



October 31, 2014

Attention: BC Soccer Youth District Members

From: BC Soccer Board of Directors

RE: Clarification for requesting for dispensation to the BC Soccer Rules and Regulations

Dispensation Requests

BC Soccer is pleased to be the largest provincial sport organization (PSO) in BC and the third largest soccer specific PSO in Canada. We believe in the power of soccer and look to develop our game by emphasizing its benefits of active and healthy living while supporting our member clubs, districts, and leagues to strengthen and unite their local soccer community.

An important part of BC Soccer's mandate and role is to lead and govern soccer for the geographical region of BC and all the member organizations within it. In order to be able to deliver against this, we must ensure the BC Soccer Bylaws, Rules and Regulations are adhered to and a consistent and transparent approach is taken with all decision making.

The topic of applying for dispensation and/or exemption was discussed at the October 2014 Youth Member Forum. It was agreed that BC Soccer must ensure that dispensation and exemption applications/requests are only reviewed in accordance to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the association. Based on this understanding of strong enforcement, BC Soccer wishes to provide all member organizations with a reminder of the only instances where dispensation or special permission may be applied for to the BC Soccer Board of Directors. Further, it is important to note that applications will only be reviewed if they meet the criteria and even those applications which meet the criteria, may not be supported by the board for various reasons.

Below are instances within the BC Soccer Rules and Regulations (as of October 25, 2014) where dispensation or special exemption/permission may be applied for to the BC Soccer Board of Directors.

RULE 2 - PLAYER AGE LIMITS

f) Youth players are ineligible to play in an age division for which they attain the limiting age before the first day of January (January 1) of the current calendar year, unless permission is granted as

defined in the 2014 BC Soccer Playing Down Policy.

http://www.bcsoccer.net/files/AboutUs/BylawsRulesRegsPolicies/PlayingDownPolicy_nodate.pdf

RULE 4 - AFFILIATION

Youth

- l) Youth teams aged Under 13 to Under 16 shall not be permitted to register more than eighteen (18) players. BCSA Board may grant seasonal dispensation to Rural or Remote Districts for players/teams within the Rural or Remote District.
- m) Youth teams aged Under 17 and Under 18 shall not be permitted to register more than twenty (20) players. BCSA Board may grant seasonal dispensation to Rural or Remote Districts for players/teams within the Rural or Remote District.

RULE 5 - PLAYER REGISTRATION

Youth

- r) All youth residing in the Province of British Columbia shall be eligible for registration as a youth player in the Association. The Board may grant special permission to non-residents upon written request.
(Note: Request must meet CSA/FIFA requirements and International Transfer Certificate Procedures Apply -
http://www.bcsoccer.net/files/MemberService/DocumentsAndForms/InternationalTransferCertificateProcedures_updated_October2014.pdf)

RULE 7 - TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

Youth

- i) When a team, with the consent of the district or league having jurisdiction, has ceased to operate, or has been declared defunct, then the players registered on this team shall be entitled to transfer without fee to any other team, upon making application to the Association. Having satisfied itself of the bona fide of the application, the Association shall have the power to transfer the player to a team producing the player's signed application. The Association may, at its discretion, transfer a player of a team that has been declared defunct after the transfer deadline.
(Note: based on the submission of a defunct team application, if approved, dispensation would be granted to certain transfer rules.)

- s) At the discretion of the Association, and only in special circumstances, i.e., the case of a player having moved residence from one district to another, a youth player transfer may be permitted after the transfer deadline(s) specified in paragraph "b", Rule 7 - Transfer of Players.
- t) The transfer of youth players to one team in the U-13 or older age groups during any one season shall be limited to three, except in the case of:
 - i) teams given special dispensation by the Association for the purposes of Provincial Cup competition (see paragraph "g", Rule 24 - Rules for Provincial Cup Play),

RULE 10 – DISCIPLINE

- e) No player or member of any such team, game official, District, League or affiliated association so removed or suspended shall be eligible for membership in any other team, District, League or association affiliated with the Association without special permission of the Board.

RULE 22 - YOUTH PLAYERS – ZONING

- d) A youth aged player may register and play outside of the district in which he/she resides providing that no affiliated team of youth aged registered players shall register and/or play more than five (5) Out-of-district players.
 - i) Those districts whose boundaries are limited by geography and player registration of less than 1000 players may apply to the Association for special exemption from Rule 22

RULE 24 - RULES FOR PROVINCIAL CUP PLAY – YOUTH

- c) The provincial "A" Level championships shall be open to all youth teams, except BC Premier League teams, under the jurisdiction of the Association, declared on entry forms submitted by December 1st in the current coastal playing season and by June 1st in the current interior playing season, each year, provided the team, or teams have played in properly constituted league matches and are not under suspension from district or authorized leagues. A properly constituted league shall consist of no less than four teams. The Board may grant special permission for a team or teams to participate otherwise, upon written request.
- d) The Provincial "B" level competition shall be open to any affiliated youth team except BC Premier League teams, Metro Select Level teams, or Vancouver Island Premier League teams as declared on entry forms submitted by December 1st in the current coastal playing season and by June 1st in the current interior playing season, each year, provided the team,



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or teams have played in properly constituted league matches. A properly constituted league shall consist of no less than four teams. The Board may grant special permission for a team or teams to participate otherwise, upon written request.

- h) Districts whose boundaries are limited by geography may apply to the Association for special permission to enter selected teams in provincial "A" or "B" Cup competitions. Written request must be made annually before October 15th in the case of the coastal districts and by May 1st in the case of the interior districts. Consideration will only be given to teams formed from properly registered players, selected from affiliated teams only.

Kind Regards,

Jason Elligott

Director of Community Development

On behalf of Rob Lennox, Governance Committee Chair, BC Soccer

CC:

Roger Barnes - President, BC Soccer

Rob Lennox - VP Youth, BC Soccer

Rob Brown - VP Adult, BC Soccer

Paul Mullen - Executive Director, BC Soccer

Lori D'Andrea - Member Service Coordinator, BC Soccer