



***BC Soccer Referee
Rules and Regulations***

Version 6

FINAL



Forward – British Columbia Soccer Association

Dear BC Soccer Officials,

On behalf of BC Soccer, I would like to congratulate and thank you for your ongoing efforts to develop and expand your knowledge and skills in refereeing.

This document briefly outlines BC Soccer's Referee Rules and Regulations. As the Regional arm of the Canadian Soccer Association, BC Soccer's Referee Rules and Regulations complies with Canadian Soccer Association's, "Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees". For a more detailed look at BC Soccer's Referee Rules and Regulations please see the complete version.

Ultimately our goal is to promote continued growth for all referees throughout British Columbia. In order to achieve this goal we must ensure all partners within our province are working in collective harmony.

Again, many thanks and we, as an association, look forward to continuing our working relationships and implementing a shared vision which supports the overall mission statement of BC Soccer:

"Developing the game by inspiring British Columbians to lifelong active, inclusive and team play."

Sincerely,



Jose Branco
Referee Development Coordinator
BC Soccer

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BC SOCCER– Referee Development Department

BC SOCCER REFEREE RULES AND REGULATIONS

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BC Soccer Referee Committee

Defined under Article 8 “Committees” of the BC Soccer Association’s Constitution and By-Laws, the Referee Committee is an Operational Committee constituted to be accountable to the board and membership.

BC Soccer Referee Rules and Regulations

The BC Soccer Referee Committee and Referee Department Staff are mandated by the Provincial Association to implement and deliver the Canadian Soccer Association’s “Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees” in British Columbia.

All candidates for referee shall be examined as to their suitability for duty by the Association’s Referee Committee. Such examinations may include oral, written and field tests.

Referees, officiating in non-affiliated leagues, cup competitions or tournaments, without permission from the Association, may be removed from the officials list

District, league and affiliated associations under the sanction or jurisdiction of the Association may appoint referees to their own matches, provided the appointments are made from the officials list.

Registration on the Association’s officials list of referees does not guarantee game appointments from district, leagues or affiliated associations.

Complaints by or against referees shall be made in writing to the Association.

This document reflects the Rules and Regulations which are currently in place and which may be altered from time to time.

Referee Classification and Standards

All referees classified as “Provincial”, “Regional”, “District” or Youth Referees shall be under the control and jurisdiction of the Association and must comply with the Rules, Regulation and codes as set out in:

- Rules and Regulations (Rule18-Referees and Rule 11-Discipline)
- Discipline Policies and Procedure Guide (Part 11 Section F Misconduct by Officials)
- Standards of Ethical Conduct

All referees classified as “Small Sided Game Referees” shall be under the control and jurisdiction of the Youth District in which they are registered.

Annual Review: A review of all registered match officials will take place annually by December 15 by the British Columbia Soccer Association’s Referee Committee; this review takes place in order to ensure each referee in the province is in the appropriate classification. These classifications take into consideration age of the referee (Youth / District), on-field performance of the referee, fitness level of the referee (in relation to the fitness criteria), etc. The above criteria may be modified by the Provincial Association from time to time.

Small-sided Game Referee

A Small Sided Referee is a minimum of 12 years of age who has successfully completed the appropriate Referee Course. These referees can officiate in any Small Sided Match.

Youth Referee

A Youth Referee is 14 years old and has successfully completed, the Entry Level Referees Clinic.

Referees under the age of 16 are eligible to officiate only in Competitions for players under 16 years of age. A Youth referee will automatically become a District referee on reaching the age of 16.

Maintaining Youth Referee Classification

It is mandatory that all registered Youth Referees attend an annual BC Soccer Refresher Course to remain up to date with changes issued by FIFA plus other relevant topics, as well as participate in the fitness component of the Refresher Course. The Refresher Course must have been attended not more than 12 months prior to registration. Failure to meet the above criteria will result in denial of registration until the criteria is met.

District Referee

A District Referee is a minimum of 16 years old and has successfully completed, the Entry Level Referees Clinic.

A District referee may officiate in any category of amateur soccer.

Maintaining District Referee Classification

It is mandatory that all registered District referees attend an annual Refresher Course to remain up to date with changes issued by FIFA plus other relevant topics, as well as participate in the fitness component of the Refresher Course. The Refresher Course must have been attended not more than 12 months prior to registration. Failure to meet the above criteria will result in denial of registration until the criteria is met.

Promotion from District Referee to Regional Referee

Referees must apply for promotion in writing (as part of annual registration). District Referees who seek promotion will only be promoted when appropriate on-field performance assessments, fitness criteria, and education / in service training modules have been attained.

District Referees seeking promotion to the Regional Referee classification are required to receive a minimum of 3 above grade match assessments.

Assessment marks from appointed Assessors will only be used toward promotion when the referee is officiating matches in an outdoor 11 a-side, 16 years or older (player) environment.

For the purpose of promotion only those assessments which take place between January 1 and November 30 will count.

Further, referees seeking promotion must have a minimum of 20 *qualifying matches** as a referee, 5 matches as an assistant referee on their individual log sheet.

District referees who are being considered for promotion to Regional Referee may apply for promotion to the Provincial Referee classification. This application can only be done in writing to the Provincial Association and is subject to satisfying the criteria as determined by the Provincial Association from time to time.

Once the above criterion is fulfilled the referee will be promoted to Regional.

**qualifying match = a match that may be counted towards promotion as determined by BC Soccer from time to time.*

Regional Referee

A Regional Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Provincial Association, as required by the Referee Committee, the ability to officiate at the Regional Level.

A Regional Referee may officiate in any category of amateur soccer.

Maintaining Regional Referee Classification

In order to maintain Regional Referee classification, a registered Referee must:

- a) Successful completion of the annual fitness test.
- b) Obtain a minimum of one annual assessment at grade.
- c) Attend a Refresher Course not more than 12 months prior to registration.

Failure to meet the above criteria will result in automatic reclassification to District Referee.

A Regional Referee being reclassified to District Referee for failing to maintain the minimum standards of performance and fitness shall be allowed the next season in which to be re-assessed as being of Regional Referee calibre. Failing which, the Referee will remain at the reclassified level until all requirements for upgrading have been completed.

Promotion from Regional Referee to Provincial Referee

Referees must apply for promotion in writing (as part of annual registration). Regional Referees who seek promotion will only be promoted when appropriate on-field performance assessments, fitness criteria, and education / in service training modules have been attained.

Regional Referees seeking promotion to the Provincial Referee classification are required to receive a minimum of 3 above grade match assessments.

Assessment marks from appointed Assessors will only be used toward promotion when the referee is officiating matches in an outdoor 11 a-side, 16 years of older (player) environment.

For the purpose of promotion only those assessments which take place between January 1 and November 30 will count.

Further Referees seeking promotion must have a minimum of 20 *qualifying matches** as a referee, 5 matches as an assistant referee on their individual log sheet.

Once the above criterion is fulfilled the referee will be promoted to Provincial.

**qualifying match = a match that may be counted towards promotion as determined by BC Soccer from time to time.*

Provincial Referee

A Provincial Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Provincial Association, as required by the Referee Committee, the ability to officiate at the Provincial Level.

A Provincial Referee may officiate in any category of amateur soccer or be recommended to officiate in non-amateur games under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Association.

Maintaining Provincial Referee Status

In order to maintain Provincial Referee classification, a registered Referee must:

- a) Complete an annual medical examination.
- b) Successful completion of the annual fitness test.
- c) Obtain a minimum of one annual assessment at grade.
- d) Attend a Refresher Course not more than 12 months prior to registration.

Failure to meet the above criteria will result in automatic reclassification to Regional Referee. A Provincial Referee being reclassified to Regional Referee for failing to maintain the minimum standards of performance and fitness shall be allowed the next season in which to be re-assessed as being of Provincial Referee calibre. Failing which, the Referee will remain at the reclassified level until all requirements for upgrading have been completed.

Policy for the Nomination and Selection of National List Officials

Detailed below are the procedure and the criteria required to carry out the nomination process that was approved at the Canadian Soccer Association's Referee Committee meeting on 1 June 2007.

Criteria:

- Registered as a Provincial Referee for the season of, and the one immediately prior to, nomination
- Officiated, in the previous season, in a minimum of 20 qualification games* as referee and a minimum of 5 qualification games as an assistant referee in outdoor 11-a-side matches involving men's teams over the age of 16 years.
- Have a minimum of 5 assessments of which 2 must be as an assistant referee within the 12 months prior to nomination. Assessments must have been carried out by a CSA accredited Provincial Assessor or an Assessor on the National List.
- Successfully completed the FIFA Men's fitness test to the International standard for Assistant Referees in August of the year of nomination
- Attend the Club National Championships in October of the year of nomination as determined by the CSA Referee Committee

***Qualifying Games** A match that may be counted towards promotion for a registered referee.

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.

Procedure:

Provincial Associations are to;

- Nominate to the CSA, by 1 July each year, those Provincial referees who have demonstrated outstanding ability as a Provincial referee and are judged worthy of consideration for advancement to the National List
- Provide the CSA Referees Committee with a resume of the Referees career to date of nomination, together with a supporting recommendation form from the Provincial RDC
- Confirm that the referee has met the minimum officiating requirements in the previous season
- Provide the CSA Referees Committee with copies of the assessments as detailed in the criteria above
- Arrange and supervise a fitness test prior to 31 August, in the year of nomination and provide the CSA Referees Committee with the result of that test by no later than 2 September
- Confirm the availability of the nominated official to attend the Club National Championships in the year of nomination.

- Provincial Associations may nominate National List Assistant Referees for consideration to the National List of Referees at this time, providing that they meet the minimum officiating and assessment requirements as a referee. For such nominations the Provincial Association is required to provide reasons why the individual should be considered for a move from the assistant referee list to the Referee List.

Process:

The CSA Referees Committee will, upon receipt of the nominations in July, consider the recommendations of the Provincial Associations. Match officials will, subject to selection by the CSA Referees Committee and successful completion of the FIFA fitness test, to the National Standard as determined by FIFA from time to time, in August of the year of nomination, be required to attend a National Club Championship Tournament, in that year, as appointed by the CSA. At this tournament match officials will be required to referee, act as assistant referee and fourth official. Here they will be assessed by National List assessors, and members of the Referee Committee will observe their performance. They will also receive education sessions during the tournament and may be required to attend an interview to ascertain their suitability to be promoted to the National List.

Following this process the most suitable referees will be invited to join the National List of Match Officials (either as a Referee or as Assistant Referee) subject to meeting the criteria in force in respect of the National List of Officials, as determined by the Association from time to time.

National List Match Officials

Where the CSA Referee Committee, at the review of performance, identify that a national list match official is not consistently meeting the performance standards expected for that level, the official may be invited to attend a Tournament so that his or her performance may be assessed, by National assessors, over a number of days, to determine whether he or she still meets the requirements for the National List. The match official will have been notified of his or her shortcomings and appropriate steps taken to provide development advice and education to support the individual. Where a referee is removed from the National List he or she will be classified as Provincial referee for the following season, subject to meeting the criteria in force for Provincial officials at that time and may be re-nominated by the Provincial Association after one season as a Provincial official provided that the criteria for nomination is met.

Immigrant Referees

Referees taking residence in British Columbia are given the classification, which they attained, in the country from which they came from up to the Provincial level, per the CSA guideline.

Referees Re-Registering after two or more years

If a Referee wishes to re-register with British Columbia Soccer Association, and has not registered in the past two years, they must apply to BC Soccer. The application would include proof of successful completion of an Entry Level exam and after the application is reviewed the referee will be classified.

Uniform Requirements

- (a) All Match Officials in Competitions under the jurisdiction of the British Columbia Soccer Association must wear uniforms comprising of a plain black shirts and black shorts. Socks shall be black. Referees may 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 second choice colour is yellow, the third red. Yellow or red shirts should have a black collar where one is fitted. The British Columbia Soccer Association may review these alternate colours of uniforms from time to time.
- b) Match Officials are required to wear their appropriate level of badge. The badge must be worn on the left breast pocket. No other competition or association badge may be worn.
- c) Other requirements as set by the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) from time to time.

Medical and Fitness Testing

British Columbia referees are obligated to ensure that they are physical fit to control matches in the province.

Fitness Test and Criteria for Referees

All referees, from Youth Referee to Provincial Referee are required to participate and complete an annual fitness test. These Fitness Tests are conducted at Annual Refresher courses. (FIFA, National and Provincial Referees have additional requirements) Provincial, Regional District and Youth Referees are required to complete one of the below Fitness tests based on their referee classification.

For more information on Fitness Testing please refer to the below Protocol or the “BC Soccer Referee Fitness and Training Manual.”

Referee Fitness Test Protocol

Category	HI Test Standards		Cooper Test Standards			Beep Test Shuttles
	Sprints 6 x 40 m	Interval Run (4000 m)	50m Sprint	200m Sprint	12' Run	
Men						
Referee (FIFA, National)	6.2 sec	30/35 sec	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AR (FIFA, National)	6.0 sec	30/40 sec	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Provincial	6.4 sec	30/40 sec	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Regional	6.6 sec	35/45 sec	8.5s	37.0s	2,400m	8
District	n/a	35/45 sec	n/a	n/a	2,000m	6
Women						
Referee (FIFA, National)	6.6 sec	35/40 sec	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AR (FIFA, National)	6.4 sec	35/45 sec	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Provincial	6.8 sec	35/45 sec	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Regional	6.8 sec	35/50 sec	10.5s	46.0s	2,100m	7
District	n/a	35/50 sec	n/a	n/a	2,000m	6

Referee Classification Chart

Classification	Gender	Assessments required for promotion to this classification	Assessments required to maintain this classification	Fitness Test	Referee Game # for promotion to this classification	Assistant Referee Game # for promotion to this classification
National Referee	Male & Female	CSA Regulations		FIFA Men's Referee Fitness Test	CSA Regulations	N/A
National Assistant Referee	Male & Female	CSA Regulations		FIFA Men's Assistant Referee Fitness Test	N/A	CSA Regulations
Provincial Referee	Male	3 above standard Regional Assessments	1 at standard Assessment	As per Fitness Testing criteria	20 *	5 *
Provincial Referee	Female	3 above standard Regional Assessments	1 at standard Assessment	As per Fitness Testing criteria	20 *	5 *
Regional Referee	Male	3 above standard District Assessments	1 at standard Assessment	As per Fitness Testing criteria	20 *	5 *
Regional Referee	Female	3 above standard District Assessments	1 at standard Assessment	As per Fitness Testing criteria	20 *	5 *
District Referee	Male	N/A	N/A	As per Fitness Testing criteria	N/A	N/A
District Referee	Female	N/A	N/A	As per Fitness Testing criteria	N/A	N/A
Youth Referee	Male & Female	N/A	N/A	As per Fitness Testing criteria	N/A	N/A

*only 1 match per day is able to count towards total. (i.e. multiply matches such as in tournament play)



BC SOCCER Refereeing Appointing Model

The model below shows the order of precedence in appointing, whether as a Referee or as an Assistant Referee. Once a Referee has accepted an appointment they must honour that appointment unless asked to referee a game of a higher level as seen in the model below. The request game change can only take place 72 hours prior unless the Referee Schedulers agree to the change. BC Soccer also assigns match for the CSA (National Team and Professional Teams) these games supersede the below matches.

Important Note: Within each numerical point below all sub-categories are equal and listed alphabetically.

- 1) Provincial Cup Finals & Semi Finals Cup Competitions**
- 2) Premier Development League, National Training Center Matches**
- 3) League Competitions**
 - BC Soccer Premier League : U-18 & U-17 (Female & Male)
 - Canadian Interuniversity Sports - Canada West (Female & Male)
 - Fraser Valley Soccer League – Premier (Male)
 - Lower Island Women’s Soccer Association - Premier
 - Metro Women’s Soccer League - Premier
 - Pacific Coast Soccer League– Premier (Female & Male)
 - Pacific Western Athletic Soccer Association (Female & Male)
 - Provincial Cup Competition – All other games
 - Vancouver Island Soccer League - Division 1(Male)
 - Vancouver Metro Soccer League – Premier (Male)
- 4) All other competitions within the Association**
 - BC Soccer Premier League U-16 &15 (Female & Male)
 - Fraser Valley Soccer League – Division 1 & below (Male)
 - Full Member adult leagues - Other
 - Lower Island Women’s Soccer Association - – Division 1 & below
 - Metro Women’s Soccer League – Division 1 & below
 - Provincial team exhibition matches (Female & Male)
 - Pacific Coast Soccer League-Reserves (Female & Male)
 - Vancouver Island Soccer League - Division 2 & below (Male)
 - Vancouver Metro Soccer League – Division 1 & below (Male)
 - Metro Select League U-18(Female & Male)

5) Regional soccer

- BC Soccer Premier League U-14 &13 (Female & Male)
- BC Soccer sanctioned Full Member Tournaments
- Metro Select League U-16 and below(Female & Male)

6) District soccer

- BC Soccer sanctioned Associate Members Tournaments (Including short term Event Members)
- Local youth club soccer Gold, Silver, Bronze and House (Female & Male)

Referee Assessor Classification and Standards

Accredited Assessors

Assessors will be accredited by the Canadian Soccer Association in accordance with the criterion outlined below:

District Assessors: Assessors who have completed the Basic Assessor Course and provided, for evaluation by BC Soccer, a minimum of two assessments completed at the district level, which meets the standard as determined by the CSA from time to time.

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 BC Soccer, meet the standard as determined by the CSA from time to time.

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 BC Soccer, meet the standard as determined by the CSA from time to time.

National Assessors: Assessors who satisfy the criteria established by the CSA from time to time, following nomination by BC Soccer to the CSA, and those Assessors who satisfy the criteria, established by the CSA from time to time, for outstanding ability as determined by the CSA.

Assessors must attend Assessor In-service training every two years, or as determined by the CSA from time to time, to maintain their Accreditation. Reaccreditation will be dependent upon the Assessor having completed a minimum of 8 assessments each year at the accredited level; attendance at the bi-annual in-service training; and evaluation of assessments by the CSA or BC Soccer to the standard determined by the CSA from time to time.

Referee Instructor Classification and Standards

Accredited Instructors

Instructors will be accredited by the Canadian Soccer Association in accordance with the criterion outlined below:

District Instructors: Instructors who have attended the Basic Instructor Course and satisfied BC Soccer that they have demonstrated the ability to instruct the Entry Level Course to the standard determined by the CSA from time to time.

Provincial 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 BC Soccer, meet the standard as determined by the CSA from time to time, to instruct at In-service training courses for referees up to and including Provincial Referee

National Instructors: Instructors who satisfy the criteria established by the CSA from time to time, following nomination by BC Soccer, and those Instructors who satisfy the criteria as determined by the CSA, with outstanding ability to instruct at In-service training courses and events for referees up to and including National List Officials.

Instructors must attend Instructor In-service training every two years, or as determined by the CSA from time to time, 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 the CSA or BC Soccer to the standard determined by the CSA from time to time.