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POLICY & INFORMATION MANUAL

DEFINITIONS

BCSA – Refers to the British Columbia Soccer Association. The use of “BCSA” before any procedure, rule, guideline, requirement or official indicates that the reference is to someone (or something) that operates under the auspices of the BCSA board (rather than the MSL Committee or a District Board.)

District – Refers to a body duly constituted under the BCSA Constitution as a District Association. The use of “District” before any procedure, rule, guideline, requirement or official indicates that the reference is to someone (or something) that operates under the auspices of a District Board (rather than under the BCSA Board or the MSL Committee.)

Metro Select League or MSL – Refers to the league operating under these guidelines. Herein after referred to as, the “MSL.” The use of “MSL” before any procedure, rule, guideline, requirement or official indicates that the reference is to someone (or something) that operates under the auspices of the MSL Committee (rather than under the BCSA Board or a District Board.

INDEX

SECTION 1 – LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION		
1.1	Committee Composition	4
1.2	Correspondence	4
1.3	Affiliation of teams	4
1.4	Teams and Players	5
1.5	Discipline	5
1.6	Financial Control	6
SECTION 2 – DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES		
2.1	Co-operation with MSL Committee	7
2.2	Operation of Teams	7
2.3	Insurance	8
2.4	Risk Management	8
2.5	Provision of Referees and Assistant Referees	8
2.6	Playing Fields	9
2.7	Trophies and Awards	9

SECTION 3 – TEAM RESPONSIBILI		
3.1	Fulfilling League Commitments	9
3.2	Respect of Officials	9
3.3	Management of Team Behavior	10
3.4	Practical Matters	10
3.5	Team Equipment	10
SECTION 4 –LEAGUE STRUCTURE & OPERATION		
A. REGISTRATION & DISTRICT BOUNDARIES		
4.1A	Player Registration/Zoning	11
4.1B	Player Registration	11
4.2	District Boundaries	12
B. SELECT SCHEDULER		
4.3	League Scheduling	13
4.4A	League Tie	13
4.4B	League Winner	14
4.5	Statistics and Reporting of Scores	14
4.6	Rescheduling and Forfeitures	15/16
	a) Rescheduling due to field closures.	15/16
	b) Rescheduling requests.	15/16
	c) Rescheduling due to no referee.	15/16
	d) Abandoned Games	17
4.7	League Cup and Playoffs	17
C. SELECT REFEREE COORDINATOR		
4.8	Area of Responsibility	18
4.9	Operation	18
4.10	Cooperation of District	18
SECTION 5 – DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES		
5.1	General Procedures	18
5.2	Match Reports by Referees	19
5.3	Protests	19
SPECIAL RULES FOR YOUTH SOCCER		20
SEEDING OF TEAMS FOR PROVINCIAL “A” CUP		21
MSL YOUTH TO YOUTH PERMIT RULE		22

SECTION 1 – LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

It is understood that the Metro Select League (MSL) is operating under both the BCSA Constitution and Bylaws and the BCSA Competition Rules and Regulations.

1.1 Committee Composition

- (a) .
Each participating District must appoint one representative to the MSL Committee Specific appointments within the Committee shall be by internal selection.
- (b) Representatives shall serve a one-year term commencing on June^{1st} each year.
- (c) Each District participating in the MSL shall have one (1) vote.
- (d) A majority of the voting members of the MSL Committee constitutes a quorum.
- (e) A majority vote of those in attendance at a MSL Committee meeting is binding.
- (f) The MSL Committee may make appointments as it sees fit to ensure the efficient operation of the league. These appointed positions do not carry votes.
- (g) An alternate will be accepted as a voting member at a MSL Committee meeting with either the written permission of the District Chair or prior notice to the MSL Chair or the MSL Secretary.
- (h) If the MSL Chairperson is also the District's appointed Representative the MSL Chairperson is entitled to the District's allotted vote.
- (i) A tie vote results in a defeated motion.
- (j) A majority of the MSL District Chairpersons must vote to approve all changes to the MSL Policy and Information Manual.
 - (l) MSL administrative procedures will be dealt with by the MSL Committee.

1.2 Correspondence

- (a) All MSL correspondence (both 'in' and 'out') should be directed through the MSL Committee Secretary.
- (b) Only written correspondence will be discussed or acknowledged by the MSL Committee

1.3 Affiliation of Teams

- (a) All teams must be affiliated through the District Associations.
- (b) All members are entitled to forwarded teams for consideration to be placed in each division of the MSL by their District and using their name in each division

of MSL play. The MSL Committee has the right to deny, place, or move teams as it deems appropriate.

- (c) At U13 all teams will be considered by the MSL Committee**
- (d) All teams in the league (with their district's approval) will have the opportunity to move to the next flight in the following season with 50% of the same players from the previous season unless the MSL committee has reason not to allow them to move forward.**
- (e) If the MSL committee agrees that a flight would be better served with extra team (s) the league may consider additional team (s). These teams must supply their history from the previous season and team roster**
- (f) The MSL Committee will determine maximum league sizes. Recommended league size is twelve (12) teams with a maximum of 16. To be reviewed each year.
- (g) All teams remain eligible for Provincial competitions only through affiliation with their own District. MSL entry does not imply any special procedures for teams with regard to Provincial Cup or other BCSA matters except where these are so stipulated herein. The Provincial Cup Committee may use the MSL standings to seed the top four (4) teams into the Coastal Provincial Cup play-downs. (see page 21 of MSL Manual)

1.4 Teams and Players

- (a) MSL teams violating MSL policies in relation to players will be withdrawn from play.
- (b) Teams failing to observe the MSL deadlines indicated will not be accepted into the league for the upcoming season.

1.5 Discipline

- (a) All discipline arising from specific games will be dealt with by the MSL Discipline Committee as per BCSA's Discipline Policy & Procedures Guide.
- (b) Referee assault will be handled by the BCSA Discipline Committee

1.6 Financial Control

- (a) Monies received shall be deposited in a chartered bank or other recognized financial institution in an account in the name of the Metro Select League.
- (b) All accounts of \$5.00 or more shall be paid by a cheque which shall be signed by two of three signing officers designated by the MSL Committee.
- (c) All financial records shall be produced when required by the MSL Committee-with financial statements and reports prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
- (d) A separate accounting for District performance fees must be kept by the MSL Treasurer.
- (e) The Treasurer will provide regular reports to the MSL Committee and will provide a year-end financial statement within 30 days of the financial year-end.
- (f) An annual financial statement shall be included with the performance fee monies, **(less accumulated fines)** which will be refunded by the MSL Treasurer to the Districts or Club at the conclusion of the season.
- (g) The Districts may request a financial review, and upon such request, the MSL Committee must appoint an independent committee, as per BCSA requirements, to review the financial records.

SECTION 2 – DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Cooperation with the MSL Committee

- (a) Each District Board must appoint a delegate to serve on the MSL Committee from **June 1st to May 31st the following year**. The District must forward their delegate's name to the MSL Secretary prior to **June** 1st of each season. Each District Board must inform the MSL Scheduler of names of District and Club, Field and Referee Schedulers and up-date these as needed.

2.2 Operation of Teams

- (a) Only teams forwarded by a District may be entered for approval by the MSL Committee.
- (b) Member Districts are required to attempt to enter teams in all divisions of the MSL subject to MSL approval.
- (c) Districts are responsible for the selection of teams they submit for entry into the MSL.
- (d) Upon application for entry of teams on May 1st each season the Districts must post a \$1,000.00 performance fee by June 7th which will be assessed up to a maximum of \$500.00 for each team's failure to live up to league obligations, eg: refusal to play a game after August 15th each season. This \$1,000.00 performance fee must be replaced by the District after the fee is exhausted.
- (e) The balance of the performance fee will be refunded by the MSL to the District at the conclusion of the season or carried over to the following season subject to agreement from the Districts
- (f) The District will pay the appropriate league entry fee (as determined by the MSL Committee) upon application for each team by June 7th of each year.
- (g) This league entry fee is not refundable after August 15th of the upcoming playing season.
- (h) All costs associated with league membership are the responsibility of the Districts.
- (i) The MSL shall make a practice of returning to member Districts or Club the major portion of surplus funds remaining at the completion of season's business. These funds may be divided in proportion among those teams who have completed the season play. With the agreement of the Districts these funds could be put to some other use for the betterment of the game.
- (j) Each District must provide all registered players and team officials with BCSA photo ID cards prior to the first league game and these cards must be available for each League and Cup game throughout the remainder of the playing season. Failure to do so could result in a

protest of the game and/or a fine of up to \$250.00 which will be taken from the District Performance Bond.

- (k) Head Coach must have "Soccer for Life" Qualifications or better by January 1st, 2016

2.3 Insurance for Teams

- (a) Coverage is provided as per the BCSA current policy.

2.4 Risk Management

- (a) Every volunteer or employee of an affiliated BC Soccer organization, age 19 and over who at any time could be expected in the performance of their duties to:

- i) be with any minor aged person must have on file the results of a Criminal Record Check completed within the previous 36 months from an agency approved by the Association.
- ii) be entrusted with performing financial duties must have on file the results of a Criminal Record Check completed with the previous 36 months from an agency approved by the Association.
- iii) Be responsible for bookkeeping, bank account(s) or any monetary duties must have on file the results of a Criminal Record Check completed within the previous 36 months from an agency approved by the Association.

The type of Criminal Record Check submitted by volunteers is to be specified by BC Soccer.

2.5 Provision of Referees and Assistant Referees

- (a) Section 2.5 (a) and (b) apply to teams in the Lower Mainland. Each District/Club is responsible for ensuring two qualified assistant referees are provided for their teams home games.
- (b) The MSL Committee, in cooperation with the Districts, shall provide a central pool of referees needed for all divisions. In this case the District/Club must assign one referee per team plus an alternate as the number of qualified officials to that pool.
- (c) Outside the Lower Mainland each District is responsible for ensuring that a qualified referee and two qualified assistant referees are provided for their teams' home games.
- (d) A referee and two qualified assistant referees are required for all league games.

- (e) The MSL Committee, through the BCSA Referee Assessment Committee, may assess any referee (or assistant referee) put forward by a District to officiate MSL games.
- (f) The MSL Committee will liaise closely with the BCSA Referee Development Committee.

2.6 Playing Fields

- (a) Each District/Club shall ensure that their Field Scheduler provides appropriate home fields to the MSL Scheduler at least 6 days prior to the date of the scheduled game.
- (b) Starting time for games must not be prior to 10:00 A.M., however starting time for games requiring travel by ferry are to be scheduled between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. unless both coaches agree to a change in time. The MSL Scheduler must be advised of the time change. No Friday game starts prior to 7:00 P.M.
- (c) The Home team is responsible for nets, corner flags and lining of field. Failure to provide these could result in a fine up to \$50.00 which will be taken from the District Performance Bond.

2.7 Trophies and Awards

- (a) In the event that the MSL awards an annual trophy, it is the responsibility of the recipient to return the trophy by February 15th of the following year.
- (b) If the trophy is not returned in good condition, the home District will be charged for either repairing or replacement.
- (c) The team awarded the trophy is responsible for the engraving of the trophy.

SECTION 3 – TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Fulfilling League Commitments

- (a) Teams will complete all games scheduled by the MSL Scheduler.
- (b) Failure of a team not to complete all league games will result in a fine of up to a maximum of \$500.00, which will be taken from the District performance bond.
- (c) Failure of a team to pay referees by half time will result in a fine to a maximum of \$250.00 plus referee's fees which will be taken from the District Performance Bond.

3.2 Respect of Officials

- (a) Team management is expected to identify themselves to the referee and to the other team before the start of the game.

- (b) Team management is responsible for the behavior of parents and spectators. If a spectator is unmanageable, the referee may stop the match until the situation is under control.
- (c) No person from the sidelines shall make any derogatory comments about any player on either team, match officials or other spectators.
- (d) Referees have the authority to order any person, including team officials or players, away from the field of play. Any time a person has been required to leave, the referee will report the incident on the BCSA Discipline site.
- (e) The quality of the referee will never be accepted as a defense against disciplinary action.
- (f) If problems occur, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the MSL to include fines and/or the deduction of points.

3.3 Management of Team Behavior

- (a) Team officials are expected to set a high standard for their players' behavior and sportsmanship.
- (b) Coaches and managers should oversee the handshakes between teams **before the game, and then thank the referee and assistant referees for being at the game.**

3.4 Practical Matters

- (a) Coaches and managers of opposing teams must use the contact list provided to contact each other no later than 3 days prior to all scheduled games in order to confirm both the venue of the game, the time and the opposition's colours.
- (b) Coaches and managers should provide a second line on each side of the field to restrain spectators and give the assistant referees room to move back and forth.
- (c) No one may coach from behind the goal line.

3.5 Team Equipment

- (a) A colour clash is based on the registered home team colours for each team.
- (b) In the event of a colour clash it is the responsibility of the home team to change their strip to the satisfaction of the referee
- (c) The MSL requires numbered uniforms for all MSL teams for player identification.
- (d) All teams must at all times appear in proper uniforms, ie. Proper footwear, shirt, shorts, socks and shin guards.

SECTION 4 – LEAGUE STRUCTURE & OPERATION

A. Registration and District Boundaries

4.1A Player Registration - Rule 22-Youth Players-Zoning

- (a) Youth aged player, to retain youth status, must register and play within the District which administers soccer for the area in which that player resides at the time of their first league game of the season except as specified in Rule 22b) and d).
 - i. The residency of the player is determined by the residence of the parent. For the purposes of regulations, paragraph “a”, Rule 22-Youth Players-Zoning, the parent of the player is:
 - a) Either parent where both parents have a common residence or if there is only one surviving parent, such surviving parent, and
 - b) In the event that the parents are living apart, the parent who has custody of the player, or if both parents have custody, the parent with whom the player habitually resides or if the player does not habitually reside with either parent, then either parent, and
 - c) In the event both parents are deceased, the person who is in loco parentis to the player.
 - i. Loco parentis means: one who has taken a position in reference to a child of that lawful father, assuming the office of the father and the obligation of supporting the child, assuming a parental character and discharging duties, although not the parent.
- (b) A player wishing to play out-of-district will be granted a release, from the district in which he/she resides, upon request and receipt of a completed District Release Application form from that district’s registrar or designate.
 - ii. The receiving district must also give written permission for acceptance of a player by completion of a District Release Application form. Having received such authorization a player then qualifies for Rule 22(d).
 - iii. The accepting Youth District must provide a copy of the validated Out-Of-District form(s) upon request of the Association.

- (c) If challenged, the District is responsible for verifying residential qualifications of a player to the Association for the purposes of Rule 22-Youth Players-Zoning.
 - iv. Affidavits may only be considered with multiple pieces of corroborating documentation, acceptable to the Association's Registrar.
- (d) A youth aged player may register and play out of the district in which he/she resides providing that no affiliated team of youth age registered players shall register and/or play more than five (5) out-of-district players .
 - v. Those Districts whose boundaries are limited by geography and player registration of less than one thousand (1,000) players may apply to the Association for special exemption from Rule 22 (d).
- (e) Breach of these rules shall lead to disciplinary action as set out in Rule10 discipline, and defined in the Association's' Discipline Policy & Procedure Guide.
- (f) Each District Association shall have the option to establish zoning within its District.
- (g) The Provincial Association shall have the final say in the event of any disputes.
- (h) *Those players on any existing teams in the U-13 or higher age categories as registered in the 2011-2012 season and whose District Boundaries were changed at the June 2011 AGM of the BC Soccer shall not be considered to be Out-of-District for the purposes of this rule, unless they were deemed to be so during the 2011-2012 season. Players leaving their team following the 2011-2012 season shall no longer be covered by this section.*

4.1 B Player Registration

- (a) A player must reside in the district that he is registered in at the time of his first league game or the player is considered to be an Out-of-District player.

4.2 District Boundaries

- (a) MSL District boundaries correspond in every instance with those District boundaries as sanctioned by BCSA.

B. MSL SCHEDULER

4.3 League Scheduling

- (a) The League will schedule games on Friday, Saturday or Sunday with the exception of games involving Island teams, as these games cannot be played on Fridays.
- (b) The regular schedule shall run from the first weekend after Labour Day through to approximately the end of February.
- (c) An anticipated break shall occur between mid-December and mid-January
- (d) The League shall publish a complete schedule at the beginning of the season (in some flights the schedule will have to be in 2 parts, the second part to be distributed later in the season.) Teams are expected to play all scheduled games throughout the season on or before the schedules date.
- (e) League schedules shall be published and available for distribution by August 30th each year
- (f) The MSL Committee shall approve, from alternatives provided by the MSL Scheduler, the nature and the extent of league play each season which includes the number of games and the number of rounds.

4.4A League Tie

- (a) In the event of a tie on points for league winner at the end of the scheduled league play, there will be a one game play-off at a neutral field.
- (b) A neutral set of officials will be supplied and paid for by the MSL Committee.
- (c) If the teams are tied at the end of regulation time the appropriate overtime as provided under the BCSA Competition Rules and Regulations will be played. If the teams are still tied upon the completion of overtime then penalty kicks as outlined by FIFA "Laws of the Game" will be used to determine the winner.
- (d) All other ties in the standing will be resolved by a tie breaker, that tie breaker is as follows:
 - 1. *Head to head.*
 - 2. *Goal difference (goals for minus goals against).*
 - 3. *Goal average (goals for divided by goals against).*

4.4B League Winner

- (a) In the event that there are two (2) sides in a division and no cross-over, the top two teams in each division will play for the league title. ie – top team in division A will play second place team in division B, top team in division B will play second place team in division A. The two (2) winners will play off, with winner to be declared League Champion.
- (b) In the event that there are two (2) sides in a division with a cross-over, the top two teams in each division will play for the league title. i.e. – top team in division A will play second place team in division B, top team in division B will play second place team in division A. The two (2) winners will play off, with winner to be declared League Champion.
- (c) In the event there is a division of 16 teams split into 2 groups of 8 (A&B) (picked at random), teams will play home and away with all teams in their group=14 games. At the conclusion the top 4 teams of each group will form a new group (Div1) and the bottom 4 teams will form a second group (Div 2) and play each team in their new group one time. The top team in group (Div1) will be declared League Champion.
- (d) If the top 2 teams in group (1) are tied on points there will be a play-off game (as per league rules.) All other teams tied in the league standings will be adjusted by a tie breaker.
- (e) The League Committee can change a division format for scheduling or lack of time for completing the schedule.

4.5 Statistics and Reporting of Scores

- (a) All teams are required to report scores directly to their District MSL Representative, or their designate, after each league game.
- (b) Using some mutually agreeable means the District MSL Representative, or designate, shall report these scores to the MSL Statistician the same weekend the game occurs no later than 6:00 p.m. Sunday.
- (c) Failure to report scores to the MSL Statistician three (3) times within a season will result in a \$50.00 fine. A further \$50.00 fine will be assessed for every week missed thereafter. These fines will be taken from the District Performance Bond.
- (d) The MSL Statistician shall publish and distribute league standings on a weekly basis. These standings shall include points, goals for and goals against.

- (e) The standing of teams resigning or removed from the MSL before completion of the schedule will be expunged from the records as follows:
 - i. If a resignation or removal occurs prior to the completion of the first round of the schedule all results involving that team will be expunged from the league record.
 - ii. If a resignation or removal occurs prior to the completion of the second round of the schedule, only the second round results will be expunged.
 - iii. The same formula shall apply for any subsequent rounds.

4.6 Rescheduling and Forfeitures

- (a) Rescheduling due to field closures:

When inclement weather forces closure of the home teams fields then the game shall be rescheduled on the opposing teams field. When both Districts fields are closed, Home team will reschedule game through their district MSL representative and League scheduler.

Exception: When a Lower Mainland home game involves a team from Vancouver Island, the game shall be played on the Lower Mainland's home grass or alternate field. The Lower Mainland home team may elect to travel to Vancouver Island to play on grass. Once this is agreed to, the Lower Mainland must fulfill this commitment unless the Vancouver Island grass field is suddenly closed. The original home team is responsible for the payment of the assistant referees. District MSL Representatives for both teams must notify the League Scheduler and Referee Assignor of the field change. Where league games are required to finalize league standings, games will be played on all-weather fields.

- i. Teams must assume all games shall be played as scheduled unless they are advised by the District MSL Representative, prior to the scheduled game time, that the fields are unplayable or the venue has changed.
- ii. The assigned referee may deem the field unplayable at the scheduled match time or at any time during the game.
- iii. Games canceled due to field closures shall be rescheduled after consultation between the host District MSL Representative and the MSL Scheduler. Teams shall be notified as soon as possible.

(b) Rescheduling Requests

- i. The MSL Scheduler will only consider requests for the rescheduling of regular league games in very unusual circumstances ie – Provincial or National competition, heavy team involvement in a special school function or illness or injury which reduces the team roster size **below** eleven (11) players.
- ii. Requests for rescheduling must be made to the MSL Scheduler and their District MSL Representative by phone and followed up immediately by a fax or email stating full particulars, ie: names of players affected, phone numbers, etc.
- iii. No rescheduling will be authorized later than 9:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the game. Any rescheduling before that time will be at the discretion of the MSL Committee.
- iv. Requests for rescheduling must be made through the District MSL Representative only.
- v. The preference will be to have the rescheduled match played before the original scheduled date or within three (3) weeks of the original scheduled date. The home team shall provide to the MSL Scheduler, the MSL Secretary and the two (2) District Reps two (2) dates for the rescheduled game to be played. The MSL Scheduler, in cooperation with both teams, shall set the replay date.
- vi. **The MSL scheduler will only consider schedule changes for teams wishing to participate in tournaments if the scheduled game is played before the scheduled date**
- vii. Canceling a scheduled league game without prior approval from the MSL Scheduler will result in a fine up to \$500.00 which will be taken from the District Performance Bond.
- viii. If a team is held responsible for the abandonment of a game they will be subject to a fine up to \$500.00 which will be taken from the District Performance Bond.

(c) Rescheduling due to no referee

- i. If a referee does not appear for the MSL match it is recommended that coaches and managers decide on a mutually agreeable referee. Should the match be played, then it is understood that the match stands as an official league game.

- ii. In all cases a fifteen (15) minute allowance must be given before abandoning the game.
- iii. Should rescheduling be required the procedure as outlined in Section 4.6b will be followed. Contact the MSL Scheduler who will assist in rescheduling the match.

Abandoned Games

- iv. Only a Referee can abandon a game
 - a) If a game is abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. lights go out, snow storm hits, etc) and 75% of the game has been played, the League has the right to declare the game “played” and will use the score as of the time of abandonment as the final score. or the remainder of the game to be played.
 - b) If 75% of the game has not been played and the abandonment was the result of unforeseen circumstances, at the discretion of the League Board, the game will then be re-scheduled
 - c) If players, coaches, team officials or spectators force a match to be abandoned, the League will investigate, and has the right to declare a winner and points will be awarded as a forfeiture to the faultless team as a 1-0 win, regardless of the score at the time of abandonment. Team at fault will be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00
 - d) If after the League Committees investigation find both teams were at fault for the abandonment of the game the League Committee, has the right to recorded as a 0-0 loss for both or a replay Teams will be subject to a fine of up to \$500:00
 - e) Coaches must report a game as abandoned to the Score

4.7 League Cups and Playoffs

- (a) The MSL Scheduler will schedule all league cups, league challenge rounds and league playoff games.
- (b) These dates, times and parks will be communicated to the teams involved through their MSL Representative.
- (c) It is not the responsibility of the MSL Scheduler to schedule the Provincial Cup or any other non-MSL activity. These are arranged by

each District Scheduler for their MSL teams and other teams operated within each District.

C. MSL REFEREE COORDINATOR

4.8 Area of Responsibility

The area of responsibility of the Metro Select Referee Coordinator will be determined each year by the MSL Committee.

4.9 Operation

The Metro Select Referee Coordinator will establish all procedures necessary for the efficient completion of tasks assigned by the MSL Committee.

4.10 Cooperation of Districts

Districts who participate in the MSL will be required to provide properly qualified referees into pools established by the MSL Referee Coordinator under the direction of the MSL Committee.

SECTION 5 – DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

5.1 General Procedures

- (a) All ejection and caution cards issued to players and team officials of teams in the MSL must be reported within 48 hours by the referee on the BCSA Discipline site.
- (b) Any individual receiving three (3) cautions during a season will be suspended (see BCSA Competition Rules & Regulations, Rule 11-Discipline: Automatic Suspension, I iii) for a minimum of one match automatically. The suspension will be served in the team's very next match following the match in which the third card was received.
- (c) Any individual receiving an ejection card is to immediately leave the field of play. Any player or team official ejected is automatically suspended for the next scheduled league, playoff or Provincial Cup game, whichever comes first.
- (d) Any individual having been ejected in a MSL match will attend a discipline hearing and if unable to do so will be disciplined by the MSL Discipline Committee and informed in writing of the penalties imposed.

- (e) Please refer to the BCSA Competition Rules and Regulations and the attached summary “Special Rules for Youth Soccer” for further guidance on the general and specific rules of the game.
- (f) All team official reports of misconduct must be forwarded to the District’s Discipline Committee. Any player receiving two (2) ejections in one season must be reported to the District’s Discipline Committee.
- (g) All disciplinary matters shall be decided upon in accordance with the BCSA Discipline Guidelines.
- (h) All officials, staff and players deserve the right to a hearing. Failure to attend this hearing or submit a written response to the MSL Discipline Committee will result in an “Indefinite Suspension”. This person should be informed of this “Indefinite Suspension” in writing. The person will remain under “Indefinite Suspension” until the party requests, in writing, another hearing and appears at a subsequent hearing.

5.2 Match Reports by Referees

- (a) Must be submitted on the BCSA Discipline site.
- (b) Reports on the following from referees should go directly to the MSL Discipline Chair.
 - i. Any match abandoned due to field conditions or bad weather must be reported and will be rescheduled by the League.
 - ii. Hazardous field conditions must be reported. The host District will be asked to investigate and correct or relocate future home games to avoid that condition.
- (c) Reports on any team official, player or spectator who was required to leave the area and who did not comply with the request must be sent immediately and directly to the BCSA office.

5.3 Protests & Appeals

- (a) Protests shall be dealt with by the MSL Board under BCSA Rules & Regulations, Rule 11 Protests.
- (b) The protest must be emailed or faxed to the MSL Protest Chair within 48 hours of the game. The \$250.00 protest fee (cheque made payable to the Metro Select League) along with a copy of the protest must be received by the league secretary within 4 days. This fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- (c) Protests relating to grounds, posts, crossbars, etc will not be entertained unless notice (with particulars indicated) is given to the referee prior to the beginning of the match.
- (d) The Protest Committee Chair will provide all parties affected by a decision, a written ruling which shall include the rationale for the decision and the appeal procedure.

- (e) The decisions of the MSL Board are binding and subject to appeal to the BCSA Board. The applicant shall make written application to the BCSA Executive Director within ten (10) working days after issuance of the MSL Committee's decision. (Check with the BCSA website or office regarding procedure and the BCSA appeal fee.

SPECIAL RULES FOR YOUTH SOCCER

1. Divisions U18 to U13 play under regular game rules as prescribed by the FIFA "Laws of the Game."
2. Exceptions of FIFA Laws on game duration, ball size and substitutions are noted below.

AGE, DURATION and BALL SIZE TABLE

Age	Game Duration	Ball Size
U18	2 equal halves of 45 minutes	#5
U16	2 equal halves of 40 minutes	#5
U15	2 equal halves of 40 minutes	#5
U14	2 equal halves of 35 minutes	#5
U13	2 equal halves of 35 minutes	#5

- (a) There shall be no limit on the number of substitutions allowed for league play. The referee must be notified upon substitution for the goalkeeper. A substitution will not be allowed for a player ordered from the field.
3. In the case of a conflict of colours the home team shall change to the satisfaction of the referee.
4. A minimum of seven (7) players is required to start a match and a match should not continue if there are fewer than seven (7) players on either team.
5. The home team is responsible for marking the field and supplying the match ball, corner flags and nets.
6. A team must be given 15 minutes from the scheduled start of the game to field a team. Failure to field a team may result in fines and/or penalties. Extra time will be given to teams traveling to/from the Lower Mainland/Vancouver Island when a ferry problem may have occurred.
7. All teams shall furnish a complete MSL "**Team List and Permit Form**" of all their registered players. The list shall be completed in duplicate and both copies of which shall be given to the referee before commencement of the game. The team list shall bear the name of the team, date of the game, the name of the opposing team and the names of each player, BCSA ID number and unique jersey number of each player. Names of players under suspension or injured should remain on the list with a line drawn through and a notation of reason for not being eligible to play.
8. BCSA Photo Identification Cards for both players and team officials are required for each game at the U13 to U18 levels. It is incumbent on team

- officials to present the photo ID cards of the players and team officials to the referee prior to any League or Cup games.
9. The BCSA Photo ID cards of ejected players will be submitted along with the Referee's report to the Discipline Committee. These ID cards will be returned to the player or manager when suspensions are served.
 10. Team officials of any youth team shall consist of a minimum of one member of the same gender as the players on the team.

SEEDING OF TEAMS FOR COASTAL "A" CUP

The top three (3) or four (4) teams will be seeded in the order in which they finished the regular season. *(If the League games are not completed but the top three or four teams are identified before cup play, they will be seeded. However, if this cannot be established, the League standing at the completion of the first round of league play would be used. If the first round cannot be completed there will be no seeding.)*

If divisions are split into two groups, "A" and "B", the teams will be seeded according to the results of the league title play-off games. *The top two (2) teams from each side will play off (1 v 2 from other side, two winners play for league title). The seeding will be done after the play-offs.*

If there is no time for completion of the play-off games, before the cup seeding, the team with the most points will be number one seed, the third and fourth seeds will be the second team in each division and the team with the most points will be third seed.

If divisions are split into two groups with a cross-over, the top two teams from each side will playoff.

If there is no time for completion of the play-off games before the cup seeding the team with the most points will be number one (1) seed, the top team of the other group will be next, followed by the second team with the most points.

If for any reason there is need of a tie breaker, that tie breaker is as follows:

1. *Head to head.*
2. *Goal difference (goals for minus goals against).*
3. *Goal average (goals for divided by goals against).*

MSL Youth-to-Youth Permits

- (a) The MSL shall grant a registered MSL player permission to play for a MSL team in an older age division. (Where there are two teams from the same club in the same division the players cannot be permitted between the two teams.)
- (b) The MSL shall grant a player registered with a team outside the League permission to play for a MSL team of his age group or older age division.
- (c) **The MSL shall also grant permission for a player registered with a team in a lower league's older-age division than his/her birth-eligibility age to play for an MSL team of his/her age group or older age division.**
- (d) Permission is contingent on the player receiving the consent of the team and the approval of the Youth District with which he is registered.
 - i. *A MSL team can only obtain players from its own Youth District. If there is more than one team within a District a player can only play for one team on permit within one season*
 - ii. Permits will be allowed for league games or League Cup games only, not for any cup games out side of the League.
 - iii. Players under suspension shall not be eligible to play under permit.
 - iv. Out-of-District players can be permitted as long as the Out-of-District number does not exceed the BCSEA maximum.
 - v. Any player requesting a permit must apply for permission by completing a permit form supplied by the League. The application form bearing the consent of the releasing team must be submitted for the Youth District Designates consideration prior to the game for which the permit is requested. Youth Districts may set additional conditions for approval of the league's permits and may elect not to approve any league permits.
 - vi. A permit is valid only for the team, day and game stated on the permit application form.
 - vii. An approved permit form for the permitted player must be presented to the game official and to the opposing coach prior to the start of the game. Any player with a permit must also present a valid ID card to be eligible to play.
 - viii. Any disciplinary action applied from misconduct reported while playing in a game under permit shall be served during the very next game(s) with his/her registered team.

Any team playing a player on a permit that does not conform to the above Rules shall be sanctioned as for playing an ineligible player, and have Permit Privileges withdrawn. Any district approving permits not conforming to the above rules shall be sanctioned by withdrawal of permit privileges for its District for up to one year.