Referee to continue to be eligible to be retained on that list or within the classification. Such a review will take into consideration the Referee’s performance on the field of play as defined in these Regulations, as modified by any written instructions to a Provincial/Territorial Association or competition from Canada Soccer from time to time.

For the purposes of these Regulations, the General Secretary of Canada Soccer shall delegate such functions to the Referees’ Committee.

20.1 Registration

- a) No person shall be appointed as a Match Official in any match or competition under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer either directly or indirectly unless registered in accordance with these Regulations.

[NOTE: A Competition may include in its regulations a provision by which a person who is not a Referee may carry out the duties of a Match Official in a specific Match but only in circumstances where a Referee cannot be appointed to that Match].

- b) A referee must be registered with Canada Soccer through the Provincial/Territorial Association within the area in which the referee resides.
- c) Registration will run from the date of registration until the following 31 March.
- d) A person below 14 years of age shall not be registered as a Referee. A referee must provide proof of their date of birth in such a manner as shall be determined by Canada Soccer.
- e) The Provincial/Territorial Association that conducts the entry level course (including Futsal) or small-sided referee course will be responsible for the initial administration of a referee.
- f) A referee will be required to pay the standard national registration fee to be determined annually by Canada Soccer. Provincial/Territorial Associations will be notified by 30 September each year regarding the registration fee for the following registration period.
- g) Provincial/Territorial Associations may charge, in addition to the standard national registration fee, a Provincial Registration fee not exceeding \$75 per registration period. A referee may become an Associate Referee with another Provincial/Territorial Association upon payment of an Associate Fee not exceeding \$25 per registration period.
- h) A Referee who changes residence from one Provincial/Territorial administrative area to another will be required to complete a Provincial Transfer Form and be transferred to the new Provincial/Territorial Association for administrative purposes but will not be required to pay a further registration fee for that registration period.
- i) A Referee who has failed to register as a Referee with Canada Soccer for two (2) consecutive seasons shall not be re-registered until an application has been considered by the Provincial/Territorial Association within whose area the Referee resides at the time of application for re-registration.
- j) Provincial/Territorial Associations may re-examine registered Referees administered by them as determined by Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer must be notified, by the Provincial/Territorial Association, of the names of Referees who do not meet the standard determined by Canada Soccer.
- k) Where considered not to be 'a fit and proper person' to act as a Referee the registration may be removed or suspended by the Provincial/Territorial Association which administers the Referee or by Canada Soccer. Provincial/Territorial Associations are to notify Canada Soccer of any action in this respect and are not permitted to take action under this rule in respect of FIFA and National List Officials. Canada Soccer may take any action it deems appropriate. Applications for the reinstatement of a Referee who has previously been disqualified under this Regulation must be referred to Canada Soccer for consideration.

20.2 Recruitment, Basic Referee Training and Initial Examination

- a) Canada Soccer and Provincial/Territorial Associations shall be responsible for the recruitment, basic training and initial examination, where required, of Referees.

- b) The requirements and standards for the Entry Level Referee Course shall be set annually by Canada Soccer.
- c) All candidates shall be examined as to their suitability to be a Referee by an initial examination at the end of an Entry Level Referees Course. The initial examination shall be as prescribed by Canada Soccer and shall include an eyesight and colour test. Provincial/Territorial Associations must notify Canada Soccer should they examine a candidate who is a serving member of the Armed Forces at the time of examination.
- d) Candidates who do not reach the standard required by Canada Soccer in the initial examination may not be presented for further examination until a period of 28 days has elapsed.

20.3 Classification

- a) On behalf of Canada Soccer, each Provincial/Territorial Association must classify Referees not on the International or National List administered by their Association. The classification period runs from 1 April in each year, or the date of successful completion of the initial examination, to the following 31 March
- b) As at 1 April in each year Referees are to be classified as follows;
 - International: Referees who are on the FIFA List of Referees.
 - National List: Referees selected by Canada Soccer to serve on the National List and who meet the requirements of Regulation 4 below.
 - Provincial Referee: Provincial Referees. *Where a Referee has achieved a level higher than Provincial Referee and is not retained by Canada Soccer, the Referee is to be classified as a Provincial Referee, subject to meeting the requirements of Regulation 4, with the option of further promotion in the normal way or until a status of non-active is declared by the individual.*
 - Regional Referee:
 - District Referee: must be over the age of 16 years
 - Youth Referee: a District Referee over the age of 14 and under 16 years of age at the date of registration
 - Declared non-active Referees: those referees who no longer are active officials but who may wish to maintain their registration with Canada Soccer (this does not include accredited Assessors or Instructors who are no longer active referees)
- c) When a Referee changes residence from one Provincial/Territorial Association to another, the classification level will be accepted by the Provincial/Territorial Association into whose area the Referee has moved. (This regulation does not apply to small-sided Referees who may be required to undergo separate Provincial/Territorial training prior to being re-registered).
- d) Referees must apply for promotion in writing:
 - i. The Provincial/Territorial Association must receive this request by no later than 1 March preceding the season in which the promotion is sought.
 - ii. Referees considered for promotion in the preceding season, but not advanced, will automatically be included in the promotion scheme for the following season unless they indicate otherwise, in writing, to the their Provincial/Territorial Association by 1 March following the decision of that Association.
 - iii. District referees who are being considered for promotion to Regional Referee may apply for promotion to Provincial/Territorial Referee, in accordance with this clause, pending the decision of the Provincial/Territorial Association in respect of the promotion to Regional

Referee and subject to satisfying the criteria as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

- e) Promotion to Regional and Provincial/Territorial Referee classification shall be based on a Referee's practical performance on the field of play. This will be determined by considering the Marks and Assessments by Assessors on a minimum of three games from outdoor 11 a-side competitions for players over the age of 16 years over a minimum of 20 qualifying games during any one marking period officiated in as a Referee. Such Marks and Assessments are to be collated by the Provincial/Territorial Association from 1 April in any year until 30 November in the same year. A further requirement for promotion is the completion of a minimum of five games as an Assistant Referee in the promotion season.
- f) In addition to their practical performance on the field of play, Referees will be required to attend in-service training, as determined by Canada Soccer, and successfully complete a written examination set by Canada Soccer and, where determined by Canada Soccer, successfully complete the appropriate fitness test prior to the promotion being confirmed.
- g) The responsibility of promoting a Referee to Regional and/or Provincial/Territorial Referee rests with the Provincial/Territorial Association in which the Referee resides and who administers the Referee's registration. In accordance with the marking period, all selections for promotion to must be made by 15 December each year and individuals notified of the outcome in writing.
- h) A District Referee must serve a minimum of one complete Registration Period or 12 months in that classification, whichever is the shortest, and have completed a minimum of 20 qualification games, as a referee, in outdoor 11 a-side Competitions for players over the age of 16 years before applying for promotion to Regional Referee. After this promotion, a Referee can proceed at the rate he is capable, subject to satisfying the criteria as determined by Canada Soccer. No Provincial/Territorial Association may impose any other qualification periods which cause delayed passage through the promotion pyramid.
- i) Youth Referee includes all District Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 as at 1 April each season. A Youth referee will automatically become a District referee on reaching the age of 16.

20.4 Promotion

- a) Selection and promotion within Regional Referees and above will be determined as follows:

International Level: Annual nomination by Canada Soccer to FIFA selected from those eligible Referees as at the date of nomination determined by FIFA.

National List: Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from Provincial/Territorial Referee (following nomination by a Provincial/Territorial Association to Canada Soccer from those Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time) for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer.

Provincial/Territorial Referees: Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from Regional Referee for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

Regional Referees: Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from Youth/District Referees for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

- b) On initial selection for promotion to a higher level, Referees may be required to attend an interview to ascertain their suitability against criteria determined by Canada Soccer. On initial promotion to Regional Referee, the Provincial/Territorial Association who administers the Referee must allocate the Referee to an appropriate League.
- c) Canada Soccer will determine the acceptable number of matches required for consideration to be selected to National Referee.
- d) Annually, National List Referees and above will be required to complete successfully a fitness test and a written examination, as determined by Canada Soccer, prior to having their classification confirmed.

20.5 Competitions

- a) Provincial/Territorial Associations are to advise successful candidates on completion of the Entry Level Course, in writing, the local competitions in which they are eligible to officiate.
- b) Referees under the age of 16 are eligible to officiate only in Competitions for players aged under 16.
- c) Lists of match officials shall be determined each season by Canada Soccer and Provincial/Territorial Associations and only match officials included in such lists may officiate in matches during the season. A Competition or League may not remove or suspend a Match Official from its List at any time, such power to act resting solely with Canada Soccer or Provincial/Territorial Association as appropriate under these regulations.
- d) Competitions may, subject to the approval of Canada Soccer, require match officials included in its list to successfully complete a minimum fitness standard prior to receiving appointments. Requests for approval, together with the proposed fitness standard, must be submitted to Canada Soccer by 1 September of the year preceding the implementation of such fitness standards.
- e) The practical performance on the field of play of match officials on a List shall be appraised and reviewed each season (for these purposes 1 April to 31 November annually). Competitions and Leagues shall provide annually to Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as appropriate, a List of the Match Officials they have engaged with the Marks and Assessments obtained in accordance with the requirements of Canada Soccer.
- f) A Competition shall not have the power to act in relation to the Registration of a Referee. Any allegation of behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under Regulation 20.7 must be reported to Canada Soccer, or Provincial/Territorial Association.
- g) Referee Fees and Expenses are established by Canada Soccer, Provincial/Territorial Associations or by Competitions in consultation with the sanctioning authority. Referees (or other appointed match officials) may not receive other financial reward or incentive, based on their on-field performances from any Provincial/Territorial Association or Competition other than the set fees and expenses. Provincial/Territorial Associations are to set the maximum match official fees payable by Competitions and/or Leagues which it sanctions.

20.6 Training

- a) Canada Soccer shall identify the training requirements of Referees at all levels and be responsible for accrediting courses of instruction to meet those requirements.
- b) Referees will be required to attend accredited training at intervals determined by Canada Soccer. Only such training, delivered by accredited instructors, will be valid.
- c) Training may be delivered, at the appropriate levels, in conjunction with Provincial/Territorial Associations, by instructors accredited by Canada Soccer.

20.7 Conduct of Referees and Action in Relation to Registration

- a) Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as appropriate, shall have the power to act at any time in relation to the registration of a Referee who has:
 - i. Less than proficiently applied the Laws of the Game; or
 - ii. Committed a technical irregularity; or
 - iii. Proved to have been concerned as an agent for a Club or a Player in the transfer or attempted transfer and/or engagement of a Player; or
 - iv. Willfully mis-stated his/her age, or, date of birth; or
 - v. As a player or coach, violated the Laws of the Game to such a degree that a Disciplinary Committee subsequently imposes a penalty of suspension from playing or coaching; or
 - vi. Been found to have committed an act of misconduct pursuant to the Rules of Canada Soccer or a Provincial/Territorial Association.

- b) Only Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association may act in relation to the Registration of a Referee. Such action may be only through its Referees' Committee.

- c) Any behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under 20.7(a)(i) or (ii) above must have been notified or otherwise come to the attention of Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association within 14 days of the relevant incident(s) for such to be acted upon.

- d) A technical irregularity under 20.7(a)(ii) above shall be any failure by a Referee to meet any requirement imposed on, or notified to, a Referee by Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association as appropriate from time to time.

A "technical irregularity" includes, but is not in any way limited to, any failure to comply with administrative requirements imposed on a Referee such as the requirements to file reports, answer correspondence, attend match venues or disciplinary hearings at a particular time, etc. or any breach of Regulation.

- e) Where a Referee is alleged to have breached 20.7(a) (i) – (vi) above, the Referees' Committee shall advise the Referee, in writing, of the relevant allegation(s) and supporting facts and state that the matter will be considered by the Committee or a duly appointed Commission thereof.

- f) The Referee shall respond within 14 days and may either:
 - i. Deny the allegation(s), setting out a statement of his/her case; or
 - ii. Request a personal hearing, in which case a fee of \$100 must accompany the request; or

- iii. Admit the allegation(s). A Referee who admits the allegation(s) may set out any submissions which he/she wishes the Referees' Committee to consider when considering what, if any, action to take. The Referee may also request a personal hearing as above.

In considering any allegation at a personal hearing, a Referees' Committee or Commission thereof, may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the determination of the matter brought before it and shall not be bound by any enactment of rule or law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.

As a guide to the procedures to be followed at a personal hearing, the following may be used unless the Referees' Committee or Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

- (1) The allegation(s) will be read out to the Referee, who will be asked if the allegation(s) are admitted or denied.
 - (2) Evidence in support of the allegation(s) to be called.
 - (3) Evidence in response to the allegation(s) to be submitted by the Referee, who may, with the permission of the Referees' Committee or Commission, be accompanied by a representative. (Any such representative shall not be permitted to give evidence as a witness).
 - (4) The Referees' Committee or Commission and the Referee (as appropriate) shall be entitled to ask questions of any witness giving evidence in support of the allegation(s). The Referees' Committee or Commission shall be entitled to ask questions of the Referee, who may give evidence in defense of the allegation(s).
 - (5) The Referees' Committee or Commission may draw such inferences as it considers appropriate from the failure of the Referee to give evidence or answer a question.
 - (6) In the event of evidence submitted in answer to the allegation(s) disclosing a point which the Referees' Committee or Commission considers was not covered in the evidence of, or not put to, any witness in support of the allegation(s), the Referees' Committee or Commission may recall and ask questions of such witness. The Referee or relevant representative may also ask questions.
 - (7) After the evidence has been completed to the satisfaction of the Referees' Committee or Commission, the Referee or representative shall be entitled to make submissions based upon the evidence, but this may not include reference to facts not disclosed in the evidence presented to the Referees' Committee or Commission. At the conclusion of the submissions, all persons shall withdraw while the Referees' Committee or Commission considers the evidence and submissions presented to it and determines whether the allegation(s) have been proved or not. After reaching a decision, the Referees' Committee or Commission shall recall the Referee and any representative and announce whether the allegation(s) are proved or not proved. The decision shall be subsequently confirmed in writing. As an alternative, the Referees' Committee or Commission may, where it considers it appropriate, not announce its decision at the meeting but inform the Referee that such a decision will be communicated in writing.
 - (8) Where the Referees' Committee or Commission find the allegation(s) proved, it shall have the power to act in relation to the Registration of the Referee as it considers appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, censure, a period of remedial training, suspension or removal of Registration.
- g) A Referee may be dealt with in the normal course as a participant for any alleged misconduct pursuant to the Rules of Canada Soccer (i.e. by a Disciplinary Commission), in addition to having

issues relating to the Registration as a Referee considered by Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association through its Referees' Committee in relation to the same behaviour. In such cases, a charge of Misconduct pursuant to the Rules of Canada Soccer shall be considered before any matter relating to the issue of Registration is dealt with by the Referees' Committee under Rule 20.7 (a)(vi).

- h) In circumstances where it is considered appropriate, the Referees' Committee may order that the Registration of a Referee be suspended with immediate effect pending determination of a charge of Misconduct under the Rules of Canada Soccer or pending the determination of a charge under 7(a) (i) or (ii) above and, in the latter case, the reason for such suspension is to be notified to the referee in writing and reported to the Commission hearing any resultant charge.
- i) Action in respect of the Registration of Match Officials on the National List will be considered by the appropriate committee of Canada Soccer

20.8 Appeals against Decisions of the Referees' Committee

- a) Where Canada Soccer or a Provincial/Territorial Association, through its Referees' Committee, makes an order in relation to the registration of a Referee under Regulation 20.7, then there shall be a right of appeal by the Referee against the decision (other than as set out below).
- b) There shall be no right of appeal against a decision in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee taken as part of the Annual Review by Canada Soccer, Provincial/Territorial Association or an appointing authority.
- c) Notice of an appeal against a decision of a Referees' Committee made under Regulation 20.7 must be lodged with Canada Soccer or the appropriate Provincial/Territorial Association within 14 days of notification of the decision appealed against, accompanied by a fee of \$250.
- d) An Appeal shall be considered by an "Appeals Panel" comprising of members of the Canada Soccer Appeals Committee or appropriate Provincial/Territorial Association established specifically to deal with appeals from decisions under Regulation 20.7, none of whom shall have been party to the original decision. A decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding.
- e) The Notice of Appeal must :
 - i. Identify the specific decision(s) being appealed
 - ii. Set out the grounds of appeal; and
 - iii. Set out a statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based.
- f) The grounds of appeal shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:
 - i. Misinterpreted or failed to comply with any rules or regulations relevant to its decision; and/or
 - ii. Came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have arrived at; and/or
 - iii. Made an order, which is excessive.
- g) The Appeals Panel may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the just determination of an appeal brought before it and shall not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law. The following is set out as a guide to the conduct of a hearing before the Appeals Panel:
 - i. The Appellant to address the Appeals Panel summarizing its case;

- ii. The Respondent to address the Appeals Panel summarizing its case;
 - iii. The Appeals Panel may put questions to the parties at any stage;
 - iv. The Respondent to make closing submissions;
 - v. The Appellant to make closing submissions;
 - vi. The Appellant and the Respondent to withdraw while the Appeals Panel considers the submissions and determines the matter;
 - vii. The Appellant and the Respondent to be recalled and the decision and any orders consequential to it to be announced to both parties. Alternatively, where it considers it appropriate, the Appeals Panel may decide not to announce its decision but make it known at a later date, in writing. In any event, the Appeals Panel shall publicize a written statement of its decision.
- h) The Appeals Panel shall proceed in the absence of any party, unless it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the failure of the party to attend, and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.
- i) A decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.
- j) The Appeals Panel shall have power to:
- i. Allow or dismiss the appeal; or
 - ii. Remit the matter for re-hearing or by the Referees Committee; or
 - iii. Exercise any power which the body against whose decision the appeal was made could have exercised; or
 - iv. Make any further or other order considered appropriate, either generally or for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.
- k) Any fee may be returned or forfeited, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Appeals Panel, who shall also have the power to determine by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne.
- l) As soon as practicable after the hearing, the Appeals Panel shall publish a written statement of its decision, which shall state:
- i. The names of the parties, the decision(s) appealed against and the grounds of appeal;
 - ii. Whether or not the appeal is allowed; and
 - iii. The order(s) of the Appeals Panel.

The written statement shall be signed and dated by the Chair of the Appeals Panel and be the conclusive record of the decision.

20.9 Appointments

- a) Registered Referees shall not officiate in any Competition or League which is not sanctioned or a Match in which unaffiliated clubs compete.
- b) The "Order of Precedence" of appointments, whether as a Referee or Assistant Referee, shall be as follows:
 - i. International Appointments
 - ii. International Representative matches appointed by Canada Soccer;
 - iii. The MLS;
 - iv. The NASL;

- v. National Championships;
- vi. PDL and W-League;
- vii. Senior Provincial League Competitions or equivalent;
- viii. Provincial/Territorial Association Cup Competitions. *Semi-final and Final ties in all Provincial Competitions will take precedence over PDL, W League, and Senior Provincial League Competitions or equivalent.*
- ix. University and College Soccer Leagues ;
- x. All other Competitions of Canada Soccer.
- xi. Regional Soccer
- xii. District Soccer where appropriate

Appointments for (ix) to (xii) shall be at the discretion of the Provincial/Territorial Association.

- c) Referees must attend Personal Hearings when required to do so. At NASL level or above, Match Officials appointments already received take precedence over requests to attend Personal Hearings. On receipt of notification of a Personal Hearing, the Referee must close the date with all appropriate competitions.
- d) Where release from an appointment is required to enable a Referee to take a more senior appointment in the Order of Precedence above, the relevant Provincial/Territorial Association or Competition is expected to release the official to the requesting appointing authority.
- e) Once Canada Soccer or a Provincial/Territorial Association has appointed a Match Official and if, subsequently, the Match is postponed, abandoned or results in a draw and the re-arranged fixture is then scheduled to take place less than four complete days from the date of the original match, Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association appointment will take priority over any other appointment already accepted by the Referee from a Competition lower in the Order of Precedence, unless Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association waive their rights to the services of the Match Official so appointed.
- f) "Fourth Officials" are appointed to certain competitions by Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association. The duties and responsibilities of the Fourth Official are detailed in the Laws of Association Football and in the Competition Rules. Such appointments form part of the Order of Precedence within the Competitions listed above.
- g) "Standby/Reserve Officials" may be appointed to other Competitions but do not form part of the Order of Precedence and are not to be accepted by Referees in preference to an active appointment.

20.10 Conflicts of Interest

A Referee shall at all times act impartially. Where a Referee believes that there is a material interest conflicting with the duties and obligations of a Match Official and any appointment, then the Referee shall decline to act or officiate and declare it to Canada Soccer (in respect of National List Officials) or the Provincial/Territorial Association, whose decision in relation to any dispute or difference in such matters shall be final and binding.

20.11 Referees' Uniforms

- a) All Match Officials in Competitions under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer and Provincial/Territorial Association must wear uniforms approved by the above mentioned Associations. Referees must wear an alternative colour uniform when there is a clash between the uniform shirts of the outfield players of one of the teams and the referee's first choice colour. The preferred alternative colours will be those specified by Canada Soccer from time to time.
- b) Match Officials are required to wear the current FIFA or the appropriate Canadian Soccer Association badge which must be worn on the left breast pocket. No other competition or association badge may be worn.
- c) No advertising of any nature, save as set out below, is permitted on Match Officials' clothing without the consent of Canada Soccer. The following advertising is permitted:
 - i. The mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer or a combination of the same, may appear:
 - 1) Once only on the shirt provided that it is an area no greater than 20 cm²
 - 2) Once only on the shorts provided that in an area no greater than 20 cm²
 - 3) Incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to an area no greater than 12 cm².
- d) Sponsor advertising in accordance with FIFA regulations is permitted only on the shirt sleeves and the total surface area of the advertising shall not exceed 200 cm². Any sponsorship contract must be made between the sponsor and Canada Soccer. Individual Associations or Leagues are not permitted to enter into sponsorship contracts for referee uniforms.

20.12 Returns

- a) Annually, in accordance with the instructions of Canada Soccer, Competitions or Leagues shall provide Lists of Match Officials assigned to Canada Soccer or the appropriate Provincial/Territorial Association. Such Lists shall include the marks awarded by Clubs and assessments, where appropriate, during the specified period, together with any other information required.
- b) Not later than the date decided by Canada Soccer, Provincial/Territorial Associations shall nominate suitable Referees for consideration by Canada Soccer for selection to the National List of Referees or Assistant Referees.
- c) Competitions that have approval to administer fitness tests are to submit the results to Canada Soccer and the Provincial/Territorial Association that administers the Referee.
- d) Provincial/Territorial Associations are to submit by 1 June each year a complete list of registered Referees, by classification, in a format required by Canada Soccer.

20.13 Codes of Conduct

Match Officials shall be bound by Codes of Conduct as instructed by Canada Soccer.

20.14 Accredited Assessors

- a) Assessors will be accredited by Canada Soccer in accordance with the criterion outlined below:
District Assessors: Assessors who have completed the Basic Assessor Course and provided, for evaluation by the Provincial/Territorial Association, a minimum of two assessments completed at the district level, which meets the standard as determined by Canada Soccer.
Regional Assessors: Assessors, who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a District Assessor, attended In-service training, and whose assessments, having been evaluated by the Provincial/Territorial Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer.
Provincial Assessors: Assessors, who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a Regional Assessor, attended In-service training, and whose assessments, having been evaluated by the Provincial/Territorial Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer.
National Assessors: Assessors who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer following nomination by a Provincial/Territorial Association to Canada Soccer, and those Assessors who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer
- b) Assessors must attend Assessor In-service training every two years, or as determined by Canada Soccer, to maintain their Accreditation. Reaccreditation will be dependent upon the Assessor having completed a minimum of 4 assessments each year at the accredited level; attendance at the bi-annual in-service training; and evaluation of assessments by Canada Soccer or Provincial/Territorial Association to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.

20.15 Accredited Instructors

- a) Instructors will be accredited by Canada Soccer in accordance with the criterion outlined below:
District Instructors: Instructors who have attended the Basic Instructor Course and satisfied the Provincial/Territorial Association that they have demonstrated the ability to instruct the Entry Level Course to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.
Regional Instructors: Instructors who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a District Instructor, attended In-service training, and whose instructional ability, having been evaluated by the Provincial/Territorial Association, meets the standard as determined by Canada Soccer to instruct at in-service training courses for referees up to and including Regional designation.
Provincial Instructors: Instructors who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a Regional (District) Instructor, attended in-service training, and whose instructional ability, having been evaluated by the Provincial/Territorial Association, meets the standard as determined by Canada Soccer to instruct at in-service training courses for referees up to and including Provincial/Territorial designation (Referee)
National Instructors: FUTURO III accredited instructors and those instructors who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer following nomination by a Provincial/Territorial Association, and those instructors who satisfy the criteria as determined by Canada Soccer with outstanding ability to instruct at in-service training courses and events for referees up to and including National List Officials.
- b) Instructors must attend instructor in-service training every two years, or as determined by Canada Soccer, to maintain their Accreditation. Reaccreditation will be dependent upon the instructor having completed a minimum of 4 courses at the accredited level; attendance at the bi-annual in-service training; and an evaluation of instruction by Canada Soccer or Provincial/Territorial Association to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.

20.16 Provincial/Territorial Association Responsibilities for Registered Referees

- a) Provision of Provincial/Territorial Soccer Association Handbook: Provincial/Territorial Associations should provide, as a minimum, the Provincial Cup Competition Rules, details of Club Secretaries and details of grounds/match venues.
- b) Public Liability Insurance: adequate cover for public liability insurance should be provided in accordance with individual Provincial/Territorial requirements.
- c) Personal Accident Insurance: Provincial/Territorial Associations are encouraged to investigate the need for Personal Accident Insurance for referees.
- d) Recruitment and Basic Training of New Referees: the recruitment and training of new referees is an important area which Provincial/Territorial Associations have responsibility towards the development of the future of the game. Canada Soccer supports this area with provision of material support and instructor development.
- e) Mentor Scheme: mentoring is an aid to retention and Provincial/Territorial Associations are encouraged to extend the service to referees wherever possible.
- f) Promotion and Assessment Scheme: Provincial/Territorial Associations are responsible for the promotion of referees up to Provincial Referee in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, by ensuring that referees are active at the appropriate level and are regularly assessed. Referees, outside the promotion scheme, who are administered by the Provincial/Territorial Association, should be regularly assessed for development purposes.
- g) In- Service Training: Referees below the National List are provided with in-service training by Provincial/Territorial Associations. In-service training for Referees in the promotion scheme is mandatory in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees. Other in-service training should be provided for referees as appropriate.
- h) Appointments: Provincial/Territorial Associations make appointments to its individual Competitions and make nominations to National Competitions at the request of the Canada Soccer Referees Department.
- i) Fees: Provincial/Territorial Associations set match officials fee limits to ensure parity across the Competitions and Leagues it sanctions.
- j) Nominations to the National List: Provincial/Territorial Associations are required to nominate eligible and suitable referees to join the National List from its Provincial/Territorial Referees on request from the Canada Soccer Referees Department. Those Referees who are nominated for consideration to the National List must have successfully met the criteria as determined by the Canada Soccer Referees Committee.
- k) Allocation to Leagues: Referees successfully completing the entry level course are to be advised, in writing, in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, of the leagues and competitions on which they may operate.

- l) Legal Advice” Provincial/Territorial Associations may assist in the provision of legal advice where appropriate to referees. This could involve seeking advice from Canada Soccer on behalf of the referee in certain circumstances.
- m) General Advice: General advice and guidance on all football related matters, including directives and information from Canada Soccer, should be disseminated by the Provincial/Territorial Association to those referees it administers.
- n) Transfers”: Provincial/Territorial Associations are responsible for ensuring that Provincial Referees and below who move to another Province/Territory are notified to the receiving Provincial/Territorial Association. The Canada Soccer Transfer Form is to be used for this purpose. On receipt of that notification, the receiving Provincial/Territorial Association should ensure that the referee is made aware of the refereeing activities in the Province.
- o) Referee Discipline: the regulations devolve the responsibility for Referee discipline, of those referees not operating on the National List or above, to the Provincial/Territorial Association who administers the Referee’s registration. A Referee may be dealt with in the normal course as a participant for any alleged misconduct pursuant to the Rules of Canada Soccer (ie by a Disciplinary Commission), in addition to having issues relating to the Registration as a Referee considered by the appropriate Referees’ Committee. Referees should be made aware of the process by which any acts of misconduct, or discipline in relation to their registration, will be dealt with by the Provincial/Territorial Association.
- p) Nominations to Referee Instructor Courses: Provincial/Territorial Associations should identify those candidates it considers suitable to attend the Accredited Referee Instructors Course in accordance with the criteria notified by Canada Soccer.
- q) Nominations to Referee Assessor Courses: Provincial/Territorial Associations should identify those candidates it considers suitable to attend the Accredited Referee Assessor Course in accordance with the criteria notified by Canada Soccer from time to time.
- r) Liaison with the Canada Soccer Referee Department: Provincial/Territorial Associations should make every use of the services of Canada Soccer’s Referee Department in the support of its responsibilities for registered referees.
- s) Schools of Excellence and Referee Academies: Provincial/Territorial Associations are strongly encouraged to include a School of Excellence or Referee Academy for referees. Canada Soccer will support this with provision for instructor development and programmes specifically designed for referee development within this environment.

21. REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF FUTSAL REFEREES

Provincial/Territorial Associations are responsible for the administration of Futsal Referees in their area registered with Canada Soccer as determined by Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer has responsibility for Futsal Referees who are serving members of the Armed Forces who are not serving within Canada.

Provincial/Territorial Associations shall act as, or appoint, a Referees’ Committee to carry out its functions under these Regulations.

For the purpose of these Regulations, the terms used will be defined as follows:

“Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referee”: A Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate Futsal matches at the Provincial/Territorial Level.

“Regional Futsal Referee”: A Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate Futsal matches at the Regional Level.

“District Futsal Referee”: A Referee who has successfully completed the Entry Level Futsal Referees Course, having reached the age of 16 years.

“Youth Futsal Referee”: A District Futsal Referee between the ages of 14 – 16 years of age who has successfully completed the Entry Level Futsal Referees Course.

“Small-sided Referee”: A Referee who has successfully completed the appropriate Referees Course for soccer played by teams of less than 11-a-side (**excluding Futsal**), as determined by Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Soccer Association.

“District Futsal Referee Assessor”: An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to complete assessments of Futsal Referees at the District Level.

“Regional Futsal Referee Assessor”: An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to complete assessments of Futsal Referees at the Regional Level.

“Provincial Futsal Referee Assessor”: An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to complete assessments of Futsal Referees at the Provincial Level.

“National Futsal Referee Assessor”: An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to complete assessments of Futsal Referees at the National Level.

“District Futsal Referee Instructor”: An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to deliver courses of instruction to Futsal Referees at the District Level.

“Regional Futsal Referee Instructor”: An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to deliver courses of instruction to Futsal Referees at the Regional Level.

“Provincial Futsal Referee Instructor”: An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to deliver courses of instruction to Futsal Referees at the Provincial/Territorial Level.

“National Futsal Referee Instructor”: An individual who has demonstrated the ability, to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association, as required by these Regulations, and is authorized to deliver courses of instruction to Futsal Referees at the National Level.

21.1 Recruitment, Basic Referee Training and Initial Examination

- a) Canada Soccer and the Provincial/Territorial Associations shall be responsible for the recruitment, basic training and initial examination of Referees, where required.
- b) The requirements and standards for the Entry Level Futsal Referee Course shall be set annually by Canada Soccer.

- c) All candidates shall be examined as to their suitability to be a Referee by an initial examination at the end of an Entry Level Referees Course. The initial examination shall be as prescribed by Canada Soccer and shall include eyesight and colour test. Provincial/Territorial Associations must notify Canada Soccer should they examine a candidate who is a serving member of the Armed Forces at the time of examination.
- d) The minimum age a candidate may be presented for the Entry Level Futsal Referee Course is 14 years.
- e) Candidates who do not reach the standard required by Canada Soccer in the initial examination may not be presented for further examination until a period of 28 days has elapsed.

21.2 Classification

- a) On behalf of Canada Soccer, each Provincial/Territorial Association must classify Referees administered by their Association who are not on the International or National List. The classification period runs from 1 April in each year, or the date of successful completion of the initial examination, to the following 31 March.
- b) As of 1 September in each year Futsal Referees are to be classified as follows:
 - International:** Futsal Referees who are on the FIFA List of Referees.
 - National List:** Futsal Referees selected by Canada Soccer to serve on the National List and who meet the requirements.
 - Provincial Referee:** This classification includes referees who have served at a higher level. Where a Futsal Referee has achieved a level higher than Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referee and is then not retained by Canada Soccer, the Referee is to be classified as a Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referee, subject to meeting the requirements defined in this regulations with the option of further promotion or until a status of non-active is declared by the individual.
 - Regional Referee:**
 - District Referee:** A District Futsal Referee must be over the age of 16 years as of the date of registration.
 - Youth Referee:** A District Futsal Referee who is over the age of 14 and under 16 years of age as of the date of registration.
 - Declared non-active Futsal Referees:** Those referees who no longer are active officials but who may wish to maintain their registration with Canada Soccer (this does not include accredited Assessors or Instructors who are no longer active referees).
- c) When a Futsal Referee changes residence from one Provincial/Territorial Association to another, the classification level will be accepted by the Provincial/Territorial Association in to whose area the Referee has moved.

21.3 Promotion

Selection and promotion will be determined as follows:

International Level: Annual nomination by Canada Soccer to FIFA, selected from those eligible Referees, as at the date of nomination determined by FIFA.

National List: Futsal Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer and those who have been promoted from Provincial/Territorial Referee (following nomination by a Provincial/Territorial Association to Canada Soccer, from those Referees who satisfy the criteria, established by Canada Soccer), for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer.

Provincial/Territorial Referees: Futsal Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer and those who have been promoted from Regional Referee for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

Regional Referees: Futsal Referees who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer from time to time and those who have been promoted from District Referee for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer from time to time.

21.4 Requirement for Futsal Referees

- a) District Futsal Referee Requirements: Upon successful completion of the Entry Level Futsal Referees Course, together with a passing grade on the examination conducted as part of such course, successful referee candidates shall be classified as District Futsal Referees. A Youth Futsal Referee shall automatically become a District Futsal Referee upon reaching the age of 16.
 - i. District Futsal Referees shall be eligible to officiate youth recreational games, youth competitive games and senior amateur games with game appointments based on the pyramid of officiating criteria established by the Provincial/Territorial Association.
 - ii. To maintain a District Futsal Referee classification, a Referee shall remain current by attending annual education programming as established by the Provincial/Territorial Association, pay the annual fees as published by Canada Soccer, be in good standing and maintain registration each year.
 - iii. Prior to applying for promotion to Regional Futsal Referee, a District Futsal Referee must serve a minimum of one complete Registration Period or 12 months in that classification, whichever is the shortest, and have completed a minimum of twenty (20) qualifying games.

- b) Regional Futsal Referee Requirements
 - i. District Futsal Referees wishing to be considered for promotion to Regional Futsal Referee must:
 - 1) Submit an application to the relevant Provincial/Territorial Association no later than 1 August preceding the season in which the promotion is sought;
 - 2) Attend a course of instruction conducted under the jurisdiction of the Provincial/Territorial Association by an approved Futsal Referee Instructor;
 - 3) Attend and pass the Regional Futsal Referee examination;
 - 4) Within the two (2) years following a passing mark on the Regional Futsal Referee Examination, obtain a minimum of three (3) qualifying assessments over a minimum of 20 qualifying games by more than one Assessor, at least two of which must be in Senior Men's Competitive games with the other assessment obtained in another Competitive caliber game;
 - 5) Fulfill the annual fitness standards in supervised tests each of the following two (2) years following the Examination;
 - 6) Candidates may be requested to complete additional assessments above the minimum to show proficiency of performance at the required level. In such cases, an extension beyond the two year limit may be granted.
 - ii. Candidates shall be not less than 18 years of age as of 1 September of the current registration year. Proof of age may be requested at the time of application.
 - iii. Selections for promotion to Regional Soccer Referee shall be made by 15 June each year and individuals notified of the outcome in writing.
 - iv. On initial promotion to Regional Futsal Referee, the Provincial/Territorial Association who administers the Referee must allocate the Referee to an appropriate League.

- v. Regional Futsal Referees shall be eligible to officiate District Competitive, Regional Competitive, and Senior Competitive games.
 - vi. To maintain a Regional Futsal Referee classification, a referee shall remain current by:
 - 1) Actively officiating within Canada Soccer;
 - 2) Adhering to all Published Rules of Canada Soccer;
 - 3) Be in good standing;
 - 4) Attending annual education programming as established by the Provincial/Territorial Association;
 - 5) Pay the annual fees as published by Canada Soccer;
 - 6) Maintain registration each year;
 - 7) Successfully complete a minimum of one (1) formal assessment per year in an appropriate Senior Competitive game;
 - 8) Fulfill the fitness test requirement for Regional Futsal Referees.
- c) Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referee Requirements
- i. Regional Futsal Referees wishing to be considered for promotion to Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referee shall:
 - 1) Submit an application to the relevant Provincial/Territorial Association no later than 1 August preceding the season in which the promotion is sought;
 - 2) Perform as an above average Regional Futsal Referee for two (2) years;
 - 3) Attend a course of instruction conducted under the jurisdiction of the Provincial/Territorial Association by an approved Futsal Referee Instructor;
 - 4) Attend and pass the Provincial Futsal Referee examination;
 - 5) Within the two (2) years following a passing mark on the Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referee Examination, obtain a minimum of four (4) qualifying assessments over a minimum of 20 qualifying games by more than two Assessors, all of which must be in Senior Men's Competitive games;
 - 6) Fulfill the annual fitness standards in supervised tests each of the following two (2) years following the Examination;
 - 7) Candidates may be requested to complete additional assessments above the minimum to show proficiency of performance at the required level. In such cases, an extension beyond the two year limit may be granted.
 - ii. Selections for promotion to Regional Soccer Referee shall be made by 15 June each year and individuals notified of the outcome in writing.
 - iii. Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referees shall be eligible to officiate in any amateur Futsal competition and may be appointed to inter-provincial competitions.
 - iv. To maintain a Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referee classification, a referee shall remain current by:
 - 1) Actively officiating within Canada Soccer;
 - 2) Adhering to all Published Rules of Canada Soccer;
 - 3) Be in good standing;
 - 4) Attending annual education programming;
 - 5) Pay the annual fees as published by Canada Soccer;
 - 6) Maintain registration each year;
 - 7) Successfully complete a minimum of two (2) formal assessments per year in an appropriate Senior Competitive game;
 - 8) Fulfill the fitness test requirement for Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referees.

- d) National Futsal Referee Requirements
- i. Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referees wishing to be considered for promotion to National Futsal Referee shall:
 - 1) Submit an application to Canada Soccer no later than 1 August preceding the season in which the promotion is sought;
 - 2) Perform as an above average Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referee for two (2) years;
 - 3) Attend a course of instruction conducted under the jurisdiction of Canada Soccer by an approved Futsal Referee Instructor;
 - 4) Attend and pass the National Futsal Referee examination;
 - 5) Within the two (2) years following a passing mark on the National Futsal Referee Examination, obtain a minimum of four (4) qualifying assessments by more than two Assessors, all of which must be in Inter-Provincial Competitive games;
 - 6) Fulfill the annual fitness standards in supervised tests each of the following two (2) years following the Examination;
 - 7) Candidates may be requested to complete additional assessments above the minimum to show proficiency of performance at the required level. In such cases, an extension beyond the two year limit may be granted;
 - 8) Candidates may be required to attend an interview to ascertain their suitability against criteria determined by Canada Soccer.
 - ii. The performance of referees who are being considered for promotion to National Futsal Referee should be assessed during top National tournaments.
 - iii. National Futsal Referees should be eligible to officiate in any Futsal competition in Canada and may be appointed to International competitions.
 - iv. To maintain a National Futsal Referee classification, a referee shall remain current by:
 - 1) Actively officiating within Canada Soccer;
 - 2) Adhering to all Published Rules of Canada Soccer;
 - 3) Be in good standing;
 - 4) Attending annual education programming;
 - 5) Pay the annual fees as published by Canada Soccer;
 - 6) Maintain registration each year;
 - 7) Successfully complete a minimum of three (3) formal assessments per year in an appropriate Inter-Provincial/Territorial game;
 - 8) Fulfill the fitness test requirement for National Futsal Referees.

21.5 Appointments

“Third Referees” are appointed to certain Futsal competitions by Canada Soccer or the Provincial/Territorial Association. The duties and responsibilities of the Third Referee are detailed in the Futsal Laws of the Game and in the Competition Rules. Such appointments form part of the Order of Precedence within the Competitions listed above.

21.6 Accredited Futsal Referee Assessors

- a) District Futsal Referee Assessors: Assessors who have completed the Basic Futsal Referee Assessor Course and provided, for evaluation by the Provincial/Territorial Association, a minimum of two Futsal Referee assessments completed at the District level, which meets the standard as determined by Canada Soccer.
- b) Regional Futsal Referee Assessors: Assessors, who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a District Futsal Referee Assessor, attended in-service training, and whose assessments,

having been evaluated by the Provincial/Territorial Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer.

- c) Provincial/Territorial Futsal Referee Assessors: Assessors, who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a Regional Futsal Referee Assessor, attended in-service training, and whose assessments, having been evaluated by the Provincial/Territorial Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer.
- d) National Futsal Referee Assessors: Assessors who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer, following nomination by a Provincial/Territorial Association to Canada Soccer, and those Assessors who satisfy the criteria, established by Canada Soccer, for outstanding ability as determined by Canada Soccer.

21.7 Accredited Futsal Referee Instructors

- a) District Futsal Referee Instructors: Instructors who have attended the Basic Futsal Referee Instructor Course and satisfied the Provincial/Territorial Association that they have demonstrated the ability to instruct the Entry Level Futsal Referee Course to the standard determined by Canada Soccer.
- b) Provincial Futsal Referee Instructors: Instructors who have completed a minimum of 2 consecutive years as a District Futsal Referee Instructor, attended in-service training, and whose instructional ability, having been evaluated by the Provincial/Territorial Association, meet the standard as determined by Canada Soccer to instruct at in-service training courses for referees up to and including Provincial/Territory Referee.
- c) National Futsal Referee Instructors: Instructors who satisfy the criteria established by Canada Soccer, following nomination by a Provincial/Territorial Association, and those instructors who satisfy the criteria as determined by Canada Soccer, with outstanding ability to instruct at in-service training courses and events for referees up to and including National List Officials.