

PROFESSIONAL SENIOR AND RESERVE TEAM SOCCER DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES & ANNEX

As set out in the schedule hereto for Players and Team Officials associated with Clubs playing teams in Professional Soccer in Senior and Reserve divisions of the Leagues in Membership of Canada Soccer. It should be read in conjunction with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code.

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS

a) Caution Offences

Referees must submit to Canada Soccer immediately following the match an electronic report stating the offence.

b) Sending-off Offences

Referees must submit an electronic report to Canada Soccer immediately following the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s).

c) If a Referee neglects to show the appropriate card when taking action against a Player, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES

a) A Player or Team Official who has been cautioned in any match will be notified, through the Player or Team Official's Club, via the online league competition management system, of the offence reported by the Referee.

b) The total number of cautions recorded against the Player or Team Official under these procedures during the current Season will be recorded in the Club's Accumulated Yellow Cards Report, available via the online league competition management system (COMET). It is the Club's responsibility to review their Accumulated Yellow Cards Report as they deem necessary in order to understand the disciplinary status of each of their Players and/or Team Officials at any given time.

c) Canada Soccer, via the online league competition management system, will notify the standard punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions (see Section 7). Any such punishment will take effect whether or not the notification of it from Canada Soccer is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures, and Clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

d) An administration fee of **\$15.00** will be charged to the Player or Team Official, through the Club, for the cost of processing each report.

3. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

a) A Player or Team Official who has been sent off in any match will be notified through the Player or Team Official's Club, via the online league competition management system, of the offence reported by the Referee (listed on the Match Report).

- b) Canada Soccer, via the online league competition management system, will notify the standard punishment for the sending-off offence (see Section 7). Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from Canada Soccer is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and Clubs must therefore maintain their own records.
- c) An administration fee of **\$15.00** will be charged to the Player or Team Official, through the Club, for the cost of processing each report.

4. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

- a) In the case of a claim of mistaken identity concerning a Player or Team Official cautioned or sent-off in a match, the Club, on behalf of the Player or Team Official, must:
 - (i) By 23h00ET on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to Canada Soccer written statements and evidence (including video where available) in support of the claim. A signed statement by the Player or Team Official reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. A written statement from the Player or Team Official responsible for the offence must also be supplied.
 - a. Should the Player or Team Official wish to provide supporting statements to the panel verbally, they must request to do so as part of this submission. The panel will have the sole discretion to choose to accept a virtual meeting to hear these statements verbally or instead rely solely on the written statements and evidence. The Player or Team Official must attend the meeting, if accepted by the panel, at the time determined by Canada Soccer. Should a Player or Team Official fail to attend the meeting when scheduled, the Panel shall rely solely on the written statements and evidence submitted.
- b) Should a Club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with Canada Soccer in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (i) Written notification of the Club's intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (discipline@canadasoccer.com) to Canada Soccer by 14h00ET on the day following the match, or prior to the commencement of the second match, whichever is the earlier.
 - (ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) above will still apply.
 - (iii) The submission of statements and evidence must be lodged with Canada Soccer by 23h00ET on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) above.
 - a. Should the Player or Team Official wish to provide supporting statements to the panel verbally, they must request to do so as part of this

submission. The panel will have the sole discretion to choose to accept a virtual meeting to hear these statements verbally or instead rely solely on the written statements and evidence. The Player or Team Official must attend the meeting, if accepted by the panel, at the time determined by Canada Soccer. Should a Player or Team Official fail to attend the meeting when scheduled, the Panel shall rely solely on the written statements and evidence submitted.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a Player or Team Official will be eligible to participate in the second match if notification as set out in 4(b)(i) above is appropriately submitted and acknowledged. A Club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via fax or e-mail to Canada Soccer and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) below, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

- c) Should a Player or Team Official participate in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out above, Canada Soccer will charge any of the following, Club, Player and Team Official, whichever is applicable in the circumstances, of misconduct for participating whilst under suspension.
- d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:
 - (i) The claim is rejected - the Player or Team Official reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in Section 7 below. A rejected claim will result in an administrative fee issued to the Club in the amount of \$500.00.
 - (ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment. A rejected and frivolous claim will result in an administrative fee issued to the Club in the amount of \$1000.00.
 - (iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment, as set out in Section 7 below, is transferred from the record of the Player or Team Official reported by the referee to the appropriately identified offender.
- e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to make an order of costs against the claimant(s).
- f) Where, despite there being clear evidence that there is a case of mistaken identity, a Player, Team Official, or their Club does not submit a claim within the specified time limits, Canada Soccer's Incident Review Body may within seven days of the incident request the Disciplinary Committee to review the matter. A Club failing to submit a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with Misconduct by Canada Soccer's Incident Review Body if there is evidence that the Club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.
- g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by Canada

Soccer.

- h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIM REGARDING A DISMISSAL

- a) A Player or Team Official and their Club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a Player or Team Official from the field of play or technical area by demonstrating to Canada Soccer that the dismissal was wrongful or that the standard punishment associated would be clearly excessive.
- b) For a dismissal to be considered 'wrongful', there must be evidence demonstrating a clear and egregious error made by the referee.
- c) For a punishment to be considered 'excessive', it must be established that the circumstances of the sending-off offence were truly exceptional. The ability to submit a claim of excessive punishment as outlined in this section is provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. It is not intended to lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments.
- d) A Claim Regarding a Dismissal for a Player or a Team Official may be lodged for sending-off offences, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal. However, the Disciplinary Panel has the ability to determine that the standard punishment for a dismissal is excessive only in case of :
 - (i) A sending-off offences by a Player for :
 - a. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
 - b. Serious foul play;
 - c. Violent conduct; or
 - d. Biting, or spitting at, someone
 - (ii) A sending-off offences by a Team Official for :
 - a. Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner;
 - b. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
 - c. Violent conduct; or
 - d. Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official, etc.).
- e) The Club, on behalf of the Player or Team Official, must:
 - (i) By 23h00ET on the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video of the incident where available) in support of the claim.
 - a. Should the Player or Team Official wish to provide supporting statements to the panel verbally, they must request to do so as part of this submission. The panel will have the sole discretion to choose to accept a virtual meeting to hear these statements verbally or instead rely solely on

the written statements and evidence. The Player or Team Official must attend the meeting, if accepted by the panel, at the time determined by Canada Soccer. Should a Player or Team Official fail to attend the meeting when scheduled, the Panel shall rely solely on the written statements and evidence submitted.

- f) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as it is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video evidence submitted.
- g) Should a Club have two matches with no or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim regarding a Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with Canada Soccer in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (i) written notification of the Club's intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (discipline@canadasoccer.com) to Canada Soccer by 14h00ET on the day following the match or prior to the commencement of the second match, whichever is earlier.
 - (ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(e)(i) above, will still apply.
 - (iii) The submission of statements and evidence must be lodged with Canada Soccer by 23h00ET on the second Business Day as set out in 5(e)(i) above.
- a. Should the Player or Team Official wish to provide supporting statements to the panel verbally, they must request to do so as part of this submission. The panel will have the sole discretion to choose to accept a virtual meeting to hear these statements verbally or instead rely solely on the written statements and evidence. The Player or Team Official must attend the meeting, if accepted by the panel, at the time determined by Canada Soccer. Should a Player or Team Official fail to attend the meeting when scheduled, the Panel shall rely solely on the written statements and evidence submitted.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a Player or Team Official will be eligible to participate in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(g)(i) or 5(g)(ii) above is appropriately submitted and acknowledged. A Club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via e-mail to Canada Soccer and therefore attention should be paid to 5 (j)(ii) below, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process

- h) The time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by Canada Soccer.
- i) Should a Player or Team Official participate in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, Canada Soccer will charge any of the following, Club, Player and Team Official, whichever is applicable in the circumstances, of misconduct for participating whilst under suspension.

- j) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim Regarding a Dismissal are as follows:
- (i) The claim is rejected – The Player or team Official serves the standard punishment as set out in section 7 below. A rejected claim will result in an administrative fee issued to the Club in the amount of \$500,00.
 - (ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in Section 7. A rejected and frivolous claim will result in an administrative fee issued to the Club in the amount of \$1000.00.
 - (iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment is either withdrawn or reduced.
- k) To completely withdraw punishment from a dismissal, the Disciplinary Panel must conclude that the dismissal was wrongful. In all other cases, the minimum punishment is set to one Match.
- l) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the match referee's decision is final and the Player or Team Official's dismissal from the field of play or technical area will remain on the record of the Player or Team Official and the Club notwithstanding to the Disciplinary Panel decision's. The offence will also remain the subject of the administration fee, and the Club will accumulate the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off.
- m) Where a Participant:
- (i) Submits a notification of their intention to make a claim that the standard punishment is clearly excessive but fails to complete the claim; or
 - (ii) Withdraws a complete claim prior to it being considered by a Disciplinary Committee, and, in either case, Canada Soccer believes that the notification or claim had no prospect of success or amounted to an abuse of process, the Participant may be charged with Misconduct by Canada Soccer.
- n) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to make an order for costs against the claimant(s).
- o) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim Regarding a Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

Regardless of the type of frivolous Claim (Section 4 or 5), Clubs are limited to a maximum of two (2) frivolous Claims per season. If a Club reaches two (2) unsuccessful and frivolous Claims, they will lose their right to submit Claims for the remainder of the season.

6. CLAIMS OF INSUFFICIENT PUNISHMENT

- a) Canada Soccer's Incident Review Body may bring such a claim where it is satisfied that the standard punishment otherwise applicable to that sending-off offence would be clearly insufficient. Such claims may only be made by Canada Soccer's Incident Review Body for the following sending-off offences:
- (i) Serious foul play; (Players)
 - (ii) Violent conduct; or (Players or Team Officials)
 - (iii) Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (Player or Team Officials)
 - (iv) Biting, or spitting at, someone. (Players)
 - (v) Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner (Team Officials)
 - (vi) Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official, etc.) (Team Officials)
- b) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering Insufficient Punishment are as follows:
- (i) The claim is rejected - the Player or Team Official serves the standard punishment as set out in Section 7 below.
 - (ii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment is increased.

7. STANDARD PUNISHMENTS

a) Caution Offences - Players

- (i) If a Player accumulates **Five (5)** recorded cautions in Senior and/or Reserve Team league competitions under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of Canada Soccer in the same season, the Player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Player has missed their Club's next **ONE (1)** recognized Senior Team match in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The Player will also be automatically issued a monetary fine in the amount of \$100.00.
- (ii) A Player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating Five (5) cautions and then goes on to accumulate a further three (3) cautions during the same season, will be subject to the following punishments:
 - a. If a Player accumulates **Eight (8)** cautions in Senior and/or Reserve Team league competitions under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of Canada Soccer between the opening day of the playing season and the last day of the same season, the Player will be suspended automatically

with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Player has missed their Club's next **ONE (1)** recognized Senior Team match in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The Player will also be automatically issued a monetary fine in the amount of \$150.00.

- b. If a Player accumulates **Eleven (11)** recorded cautions in Senior and/or Reserve Team league competitions under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of Canada Soccer between the opening day of the playing season and the last day of the same season, the Player will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Player has missed their Club's next **ONE (1)** recognized Senior Team match in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The Player will also be automatically issued a monetary fine in the amount of \$200.00.
- (iii) A Player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating five (5) cautions, eight (8) cautions and eleven (11) cautions, and who goes on to record thirteen (13) cautions in Senior and Reserve Team soccer competitions under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association in the same season, shall be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel when requested to do so. The members of the Panel shall have the power to deal with the Player in such a manner as they deem fit. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a Player.
- (iv) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out in Clause 9 below.
- (v) The Player must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the following season. Where a Player leaves the Club before a suspension is served, Clause 7j will apply.
- (vi) Matches Exempt from an Automatic Period of Suspension arising from an Accumulation of cautions
 - a. Accumulated cautions will be eliminated at the conclusion of the regular season.
 - b. The following Matches shall be exempt from any automatic period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions by Players under paragraph 7a above;
 - The playoffs.
 - c. Under such circumstances, a Canada Soccer Disciplinary Panel will impose a financial penalty of \$250.00 in lieu of any suspension that may have been incurred but cannot be served (e.g., if the club was

eliminated).

- d. Where a Player plays in five (5) consecutive league matches without receiving a yellow card, red card, or other discipline sanction arising during such matches, they may automatically reduce the yellow card accumulation total by one yellow card.
- This incentive may only be applied once in any period between yellow cards.
 - A Player may only receive this incentive three times throughout the course of the season.
 - This does not apply to cautions received in the Canadian Championship.
 - For the avoidance of doubt, “plays” means actually entering the field of play either as a starter or a substitute; the streak will not be reset if the Player does not feature in a match, it will continue at the next match they play in.
 - A Player cannot have a negative caution accumulation total- this incentive can only allow a caution accumulation total to reset to zero (0) at the lowest.
- (vii) In accordance with Law 10, although a Player who receives a yellow card during both the match and during Penalties (penalty shoot-out) is not sent off, yellow cards received during Penalties do count towards the Player’s caution accumulation.

b) Caution Offences – Team Officials

- (i) If a Team Official accumulates **two (2)** cautions in Senior and/or Reserve Team league competitions under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of Canada Soccer in the same season, they will be automatically issued a monetary fine in the amount of \$500.00.
- (ii) A Team Official who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating Two (2) cautions and then goes on to accumulate further cautions during the same season, will be subject to the following sanction:
- a. If a Team Official accumulates **Three (3)** cautions in Senior and/or Reserve Team league competitions under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of Canada Soccer in the same season, the Team Official will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Team Official has missed their Club’s next **ONE (1)** recognized Senior Team match in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. In addition, a minimum fine of \$1000.00 will be levied against the Team Official
 - b. If a Team Official accumulates **Four (4)** cautions in Senior and/or Reserve Team league competitions under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of Canada Soccer in the same season, the Team Official will be suspended

automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Team Official has missed their Club's next **TWO (2)** recognized Senior Team match in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. In addition, a minimum fine of \$1000.00 will be levied against the Team Official.

- c. If a Team Official accumulates **more than Four (4)** cautions in Senior and/or Reserve Team league competitions under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of Canada Soccer in the same season they shall be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel when requested to do so. The members of the Panel shall have the power to deal with the Team Official in such manner as they deem fit. The same procedure will apply for every further caution recorded against a Team Official.
- (iii) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out in Clause 9 below.
 - (iv) Matches Exempt from an Automatic Period of Suspension arising from an Accumulation of cautions
 - a. The following Matches shall be exempt from any automatic period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions by Technical Area Occupants under paragraph 7 above:
 - The playoffs.
 - b. Under such circumstances, a Canada Soccer Disciplinary Panel will impose a financial penalty of \$250.00 in lieu of any suspension that may have been incurred but cannot be served (e.g., if the club was eliminated).
 - c. Where a Team Official plays in seven (7) consecutive league matches without receiving a yellow card, red card, or other discipline sanction arising during such matches, they may automatically reduce the yellow card accumulation total by one yellow card.
 - This incentive may only be applied once in any period between yellow cards.
 - A Team Official may only receive this incentive three times throughout the course of the season.
 - This does not apply to cautions received in the Canadian Championship.
 - A Team Official also cannot have a negative caution accumulation total- this incentive can only allow a caution accumulation total to reset to zero (0) at the lowest.
 - A Team Official's streak will not be reset if they are not in the lineup, it will continue at their next appearance.

c) Players Sent-off under Law 12 - Receiving a second caution in the same match

A Player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for receiving a second caution in the same match will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Player has missed their Club's next **ONE (1)** recognized Senior Team match in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Player must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$50.00 will be levied against the Player.

Note: A claim cannot be made against this sending-off offence

d) Players Sent-off under Law 12 - Denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity

A Player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by committing a deliberate handball offence OR denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Player has missed their Club's next **ONE (1)** recognized Senior Team match in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Player must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$50.00 will be levied against the Player.

e) Players Sent-off under Law 12 - Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures

A Player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Player has missed their Club's next **TWO (2)** recognized Senior Team matches in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Player must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$75.00 will be levied against the Player.

f) Players Sent-off Under Law 12 - Biting or spitting at someone

A Player who is dismissed from the Field of play for biting or spitting at someone whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Player has missed their Club's next **SEVEN (7)** recognized Senior Team matches in

Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Player must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$1000.00 will be levied against the Player.

g) Players Sent-Off Under Law 12 - Serious Foul Play

- (i) A Player who is dismissed from the Field of play for Serious Foul Play, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Player has missed their Club's next **TWO (2)** recognized Senior Team matches in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Player must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$100.00 will be levied against the Player.
- (ii) Where a Player is dismissed from the Field of play for Serious Foul Play, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, in addition to the automatic suspension outlined in this clause, Canada Soccer reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the Player in accordance with one or more provisions under the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code.

h) Players Sent-off Under Law 12 - Violent Conduct

- (i) A Player who is dismissed from the Field of play for Violent Conduct, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Player has missed their Club's next **THREE (3)** recognized Senior Team matches in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Player must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$100.00 will be levied against the Player.
- (ii) Where a Player is dismissed from the Field of play for Violent Conduct, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, in addition to the automatic suspension outlined in this clause, Canada Soccer reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the Player in accordance with one or more provisions under the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code.

i) Team Officials Sent Off Under Law 12

(i) Receiving a second caution in the same match

A Team Official who is dismissed for receiving a second caution in the same match will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic

Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Team Official has missed their Club's next **ONE (1)** recognized Senior Team match in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Team Official must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$250.00 will be levied against the Team Official.

Note: A claim cannot be made against this sending-off offence

- (ii) **Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, or obstructing the movement of a Player**
- (iii) **Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play**
- (iv) **Entering the field of play to confront a Match Official (including at half-time and full-time) or to interfere with play, an opposing Player or a match official**
- (v) **Deliberately leaving the technical area to show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a Match Official or act in a provocative or inflammatory manner**
- (vi) **Using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment**

A Team Official who is dismissed from the technical area for any one of the above offences (ii -vi) whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Team Official has missed their Club's next **ONE (1)** recognized Senior Team match in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Team Official must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$500.00 will be levied against the Team Official.

- (vii) **Enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner**
- (viii) **Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures**
- (ix) **Violent conduct**

A Team Official who is dismissed from the technical area for any one of the above offences (vii - ix) whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Team Official has missed their Club's next **THREE (3)** recognized Senior Team matches in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Team Official must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$1000.00 will be levied

against the Team Official.

- (x) **Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)**

A Team Official who is dismissed from the technical area for the above offence(x) whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all domestic Senior and Reserve league matches and Open Friendly Matches, until such time as the Team Official has missed their Club's next **SEVEN (7)** recognized Senior Team matches in Approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2026 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out in Clause 9 below. The Team Official must serve the suspension with the Club at which the Player committed the suspension offence. In addition, a minimum fine of \$1500.00 will be levied against the Team Official.

j) Where a Player or Team Official moves between Clubs

- (i) Where a Player or Team Official moves between Clubs at a time when he is subject to suspension resulting from either these Procedures or any charge of Misconduct, the following shall apply:
 - a. Until the Player or Team Official moves, the suspension shall be served by reference to matches completed by the Club that the Player or Team Official moves from;
 - b. Where the Club that the Player or Team Official moves to compete at the same level as the Club that the Player or Team Official moves from, any remaining period of suspension at the time that the Player or Team Official moves shall be served by reference to matches completed by the Club that the Player or Team Official moves to;
 - c. Where the Club that the Player or Team Official moves to compete at a different level from the Club that the Player or Team Official moves from, any remaining period of suspension at the time that the Player moves shall continue to be served by reference to matches completed by the Club that the Player or Team Official moves from unless dispensation has been granted in writing by Canada Soccer for the suspension to be served with reference to matches completed by the Club that the Player or Team Official moves to.
- (ii) This paragraph applies to all moves by Players or Team Officials between Clubs which are completed and evidenced to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer, however they occur. This includes, but is not limited to, all transfers, loans and the expiration of loans, and Players whose registration is cancelled by the Club that the Player moves from, where that Player is subsequently registered by the Club that the Player moves to.

k) Outstanding Suspensions

Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season, with the exception of outstanding caution accumulation suspensions, must be served at the commencement of the next following season.

l) Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code

In cases where:

- (i) A Match Official's report indicates a serious breach of the Laws of the Game; or
- (ii) Incidents of Misconduct reported to Canada Soccer other than a breach of the Laws of the Game, which occurred on or around the field of play whether before, during or after a game; or
- (iii) Incidents of Misconduct concerning one of the below occurrences occurring on or around the field of play (excluding the tunnel area) falling within Law 12 of the Laws of the Game which were not seen and dealt with by Match Officials but were caught on video:
 - a. Serious foul play (Players)
 - b. Violent conduct (Players and Team Officials)
 - c. Biting, or spitting at, someone (Players)
 - d. Offensive, insulting, abusive language or gestures; (Players and Team Officials)
 - e. Physical or aggressive behaviour (including biting or spitting) towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, match official, spectator or any other person (Team Officials);
 - f. Misconduct by occupants of the Technical Area; or
- (iv) Incidents of Misconduct reported to Canada Soccer which occurred on or around the field of play, but which were outside of the jurisdiction of the Match Officials. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a. An incident of Misconduct by a Player or Team Official committed following them having been sent off
 - b. An incident of Misconduct by a Player or Team Official committed after the Referee has left the field of play
 - c. Misconduct by occupants of the Technical Area; or
- (v) Incidents of Misconduct relating to the successful deception of a Match Official by way of a clear act of simulation which leads either to a penalty being awarded or the dismissal of an opposing Player; or
- (vi) Comments made in the media, to include social media, which constitute improper conduct and/or bring the game into disrepute; or
- (vii) Incidents that occur in the tunnel area or in close vicinity of the stadium.

Following review by Canada Soccer's Incident Review Body, Canada Soccer

reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the Player or official in accordance with one or more of the provisions under the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code. When dealing with a case under (I)(i) above, the Disciplinary Committee may take into account any standard punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under (I)(ii) and (iii) above, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

m) Charges

Canada Soccer may issue a Charge against a Club at any time during the playing season in relation to caution or sending-off offences committed by Players or Team Officials of the Club.

n) Re-Arranged Matches

A Canada Soccer Disciplinary Panel may determine that a Match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the Match has been arranged by the Club with a view to enabling a Player or Team Official to complete their suspension, or to avoid a specific match, and thus enable the Player or Team Official to participate. The Canada Soccer Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretionary power to rule if a match has been “reasonably rescheduled” (ex. Match rescheduled due to Club’s participation in a continental competition). The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

o) Collection of Administration Fees

It will be the responsibility of the Club to collect the \$15.00 administration fee from the Players and Team Officials concerned. Canada Soccer will invoice Clubs monthly throughout the season for their accrued administration fees. Failure by a Club to pay an invoice within 21 calendar days will result in Canada Soccer imposing a suspension on part or all of the Club’s soccer activities until such time as the outstanding amount has been paid in full. Any Club experiencing difficulty meeting the 21-day limit should contact the Finance Department of Canada Soccer. Any Club experiencing difficulties in obtaining monies owed by Players of the Club may refer such matters to the Soccer Administration (Professional Game) department of Canada Soccer.

8. DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS AND/OR TEAM OFFICIALS AND/OR SPECTATORS

The following constitutes misconduct by a Club and are sanctioned by a fine in accordance with Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code:

- a) Where a referee sanctions at least five (5) members (including Team Officials) of the same team during a match (caution or expulsion), a fine in the amount of \$250.00 will be issued. Note subsequent offences will result in the amount of the fine increasing by \$100.00 on every occasion.

- b) Where at least three (3) members (Players and/or Team Officials) are sent off from the same team during a match, a fine in the amount of \$250.00 will be issued. Note subsequent offences will result in the amount of the fine increasing by \$100.00 on every occasion
- c) Following a review by Canada Soccer's Incident Review Body, where two (2) or more Players surround a Match Official to protest a decision, make threats, intimidate, or show force against a Match Official, a fine in the amount of \$250.00 will be issued. Note subsequent offences will result in the fine increasing by \$100.00 on every occasion.
- d) Following a review by Canada Soccer's Incident Review Body, involvement in a brawl/fight/mass confrontation
 - (i) The coming together of Players and/or Team Official to engage in a physical and/or verbal confrontation.
 - (ii) Opposing Players exhibiting aggressive behavior toward each other.
 - (iii) Players and/or Team Officials trying to intimidate one or more of the match officials to influence a current outcome/decision or a future outcome/decision.
 - (iv) Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a brawl/fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.
 - (v) If it possible to identify the perpetrator(s), they may be sanctioned accordingly
 - (vi) In all cases Canada Soccer may sanction the Club(s) to which the aggressors belong.
 - (vii) A fine in the amount of \$250.00 will be issued. Note subsequent offences will result in the fine increasing by \$100.00 on every occasion.
- e) Following a review by Canada Soccer's Incident Review Body, incidents involving disorderliness at matches such as improper conduct amongst spectators (ex. letting off an incendiary device, displaying insulting or political slogans, entering or invading the field of play, violence towards persons, throwing missiles), a minimum fine in the amount of \$250.00 will be issued. Note subsequent offences will result in the minimum fine (\$250.00) increasing by \$100.00 on every occasion.
- f) Following a review by Canada Soccer's Incident Review Body, incidents that occur in the tunnel area or in close vicinity of the stadium.
- g) Any Club whose Players and Team Officials accumulate a total number of Penalty Points during a season which is 30% or more above the median number of penalty points per match average in the same League, will be required to appear before a Canada Soccer Disciplinary Panel to explain the conduct of its Players and Team Officials. If the Disciplinary Panel considers that the Club is not able to provide a reasonable explanation for such occurrence, the Club may be warned and/or ordered to pay a fine for having permitted its Players and Team Officials to violate the Laws of the Game in contravention of Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code. In addition, the Panel shall be entitled to make an order as to costs against the Club. Any action taken by the Club to discipline its Players and Team Officials will be taken into consideration by the Panel in its findings.
- h) In so far as this Regulation shall apply, the following Penalty Points will be recorded

against a Club:

- (i) For all recorded cautions to Players - 4 Points
 - (ii) For all recorded cautions to Team Officials - 8 Points
 - (iii) For Sending-off under Law 12 (c) (d) - 10 Points
 - (iv) For Sending-off under Law 12 (e) (f) (g) - 12 Points
 - (v) For Sending-off of a Team Official - 20 Points
- i) A Club required to appear before a Canada Soccer Disciplinary Panel under this clause shall be represented by at least one of its Directors/Officials and the Head Coach.
- j) Canada Soccer reserves the right to prefer a charge against a Club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by Players of the Club.

9. SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS

- a) Unless otherwise ordered by a Canada Soccer Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel or Independent Arbitration Panel, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension.
- b) Any suspension imposed may only be served whilst the Player or Team Official holds a registration with a Club duly sanctioned. Should a Player or Team Official transfer or register for a new Club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the Player will not be eligible to play for their new Club until such time as the Club with which the Player committed the suspension offence has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.
- c) A Team Official suspended under these entire regulations will not be eligible to participate with any other Club in any capacity until such time as the Club with which the Team Official committed the suspension offence has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.

10. MATCH SUSPENSION

- a) A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play.
- b) The suspension is imposed in terms of the number of matches and/or time periods. Matches are served in the competition in which the offence took place unless otherwise ordered by a Canada Soccer Disciplinary Panel. Time periods include all competitions and soccer-related activity unless otherwise ordered by a Canada Soccer Disciplinary Panel.
- c) A Match Suspension may be imposed on a Player or a Team Official.
- d) The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:
- (i) The field-of-play.

- (ii) The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
 - (iii) The tunnel and/or private way from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
 - (iv) The dugouts, benches, and technical areas.
 - (v) The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.
- e) The Player or Team Official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, Players and Club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.
 - f) A Club who permits a Player or a Team Official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.
 - g) A Match Suspension does not prohibit a Player or Team Official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a Club organized private training session. However, a Player or Team Official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.
 - h) If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended Player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment or forfeiture of the match. The Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee shall have the discretionary power to determine if a Club is responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment or forfeiture of the match.
 - i) If the suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.
 - j) A Player must be eligible to have played in a match in order to have the suspension served.
 - k) Suspensions can only be served on the terms as prescribed by the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee. A suspension may be deemed not to have been served by Canada Soccer if a match has been re-arranged for the primary purpose of enabling a Player or Team Official to complete a suspension.
 - l) Players or other technical staff and officials, including the Head Coach, under suspension are not permitted to be included in the List of Officials on the technical bench. Breaches of this regulation will be subject to further sanctions.

11. PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SANCTION

- a) The Disciplinary Committee that imposes a match suspension, a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench, a ban on taking part in any soccer-related activity, the obligation to play a match without spectators, the obligation to play a match on neutral ground or a ban on playing in a certain stadium, or a fine, may examine whether it is possible to suspend the implementation of the sanction partially.
- b) Partial suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not

exceed six matches or six months, or \$10,000.00 and if the relevant circumstances allow it, in particular the previous record of the person or Club sanctioned.

- c) The Disciplinary Committee decides which part of the sanction may be suspended. In any case, half of the sanction is definite.
- d) By suspending implementation of the sanction, the body subjects the person or Club sanctioned to a probationary period of no more than two years.
- e) If the person or Club benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the sanction applied; it is added to the sanction imposed for the new infringement.

12. CONCURRENT INFRINGEMENTS

- a) If several fines are imposed against someone as a result of one or more offences, the Disciplinary Committee will base the fine on the most serious offence committed first and, depending on the circumstances, may increase the sanction.
- b) The same applies if a person incurs several time sanctions of a similar type (two or more match suspensions, two or more stadium bans etc.) as the result of one or several infringements.

Appendix A:

Where a player or member of the team technical staff is dismissed by a Match Official the following minimum suspensions are to be applied.

Article	Sending Off Offence	Sanction	
Player			
7c	Receiving a second caution in the same match	One match	\$50 fine
7d	Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity	One match	\$75 fine
7e	Using Offensive insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	One match	\$75 fine
7f	Biting or spitting at someone	Seven matches	\$1000 fine
7g	Serious Foul Play	Two matches	\$100 fine
7h	Violent Conduct	Three matches	\$100 fine
Team Official			
7i.i	Receiving a second caution in the same match	One match	\$250 fine
7i.ii	Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team	One match	\$500 fine
7i.iii	Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play	One match	\$500 fine
7i.iv	Entering the field of play to confront a match official	One match	\$500 fine
7i.v	Deliberately leaving the technical area to show dissent	One match	\$500 fine
7i.vi	Using unauthorised electronic equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic equipment	One match	\$500 fine
7i.vii	Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner	Three matches	\$1000 fine
7i.vii	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	Three matches	\$1000 fine
7i.ix	Violent conduct	Three matches	\$1000 fine
7i.x	Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person	Seven matches	\$1500 fine

DEFINITIONS

Ban from Dressing Rooms and/or Substitute Bench means; depriving the right of an individual to enter teams' dressing rooms and/or the area immediately surrounding the field of play, and in particular to sit on the substitute bench

Ban from Soccer Related Activity means; banned from taking part in all or any part of soccer related activities. The Disciplinary Committee shall ensure that the extent and remit of the ban is clearly provided in the decision.

Business Day is defined as Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays as defined by the Government of Canada.

Calculation of Time Sanctions means; the duration of a time sanction can be interrupted by rest periods during or between seasons.

Charge means; a written notice served on a Participant by Canada Soccer which sets out facts and matters of alleged Misconduct committed by that Participant, and which serves to commence disciplinary proceedings against them.

Combined Sanctions means; unless otherwise specified, the sanctions provided may be combined.

Deduction of points means; a Club has points deducted from those already attained in a current or a future competition.

Exclusion from a competition means; the Club is deprived of the right to take part in a current or future competition.

Fines means; a penalty issued by the Disciplinary Committee. Fines under \$500.00 that are not paid within the time period specified will automatically be increased by 10% and will continue to be applied to the original fine every four weeks until the fine and penalty are paid. Fines over \$500.00 that are not paid within the time period specified in the decision will result in the individual being suspended until the fine has been paid.

Forfeit means; teams sanctioned with a forfeit are considered to have lost the match by 0-3. If the goal difference at the end of the match in question is greater than 0-3, the result on the pitch is upheld.

Incident Review Body is made of up members of Canada Soccer's Disciplinary Committee and is tasked with reviewing incidents that are brought to the attention of Canada Soccer. The role of the panel is to determine, by majority, if there is a basis to issue a charge. Only when the Incident Review Body has determined there is a basis for a charge will a charge letter be issued for the accused's response.

Officials means; anyone, with the exception of Players, performing an activity connected with Association Soccer, regardless of title, the type of activity (administrative, sporting or any other) and the duration of the activity. Officials include, but are not limited to, all Directors, Officers, committee members, coaches, trainers, referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, match

commissioners, referee assessors, diversity officers, persons in charge of safety, and any other person responsible for technical, medical and/or administrative matters in Canada Soccer, its Members, Clubs or leagues, as well as all other persons obliged to comply with the Canada Soccer By-laws.

Player means; a soccer (football) Player registered with Canada Soccer or one of its Member Associations.

Playing a match behind closed doors means; the obligation to play a match or a number of matches without spectators.

Playing a match on neutral ground means; the obligation to play a match or a number of matches in another venue.

Referee means; a person qualified under Canada Soccer's Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees who may be appointed as a Match Official.

Reprimand means; an official written pronouncement of disapproval sent to the perpetrator of an infringement.

Return of awards means; the person or entity required to return an award including the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects (medal, trophy, etc.).

Stadium Ban means; prohibits someone from entering the confines of one or several stadiums.

Standard Penalty means; a standard penalty determined by Canada Soccer in accordance with a tariff of standard penalties in force from time to time, to be applied in relation to Standard Cases.

Transfer Ban means; preventing a Club from registering any Player during the period in question.

Warning means; a reminder of the substance of a disciplinary rule allied with the threat of a sanction in the event of a further infringement.