

# BCCSL BY-LAWS

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The Statement of League Principles is guided by an honour system of self-regulation among team members. It is not the purpose of the Policies and Procedures and by laws to provide an exhaustive set of regulations, but rather to establish some general guidelines for the conduct of both the member teams and the individuals within the League. The League will rely greatly on the integrity of the team managers to conduct the affairs of their teams in accordance with the Statement of Principles, input from the Executive Committee and the following guidelines:

## I. Updating Bylaws

### A. Change Proposals

1. Proposed changes to the constitution shall be circulated to the Executive Committee at least one week prior to the next managers meeting

### B. Ratification

1. Changes that are approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Directors become effective for the current season and subsequent seasons

## II. League Meetings

### A. League Responsibility

1. The President will notify all member teams at least three weeks in advance of any League meetings.
2. The agenda of each meeting shall be circulated at least one week in advance of the meeting date. A quorum shall be established as twice the number of the Executive

### B. Team Responsibility

1. It is the responsibility of the team managers to keep the Executive Committee informed about changes to the contact person for their team.
2. Team manager or a representative from team must be in attendance for each league meeting. If not, the team will be fined as per bylaw X.B.a)

### III. Section 1 - Eligibility

#### A. Team Eligibility

1. Each team will be affiliated with a Christian church or two Christian churches [seeC,D].
2. Each team will be governed by the terms of the Constitution and the discretionary decisions of the Executive Committee.
3. No later than the first managers meeting, each team will:
  - a) *Pay its League Fees (including performance bond and fines)*
  - b) *Submit its preliminary team roster.*
  - c) *Failure to perform the above on time will result in a \$50.00 late fee for each of a) and b). Failure to pay at all will result in ineligibility for the season.*

#### B. Player Eligibility.

1. For a player to be eligible to play for a team in the League, the player must fall under one of the following three categories:
  - a) *Regular Attender*
  - b) *Other Church Import*
  - c) *Witness Import*
2. Notwithstanding sub-clause D, no player is eligible to play for more than one team in the League in a given season. A church with two or more teams cannot move players up and down between their teams during a season.

#### C. One Church-based teams.

1. Each team official and player shall be a regular attender at the church, which they represent; however, a player whose church does not have a team may play for any League team. The maximum number of Other Church or Witness import players per team is four players of any combination of Other Church or Witness.

a) Church Attendance: refers to a person attending the main services offered to the church members on Sunday morning, or equivalent service offered on a different day/time. This excludes youth events and other programs that are ministries of the church and not their primary gathering for their weekly message and time of worship. Attending these ministries is not “attending” the church.

(1) Regular Attender: a person who is committed to “attend”, by the above definition, one of the church’s weekly services, attends them on a regular basis, and certainly more than any other church which they may attend occasionally.

(2) Other Church Import Players: A player who attends another church, which does not have a team in the League, is considered an “Other Church” import.

(3) Witness Import - A player who attends no church at all is considered a Witness Clause import.

D. Two Church-based teams.

1. Two smaller churches may combine to form one League team. All team officials and player’s must regularly attend one of the two churches (note: no “Other Church” import players are permitted in this category, except for two “Witness Clause” import players). One proviso is that the Executive Committee must give approval of the combination before the team may play in the League on a yearly basis. There must be a written request stating why a two-church team is needed. The executive will discuss each application as received.

E. Import Players

1. Each team (apart from Two Church-based teams who may only field two “Witness Clause” imports) may have a maximum of four imports on their roster. Every season, a letter for each “Other Church” import player must be sent to the President from the Pastor of their church and must be approved by the Executive Committee (each situation will be based on its own merits and approvals are not automatic). Any combination of “Other Church” and “Witness Clause” import totaling four is acceptable provided the conditions outlined in sub clause 2 are met.

2. “Witness Clause” Import Players. Up to four players who do not attend any church may be on a team’s roster. Every season, a letter for each player must be sent to the President and must be approved by the Executive Committee (each situation will be based on its own merits and approvals are not automatic). The spirit behind this rule is not to stack teams, but to reach out to others who do not know Christ and introduce them to Jesus according to the League Statement and Principles.

## IV. Rosters

### A. General Rosters

1. Each team may play only those players who are listed on the team roster. All approved players will be visible through the league website and can be checked by the referee prior to the match. If the player is not approved and visible through the website the player is not eligible to play. The Executive Committee recommends that the referee conduct an ID Check prior to the match. Checks may be made at halftime or following the match. If a player does not have their League photo ID visible through the website, they are not eligible to play in the game. If they have already played in the game, it’s a forfeit and the offending team will incur all cost for the match. In this case please have the referee make note of what has transpired on the game sheet.

2. The league is a co-ed league and it offers the opportunity for males and females to participate in the game of soccer.

3. Each new team wishing to enter the League must present their bid to the Executive Committee and then be present at the first pre-season managers meeting. A New team registration fee of \$50 will be required at the new team meeting to be held the second week of January.

4. A Manager that misses 2 consecutive meetings in a season could be replaced at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

### B. Roster changes.

1. The League Statistician must approve all changes before new players are eligible to play. A team may add or change its roster during the year at any time before the Wednesday following the Victoria Day long Weekend of the season. After that date, rosters are frozen, and no changes may be made.

C. Players under 19 years of age

1. If a team is going to register any player under the age of 19, they must also submit to the Executive Committee a Criminal Record Check (C.R.C.) for the team manager. If the player is an addition to the roster and would be the first player on the roster under the age of 19, the C.R.C. must be submitted at the same time as the request for the addition.

## V. Team Requirements

A. Uniforms:

1. In the event of a colour conflict, the home team is required to change uniforms. All teams must have either a spare set of jerseys or a set of bibs.
2. Each team will provide sequential numbered uniforms, a game ball, and a net for its game. Failure to do so results in a forfeit. The forfeiting team will also be responsible to pay the whole referee fee.

B. Equipment and Field Maintenance

1. Each team will provide two proper corner flags. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine (please have the referee make note of this on the game sheet).

C. Game Sheets:

1. Each team will be issued Game Report Forms that are to be filled out by the managers at each game. Managers are responsible to make sure that all information appears on the game sheets, and that the referee and both managers sign the sheet.
2. Game reports must be uploaded through the managers portal by the winning team within 1 business day of the completed game. In the event of a tie, the home team is responsible to upload the game report. Failure to submit the game sheet 1 business day will result in a penalty being assessed of \$5.00 for each day the report is late.



## VI. League Structure

### A. Regular Season

1. Structure: The number of teams and the number of divisions will be determined at the first pre-season managers meeting each season. Whenever possible the preferred number of teams per Division will be seven. Promotion and relegation, whenever possible, will be top two regular season teams up one division as appropriate and bottom two regular season teams down one division whenever appropriate. Promotion and relegation will be based on the standing at the end of the previous regular season.

*a) Relegation and promotion can also be completed at the discretion of the league executive to ensure division alignment based on the number of teams confirmed to start the season.*

2. Eligibility: To be eligible for the regular season play, each team must have a manager and if required by the Executive Committee a church representative at the first-season managers meeting. A manager or representative must also be present at the second managers meeting for the team to qualify for League play in a given season.

### B. Playoffs

1. Structure: The structure of the playoffs and who is eligible for the Playoffs will be discussed each season at the mid-season managers meeting. The Executive Committee will provide a recommended format for the Playoffs at the mid-season managers meeting for membership approval.

### C. Officiating

1. All League matches will be conducted under current FIFA rules.

2. Officiating will be provided by either a member of the BC Referee Association or by a League Representative. In the event of the referee not showing up, each team must provide a referee for one half of the match. This game will be considered official and all cards given will count.

3. Members of the BC Referees Association will be paid \$80.00 per match, based on 2018 rates. The existing BC Referee Association sets these fees and may be subject to adjustment. The home team will be responsible to pay all referee fees.

4. A game is officially completed once 67 minutes have been played, in case of the referee calling the game early.

## VII. Scheduling

### A. Field scheduling

1. League games will be scheduled between April and the end of June. Game nights are primarily Mondays and Fridays. Playoffs will follow the Regular Season.

### B. Rescheduling of Games:

1. All games are to be played according to the schedule issued by the League. If your team has dates it cannot play, these must be made known in writing to the Scheduler at the pre-season managers meeting a date will be given for that deadline.

2. A team can submit up to 2 or 3 blackout dates on which it cannot play depending on the league calendar (see 3.a) below 3.b) below), however, that does not guarantee that they will not have a match scheduled on these dates. If a team does not play a game, they will forfeit the game and pay all associated costs

3. There are 2 League wide Blackout dates. Good Friday and the Friday of the Victoria Day Weekend.

*a) If Good Friday does not occur during the season 3 blackout dates are permitted*

*b) If Good Friday does occur during the season 2 blackout dates are permitted*

C. Forfeits

1. If a team does not play a scheduled game, they owe the League the full referee fee (\$80.00) and a \$50.00 field fine for a total of \$130.00.
2. Forfeiture of games at the end of the regular season will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and disciplinary action will be taken as required.

## VIII. Discipline

A. General Notes

1. The referee's decision is final and will not be overturned by the Executive Committee.
2. Discipline reviews will be made by the Vice-President and the Executive Committee.
3. Any Red Card offense must be reported within 24 hours by each team's manager and the Player who received the Card. All reports must be emailed to the Executives.

B. Discipline System:

1. Team Discipline

a) *Complaints regarding un-Christian-like conduct of other teams will be accepted by the President in written form only and must be as specific as possible.*

b) *The President will, at his or her discretion, assign one or more independent observers to be present at games of a team that is either suspected of improper behavior or for which a complaint has been received.*

c) *Penalty Point System: Any red card a team receives is worth 3 penalty points, while any yellow card a team receives is worth 1 penalty point. When a team accumulates 15 penalty points for red and/or yellow cards, the team will be penalized 3 League points and put on probation. If the team does not change its attitude and continues to get cards, the Executive Committee, at their discretion, may bar the offending team from the Playoffs and as a final measure, may remove the team from all League play.*

d) *A team will be issued a warning when:*

- (1) A written complaint is received concerning its behavior, which is judged to be valid.
- (2) An official observer reports that its behavior was un-Christian-like.
- (3) The team has received 15 penalty points.

(4) A team shall appear before the Executive Committee and explain why it should be permitted to continue playing in the League when:

- (a) Two substantiated, written reports are received.
- (b) Observers report un-Christian-like conduct on two separate occasions.
- (c) One substantiated report is received, and an official observer reports un-Christian-like conduct on another occasion.

*e) If, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, a team is not behaving in a Christian-like manner, the Executive Committee has the right to eject that team from the League.*

*f) A team may be ejected from the League upon two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee or when 20 penalty points have been reached.*

*g) The Executive Committee, at their discretion, may impose on an individual team a penalty which would carry the regular season penalty point system into the first Playoff game for that team where the Executive Committee believes that team has forfeited a game to avoid the regular season penalty point system and be eligible to play in the Playoffs.*

## 2. Individual Discipline

*a)*

	Card	Discipline
i.	Any yellow card	Player not allowed to play for the next 10 minutes (enforced by managers, not referees). This excludes Goalkeepers.
ii.	Third yellow card	1 game suspension (next game) and review by the Executive Committee.
iii.	Fifth yellow card	3 game suspension (next 3 games) and review.
iv.	First red card	Remainder of game suspension and 1 game suspension (next game) and review by the Executive Committee.
v.	Second red card	Remainder of game suspension and 4 game suspension and review by the Executive Committee.

Table 1

b) *Card Accumulations carry over to the playoffs.*

3. Non-Christian conduct policy. The following acts/deeds will be considered as non-Christian conduct:

a) *Swearing*

b) *Fighting*

c) *Spitting*

d) *Biting*

e) *Deliberate intimidation (physical or verbal) directed at another player, coach, spectator, or official*

f) *Disrespect shown to the referee*

g) *Lying: fabricating a roster and playing illegal players (this will result in a 2-year manager suspension, plus a red card for the game in question)*

4. The President and the Executive Committee will carefully review all the above infractions and may consider disciplinary action.

## IX. League ID and Registration

### A. Registration

1. Players are registered through the league run registration system.

a) *A recent photo must be uploaded with each registration submitted.*

b) *All information submitted must be accurate and correct.*

2. Approved players by the registrar will be visible through the managers portal that they have been approved.

### B. League ID system

1. Managers will be required to show the Referee the ID's of each player through the manager portal prior to every game.

a) *Only approved players will be visible here.*

b) *If a player is not visible, then they are not eligible to play for that game.*

X. League Fees and Fines (fees will be revised yearly as needed):

A. League Fee Schedule (2018)

- a) *League Fees- All BCCSL teams \$1100*
- b) *Entry (Application) fee for new teams payable at the New Team meeting in January \$50*
- c) *Performance bond for all teams \$100*
- d) *Other Fees:*
  - (1) *Player Add-On Fee after the March initial Roster Deadline: \$15*
  - (2) *Referee Fee \$80 per match payable by the Home Team*

B. Schedule of Fines – Team Fees (2018):

- a) *Non-Attendance at meeting: \$50*
- b) *Game Forfeit: \$50 + referee fee. Includes a 3-0 loss in standings*
- c) *Improper or no Corner flags: \$50*
- d) *Improper or no Goal net: \$50 plus Forfeit Fee*
- e) *Poor condition or No Game Ball: \$30*
- f) *Incomplete Uniforms, different colours, no numbers: \$50*
- g) *Returned Cheque (NSF): \$50*
- h) *Missed (late) Team registration (not applicable to new teams): \$50*
- i) *Play ineligible player: \$50 fee + referee fee. 3-0 Loss. Manager Red Card and a 2-Year Manager Suspension*
- j) *Play a suspended player: \$50 fee + referee fee, 3-0 Loss Manager Red Card and a 2-Year Manager Suspension*

C. Schedule of Fines – Individual Discipline (2018):

- a) *Yellow Cards*
  - (1) *3 yellow cards – minimum one game suspension and \$20 fine.*
  - (2) *5 yellow cards – minimum three game suspension and \$40 fine.*
- b) *Red Cards*
  - (1) *1 red card – minimum one game suspension & a minimum \$25 fine.*
  - (2) *2 red cards – minimum four game suspension & a minimum \$60 fine and then forwarded to the BCCSL Executive Committee.*

(3) The League Discipline Committee may add any number of games and value of fine (when deemed appropriate) to a suspension when:

(a) The severity of the incident(s) warrants further suspension.

(b) The history of suspensions to a player warrants further suspension.