

5 District Soccer League

DIV 1, 2, 3 AND 4

**Operating Rules and Guidelines
2015 - 2016**

July 15, 2015

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Welcome

We want the playing season to be a great experience for all the players, coaches, club and district personnel, game officials, and spectators. The best way to ensure this outcome is for everyone to understand and follow the same set of rules and guidelines.

Please take the time to read the following pages as they are designed to prevent confusion and conflicts.

Each Youth Soccer District is responsible for the general operation and promotion of soccer within their respective geographic boundaries. All the boys' youth teams are invited to full participation in 5 District league. However, membership in the League is a privilege, not a right, and all members are expected to abide by the rules and guidelines in this document. The 5 District Board provides these Rules and Guidelines to Division 1, 2, 3 and 4 Team Officials in age groups U12 through U18 to clarify questions and answer concerns. It is the responsibility of all Team Officials to know the Guideline, and to operate in accordance of them.

• **Season Dates for 2015-2016**

August 15	Deadline for team affiliation for Div 1, 2, 3 and 4
September 12	League start-up for Div 1 / Div 2 and U11 developmental teams
September 19	League start-up for Div 3 and Div 4 teams
September 30	ID cards are needed for all League/Championships play
October 10/11	Thanksgiving weekend - NO league play
October 31	District Seasonal League and Performance Bond due
December 12	Last weekend of league play in 2015
December 19	All league games must be completed and reported
December 31	No playing Up Permits issued after Dec. 31
January 9	Play resumes as League Championship Series
January 15	Deadline for transfer of players

• Getting Started

- 1. Read this Guide.** This Guide explains how the 5 District League operates, the formal rules and procedures, and your rights and responsibilities. Every soccer district, club, team official, game official and player shall uphold the rules and policies set out by BCSA and the 5 District League.
- 2. Read and know the FIFA Laws of the Game** which are available at www.bcsoccer.net. Sport involves respect for the opposition and game officials. Team officials must develop this through their words and actions.
- 3. Your Club Representative for your District** is your main contact for 5 District League communications.
- 4. Schedules and standings** are available on-line at the league website. These standings may be over-ruled by the Board.
- 5. Game Days.** Generally, U-12 to U-16 teams play their games on Saturdays, while U17 and U18 teams may play their games on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. Some teams may play home games at night. If clubs submit their home game day to 5 District that is registered with the league website, the game will be played on this day unless agreed to by both teams.
- 6. The Championship Series** starts in January for all teams. Teams are placed into small groupings based on their league standings. A round robin tournament is played ending with the top two teams from the round robin playing a final game.
- 7. Schools and parks** must be kept clean. Take home your half-time refreshment debris.
- 8. Ensure Communication with the opposition before each game** – teams are required to make contact with the opposing team at a minimum 48 hours before the match, when unable to make contact with e-mail followed by a phone message please contact your district representative.
- 9. Supply and get official team lists at each game.** Use the 5 District League Official Team List at the league website which you can complete and print at home. Before the game you give two completed copies to the referee and ask for your copy of the opponent's list.
- 10. BC Soccer Photo ID cards** – all players and team officials, including U12 players, must present photo ID for all games from October 1st onwards.
- 11. Handshake Rule** – Players and Team Officials are required to line up and shake hands in a gentlemanly fashion before the start of the match.

- 12. Make sure players and spectators are aware of red card offenses.** Ejected players and team officials reported for misconduct do not take part in the post-game handshake.
- 13. Dissent from team officials, players or spectators is unacceptable.** There will always be calls you disagree with; everyone has to learn to accept that aspect of sports. Do not question calls, or badger or harass referees during or after the game. This is a “zero tolerance” issue – any verbal or physical abuse of referees will lead to very serious penalties.
- 14. Coaches are the most important influence on players.** Coaches who positively guide, mentor and help players to enjoy the game will give a lifelong enjoyment of the game.
- 15. Referees are in charge of the game.** They are trained and assessed to develop their skills. They need each team’s support and respect in carrying out their duties.
- 16. Team officials are responsible and accountable for the behavior of parents and supporters.** Ensure that your fans are supportive, and when a referee requests you to control a fan you must do so immediately.
- 17. Win or lose, always report game scores by Sunday evening at 7:00pm** to your District Scorekeeper. If neither team reports a score, it may be recorded as a double forfeit.
- 18. Notify the league of any errors in scores within 4 weeks,** or they may not be accepted. Don’t forget to “refresh” the website on a regular basis to have the most up-to-date version of the schedule and all other information.
- 19. Soccer is a game played for fun.** Parents, spectators and team officials are expected to stay in the background and let the kids have fun.

• League Operations

The 5 District League operates under the Constitution of the British Columbia Soccer Association, and applies each year to the BCSA for permission to perform league operations.

The BCSA Constitution is available at www.bcsoccer.net

The 5 Districts that comprise the 5 District League are:

- **Tri-Cities Youth Soccer Association**
- **Fraser Valley Soccer**
- **Surrey Metro Soccer Association**
- **Delta Youth Soccer**
- **Alouette Youth Soccer**

Each district appoints two representatives to the 5 District League Board, each District is entitled to one vote. The League may appoint additional officers (e.g. statistician, tournament or league coordinators) as required. These appointed positions do not carry a vote. The 5

District League Board generally meets the second Wednesday of every second month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. In co-operation with the member Districts, the 5 District League Board is responsible for the operation of the league. This includes league alignment, game scheduling and conflict resolution as outlined in this Guideline.

The District Representative's job is to liaise between the League and the Youth District, i.e. collect the team information for league entry at the beginning of the season, and provide information throughout the season to clubs and teams about game or schedule changes. At least one District Representative must be present at monthly board meetings. A \$50 fine will be levied against a District if there is no representation at a 5 District Board meeting.

All member Youth Districts are required to submit a performance bond of \$50 per team to a maximum of \$500 by October 31 of the current playing season. These funds shall be maintained by the League Treasurer and can be utilized to pay fines or penalties levied against a District. Districts must replenish the bond within 60 days of receiving an invoice from the League Board. Failure to provide a performance bond on time will result in a fine of \$50 per each month overdue.

The regular season schedule is prepared and distributed prior to the start of the season, and the League Championships draw will be posted following the January Board meeting.

5 District Reps for the 2015-2016 season are:

<u>2015/16 5 District Board Members:</u>		
Chair	Jim Mackie	James.mackie@td.com
Surrey	Sarb Lidder	Sarb_lidder@yahoo.com
Fraser Valley	Kevin Skalicky	skalicky@shaw.ca
	Bill Ede	billede@shaw.ca
Tri-Cities	George Riddell	georiddell@shaw.ca
	Lui Rossi	luir123@hotmail.com
DYSA	Bill Ross	bross@dccnet.com
Allouette	Mike dunbar	Mission.Impossible.BC.Soccer@gmail.com

If you have a concern of a general nature which you feel should be brought to the attention of the League, please e-mail 5 District Chairperson.

Letters of complaint or protest are only accepted from registered Team Officials, Club Presidents or District Chairs.

*****IMPORTANT** - Please include as much pertinent information as possible with your communication including:**

- **Current date and time**
- **Your name and position**
- **The contact name, address and phone number**
- **Date of match and time**
- **Flight name**
- **Home club and team name**
- **Away club and team name**
- **Field name and location**
- **Concern details**

• **Commitment to Metro Select League**

The member Districts of the 5 District League annually re-affirm their individual District's commitment to the Metro Select League. To this end, no District shall knowingly permit non-participation in the Metro Select League for the reason of gaining advantage in 5 District League play. In each division where a member District does not put forward a MSL team, that District must state its reason in writing and be granted explicit permission by the 5 District League Board to enter a League team(s) in a division of play.

Teams wishing to register more than three players who played in the MSL League in the previous season will require specific permission of the League. District approval must be obtained first and then a written request must be submitted by the District to the League before the June meeting. Written request must include the division, team name(s) and standings, the coaches' name, how many returning players from the previous season and the rationale for adding more ex-MSL players. Teams found not to have received permission to register more than three (3) former MSL players for the season will have forfeits assessed for all games played to date.

• **League Affiliation**

A League Affiliation fee of **\$60** per team entered will be charged to each District. Clubs submitting their League Affiliation fee after October 31 of the current playing season will be assessed a 5% penalty. The 5 District League offers four levels of play; Div 1, Div 2, Div 3, and Div 4 in the Boys Under 12 to Under 18 age levels, with the Div 1 level being the most competitive level of play.

By August 15th, Clubs must submit to their District Representative their list of viable teams for the season.

The 5 District Board, working with the Clubs, endeavors to keep the Leagues balanced and the League Board reserves the right to withdraw league privileges from, or reallocate to a more appropriate playing level those teams whose league performance is such that they are misplaced in this league structure.

We strive to promote the game of soccer and help players enjoy the game and improve their skills. Placing teams where they can enjoy the game and be more competitive definitely helps us

to achieve this. In order to make league Divisions as competitive as possible the District Clubs are asked to make every effort to ensure that their teams are placed at their most competitive level, advice and support from Club Head Coaches is recommended to ensure a successful season for all teams.

• **BC Soccer Photo Identification**

After October 1st a U12 to U18 player, coach, or manager cannot participate in any soccer game without a BCSA photo ID card, U13 to U18 is as per BCSA Constitution Rules and Regulations, U12 is a 5 District Board requirement. In a match where the BCSA Photo ID Cards are in question the referee and the opposing coach must be made aware of the card problem and advised of the protest before the final whistle is sounded.

It is the responsibility of the manager or coach to have ID cards on his/her person during games.

After October 1st, any team failing to produce valid BCSA Photo ID cards or proof of eligibility for all participating players for a game must submit a \$250 fine, the fee will be reimbursed to the team failing to produce the valid photo ID card if there is no fault as determined by the 5 District League Board.

If there are BCSA Photo ID issues for a match, there will be no scores reported until the matter is resolved; if a forfeit is awarded a 1-0 score will be recorded.

In the case of a missing card, written proof from Discipline or a District Registrar is sufficient.

Should a team play an ineligible player, the opposing team can protest.

Any Team official knowingly playing a suspended (ineligible) or unregistered (illegal) player in a League or Championships game will receive a \$250 fine and risk possible suspension.

All team officials listed on the BCSA registration form also require a BCSA photo ID card. These cards are the property of the Club and are to be given to the referee before the game starts.

Should a player or team official commit a "red card" (ejection) offence, that person's BCSA photo ID card will be retained by the referee and sent to the District's Discipline Committee with the referee's report. The BCSA photo ID card will be retained by the Club's Discipline Chairperson until the player/coach is eligible to participate, at which time it is the coach's responsibility to retrieve the ID card from that District official.

Any attempt to forge BCSA Photo ID cards, or to give false information, will result in serious disciplinary charges against team officials and possible disqualification and/or suspension of the team from further play.

• **Playing Up**

The 5 District League Board has approved playing up within the Div 1 to Div 4 Leagues, the focus is on player development and there are a number of rules that must be followed for this initiative to be effective. Management of the Playing Up Permits are to be managed by the 5 League Rep, Districts Reps are responsible for identifying their District Playing Up Permit designates, and for tracking the permits.

No Playing Up Permits are to be allowed after Dec. 31.

To be valid, the permit must be fully completed and handed to the game official and the opposing team prior to the start of the game, and from October 1st onward the permit must be accompanied by the player's valid ID card. Approval may only be authorized by 5 District League Rep. or approved designate.

The rules are as follows:

1. The league shall grant a player registered with a team playing in the league permission to play for a 5-District League team operated by the same club, provided the player has the consent of their registered team and the approval of the youth district, as follows:
 - Players playing in the 5 District League U12 to U18 may play on permit for a league team in the same Club playing at a higher calibre in their own age group, or may play in an older age division at an equal or higher calibre
2. A Playing Up Permit will be allowed for league games only, and not for any Championship Series games. Registered Out-of-District players shall not be eligible to play under permit. Players under suspension shall not be eligible to play under permit.
3. Any player requesting a Playing Up Permit must apply for permission by completing a permit form supplied by the 5 District Representative. The application form bearing the consent of the releasing team must be approved by the District Designate prior to the game (digital signatures are permitted). Each District may set additional conditions for approval or elect to not approve any Playing Up Permit as it deems appropriate. Permits must not be approved if doing so would imperil the players registered teams ability to meet its scheduled commitments.
4. A Playing Up Permit is valid only for the team, day and league game stated on the permit application form.
5. An approved Team List and Permit Form must be presented to the game official and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
6. From October 1st onwards, any 5 District U12 to U18 player with a Playing Up Permit must also present a valid ID card to be eligible to play.
7. There will be no Playing Up Permits allowed after Dec. 31
8. Teams shall not be granted permits for more than three (3) players for any one league game. A player shall not play on a permit more than three (3) times in one season.
9. Teams shall not exceed the maximum players allowed per team by adding players on a Playing Up Permit (ie max. 18 players for U13 to U16, max. 20 players for U17 to U18).
10. Any disciplinary action applied from misconduct reported while playing in a game under permit shall be served during future games of their registered team, as per discipline rules.
11. Any team playing a player on a permit that does not conform to the above rules risks suspension, a fine of up to \$250 for playing an ineligible player, and will have permit

privileges withdrawn. Any District approving permits not conforming to the above rules can be sanctioned by withdrawal of permit privileges for its District for up to one year, as well as a fine of up to \$250.

• **Commitments**

Teams are required to complete all games scheduled by the board. Any team failing to play a scheduled game without sufficient cause, and without first informing their District Representative at least 48 hours prior to game time, will be fined \$100 and the missed game will be deemed a make-up game.

The onus is on each team to make arrangements to complete make-up games. Failure of a team to complete all League or Championships make-up games without just cause or specific permission of the Board will result in a fine of \$50 per game not played, to a maximum of \$200 per team for one season. Exceptions may be granted for games that are cancelled or postponed due to field closures and not rescheduled by the Board.

If a make-up game is deemed NP (not played) there will be no claim to the points for either team.

• **Scorekeeping**

After each game, coaches are asked to agree on the final score to be sent to the scorekeeper. If both are in disagreement ask the Referee for his decision. Policy is to take the score sent in by the first club that arrives in the scorekeepers email Sunday night.

The 5 District Board requires U12 scores to be sent to the scorekeeper, the scores will not be posted on any website but will be used to group the teams by level of play.

Scores can be submitted to your Club scorekeeper by email, fax, and telephone or through such other methods as approved by your club. Club scorekeepers then forward the consolidated report to the 5DL scorekeeper. Failure to submit scores by 7:00pm Sunday may result in no points being awarded and no recording of the game in the standings. If neither team reports the score, it may be recorded as a double forfeiture.

Please note: Teams should also report to their District Representative any game cancelled due to field conditions, or abandoned by the referee, or where the opposition and/or the referee did not "show". Coaches/managers must also report the number of "red/yellow cards" given out in a game. It is not necessary to identify the person or team that received the card(s) just the number of cards in the game (i.e. 3-yellows, 1-red).

Unofficial standings can be found with the league website. Errors in the unofficial standings must be brought to the attention of the District Representative within 4 weeks of the game being played.

The 5 District League Board will make the final decision in all league standings. If necessary there will be a tiebreaker with the determining criteria as follows:

- Most points in standings
- Head to head winner. If no game was played between the tied teams then a final may be scheduled
- Least goals against
- Best goal difference
- Board will decide.

• **5 District League Game Priority**

The priority for games to be played is as follows:

1. Provincial (Coastal) Cup game
2. Championship Series game
3. League game
4. Inter-District game or tournament game

• **Pre-Game Team Responsibilities**

Both home and away teams are obligated to contact each other by the Thursday night before the game day. Home teams are expected to make first contact as they have the information for the visitors. If contact cannot be made by the Thursday night before the game then contact your District Representative by phone and e-mail before noon on Friday morning.

For teams playing in the 5-District League, the home Club will be required to provide Referee Assistants (lines persons) for all U16 - U18 games. Failure to provide the necessary Referee Assistants for League games will result in a \$100 fine being levied. Clubs are encouraged to provide Referee Assistants at all age levels when possible.

• **Game Times**

No game start times are to be scheduled before 10:00 am by any member District unless both teams agree that the early time is suitable. (Early game time is defined by a start time of 9:00am) If the home team is unable to provide a time that starts at 10:00 am or after 10:00 am then the away team has the option to play the game early (as scheduled by the home team), or provide a time and field that starts at 10:00 am or after 10:00 am. No games to start later than 7:00pm unless agree by both teams.

The travelling home team must pay the Referee and Assistant Referees at the prevailing rate for the District where the game is played.

Games are to start promptly at the scheduled time subject only to the discretion of the referee. Should either team not be at the field by the scheduled time, the referee will wait a 20 minute grace period. If the team does not show by that time, the game will be called, the referee will put in a report to his 5 District League Rep and the League Board will make a decision as to the outcome based on the following criteria:

1. A home team no-show is a forfeit and fine. A no-show is when the referee and 1 team stand waiting at the scheduled field for 20 minutes after the start of the match.
2. An away team no-show is a forfeit unless arrangements have been made in time to avoid any players, refs or parents coming to the field.

Field Closure

Safety of the player is our number one priority, so use common sense where fields are questionable (i.e. frozen, badly pot-holed, etc.). The referee is responsible for making the final decision as to the playability of the field, but as a coach or manager you should suggest to your players that they play to protect themselves if conditions are "marginal".

As weather becomes poor games may be moved to all-weather surfaces, or they may be cancelled by hosting clubs because of field unavailability. Note that field conditions cannot be consistent throughout our playing communities. Civic Authorities may close grass/turf fields in one municipality while others are left open.

When a field is deemed unplayable on game day by the host club, contact from the home team to the away team must be made minimum 3 hours before game time to allow for alternate field arrangements and/or unnecessary travel.

If the home team cannot provide a grass/turf field due to field closure, solutions are listed below in the order that they are to be arranged:

1. 1st alternative- Visiting team's grass/turf field
2. 2nd alternative- Home team's alternate field
3. 3rd alternative- Visiting team's alternate field

If **any** of these alternate arrangements can be put in place two (2) evenings before the scheduled game day, the game **MUST** go ahead and failure to play will result in forfeiture by the refusing team. The hosting team is responsible to ensure a field is available, and that game officials are informed. All efforts of communication should be documented as this information may be used by the 5 District League Board to resolve conflicts.

The 5 District Board has the right to cancel all games due to severe weather.

NOTE: If 75% or more scheduled League games are not played, that weekend will be removed from the schedule and no points will be awarded for any games played.

• **Unplayed Games**

Unplayed games must be reported to the scorekeeper as “not played”. Postponed games must be rescheduled and played within six (6) weeks of the original game date or on the next scheduled make-up weekend provided by the League.

The home team is required to supply the visiting team with a choice of two make-up dates, and must also notify their 5 District League Rep of those dates. This will document compliance with the make-up requirements. These proposed dates are to be given within two weeks following the original game date. If the game is not played on one of those dates, the home team's 5 District League Rep will arrange two possible dates within the following 4 weeks and the game **must** be played on one of them.

The League provides make-up game weekends throughout the season. Teams should expect to play one or more games as required. Refusal by either team to play will result in forfeiture of the game, with points awarded to the opposing team, and a fine of **\$250** being levied against the team refusing to play. Refusal by both teams will result in a double forfeiture and a fine for both. In addition to the fine, unplayed games which remain unresolved after the six (6) week deadline will be designated Not Played (NP), with points for that league game unavailable to either team.

Games which are cancelled by the referee may be rescheduled by the League Board. Other than to arrange make-up of postponed games, or to organize a field change due to field closures, do not make private "arrangements" with another team to change the time, venue or date of any scheduled game without first contacting and advising your Club Representative for your District.

When a game is scheduled, a series of events occur:

- Officials are assigned to the game.
- The home club or team lines the field.
- The visiting team contacts its players as to time and place of game.
- District, Club or League officials may be assigned to monitor play or to evaluate officials.

• **Request for Schedule Change**

All such requests **must be in writing**, and e-mailed by a registered team official to your 5 District League Rep not later than seven (7) full days before the game for which the schedule change is requested.

Requests may only be granted based on a school or religious activity that seriously depletes your team (e.g. class field trip). Please identify the event, the number of players involved, their names, and the name of the sponsor or teacher.

Note that if your request is based on a lack of players it may not be granted if you have eleven (11) or even fewer players available. Technically you need only seven (7) players (one of whom must be the goalkeeper) for a match to take place.

• **Abandoned Games**

Only a Referee can abandon a game, the decision is at the discretion of the referee at the field. The Scheduler will not reschedule games which are abandoned or cancelled by the referee. In the event of a game abandonment due to the actions of coaches, players, team officials, spectators or any combination thereof, **no** replay will be granted under any circumstance.

Coaches must report the score as “abandoned” and your 5 District Rep. must be notified immediately. All abandoned games are investigated by the 5 District League Board (coach and referee reports are obtained). Any team determined to be at fault for a game abandonment will be subject to a fine up to \$500, and suspension from play for one or both teams involved. The game will be awarded based on the determinations of the review as follows:

- 1) if both teams were at fault, the match will be recorded as a 0-0 loss for both
- 2) if one team is deemed at fault, the match will be awarded to the opposing team and recorded as follows:
 - a) at fault team ahead at time of abandonment - 1-0 forfeiture to the faultless team
 - b) faultless team ahead at time of abandonment - that score will be recorded as game result
 - c) score tied at time of abandonment - 1-0 forfeiture to faultless team

• **Team Misconduct**

Any team(s) involved in misconduct before, during or after a match will be fined up to \$500, and will risk suspension for unsportsmanlike behaviour.

• **Referees**

A qualified, uniformed, Referee is assigned to each game by the home team's Club or Youth District. For teams playing in the 5-District League, the home Club is required to provide Referee Assistants (lines persons) for all U16 - U18 games. Referee's Assistants must officiate the game dressed in proper uniforms. Clubs are encouraged to provide Referee Assistants at all age levels when possible.

Referees may only accept appointments if they are BCSA Registered Referee. If a referee has been assigned to a game with a relative playing/coaching, he/she must not accept the game.

The Referee is in charge of the game. If a Referee asks you to control your sideline - please do so immediately. If a team official or parent is asked to leave the playing field by a referee, they are to do so immediately. "Red-carded" players are also to leave the field immediately, and should

be sent to a car or directly home. They are not to take part in the post-game handshake. Lack of spectator or player control by team official(s) (including failure to address game official harassment, persistent criticism or disputing calls by team officials, players or spectators) will be subject to a fine of \$100 and risk a lengthy suspension, and suspension from play for one or both teams involved.

No Referee for a Game

- **U12 to U15** - If the Referee has not shown up-20 minutes after the designated starting time and both teams agree to play the game, the home team will referee the first half and the visiting team will referee the second half, unless it is agreed that one person will referee the whole game. Sign and exchange team lists. The score will stand as if the referee was present
- **U16 to U18** - If the Referee has not shown 20 minutes after the designated starting time for the game the teams may mutually agree to play the game using one of the sanctioned Referee's Assistants (line persons). Team officials need to sign and exchange team lists. The score will stand as if the Referee was present

Note: Any game played without a sanctioned BC Soccer referee officiating will be considered an exhibition game and the results will not affect league or Championships standings. If the teams do not agree to play the game, the game will be rescheduled at the end of the season only if it affects the determination of first place in a league.

Failure of a District to provide a Referee for a scheduled game shall result in the district being fined the amount of **\$50**.

Failure of District to provide two (2) Assistant Referees per game (for U18, U17 & U16 games) shall result in the offending District being fined **\$50** for each Assistant Referee not provided.

Please ensure that any failures of a District to provide game officials are reported to your 5 District League Representative so that appropriate action can be taken.

• **Protest**

Submitting A Protest

The League's Discipline, Protest & Appeals Committee is comprised of the current season's League Board, which is made up of the District Representatives. Contact your Club Executive Board, as each Club Executive Board is advised of the current season Representative for their District.

If you have knowledge of the basis for a protest before the game, you must advise the referee that you are going to play the game under protest. Many protests are denied because of a failure to notify the referee prior to the game.

Team officials may protest any scheduled game. All protests must be submitted in writing to the 5-District Representative and must include:

- Current date and time
- Your name and position
- The contact name, address and phone number
- Date of match and time
- League, age and Division
- Home club and team name
- Away club and team name
- Field name and location
- Concern details

A team may protest any scheduled game on grounds described below. All protests must be signed (digital signature acceptable in e-mail format) by a team official or Club executive and submitted within 48 hours from the kick-off time of the match to which it relates.

A cheque payable to "5 District Soccer League" in the amount of \$100 must accompany protests. This payment must accompany the protest at the time the protest is sent. If the protest is lodged via e-mail, the cheque number must be referenced in the e-mail and confirmation of the cheque being forwarded must be clearly stated. If the protest is upheld the fee is returned. If the protest is denied the District retains the fee.

Failure to follow applicable Protest Guidelines may result in forfeiture of the \$100 protest fee.

The "Grounds" for Protest

A protest will only be considered on the grounds of:

- Interpretation of the FIFA Laws of the Game
- The eligibility of players or
- Breaches of Competition Rules and Regulations

You must state which of these grounds is the basis for the protest. You cannot protest a game based on the referee's judgment of the 'facts' of the game (e.g. was a player offside? Did a player handle the ball?).

Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts, or any other appurtenances (like nets, soccer balls, corner flags, etc.) shall not be considered unless notice has been given to the Referee before the game starts. If the problem cannot be solved without delaying the game a protest must still be made in writing and then properly submitted before it will be considered.

No protest will be considered if, in the opinion of the Referee, the objection lodged did not seriously affect the outcome of the game.

If a protest is considered, a copy of the protest will be mailed or e-mailed to the other League Representative involved (within 48 hours of receiving the protest). All protests will be forwarded to the 5 District Chair, who will obtain the Referee report. The protest will be discussed and then voted on at the next District Representative meeting. The Protest Committee's decision will be conveyed in writing by e-mail to both teams.

If your protest is granted based on one of the "grounds" above, the board will determine if a replay of the game or a forfeit is to be awarded and the \$100 fee for submitting the protest will be returned.

Appeals of Decisions

All appeals of the 5 District Board ruling must be made to the BCSA Appeals Committee within ten (10) working days of rendering of the decision. A team official or Club executive must sign the appeal. The format of the appeal (written, signed, etc.) is the same as a protest, except that you are appealing the decision itself and must include a copy of the decision from the 5 District Board. The 5 District Board will forward all information they used directly to the BCSA. A cheque payable to the BC Soccer Association for the \$500 appeal fee must accompany the appeal if it is to be properly filed. This fee will be returned if your appeal is upheld, and forfeited if your appeal is denied. Further appeal is possible, contact BCSA to provide details. Please note that the decision of the committee shall remain in effect, pending the result of the appeal.

Protest for Provincial Cup Games

All protests regarding out-of-district Provincial Cup games at both the "A" and "B" levels are to be submitted directly to the BCSA Protest Committee. In no case will decisions be made by any other body.

• Seasonal Performance Bond

All member Youth Districts are required to submit a performance bond of \$50 per team to a maximum of \$500 before October 31 of the current playing season. Failure to provide a performance bond on time will result in a fine of \$50 per each month overdue. These funds are maintained by the League Treasurer and can be utilized to pay fines or penalties levied against a District. If fines have been levied and paid from the Bond fund it is up to the individual districts to ensure that the bond is replenished to the maximum of **\$500** and must be done within 60 days.

After thorough investigation, the 5 District Board, on behalf of the Soccer League, may levy a fine or a Performance Bond for a specific period of time and purpose, and may set further terms of punishment for non-compliance. Any offense listed on the schedule shall be reported to and ruled upon by one body. A bond is to guarantee good behaviour of the team (officials, players and fans) including league and Championships until the end of the team's playing season. A fine or bond may be levied up to and including the amount set out in the attached schedule except in the case of extreme discipline circumstances when more severe fines and/or bonds, up to \$5,000, and other discipline may be imposed. Fine and bond payment will be the responsibility

of the district or club with which the team is affiliated. The request to post the bond will be sent to the District and copied to the Club. In the case where a team official or spectator has been reported for misconduct, a fine and/or a bond may be levied with or without assessing a suspension. The Board will deposit all bond cheques and is not required to pay interest on any bond levied.

Performance Bond Procedures

1. The Board will act only on written misconduct reports, match game reports or formal complaints.
2. The assessment and payment of fines for violation of the FIFA Laws of the Game or league operating rules shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the governing authority.
3. Persons reported for offenses listed on the schedule will be given the opportunity to respond in writing to the Board before a decision is made.
4. If a hearing is necessary, the club and team officials will be duly informed and a hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the BCSA's hearing procedures.
5. Should a fine be assessed, the decision will be communicated in writing to the club, team, and District Association.
6. The Board Secretary will be informed that a fine and/or Performance Bond has been assessed.
7. Fines and Performance Bonds become due immediately. The League Treasurer must receive payment within seven (7) days of the hearing or notification of said fine or Performance Bond. Failure by the team officials or their club to pay will result in the team being suspended from the district and league sanctioned soccer activities until the assessed amounts are paid.
8. If the fee/fine imposed continues to remain unpaid then the Board will have the option to withdraw services from the club or deduct the money from the district's seasonal bond.
9. The bond money will be returned once the team's commitment to all league and Championships games, including Provincial Cup, has been completed.

Protest of Fines & Bonds

1. **As per BCSA Rule 13, appeals must be filed with the BCSA Appeals Committee, 250 – 3410 Lougheed Highway, Vancouver, BC, V5M 2A4 within ten (10) working days after the issuance of the committee's decision.**
2. **Appeals must state in writing the grounds upon which the appeal is lodged.**
3. **A concise submission stating the bylaw, rule or regulation that has been contravened and setting out clearly in what respect the decision is alleged to be wrong.**
4. **The affiliated coach, manager or official must sign the appeal.**
5. **The fee of \$500.00 (made payable to BCSA) must accompany the appeal filed with the BCSA.**

6. The Fine, Performance Bond fees and/or levied suspensions will remain in effect pending the result of the appeal.

● **Championship Series Information:**

- Each District will be given the opportunity to host the League Cup Championship
- Series starts with round robin play on January 9, 2016.
- Championship groups are 6 to 8 teams and are based on the league standings.
- Top two teams from each flight group will play in a Series final game.
- Only the 5 District Scheduler or the game referee has authority to cancel games. Games cannot be cancelled by mutual consent of coaches.
- Team lists and BCSA photo ID cards must be presented at all Championship Series games
- Games ending in a tie after regulation will be decided by a 5 player shoot-out. A point is given to both teams for the regulation tie plus a bonus point to the shoot-out winner.
- The 5 District Board reserves the right to amend these rules and change the format of the Championship Series.
- Game scores for all Championship Series games are to be reported to each club/district scorekeeper or statistician using the regular score reporting system for each team/club.
- Player eligibility: The deadline for player transfers is Jan. 15.
- All referees will be scheduled by the 5 District Board for the League Championships Finals.

● **Rules For Coastal Cup Representation**

Rules for Coastal Cup representation:

- Each District forwards one representative to Coastal Cup
- U13, U15 and U17 – 1st and 2nd place teams from League Championship Round Robin also qualify
- U14, U16 and U18 - 1st place team from League Championship Round Robin also qualify
- In the event that the teams from the League Championship Round Robin are also District qualifiers then the next place teams in the League Championship Round Robin qualify

● **List of Offences and Penalties**

Offence: Member Youth District failure to provide performance bond by October 31 of the current playing season

Penalty: \$50 per month for each month overdue

Offence: Member Youth District failure to provide League Affiliation fee by October 31 of the current playing season

Penalty: 5% penalty

Offence: Member Youth District having no representation at a League Board Meeting

Penalty: \$50 fine

Offence: Game forfeiture without just cause

Penalty: \$150 fine

Offence: Add or withdraw a team after August 15.

Penalty: \$100 fine, plus affiliation fees for withdrawn teams must still be paid.

Offence: Add or withdraw a team after September 1.

Penalty: \$200 fine, plus affiliation fees for withdrawn teams must still be paid.

Offence: Failure to provide qualified Referee to scheduled game

Penalty: \$50 fine

Offence: Failure to provide assistant referees to U16, U17 or U18 division league games

Penalty: \$50 for each assistant not provided

Offence: Failure to show for a game with no reasonable excuse

Penalty: forfeit game

Offence: After October 1st deadline, failure by team to produce valid photo ID cards or proof of eligibility for all players for a game.

Penalty: \$250 fine

Offence: Team (includes team officials, players) deemed to be the cause of a game abandonment

Penalty: \$250 fine and possible team Performance Bond requirement of \$200

Offence: Failure of a team to complete all scheduled League or Championships games, without just cause or specific permission of the Board

Penalty: \$50 per game not played to a maximum of \$200 per team for one season.

Offence: No-Show - Failure to play a scheduled League or Cup Game without prior specific consent of 5 District Board.

Penalty: \$100 fine, plus game official costs as incurred by the home District

Offence: Refusal to play a reschedule of a postponed game

Penalty: \$250 fine

Offence: Spectator or player misconduct, or lack of control by team official(s) (including failure to address game official harassment, persistent criticism or disputing calls by team officials, players or spectators).

Penalty: up to \$500 fine and team suspension.

Offence: Team official knowingly playing a suspended (ineligible) or unregistered (illegal) player in League or Championships game.

Penalty: \$250 fine and risk a lengthy suspension.