



December 8, 2015

Attention: BC Soccer Members

From: BC Soccer Board of Directors

RE: BC Soccer updated Discipline Policy and Sanction Guidelines

The youth of BC deserve our every protection.

Over the past several months BC Soccer's Discipline Committee has had the unfortunate experience of holding several hearings for the abuse of youth officials and players by team officials (coaches, assistant coaches and managers), association officials (paid coaches) and spectators. We are alarmed by the severity of these incidents and the lack of good judgement shown by some of the adults participating in soccer. In the worst case we have had indefinite suspensions pending the outcome of police investigations, we have also suspended team officials from all soccer related activity for up to 18 months and some spectators for up to 6 months.

BC Soccer has decided to take an active stance on the issue of youth abuse. No youth official or player should be subjected to actions by adults that make it difficult for them to participate in soccer. We are most disturbed by the number of youth officials we lose each year because adults are unable to refrain from abusive behavior. There is no justification for abusive behaviors by adults towards youth; not for a missed call, not for losing a game, not for suspected favoritism, not for real or perceived on-field fouls, not for anything.

Moving forward, BC Soccer will handle directly all abuse not only of officials but also youth players by adults. Clubs and districts, and leagues are obligated to forward the cases of official and youth player abuse to BC Soccer for determination of how the hearings will be handled. There will be no tolerance for any form of dissent, any offensive, insulting or abusive language and / or gestures, any use of profanity, any form of threatening remarks, or any physical contact. These actions may be reported by the youth subjected to the abuse, any witness to the abuse, information found on social media, the club or district, or parent complaints.

A new series of offenses, with the BC Soccer Discipline Policy, specific to the abuse of youth have been introduced for team officials, association officials, teams and spectators. Any sanctions that result from the abuse of an official or youth player may be accompanied by fines and bond requirements for the associated team and/or club. A team and/or club that has clearly demonstrated lack of control by officials, players, and/or spectators may also be subject to discipline and sanction. These new offenses significantly increase the previous level of suspension for abuse of an official and introduce suspensions for abuse of youth players.

Clubs and technical directors that appoint coaches should consider the technical ability of a team official but also their temperament and sanction history. A "winning" coach with poor behavior is not an



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acceptable formula; BC Soccer will hold clubs and districts accountable for their choices and the behaviors of their team and club officials and spectators.

It is clearly demonstrated to us that education by the club and districts, and the example of association and team officials, determines the behavior of individuals on the field.

BC Soccer thanks everyone in advance for their support in tackling the difficult issue of the abuse of our youth by adult participants in soccer.

Accompanying this memo are the updated BC Soccer Discipline Policy and Procedures, along with the Sanctioning Guidelines documents. These can also be found here: <https://www.bcsoccer.net/bylaws>.

Should you have any questions regarding this, please contact Dan Turvill Manager of Competitions and Discipline at danturvill@bcsoccer.net