

South Okanagan (Similkameen) Youth Soccer Association

(SOYSA)

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DRAFT

YOUTH LEAGUE POLICY & PROCEDURES

Revised Sept 2000

Member Areas

Penticton Youth Soccer Area

P.O. Box 24072

Penticton, BC

V2A 8L9

Summerland Youth Soccer Area

P.O. Box 1738

Summerland, BC

V0H 1Z0

Oliver Youth Soccer Area

RR #1 S-90 C-23

Oliver, BC

V0H 1T0

Osoyoos Youth Soccer Area

RR #2 S-8 C-9

Osoyoos, BC

V0H 1V0

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1. WELCOME

The South Okanagan (Similkameen) Youth Soccer Association (SOYSA) and its League Operating Committee (LOC) welcomes you to the Youth Soccer League (SOYSL). SOYSA represents the member youth soccer areas of Summerland, Penticton, Oliver and Osoyoos (Keremeos fielded a team jointly with Penticton in Spring 2000). We hope that the current season will be a pleasant one for you and the players on your team. Take the time to read the following pages as they are designed to avoid confusion and prevent problems that both new and experienced coaches run into. These policies and procedures are based on the Nine-District League Guide operating in the Lower Mainland and we thank them. Any comments on improvements to the guide are welcome (and should be forwarded, in writing, to the League Administrator for LOC consideration).

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

The SOYSA operates under the Constitution of the B.C. Soccer Association, and applies each year to the BCSA for permission to operate its leagues. In cooperation with member Areas, the general task of SOYSA and its LOC is to coordinate and govern boys and girls' youth soccer league play within the SOYSA District. Each Area strives to have two SOYSA Board Directors who are responsible for the general operation and promotion of soccer within its geographic boundaries as well as a Committee responsibility to the Board. [The SOYSA District Executive Committee (D.E.C.) is composed of 2 Directors from each area, a District Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer and League Administrator (Schedule, Statistics, Coordinator, Registrar)]. The LOC, through the League Scheduler and Area Youth Coordinators, is responsible for making arrangements for the youth league and scheduling games. Two members represent each Area on the LOC but additional officers may be appointed (e.g. Head Referee or Division Coordinators) as required.

3. AREA YOUTH COORDINATORS

At the beginning of each season, SOYSA will appoint two Youth Coordinators (one for girls divisions and one for boys divisions), who will represent an Area on the LOC. (Co-ed/Mixed Team Youth Coordinators will be appointed as needed.) The LOC must have representation from each Area and a minimum of four (4) people to operate. The role of the LOC is to organise the SOYSL each season, decide on division groupings (Gold Division operation), game day etc., and to provide this information to the SOYSA Executive for their final approval. Coordinators are responsible for informing their Areas and teams about the League structure, handing out schedules, coordinating game re-scheduling, participating in updating of League Rules & Guidelines, and other LOC duties.

Some areas may also have "Division Coordinators," (e.g. U11 Coordinators). Their job is to coordinate teams within specific divisions within their Area (e.g., practice times & fields, etc.) under the direction of the Area Youth Coordinator.

In all cases, the Youth Coordinators on the LOC work through the SOYSL Scheduler and they are the final link between individual teams and the league. In no instance should teams feel that information from other sources is "official". The "final say" belongs to the LOC once the league structure is sanctioned each year by the SOYSA District Executive Committee.

4. ACCESS TO LEAGUES

The SOYSL is intended for the enjoyment of Area teams. Prior to the season, the SOYSA LOC will decide at which levels teams are best suited to play, based on ability and past performance. The LOC reserves the right to withdraw league privileges, reassign divisional alignments, or reschedule those teams whose league performance, either good or poor, is such that they are misplaced in this league structure. Application for entry of new Areas into the SOYSA must be received in writing by the SOYSA District Executive, no later than **November 30th** of any playing season.

4.1 Leagues

The SOYSL will offer two levels of play, Gold and Silver, whenever numbers of players and teams allow, in Under 12 to Under 19 divisions. Gold teams compete in the most competitive level of play and are usually picked on a tryout basis. The LOC selects teams of like ability. The Under 11 division will remain a non-competitive youth team division. Areas will not form Gold or uneven teams at this age.

4.2 Gold Teams

In each division where an Area has more than one team and a Gold league is operating, the LOC will form a Gold team. Gold teams in the U12 - U19 Divisions are eligible for entry in Provincial "B" Cup play through a Playdowns system that begins within the district. The winners of these Playdowns advance to play other District Representatives within the Southern Interior Zone of the BCSA. Gold teams within the SOYSL must declare their intention to compete in Provincial Playdowns by **April 1** of each season. Each team competing in Playdowns must pay an entry fee of **\$75** to the SOYSA to cover the extra costs of game officials and BCSA Cup fees that will be incurred once a team advances beyond the District.

Teams wishing to compete in Provincial Cup must meet specific requirements with regard to uniforms, ID cards, commitment to the Provincial Cup summer tournament and coaching certification (NCCP Community Coach Senior is a BCSA minimum for “B” Cup).

Note: The LOC may choose to form “Dispensated” Area Gold Teams for entry into Provincial Cup (see next topic).

4.3 District Teams Program (A or B Level, Provincial Cup etc.)

Member Areas in the SOYSA undertake to annually affirm their individual Areas commitment to the District Team Program. If sufficient numbers of players are available, 15 being a minimum, District Teams will be formed and entered in the Southern Interior Zone, Thompson Okanagan Youth Soccer League (TOYSL). If by chance no such league is operating, then players chosen for District Teams must return to their respective Area Gold Teams and play within the SOYSL. District Teams are formed using a tryout system open to all registered players in the District.

Note 1: In Divisions where an SOYSL Gold Division is operating, District Teams must compete in the Provincial “A” Cup. This will allow Area Gold Teams to compete in the Provincial Challenge “B” Cup. All other District Teams will have the choice of entering the “A” or “B” Cups depending on ability.

Note 2: In divisions where District Teams may not have been formed at the beginning of the season to play in the TOYSL, or Gold Teams and divisions have not been formed due to a shortage of teams or players, then the SOYSA will form a “Dispensated District Team” for entry into Provincial Playdowns within the Southern Interior Zone. Players from all Areas will have an opportunity to try out for these District Teams in their age group. Formation of a Dispensated team means players on these select teams will play on two teams, house and select.

5. REGISTRATION

Each and every season all players, on all teams, in all Areas, must be registered with the BCSA using player/team registration procedures as determined by the LOC and approved by SOYSA. The annual registration will be coordinated by the LOC and SOYSA Administrator. Players on a District Team entered in the TOYSL shall be registered under the SOYSA name only. Monies collected from these “District-only” players will go to the SOYSA District Team Program.

At no time will a player currently registered as “District-only” be allowed to play within

the SOYSL. Any team found to be using these players will be disciplined by the SOYSA. (See 15. Discipline)

6. AGE CATEGORIES

Whenever possible players will be grouped as per BCSA age categories, (U19, U17, U16, U15, U14, U13, U12, or U11), using calendar years as a cut-off, i.e., under a given age until midnight December 31st during the year preceding play. However, in order to form leagues of sufficient size, four teams being the minimum, the LOC may agree to group players across age categories (U11, U13, U15 etc.). Teams formed from mixed-aged players will have to play in divisions according to their oldest players grouping. At no time will over-age players be allowed to play down an age group without first notifying the LOC for a ruling. Any team found to be playing over-age players will forfeit any games in which those players participated. Further play in the league, by this team, will be decided by the LDC. Youth must not play up unless there is no team for the player in their area.

6.1 Players Must Prove Age

All registered players must submit proof of age and photocopies of this information must be on file with the SOYSA Registrar. Proof of Age must be by: birth certificate, passport, landing document, baptismal certificate, or signed affidavit. In the event that any players' age comes into question, the LOC will refer to the SOYSA Registrar's records at the time of questioning.

Note: Medical cards are not an acceptable proof of age.

7. HOW MANY PLAYERS ON A TEAM?

There must be a **minimum of 11** players per team registered with the SOYSA Registrar by the **February** LOC Planning Meeting - if not, the team does not exist for scheduling purposes. A **maximum of 18** players can register with a team. After the **February** date a player who has not been registered with another team during the current season may be registered by written request to the SOYSA Administrator at least 48 hours before the player is eligible to play.

8. AREA BOUNDARIES AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

Area representatives within SOYSA agree that soccer programs exist to serve the needs of mini and youth players, as defined and described in the SOYSA Constitution and By-Laws. Players, who both live and go to school within an Area's boundaries, will be identified with that Area's teams for LOC scheduling purposes.

8.1 Player Identification

By **April 1st** each year, all District Teams in the TOYSL and SOYSA Gold Teams must have District photo ID cards for all matches designated Cup on the schedule. This includes photo ID for all team officials. These cards are the property of the District and are to be given to the referee before each game starts. These photo ID cards are not proof of player registration with the League Registrar or BCSA. Should there be a red card offence, that person's photo ID card will be retained by the referee and sent to the League Discipline Committee (LDC) along with a referee's report.

Note: After **April 1st** each year, any Gold team not able to produce sufficient photo ID at a scheduled game by half time, will default this game. At the discretion of the referee, the game may proceed as a "friendly" game, but the points will go to the non-offending team. Should both teams fail to produce satisfactory photo ID the result will be a double forfeiture.

8.2 Validating ID Cards

Coaches, managers and players are asked not to make out their own ID cards; this is the responsibility of the SOYSA Registrar. Cards must be stamped and/or initialled for verification of information by the SOYSA Registrar every year. Only then are they valid ID cards. Any attempt to "forge" ID cards will bring serious disciplinary charges against team officials.

8.3 Lost Cards

Officials must ensure they get their cards back from the referee at the end of each game. Lost cards will be replaced at the expense of the team.

Note: Remember that you are not entitled to the card of a player or official who has been ejected or red carded in a game.

Team officials must have these cards on their person. Officials must ensure ID cards are available at every game. The referee can allow the game to proceed without ID and note extenuating circumstances on the game sheet report.

8.4 Player Transfers

Should a player transfer to another team (League or District) during the course of the season, the information on the back of the BCSA Identification Card should be updated. Information on the front of the ID card remains unchanged.

9. LEAGUE, CUP, PLAYDOWN & WINDUP SCHEDULES

These documents are the product of much effort from the LOC working with the SOYSA Scheduler and cover all regular league play, Gold Team playdowns and wind up.

Teams are requested to PLEASE not formalize private "arrangements" with another team to change the time, venue or date of any scheduled game as it might interfere with another team's game or practice!!

**Regular season SOYSL games may be rescheduled for a Friday or Sunday only
----- No exceptions.**

9.1 Be Considerate

Too often individual coaches, managers and players do not understand how their actions affect others. When a game is scheduled, a series of events occurs which cause much work to be completed.

- a) Officials are assigned to the game.
- b) The home team may line the field or put up nets.
- c) The visiting team contacts its' players and parents as to the time and place of the game.
- d) District officials may be assigned to monitor play or to evaluate officials.

9.2 Postponed / Cancelled Games

Teams must communicate with their Area Youth Coordinator to let them know that a game has been, or must be, postponed. The Area Coordinator will arrange for a make-up game through the League Scheduler. Two possible dates will be given (preferred dates should be suggested by the coaches but may not be possible for a variety of reasons), and the game has to be played on one of them.

The games are to be made up as soon as possible after the postponement. If no makeup is played, a 0-0 tie (no points) will be awarded. Postponements must not be made by personal arrangement of the coaching staff. If this occurs a 0-0 no point tie may be awarded. Postponements can only be officially arranged through

the SOYSA LOC using your Area Coordinator. Coaches should remember that not being able to field your strongest team or a full roster is **NOT** grounds for cancelling / postponing a game. As long as a team has 7 players, one of which is the goalie, they are obligated to play the game.

Note: Games that are abandoned or cancelled by the referee will be reviewed by the LDC with respect to possible rescheduling by the League Scheduler.

Note: Games cancelled by a team without their participation in the rescheduling rules will be as a 1-0 win for the other team.

Note: "No Show" teams automatically forfeit their game as a 1-0 win to the other team. A written appeal can be made to the LOC.

9.3 Bad Weather Directions

Soccer is easily and safely played in the rain. However, safety of the players is our number one priority, so use common sense where playing conditions are questionable (e.g., lightning, extremely wet (pooling water), badly pot-holed, hazardous debris etc.). Please remember that the referee is responsible for making the final decision on the playability of the field, but as a coach or manager, you can suggest to the referee and your players that they should play to protect themselves if conditions are what you consider marginal. If weather becomes poor, games may be moved or cancelled. To insure a minimum of confusion the area youth coordinator will phone individual teams affected. Please note that field decisions cannot be uniform throughout our District. The various civic authorities may close grass fields in one municipality while others are left open.

Note: Games will generally not be cancelled because of rain unless civic authorities have closed access to fields.

9.4 Field Closure Rules

If the home team cannot provide a field, then the game will be rescheduled on the opposing team's home field. Field changes must be organized in a timely manner and your Area Coordinator must be involved. If a game is moved to the "visiting" team's home field, they must line the field, set up nets and flags, and provide referee.

10. GAME SHEETS

Fully completed and signed game sheets are necessary to pay referees and their assistants. Game sheets are distributed to coaches at the beginning of the season, through

the LOC.

10.1 Area Home Teams' Responsibility

It is the Area home team's responsibility to supply a completed game sheet to the opposing team before the start of each game. Game sheets will be used to track league standings, red and yellow card offences, forfeited games and missing referees. All information on the game sheets **must be completed** and signed by both coaches, before each scheduled league, tournament and playdown game. Game sheets will include the names of each teams coach, manager, players, ID numbers and player jersey numbers. When both teams have completed the game sheet, it must be given to the referee before the start of the game.

10.2 Referees' Responsibility

Referees must ensure that:

- a) All fans must be on one side of the field, and all coaches should be on the other side.
- b) No one is permitted on goal lines or behind goals.
- c) BCSA and FIFA rules regarding a technical coaching area are adhered to and that coaching is restricted from all other points around the field.
- d) The one metre restraining distances for fans are marked using centre flags (FIFA) and game play is postponed, until this rule is respected.
- e) Properly carded team officials are on the team bench.
- f) ALL Girl teams must have at least one female team official on the bench.

After each game it is the responsibility of the referee to:

- a) Complete the game sheet by recording the final score
- b) Record any red or yellow cards handed out, on the game sheet
- c) Sign the game sheet and have referees' assistants sign it if they were present
- d) Ensure all information has been completed by the coaches
- e) Give each coach a copy of the game sheet

- f) Fax the top copy to the **SOYSA** Statistician/ Scheduler, within 24 hours of the game.
- g) The top copy should be maintained by the Referee for their own records.

- h) If red cards are issued, the referee must complete a Misconduct Report Form describing the events leading to this issuance. They must forward this report to the SOYSA Statistician with the game sheet, within 24 hours of the game.
- i) Referees must also report any game that was cancelled or forfeited, to the League Statistician. Referees that show up for forfeited or cancelled games will still be paid.

The SOYSA Statistician and Club Referee Scheduler must receive game sheets no later than 24 hours after each game. Faxed copies are preferred. Mailed game sheets must be posted on game day or on the next morning.

Note: Misconduct Forms are distributed to all referees at the beginning of the season. Additional forms are available from the Area Referee Scheduler or appointed Area youth representative.

Note: Red or Yellow cards reported on mailed game sheets must be telephoned to the Area Youth Coordinator, immediately following the game. The Area Youth Coordinator must contact the SOYSA Statistician immediately following notification.

11. REFEREE APPOINTMENT

Referees are supplied by the Area home team. Linesmen should be supplied where possible but are only mandatory for all District Team Games, Gold Team Playdowns and U18 Youth league games.

12. GENERAL RULES

The SOYSL plays under the guidelines established by the BCSA, which are available through the District Executive, or on-line through the BCSA website. Any item in this SOYSA guide is subject to the operating rules of that umbrella body.

12.1 Size of Game Ball

Under 11 - 14 #4 ball	Under 15 - 19 #5 ball
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12.2 Duration of Games

U-19 - 2 equal halves of 45 min.	U-14 - 2 equal halves of 35 min.
U-17 - 2 equal halves of 45 min.	U-13 - 2 equal halves of 35 min.
U-16 - 2 equal halves of 45 min.	U-12 - 2 equal halves of 30 min.
U-15 - 2 equal halves of 40 min.	U-11 - 2 equal halves of 30 min.

The LOC will ensure that upon appointment, referees who may not be familiar with Youth Specific Soccer Rules, are aware that ball sizes and game times vary with age as above.

Note: Any special arrangements to increase the length of a game **MUST** be made and agreed to by both coaches and the referee **BEFORE** the game. No time changes can be made for windup games, as schedules are very tight. No youth game shall be longer than 1.5 hrs total.

12.3 Number of Players

A total of **seven (7)** registered players (and properly I.D. carded for Gold Divisions) are required to begin a game. Less than seven (7) players is a default. Under no conditions are teams to use unregistered or District Team players.

12.4 Team Colours and Names

The LOC will make every effort to ensure team colours do not conflict. Team names will be determined at the same time, as this information is critical to effective media relations. In the event of a colour clash (both teams have same coloured jerseys), the Area home team must change or use pinnies to avoid confusion. Teams should check their schedules, or confirm colours, when confirming the game. All Jerseys or tee shirts shall be numbered appropriately. All players must have a unique number for the entire season.

12.5 Game Times / Abandoned Games

Games are to start promptly at the scheduled time subject only to the discretion of the referee. Should one team not be at the field by the scheduled time, the referee will wait a **15-minute grace** period. If the team does not show by that time, the game will be forfeited with the game win awarded to the team on the field. The

referee will submit a game sheet report to the League Statistician indicating which team was a “no show”. The “no show” team must appeal to the LDC to prove that an error caused their “no show”. A decision will be made by the League Discipline Committee as to the outcome. Any team that does not show for a scheduled home game will be levied a **fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) payable to the SOYSA.**

13. LEAGUE PLAY RULES

13.1 Schedule Changes

Area home teams must phone the visiting team no later than 48 hours before the game if there are any changes in time or location. (*Refer to Section 9 for further information on League, Cup, Playdown and Wind Up Schedules.*)

13.2 No Referee for a Game?

If the referee has not shown 30 minutes after the designated starting time and both teams agree to play the game, the Area 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. If coaches agree to play the game they should complete the game sheet and sign it before the game. After the game *coaches must* fill in the score which will stand as if the referee was present. In this situation both teams must report the game score to the League Statistician. The completed game sheet will be used to track missing referees.

Note: 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.

13.3 Team Lists

The LOC maintains official team lists as established for scheduling. Team lists are required to be listed on the game sheet for both teams in all games. Players' names, BCSA PIN numbers and uniform numbers should be printed clearly. Names should be given as they are on the BCSA player registration forms.

Note to Referees: Teams may challenge the eligibility of players at half-time or at a throw-in or corner kick for their own team, the referee will witness and record this challenge by noting the players name and number involved on the game sheet. After the game the challenged team must provide proof that the player is on the official list being held by the SOYSA Registrar. Using unregistered players is grounds for forfeiting a game and suspension of team officials.

13.4 Injuries

Team officials are not to enter the field until the referee motions them on. When permission has been given only one team official will enter the pitch.

13.5 Coaching from the Sideline

Coaching is not allowed on the goal end of the field. Players should not warm up in this area and playing gear should not be left in the area of the goal posts.

13.6 Substitutions

Unlimited substitutions are permitted in all SOYSL games, District Cup, Gold playdowns, and Provincial Cup games. Substitutes must wear clothing on the sidelines so as not to be mistaken for a player on the field. Substitutions may only be made at a stoppage in play and at the referee's discretion. The player should have his uniform on and be standing at the centre line of the pitch ready to play as soon as his coach has received permission from the referee for the substitution. If linesman or fourth officials are present, inform them you wish to substitute.

13.7 Field Markings

Area home teams must ensure their fields are properly lined or marked out to the satisfaction of the referee. School or civic authorities should be informed of problems with fields. Most Area home teams do not line their own fields but, if they do, they must be careful to use sports field whitening or some other non-toxic material for this purpose. Lime is not to be used.

13.8 Corner Flags & Nets

Use of corner flags and nets can reduce many potential problems, including disallowed goals. The area home team should provide nets whenever possible. They should also, when possible, provide corner flags standing a minimum of five (5) feet above the ground for all divisions. Bicycle flag-type corner flags are **not permitted**, as there have been cases of severe eye injuries to players.

Note: Flags and nets must be used for all District Games, Gold Team Playdown Games and for all Under 16 - Under 19 games at all levels of play.

13.9 Fan Behaviour

Team officials are responsible for the behaviour of their own fans. If requested

by the referee to control the behaviour on the sideline, a team official could be reported for failing to give his best efforts toward complying with this request. *(See Section 10.2 for further information on Referees' Responsibility.)*

13.10 A Gentle Reminder

The referee is in charge of the game. This authority is total and should not be challenged. If coaches or managers wish to question a decision, it should be done quietly and politely at the end of a game, or at half time. Nothing is gained, and much is lost, when this process is not used. Coaches should remember referees are **NOT** obligated to explain their calls to team captains or anyone else, as experienced in other sports.

13.11 A Not So Gentle Reminder

The League Discipline Committee (LDC) takes a very dim view of individuals who feel they have the right to physically threaten or harass game officials. If anyone strikes or threatens to strike an official, the penalties are severe. *(Refer to 15. Discipline)*

13.12 What Should I Do If...?

If a referee asks the coach to control the sidelines, the coach is required to do so immediately. When "red carded", leave the playing field immediately. The best practice is to go to a car and keep the windows rolled up. Red carded players are asked to leave the field immediately and should be sent to a car or directly home. They do not take part in the post-game handshake. Remember, red cards can be issued up to the point where both teams leave the field and parking lot.

14. LEAGUE STANDINGS

Points leading to the League rankings are calculated as follows:

- a) 3 points will be awarded for each win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.
- b) The team with most points at the end of official league play will be declared the League Champion. The onus is on each team to make up missed games

before the end of league play. Only those games having an official signed game sheet will be used in recording standings.

- c) In a tie situation, only games between the tied teams count. (i.e. head-to-head wins & losses).
- d) If still tied, away goals between the tied teams will count as double.
- e) Still tied? The LOC will arrange a game on a neutral field prior to the windup weekend.

Note: The LOC has avoided using goal difference as a tiebreaker to avoid scores being run up. This point-scoring scheme will probably avoid most ties in the standings.

15. DISCIPLINE

All players, coaches, managers and teams taking part in the SOYSL are subject to the control of the LOC, LDC and SOYSA. Each season a four-member Discipline Committee will be formed, with one (1) member coming from each Area, and a SOYSA Director Chairperson. Three committee members are required to make a ruling with the Chairman filling in for any missing member. The LDC may investigate all of the following:

- a) Abandoned games
- b) Teams with excessive cards
- c) Teams with excessive no-shows or forfeitures
- d) Teams requesting excessive scheduling changes
- e) Misconduct of teams/officials

The LDC will make decisions on such protests, as it sees fit. There is an automatic one game suspension for a team brawl. As soon as a red card is issued to a team, coaches must advise their club youth Coordinator who will phone the SOYSA Statistician with information on the team and division. The SOYSA Statistician will advise the Chairperson of the LDC and will verify team information against the game report that comes in from the referee. The coach is responsible to get the information in immediately, as their next game may occur before the statistician gets the game report.

15.1 Informing Other Teams

When a Discipline matter like a suspension of a player or team official has been ruled on by the LDC, this will be communicated to the SOYSA Statistician, who will in turn inform the Area youth Coordinators and the DEC. Teams playing League or Cup games that will be affected by the decision will be informed of the suspension by their Area youth Coordinator.

15.2 The Automatic One Game

All red cards carry an automatic one game suspension. This one game is served automatically by sitting out the very next scheduled League or Cup game (which ever comes first) after the game in which the red card was received. There are no exceptions to this procedure. Exhibition Games cannot be arranged to circumvent this rule but make up of rescheduled league games would count. Three yellow cards have the same automatic provision. Anyone with a total of three yellow cards in one season must sit out the game immediately after the game in which the third yellow card was issued.

Note: Games cancelled do not count as a game suspension completed.

15.3 Violent Conduct

Should there be two (or more) player cards issued involving two Areas in a game, this information will be passed to the LDC by the **SOYSA** Statistician. Each Area League Discipline Committee member will meet with their own involved player(s) but **WILL NOT** make a decision until the night of the discipline hearing set by the LDC. They will inform the player or coach/manager that a decision will be made prior to their next game. After the meeting, the two Clubs will consult, and arrive at, an agreeable decision with regard to the players in question. They will then call their team officials and inform them of the penalties awarded to their specific player and the date of the LDC hearing. This should be completed by Thursday night if possible, but no later than Friday, if games are being played Saturday, for example.

Referees must provide complete and accurate written reports. If the incident occurred simultaneously, reports should reflect that information (e.g.: dangerous trip, followed by retaliation - F/A language from opposing player). These reports must be faxed to the SOYSA Statistician within 24 hours of the incident.

15.4 Discipline Hearings

Any player or team official receiving two red cards in a season is required to attend a discipline hearing. Failure to attend when called to a hearing may result in an indefinite suspension. An LDC member will call the player, coach, Area youth Coordinator, as soon as the referee's report has been received, to let them know the date they are to attend the discipline hearing. The LDC will decide what additional penalty will be imposed on the person who was given the red card by the referee.

Note: The LDC can suspend players or team officials within guidelines established by the Canadian Soccer Association, and B.C. Soccer Association from one additional game up to a lifetime.

15.5 Appeals of Discipline

To appeal a decision made by the LDC, please contact the League Disciplinary Committee Chairperson for information regarding an appeal to the BCSA. Please note that an appeal must be filed, in writing, within 4 days of the notification of the original decision.

15.6 Serving Your Discipline

Suspended team officials must arrange for someone to fill their position, and inform their Area youth coordinator of that person's name and phone number. The suspended team official may go to the field, but he must stay well back from the sideline. He must not coach verbally or by hand signals. The players must be told not to approach him, before, during or after the game. In most cases the best solution is for the suspended person to stay away from games.

15.7 Reporting Fouls and Misconduct

Whenever a red card is issued the referee in question must file a Misconduct Report Form. The report must be completed accurately with a full description of the offence. The report must be forwarded to the SOYSA Statistician, along with the game sheet report, within 24 hours of the incident (if mailed, must be posted on the day of the incident or the following morning). Referees should keep their opinions to themselves with regards to discipline likely to be levied. These reports may be photocopied by the LDC and sent to all people involved, therefore, "throw the book at them!" does not read well....

Referees must not ignore the reporting of yellows - coaches will keep track and it's a little embarrassing when a coach phones expecting his player to be on his third yellow when, in fact, no yellows have been submitted. (*See Section 10.2 for further information on Referee's Responsibility.*)

Note: Multiple written Misconduct Reports (not restricted to those that are referee initiated), regarding a player(s) or official(s) will be brought to the attention of the LDC Chair, for consultation and action determination. (See Attachment F)

15.8 CRC's & Disclosure Statements

All SOYSA Youth and District League Coaches, Managers, Executive Members and other adults (Referees, Linespeople etc.) with youth interaction are required to complete the Criminal Record Check process. Area Mini League adults must complete the Volunteer Disclosure Statement process. Failure to do so could result in refusal of participation in SOYSA activities. Concerns raised by either process could result in temporary suspension or permanent removal from involvement in SOYSA activities. If such action becomes necessary, written appeal may be made to the SOYSA Chairperson for action. **(See Attachment G)**

16. PERFORMANCE BONDS AND FEE LEVIES

16.1 Team Misconduct

On the recommendation of the LDC, SOYSA may collect a performance bond, the amount of which shall be at the discretion of the SOYSA executive, from any team that has shown repeated misconduct or contravention of League rules. The bond shall be held by SOYSA until the team has fulfilled all League and Cup commitments to the Association, in the current playing season. The League may draw from the bond whatever amount it deems appropriate for any further reported cases of misconduct, in addition to any disciplinary measures the League may deem appropriate.

16.2 Submitting a Protest

A team may protest any scheduled game, League or Cup. All protests must be submitted in writing (oral protests are **not** considered) within 48 hours of the date of the match to which they relate. Use the protest form on the last page and fax, e-mail or mail to:

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SOYSA League Disciplinary Chairman
c/o P. O. Box 24072
Penticton, B.C. V2A 8L9 Fax: 250-498-0097

A protest fee of **\$50.00**, in the form of a cheque made payable to SOYSA, must be included with the protest or it will not be considered. If the protest is upheld, this protest fee is returned; if the protest is denied, the fee is retained by the Association.

16.3 The "Grounds" for Protest

A protest will only be considered on the grounds of interpretation of the F.I.F.A.

Laws of the Game, on the eligibility of players, or on breaches of Competition Rules and Regulations. Any protests relating to the ground, goal posts, or any other appurtenances (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 be properly submitted, to be considered. No protests will be considered if, in the opinion of the referee, the objection lodged did not seriously affect the outcome of the game.

16.4 If a Protest is Considered

After forwarding a copy of the protest to the other team involved (within 48 hours of receiving the protest), the LDC will ask the other team's officials for a written report. The referee will also supply a written report to the committee. The LDC's decision will be conveyed in writing to both teams.

16.5 What About the Cash?

Fees are always returned if your appeal is upheld, and forfeited if your appeal is denied. Further appeal is possible; ask the BCSA to provide details if you wish to appeal their decision.

16.6 BCSA Discipline Policies & Procedures

Refer to Part 13 Spectator and Team Misconduct (attached) for further information.