



British Columbia Rugby Union
Rules of Competition
Senior Rugby



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Contents

Section 1 – General	pg. 3
Section 2 – Senior Competitions	pg. 5
Section 3 – Team Eligibility	pg. 8
Section 4 – Player Eligibility	pg. 12
Section 5 – Match Conduct & Protocol	pg. 13
Section 6 – Playoffs & Finals	pg. 18
Section 7 – Sanctions & Fines	pg. 21
Section 8 – Application for Exemptions	pg. 24
Section 9 – Complaints & Appeals	pg. 26
Section 10 – Competitions & Events Committee	pg. 27



Section 1 – General

1.1 Purpose of the Rules of Competition

The purpose of the Rules is to govern the conduct of all senior (adult) levels of contact rugby competition sanctioned or administered by BC Rugby to ensure that the sport, and its game variants, operates to the highest level of player safety, development and enjoyment.

The Rules of Competition are designed to support BC Rugby's Purpose of growing, developing and managing the sport of Rugby throughout British Columbia.

1.2 Application of the Rules of Competition

The Rules apply to all senior competitions and events owned, sanctioned and/or administered by BC Rugby. All those participating in BC Rugby competitions and events are deemed to have full knowledge and understanding of these Rules and must ensure compliance.

All Clubs, Teams and participants are asked to abide by these Rules herein, both in spirit and as written.

1.3 Guiding Principles

The following are the principles by which the Rules have been written and any scenarios not explicitly covered by the Rules will be considered in accordance with these principles, in order:

- (a) Player Safety;
- (b) Growing participation;
- (c) Developing world-class rugby;
- (d) Respect for one's opponent(s), fair play and good sportsmanship; and
- (e) Protecting the integrity of the competition.

All Clubs, Teams and participants are asked to abide by these guiding principles, both in spirit and as written.

1.4 Definitions

- (a) **Academy** – any invite-only, fully-funded program for the development of elite athletes.
- (b) **Age-grade** – as a prefix to a competition, division or event indicates participation is determined by a birth year, age range or age limit.
- (c) **BCRRS** – stands for the BC Rugby Referee Society and is the recognised body responsible for allocating officials to matches as requested by BC Rugby.



- (d) **Capped Player** – a player that has played for his or her country in a senior national fifteens test match or a national sevens team at an Olympic or World Rugby Sevens Series tournament.
- (e) **Carded Player** – a player that is carded under Sport Canada’s Athlete Assistance Program.
- (f) **Contracted Player** – any player that is contracted by Rugby Canada for any of their Senior National programs.
- (g) **Club** – as defined by the BC Rugby Bylaws.
- (h) **Competition** – a series of matches held between two or more Teams in either fifteens, sevens or non-contact rugby.
- (i) **Competition & Events Committee** – the operational committee with delegated authority to support the CEO in managing BC Rugby’s competitions, and referred to as the Committee in these Rules.
- (j) **Division** – a level of competition, based on age-grade, region and/or teams’ level of ability or motivation.
- (k) **Exhibition Match** – any Rugby match that is a ‘one-off’ match and does not count towards any competition standings or player awards.
- (l) **Fifteens Rugby** – the game of 15-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.
- (m) **Homegrown Player** – any player that was registered with his or her Club more than 24 months prior to meeting the definition of capped player, carded player or contracted player.
- (n) **Import Player** – a player that is not a citizen or permanent resident (or equivalent) of the country that their Club or Team is located within.
- (o) **Junior Player** – a player aged 18 years of age or younger.
- (p) **Laws** – refers to the Laws of the Game as determined by World Rugby.
- (q) **Loan** – the temporary movement of a participant from one Club to another.
- (r) **Match** – a game of Rugby.
- (s) **Participant** – all and any person participating in BC Rugby sanctioned competitions.
- (t) **Play** – to take the field in a match from either a starting or substitute position.
- (u) **Player** – a person who plays or is intended to play in any match.
- (v) **Playoffs** – any knock-out match where the winner progresses towards the Final or gold-medal match.
- (w) **Points Differential** – the quotient calculated by subtracting points scored against from the points scored for a Team.
- (x) **Points Ratio** – the quotient obtained by dividing the number of games played into the points accrued, including bonus points if awarded.
- (y) **Roster** - the list of named players to a team for a match in accordance with these Rules.
- (z) **Senior Player** – a player that is aged 19 years or older.
- (aa) **Sevens Rugby** – the game of 7-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.
- (bb) **Team** – as defined by BC Rugby bylaws.
- (cc) **Tens Rugby** – the game of 10-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.
- (dd) **Therapist** – an individual responsible for the prevention, identification, management, treatment and rehabilitation of sport injuries.



- (ee) **Transfer** – a permanent move, for the remainder of a player’s annual membership, of a player from one Club to another.
- (ff) **Working Group** – a group appointed by the CEO who supports the Competitions & Events Committee through a delegated ad hoc project, event or competition.

1.5 Amendments to the Rules of Competition

The Rules of Competition may be amended from time to time by the Competitions & Events Committee. Material changes must be approved by the Board.

Section 2 – Senior Competitions

2.1 Objectives

The stated objectives of Senior Competitions in BC are:

- (a) Support the growth and development of Rugby in BC, across genders and ages;
- (b) Provide the quality and quantity of playing experiences to develop more male and female BC players to lead Canadian National Teams to success; and
- (c) Support the growth and development of Rugby at the Club, Regional, Provincial and National levels.

2.2 Provincial Competitions

Provincial Competitions provide a critical player pathway to representative opportunities with BC Rugby’s Senior Men’s and Women’s Teams.

- (a) **McKechnie Cup** – annual competition open to entry from Senior Men’s Teams from a union or region of Clubs and a key component to the BC Rugby Senior Men’s Team selection policy.
- (b) **Ruth Hellrud-Brown Cup** - annual competition open to entry from Senior Women’s Teams from a union or region of Clubs and a key component to the BC Rugby Senior Women’s Team selection policy.
- (c) **Dunbar Keg** – annual competition open to entry from Senior Men’s Teams, consisting of senior players aged 22 years old or younger, from a union or region of Clubs.
- (d) **U23 Women’s Cup** – annual competition open to entry from Senior Women’s Teams, consisting of senior players aged 22 years old or younger, from a union or region of Clubs.

2.3 Clubs’ Competitions

Clubs’ Competitions underpin and sustain playing opportunities for players of all abilities and aspirations.



- (a) **Men's Premier League** – annual competition open to entry from Senior Men's Teams, with an accompanying Reserve Team, who provide a high-performance Rugby program to develop players to the highest standard possible.
- (b) **Women's Premier League** – annual competition open to entry from Senior Women's Teams who provide a high-performance Rugby program to develop players to the highest standard possible.
- (c) **Men's Divisional Leagues** – annual competitions open to entry from Senior Men's Teams with divisions determined by quality of play, age-grade and/or geography.
- (d) **Women's Divisional Leagues** – annual competitions open to entry from Senior Women's Teams with divisions determined by quality of play, age-grade and/or geography.
- (e) **Sevens Series** – annual competition open to entry from Senior Men's and Women's Teams from within BC, which is comprised of at least two Sevens Tournaments.
- (f) **Over 40s Leagues** – annual competition open to entry from Senior Teams and coordinated by those Teams participating.

2.4 Other Competitions

- (a) **Times Cup** – annual competition open to entry from Senior Men's Teams, excluding Men's Premier League Teams, located in the Vancouver Island region.
- (b) **Saratoga Cup** – annual competition open to entry from Senior Men's Teams located in the Northern and Interior Regions. Invitations may be made to Senior Men's Teams located outside of these Regions.
- (c) **Exhibition Matches** – irregular matches arranged between two Teams, primarily utilised as supplements to another Competition or as preparation for a Competition to ensure players access the number and quality of matches desired.

2.5 Calendar

Pending changes to better accommodate National level rugby or based on Clubs' and/or players' changing preferences, the following time frames will be followed:

- (a) **Provincial Competitions** – all Provincial Competitions will be scheduled to compliment the relevant BC Rugby XV's Team Selection Policy and as best as possible facilitate participation from all Leagues.
- (b) **Premier Leagues** – the Men's and Women's Premier Leagues will commence the weekend following the Labour Day statutory holiday and the Leagues Finals will take place in the 35th week, within which time between 15 to 22 regular matches will have been scheduled.
- (c) **Divisional Leagues** – Divisional Leagues will commence the weekend following the Labour Day statutory holiday and Leagues Finals will take place in the 35th week. An exception is any divisional league exclusively for Clubs located in the Interior and/or Northern Regions whereby Leagues may commence in May and conclude by August 31.
- (d) **Sevens Series** – the Tournaments of the Sevens Series will be scheduled to take place from June to August inclusive.
- (e) **Invitational, Exhibition & Other Competitions** – these may take place anytime but consideration and priority should be given to any of the above.



2.6 Scheduling

BC Rugby staff are responsible for presenting to the Competitions & Events Committee draft schedules for all Provincial Competitions, Men's and Women's Premier Leagues, all Divisional Leagues and the Sevens Series.

- (a) Provincial Competitions** – Provincial competitions shall be scheduled with the aim to achieving the following objectives:
 - i. Schedule all Cup Competitions to take place on the same day;
 - ii. Schedule Provincial Competitions when the greatest participation from all Leagues can be achieved.
- (b) Club Competitions** – Club competitions shall be scheduled with the aim to achieving the following objectives:
 - i. Provide fairness in home/away scheduling and parity in Teams' travelling commitments;
 - ii. Schedule 'Club Days' where a Club has as many of their teams as possible play at home;
 - iii. Provide 'bye' weekends for as many public holiday weekends as possible, not including make-up matches;
 - iv. Fairly accommodate requests from participating Clubs; and
 - v. Sustaining regional rugby and established rivalries.

2.7 Playing Times

Kick-off times for Club Finals shall be determined by the Committee. All other matches shall commence at the scheduled kick-off time unless otherwise agreed to by all relevant parties or due to exceptional circumstances as detailed in Section 5. In exceptional circumstances, the referee may delay the start of the match. Any Team causing a delay to the scheduled kick-off time must notify their opponent as early as possible. Failure to do so may result in sanctions pursuant to Section 7.

- (a) Provincial Competitions** – kick-off times for any Provincial Competition shall be agreed to by the two Teams, BCRRS and the BC Rugby office. Failing agreement, McKechnie Cup matches shall kick-off at 2.45pm and Ruth Hellrud-Brown matches shall kick-off at 1pm.
- (b) Men's Premier League** – kick-off time for Saturday Men's Premier League matches is 2.30pm with the Reserve Team kicking off at 12.45pm.
- (c) Women's Premier League** – kick-off time for Saturday Women's Premier League matches is 12.45pm.
- (d) Men's Divisions** – kick-off times for Saturday Division One is 2.30pm, Division Two and below is 12.45pm with other consecutive division matches scheduled in accordance with Section 2.7 (f).
- (e) Women's Divisions** – kick-off time for Saturday Women's Division matches is 11.15am.
- (f) Consecutive Matches** – it is required that kick-off times for matches on the same playing field be scheduled at least 1hr and 30mins for 15s matches or 60mins if



earlier match has shorter running time. If an earlier match fails to start as scheduled, that match must be reduced in length for each half of the match so that the game will finish within the allotted duration or at least five minutes before the next game is scheduled to kick-off. However, if both Teams and the allocated officials agree, the second match may start later to allow the full duration of the earlier match to be played.

Section 3 – Team Eligibility

3.1 Senior Competitions

Unless otherwise stated, BC Rugby Senior Competitions shall be open to all Teams that satisfy the rules of membership of BC Rugby and Rugby Canada or their relevant Member Union as recognised by Rugby Canada or World Rugby.

For any Team that will host any match of a competition, that Team must have access to satisfactory facilities, both at home fields and any alternative fields. As minimum standards, Teams must ensure that home or alternative fields meet the following:

- (a) **Field of Play** – any playing field must continuously meet World Rugby's Law 1 and, if an artificial turf field, must comply with World Rugby's Regulation 22;
- (b) **Goal Posts** – throughout any match, goal posts are padded to a height of not less of 1.5 metres;
- (c) **Facilities** – any home or main field must have access to potable water and at least one usable toilet within 400 metres.
- (d) **Spectator restraints** – when more than 50 spectators in attendance, appropriate restraints are in place to keep spectators at least 2 metres back from the touch lines and/or dead ball lines. No aspect of the restraints should themselves be a potential source of injury to players or others.

3.2 Provincial Competitions

- (a) **Number of Teams** – a maximum of four teams may be permitted entry into each Provincial Competition.
- (b) **Conditions for entry** – teams must be formed by a union or region of Clubs, based on either union membership or regional boundaries, that are Voting Members of BC Rugby. A Union or region must:
 - i. Enter and field a Team in at least two of the Provincial Competitions;
 - ii. Appoint a Head Coach that is registered and, as a minimum, holds NCCP Introduction to Competition (Certified) / World Rugby Level 2 certification.
 - iii. Appoint an Assistant Coach that is registered and, as a minimum, is trained in NCCP Introduction to Competition (Trained) / World Rugby Level 1.



- iv. Appoint a Therapist that is registered and, as a minimum, holds certification in World Rugby's First Aid in Rugby and Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
 - v. Appoint a Manager that is registered and holds current certification in World Rugby's Concussion Management for the General Public.
- (c) Application Process** – prior to the annual deadline set by BC Rugby, regional Unions must submit in writing their declaration to compete and include details of all Teams' compliance with the Conditions of Entry as detailed in 3.1 (b).
- (d) Acceptance Procedure** – the Competition & Events Committee shall assess all applications. All Teams that meet the Conditions of Entry, declaration deadlines and pay all relevant fees shall be accepted into the upcoming Provincial Competitions. If more Clubs apply than the number of Teams permitted as per Section 3.3 (a), the Committee shall make a recommendation on which Clubs should be permitted entry, including their reasoning, to the Board for their approval.

3.3 Clubs' Competitions

- (a) Number of Teams** – a minimum of four Teams and a maximum of 12 Teams may be permitted entry into a division or pool of a Clubs' Competition.
- (b) Divisions of Competition** – BC Rugby shall clearly communicate all available divisions for each season and Clubs should determine the most appropriate and sustainable division for each Team.
- (c) Conditions for entry** – BC Rugby Clubs' Competitions are open to all Clubs that are Members of BC Rugby or Clubs outside of British Columbia that satisfy the rules of membership of the relevant Member Union recognized by Rugby Canada or World Rugby. Each Club must have:
- i. At least one named Coach that is registered and, as a minimum, is trained in NCCP Introduction to Competition / World Rugby Level 1 certification; and
 - ii. At least one named Therapist that is registered and holds certification in World Rugby's First Aid in Rugby and Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
- (d) Declaration of Entry** – any Club or Team wishing to enter a BC Rugby sanctioned competition is required to declare their participation in writing by the set deadline. Declarations made after the deadline may be accepted by the Committee after considering the impact on the relevant division(s), those Teams already declared and the circumstances that lead to a late declaration.
- (e) Acceptance Procedure** – if the minimum number of Teams has been met, all Teams that meet the Conditions of Entry, declaration deadlines and pay all relevant fees will automatically be accepted into the requested competition or league. However, if more eligible Teams apply to one division, the Committee has the authority to move a Team up or down to ensure a level playing field within a Division and/or as many Divisions as possible are viable.



3.4 Men's Premier League

- (a) **Number of Teams** – a maximum of 12 Clubs may be permitted entry in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 season. Expansion will be considered for subsequent seasons.
- (b) **Conditions for Entry** – only Clubs that are Voting Members of BC Rugby and that meet the following pre-requisites will be permitted entry each season:
- i. A Club must field a Premier League Team with an accompanying Reserve Team;
 - ii. A Club must field an additional Team in a Men's Divisional League in the 2018/19 season and all subsequent seasons. This requirement means a Club competing in the Men's Premier League must sustain three Senior Men's Teams (i.e. Premier Team, accompanying Reserve Team and Divisional Team) throughout the 2018/19 season and all subsequent seasons;
 - iii. A Club must be prepared to fulfil all fixtures for all Teams;
 - iv. A Premier Team must have an appointed Head Coach that is registered and, as a minimum for the 2017/18 season, is trained in NCCP Introduction to Competition/World Rugby Level 1. For all subsequent seasons, the appointed Head Coach must, as a minimum, hold certification in NCCP Introduction to Competition/World Rugby Level 2;
 - v. Each Team must have an appointed Therapist that is registered and holds a relevant healthcare qualification as well as certification in World Rugby's First Aid in Rugby and Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
 - vi. A Club competing within the Men's Premier League must meet the Conditions for Entry throughout the season and fulfil the Premier League schedule, for both Teams, in its entirety. Failure to do will be penalised as detailed in Section 7 as well as risk Team Eligibility for playoffs as detailed in Section 6.
- (c) **Exemptions to the Conditions for Entry** – a Team or Academy funded by Rugby Canada, in support of Rugby Canada's National Senior Men's Fifteens Team, may enter the Men's Premier League without meeting the required number of additional Teams as outlined in 3.2 (b) i.
- (d) **Application Process** – any Club wishing to enter the Men's Premier League must provide a written application with supporting documentation with respect to the Conditions of Entry pertaining to the upcoming season, details of the Club's compliance with Section 3.1 (a) and (c), and a draft Premier League Team roster. Deadlines for applying for entry to the Men's Premier League are as follows:
- i. Deadline for application for the 2017/18 season is June 22, 2017.
 - ii. Deadline for application for the 2018/19 season is May 30, 2018.
- (e) **Acceptance Procedure** – the Competition & Events Committee shall assess all applications. All Teams that meet the Conditions of Entry, application deadlines and pay all relevant fees shall be accepted into the upcoming Men's Premier League. If more Clubs apply than the number of Teams permitted as per Section 3.3 (a), the Committee shall make a recommendation on which Clubs should be permitted entry, including their reasoning, to the Board for their approval.



3.5 Women's Premier League

- (a) **Number of Teams** – a maximum of 8 Clubs may be permitted entry in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 season. Expansion will be considered for subsequent seasons.
- (b) **Conditions of Entry** – only Clubs that are Voting Members of BC Rugby and that meet the following pre-requisites will be permitted entry each season:
 - i. A Club must be prepared to fulfil all fixtures;
 - ii. A Premier Team must have an appointed Head Coach that is registered and, as a minimum for the 2017/18 season, is trained in NCCP Introduction to Competition/World Rugby Level 1. For all subsequent seasons, the appointed Head Coach must, as a minimum, hold certification in NCCP Introduction to Competition/World Rugby Level 2;
 - iii. The Team must have an appointed Therapist that is registered and holds a relevant healthcare qualification as well as certification in World Rugby's First Aid in Rugby and Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
 - iv. A Club competing within the Women's Premier League must meet the Conditions for Entry throughout the season and fulfil the Premier League schedule in its entirety. Failure to do will be penalised as detailed in Section 7.
- (c) **Application Process** – any Club wishing to enter the Women's Premier League must provide a written application with supporting documentation with respect to the Conditions of Entry pertaining to the upcoming season, details of the Club's compliance with Section 3.1 (a) and (c), and a draft Premier League Team roster. Deadlines for applying for entry to the Women's Premier League are as follows:
 - v. Deadline for application for the 2017/18 season is June 22, 2017.
 - vi. Deadline for application for the 2018/19 season is May 30, 2018.
- (d) **Acceptance Procedure** – the Competition & Events Committee shall assess all applications. All Teams that meet the Conditions of Entry, application deadlines and pay all relevant fees shall be accepted into the upcoming Women's Premier League. If more Clubs apply than the number of Teams permitted as per Section 3.4 (a), the Committee shall make a recommendation on which Clubs should be permitted entry, including their reasoning, to the Board for their approval.

Section 4 – Player Eligibility

4.1 Senior Competitions

- (a) **Registration** – all players must be registered with the competing Club, and therefore insured, prior to playing in any match.
- (b) **Age** – a player's age is determined as at December 31 in the year that the first match of a competition takes place (i.e. birth year). Players aged 19 and older are eligible to play without restriction. Players aged 18 years are eligible to play but are subject to World Rugby's U19 Variations. Players aged 17 years must apply for



exemption as detailed in Section 8 and, assuming approval, are subject to World Rugby's U19 Variations. Any Team that plays a junior player without obtaining exemption will be subject to sanctions as detailed in Section 9.

- (c) **Front Row** – eligibility to play in these positions requires that such players be suitably trained and experienced. In accordance with the Laws, it is essential that any scrum in which one or more front row players lack this training and experience be depowered. Any Team violating this Rule will be subject to sanctions as detailed in Section 9.
- (d) **Multi-Team Clubs** – if a Club's higher division Team has a bye when the lower team is scheduled a home match, no player is eligible that started for the higher division team in their most recent home match.
- (e) **Player Transfers** – a player may transfer from one Club to another, limited to two transfers within a 12-month period. To do so, the player must be in good standing with their original Club and follow the process as detailed on bcrugby.com. If a transferred player does not meet the eligibility requirements for playoffs, an exemption may be considered by the Committee.
- (f) **Player Loans** – a player may be formally loaned to one Club from another with agreement between the player and both Clubs. A player on loan may not play against the club which is loaning the player. This agreement must be in writing and submitted to BC Rugby.
- (g) **Guest Players** – a player may play as a guest player for another Club during an exhibition match without a formal transfer or loan, provided the player is registered with BC Rugby and in good standing with his or her Club.

4.2 Provincial Competitions

For all Provincial Competitions, players must be registered with BC Rugby. A player must be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, and must be a resident of or born in British Columbia.

Additional player eligibility requirements are in place for the following competitions:

- (a) **McKechnie Cup** – open to all male Senior Players.
- (b) **Ruth Hellrud-Brown Cup** – open to all female Senior Players.
- (c) **Dunbar Keg** – open to all male players aged between 18 and 22 years of age. Age will be determined relative to the year that the final Dunbar Keg match is taking place. A Team may apply for and be granted an exemption for named over-age player or player aged 17 years old in accordance with Section 8.
- (d) **U23 Women's Cup** – open to all female players aged between 18 and 22 years of age. Age will be determined relative to the year that the final Cup match is taking place. A Team may apply for and be granted an exemption for named over-age player or player aged 17 years old in accordance with Section 8.

4.3 Clubs' Competitions

For all Clubs' Competition, all players must be registered with their competing Club through BC Rugby or the relevant Member Union as recognized by Rugby Canada or World Rugby.



- (a) **Visitor Players** – a player may be registered as a two-week visitor and must not play more than three fifteens or tens rugby matches or two sevens tournaments within that period. Except for a Sevens tournament, a visitor player is not eligible for playoffs.
- (b) **University Student** – a player must satisfy the Canadian Interuniversity Sport eligibility requirements to play for any Team fielded by their University.
- (c) **Capped, Contracted & Carded Players** – all Teams are restricted to playing no more than five capped, contracted and/or carded players on the roster, unless the Team has written confirmation of an exemption as described in Section 8. A player's status will be determined as at September 1.
- (d) **Combined Restrictions** – Men's and Women's Premier League Teams are restricted to playing:
 - i. No more than seven capped, contracted, carded and/or import players in the 2017/18 season, unless the Team has written confirmation of an exemption as described in Section 8. This does not overrule the restriction stated in 4.3 (c).
 - ii. No more than three capped, contracted, carded and/or import players in the 2018/19 season, unless the Team has written confirmation of an exemption as described in Section 8. This overrules the restriction stated in 4.3 (c).

Section 5 - Match Conduct and Protocol

5.1 Endeavour to Play

Clubs and Teams alike are expected to make all efforts to play each of their scheduled matches. When feasible, Clubs must cancel or default Teams from the lowest division upwards unless approved in writing by BC Rugby.

- (a) **Cancellations** – the following circumstances are may result in the cancellation of a match. Failure to reschedule and play the match is without penalty:
 - i. **Weather Conditions** – electrical storms and exceptionally poor weather conditions that jeopardise player safety or make playing rugby near impossible.
 - ii. **Field Closures** – home and alternative fields are closed within 24hrs of the scheduled kick-off time of the first scheduled match.
 - iii. **Travel** – circumstances beyond control lead to travel being impossible or have delayed arrival beyond 45mins after the scheduled kick-off time.
 - iv. **Other** – any other reasonably unforeseen, uncontrollable circumstance.
- (b) **Conceding a win** – if a Team is unable to field a starting team due to player safety, lack of suitably trained and experienced players available for the front row or overall lack of numbers but if the match still takes place (with reduced numbers



and/or depowered scrums), that Team will record a loss (0 to 20) but incur no penalty.

- (c) **Defaults** – the following circumstances will be treated as a default and one or both Teams involved will be deducted four points:
- i. **Schedule Conflicts** – a Team that commits to another Competition, Tour or Exhibition Match within the BC Rugby Competition regular season and is unable to reschedule the match.
 - ii. **Refusal to Cooperate** – any Team that fails to reasonably cooperate with an opponent to ensure a previously agreed to match takes place. This may extend to exhibition matches and incur a monetary fine, as determined by the Committee.
 - iii. **Team Standings** – a Team or Teams that fails to play a regular season match to manipulate the final Team Standings of a competition.
 - iv. **Depowered Scrums** – in all Men’s and Women’s Premier League matches, if the scrums must be depowered because a Team did not nominate five suitably trained and experienced players available for the front row, that team will be deemed to have defaulted that match.
 - v. **Other** – if for any other reason a Team defaults a match and is unable to reschedule the match.

5.2 Schedule or Venue Changes

- (a) **The Committee** – the Competitions & Events Committee has the right to schedule make-up games and relocate venues that it deems necessary.
- (b) **Right of the Home Club** – the Home Club has the right to relocate a game to an approved alternative field if its home field is closed. The Home Club may use the home field of any other Club, with that Club’s permission, as its alternative field.
- (c) **Reschedule Requests** – a Team may request their opponent to reschedule a regular season match. Both Teams must agree, though the opponent must not unreasonably deny the request for rescheduling the match. If the game is rescheduled to an official make-up date, required make-up games take precedence on that date.
- (d) **Schedule of Make-Up Games** – unless otherwise approved by the Committee, make-up games shall be played in the order in which they were cancelled, that is, the first game cancelled shall be the first game to be played on the make-up date.
- (e) **Closure of Neutral Field** – if a game is scheduled at a neutral field and that field is closed, it is the responsibility of the listed home team to attempt to find an alternative neutral field. If an alternative neutral field is unable to be confirmed by 2:00 pm Friday, the game will not be played and re-scheduled as available. Clubs involved in neutral site fixtures will not be required to travel to home or opposing Clubs’ fields unless agreement is reached. Where the neutral site sought requires travel time exceeding three hours by both Clubs, the BC Rugby Office will assist, if required, in finding securing a neutral field.
- (f) **Providing Notice** – the home club must communicate in advance, and receive acknowledgement, of all changes, or potential changes, to the opponent, BC Rugby office and the relevant Referee Allocator. Final notification must be confirmed by



2pm on the day before the scheduled fixture with changes after this deadline only in exceptional circumstances. Failure to notify the opposition, the BC Rugby Referee Society and BC Rugby of any field closure or venue change or game abandonment may result in sanctions pursuant to Section 7.

- (g) Approval of Schedule Changes** – all schedule and venue changes must be approved by BC Rugby.

5.3 Abandonment of a Game

A game may be abandoned as follows:

- (a) Weather deteriorates with less than 2/3 time played** – if weather conditions prevent a game from being played or cause a game to be abandoned with less than two-thirds time having been played, the game shall be played or replayed as a make-up game.
- (b) Weather deteriorates after 2/3 time played** – if a game is abandoned because of weather conditions after two-thirds or more time has been played, then the score at that time shall be deemed to be the final score of the game. The referee's decision regarding the need to abandon the game and the time played shall be final.
- (c) Power of the Referee** – a referee has the power to abandon a game at any time if, in his or her opinion, the game should not continue to full time. The referee will inform both team captains that the game is being abandoned and of the reason for taking that action.
- (d) Power of the Team Captain** – a team captain has the power to abandon a game at any time, if in his or her opinion, the game should not continue to full time. If a team captain decides to abandon a match he or she shall inform the referee of the reason for that decision.
- (e) Other Reasons as Determined by Referee or Team Captain** – where a game is abandoned for any reason other than weather conditions, the following steps will be followed:
 - i. The referee and representatives from both Clubs shall submit within 72 hours a written report detailing the reasons for abandoning the game to the Committee;
 - ii. The Committee shall review the reports of the referee and the team captains and consider such other evidence that it deems relevant to the matter and then decide as to the status of the game.
 - iii. The Committee has the power to declare a winner, order a replay, or to declare a no contest in which case no points are awarded to either club, and may apply sanctions as it deems fit. If a replay is ordered it shall be held under conditions established by the Committee.

5.4 Submitting Team Rosters

For all Senior Competitions, rosters must be completed in full and submitted online to the BC Rugby offices via the provided league management platform by the following deadlines:



- (a) **Provincial Competitions** – all Teams competing in Provincial Competitions must submit a 23-player Roster no later than 10am the day prior to each scheduled match. Changes may still be made up until 2 hours after the final whistle and should include all substitutions made.
- (b) **Clubs' Competitions** – all Teams competing in Clubs' Competitions must submit a 22-player Roster no later than 2 hours prior to each match's scheduled kick-off time. Changes may still be made up until 2 hours after the final whistle and should include all substitutions made.
- (c) **Premier Leagues** – Men's and Women's Premier League Teams, and the Men's accompanying Team as described in Section 3.4 (b) i., must submit a 23-player Roster for each Team no later than 10am the day prior to each scheduled match. Changes may still be made up until 2 hours after the final whistle and should include all substitutions made.
- (d) **Sevens Competitions** – all Teams competing in a Sevens Competition must submit a 12-player Roster prior to each Match.

5.5 Laws of the Game

All matches shall be played in accordance with World Rugby's Laws of the Game and shall comply with the rules and regulations of World Rugby, Rugby Canada and BC Rugby. For further clarity, BC Rugby mandates adherence to World Rugby's Regulation 22 which applies to artificial turf playing surfaces.

5.6 Concussion Management

All matches are to adhere to World Rugby's 'Recognise and Remove' policy whereby any player suspected of or suffering from a concussion is to be immediately removed from the field of play and is not permitted to return to play that same day. Any decision to remove a player must err on the side of caution, not certainty. In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the appointed Match Official has absolute authority to remove a player if they suspect that player is suffering from a concussion.

5.7 Game Day Management

Game sheets must list all players that participated as well as all coaches, managers, trainers or therapists.

- (a) **Under 19 Variation** – on any given day, any player aged under 18 years or younger must not exceed playing 70 minutes within a match, including overtime, and must not exceed playing 90 minutes within that day.
- (b) **Substitutions in Provincial Cup and Premier League matches** – substitutions are made in accordance with the Laws of the Game, to a maximum of eight.
- (c) **Premier Reserve and Division One matches** – substitutions are made in accordance with the Laws of the Game, to a maximum of seven.



- (d) **Substitutions in all other Divisions** – a Team is permitted a maximum of seven rolling substitutions. That is, a removed player may re-enter the match or as otherwise agreed to by the two Teams and the appointed Match Official.
- (e) **Substitutions in Sevens Matches** – substitutions are made in accordance with the Laws of the Game, Sevens Variations or as otherwise set by the tournament organisers.

5.8 Entering Playing Enclosure

- (a) **Substitutes** – all substitute or substituted players are to be situated outside the playing area as defined by World Rugby's Law 1, including when warming-up.
- (b) **Appointed Therapist** – two clearly identified team therapists, acting as physiotherapist, trainer or doctor, may enter the playing enclosure at any time to assist injured players and may roam the playing enclosure without causing disruption or interfering in any way with play.
- (c) **Other Team Staff** – all other Team Staff are not permitted in the playing enclosure during play and are to be situated outside the playing enclosure or behind the opposition's in-goal area.

5.9 Reporting of Scores & Point Scorers

The appointed Match Official is responsible for submitting the match score. The score submitted by the appointed Match Official is final, unless categorical evidence is submitted to BC Rugby that proves beyond doubt an incorrect score has been submitted.

5.10 Point Tabulations

- (a) **Competitions of Fifteens or Tens Rugby** – team standings shall be determined by the total number of match points earned by a Team in regular season, which shall include bonus points. The allocation of match points shall be as follows:
 - i. Four points for a win.
 - ii. Two points for a draw.
 - iii. One bonus point for finishing with a score of seven points or less of the winner.
 - iv. One bonus point for scoring four or more tries in a match.
 - v. A defaulted game shall count as five points and recorded as a 20-0 score, as if the non-defaulting team scored four non-converted tries. The defaulting team shall lose four points in the league standings.
 - vi. In the event of uncontrollable circumstances that prevents a match from being played within regular season, final standings of that competition will be determined on all participating Teams' win/loss ratio.
- (b) **Competitions of Sevens Rugby** – team standings shall be determined by the total number of match points earned by a Team in pool matches, which shall not include bonus points. The allocation of match points shall be as follows:
 - i. Three points for a win.
 - ii. Two points for a draw.



- iii. One point for a loss.
- iv. A defaulted game shall count as three points and its score shall be recorded as 5-0 and will count as one unconverted try.

Section 6 – Playoffs & Finals

6.1 Tie-Breaking in Team Standings

- (a) Two-Way Ties in Senior Competitions** – in the case of two Teams tied at the end of regular season or all pool matches (i.e. Sevens Tournament), the final standings of the two teams shall be determined by considering in order of the factors below:
 - i. The aggregate score of the matches played between the two teams;
 - ii. The most wins in the league or pool;
 - iii. The points differential in the league or pool play;
 - iv. The toss of a coin by the Chair of the Committee or Tournament Director.
- (b) Two-Way Ties in Leagues Based on Bonus Points** – in the case of two Teams tied at the end of regular season, the final standings shall be determined by the following, in order:
 - i. The aggregate score of the matches played between the two teams;
 - ii. The most wins in regular season;
 - iii. The points differential in league play;
 - iv. The most bonus points earned in league play; or
 - v. The toss of a coin by the Chair of the Committee.
- (c) Three-Way Ties in Senior Competitions** – in the case of a three-way tie at the end of regular season or all pool matches (i.e. Sevens Tournaments), the final standings shall be determined by considering the factors, in order, below. If any of the steps results in a two-way tie, then the rules for breaking a two-way tie shall be applied. When points differential is used, the team with the highest point differential will be considered the winner. If seeding is still required for the remaining two teams, this will revert to two-way tie breaking rules.
 - i. The most wins between the Teams;
 - ii. The most wins in the league or pool play;
 - iii. The points differential in league or pool play between the Teams involved in the three-way tie;
 - iv. The points differential in league or pool play if all Teams tied played all their fixtures;
 - v. The toss of a coin by the Chair of the Committee or Tournament Director.
- (d) Three-Way Ties in Leagues Based on Bonus Points** – in the case of three Teams tied at the end of regular season, the final standings shall be determined by the following, in order. If any of the steps taken results in a two-way tie, then the rules for breaking a two-way tie shall be applied. When points differential is used, the team with the highest point differential will be considered the winner. If seeding is



still required for the remaining two teams, this will revert to two-way tie breaking rules:

- i. The most wins between the Teams;
- ii. The points differential in regular season between the Teams involved in the three-way tie; or
- iii. The most bonus points earned in regular season.

6.2 Tie-Breaking in Playoff Matches

If the score is tied at the end of regulation time of a playoff match, the tie shall be broken by the following procedures:

- (a) Two ten-minute halves of overtime shall be played.
- (b) If the score remains tied, the teams shall play a five-minute period of overtime with the Team scoring first determined as the winner (i.e. sudden death).
- (c) If the score remains tied, the teams shall compete in kicks at goal as directed by World Rugby protocol and confirmed by BC Rugby prior to Playoffs.

6.3 Determining Playoff Venues

For Clubs' Competitions, excluding Sevens Tournaments, venues for playoff matches will be determined as such:

- (a) **Qualification for Finals** – the venue of any playoffs that determine Teams' qualification for the Final of a competition or division shall be determined by the higher ranked Team in the Competition Standings. However, a neutral venue may be granted if the lower ranked team makes a formal request to BC Rugby within 48 hours of advancing to the playoffs, referencing one of the following conditions for a neutral site:
 - i. Travel – the lower ranked Teams would need to travel greater than five hours to reach the playoff venue.
 - ii. International Travel – the lower ranked Team would not be able to field a team due to players without valid documentation to cross into the United States of America.
 - iii. Unbalanced Schedule – the lower ranked Team travelled away more than the higher ranked Team due to an unbalanced home/away schedule.
- (b) **Finals** – the venue for any Clubs' Competition Finals shall be determined by the Competitions & Events Committee, taking into consideration the following factors:
 - i. Ease of travel for all potential participants and Clubs involved;
 - ii. Number of fields required to accommodate all Leagues and/or Divisions Finals;
 - iii. Capacity and quality of facilities required; and
 - iv. Locations of other BC Rugby competitions and events to consider geographical distribution within a 24-month period.



6.4 Determining Playoff Schedule

- (a) **Quarter- and Semi-Finals** – the schedule for quarter- and semi-final matches will remain consistent with the regular season. Exceptions may be considered under the following circumstances:
- i. **Travel** – the away Team needs to travel greater than three hours to reach the playoff venue.
 - ii. **Substitutes for Front Row** – a Club has more than one Team in the Men's or Women's Divisional Playoffs and the lower team supplies more than one substitute to the higher team's front row.
- (b) **Club Finals** – The Committee shall draft a schedule for the Finals which will be confirmed once all finalist Teams are confirmed. Amendments to the draft schedule may be made to accommodate travel time of finalist Teams.

6.5 Team Eligibility

Despite Team Standings, a Team may be deemed ineligible for playoffs due to one or more of the following circumstances:

- (a) **Not in Good Standing** – if a Team or Club is not in good standing with BC Rugby, the Board has the authority to disqualify the Team or Club from participating in the Playoffs.
- (b) **Conditions for Entry** – if a Team or Club not longer meets the relevant Conditions of Entry, the Committee has the authority to disqualify the Team from participating in the Playoffs.
- (c) **Premier League Conditions for Entry** – if the required accompanying team defaults more than two matches or any required additional Team fails to play at least three-quarters of the relevant regular season, the Premier League Team will not be eligible for Playoffs.
- (d) **Failure to Complete Regular Season** – if a Team fails to complete the regular season, the Committee has the authority to disqualify the Team from participating in the Playoffs.
- (e) **Conceding Playoffs** – if a Team wishes to withdraw from playoffs, they must inform BC Rugby at least 21-days prior to the first scheduled playoff match for the relevant competition or division. Failure to do so will be treated as a default.

6.6 Player Eligibility

In addition to Player Eligibility for the relevant Competition, the following apply to a player's eligibility to represent a Club or Team in playoffs. If Team has any player that does not comply with the following, that Team will be deemed to have defaulted the playoff match and the opposition shall be deemed the winner and progress.

- (a) **Commitment** – a player must play in at least one-third of regular season matches for a Club to be eligible for any Team of that Club. That is, if a regular season consists of 16 matches, a player must have played in at least six matches to be eligible for play-offs.



- (b) **Level of Play** – for Clubs with more than one Team, no player that has started more than two-thirds of his or her games in a higher division Team may play for the Club in a lower division Team through playoffs. That is, if a player has started in 10 higher-division matches out of a total of 16 matches played, that player is eligible for the lower-division team through playoffs.
- (c) **Overtime** – regardless of any overtime required in playoff matches, any player subject to World Rugby’s U19 Variations must not exceed 70 minutes of playing time.

6.7 Submitting Team Rosters

All Team Rosters for playoffs must be submitted to BC Rugby by Friday 9am prior to each playoff match. Rosters must be completed with named starting fifteen, no more than eight substitutes and the team staff.

Section 7 – Sanctions & Fines

7.1 Authority

The Competition & Events Committee the power to impose fines and sanctions as set out in the Rules and deemed necessary for the operation of the Competition. The Committee may impose a fine up to a maximum of CAD\$2,000 or any other sanction or both in each case of non-compliance with the Rules.

7.2 Failure to Provide Satisfactory Facilities

The following fines will be applied for failure to provide satisfactory facilities in accordance with section 3.1:

- (a) **First offence** – no penalty or fine.
- (b) **Second offence** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$200.
- (c) **All subsequent offences** – the Club will not be permitted to host any home fixtures until evidence is provided to BC Rugby offices that the issue has been remedied.

7.3 Unregistered Players

The following fines will be applied to the relevant Club and point deductions for the relevant Team for any unregistered players that competed in a BC Rugby sanctioned competition, match or tournament:

- (a) **First offence** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$200.
- (b) **Second offence** – the Club shall be fined a further CAD\$200 and the Team shall be deducted four-points from the league or pool table.
- (c) **Third offence** – the Club shall be fined a further CAD\$500 and the Team shall be deducted a further eight-points from the league or pool table and any bonus points earned in that match.



- (d) **Fourth offence** – the Club shall incur all fines accrued and the Team shall be expelled from the competition or tournament.

7.4 Failure to Submit Game Sheets

The following fines will be applied for failure to submit completed game sheets:

- (d) **First offence** – no penalty or fine.
(e) **Second offence** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$50.
(f) **All subsequent offences** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$150 for each subsequent offence within the current competition or tournament.

7.5 Defaulted Matches

- (a) **Premier Leagues** – mandatory fines for game defaults are as follows for Men’s and Women’s Premier League and Men’s Premier Reserve matches:
- i. 4-point deduction for all defaulted matches; and
 - ii. CAD\$1,000 fine for all travel defaulted matches, where the travelling Premier League team is the defaulting team; and/or,
 - iii. CAD\$200 fine for all other defaulted matches, provided notification to the opposition is confirmed before 7pm Thursday before the scheduled match, otherwise the fine is CAD\$500.
- (b) **Men’s & Women’s Divisions** – mandatory fines for game defaults as follows for Men’s and Women’s Divisional matches:
- i. 4-point deduction for all defaulted matches; and
 - ii. CAD\$1,000 fine for all travel defaulted matches, where the travelling team is the defaulting team; or
 - iii. CAD\$200 fine for all other defaulted matches, provided notification to the opposition is confirmed before 7pm Thursday before the scheduled match, otherwise the fine is CAD\$500.
 - iv. An exception to this Rule are games played the lowest competitive division of men’s regional and women’s leagues all of which will not be declared a default if an exhibition game is played. A club which fails to field less than 12 players will be charged with a game loss but not a default.
- (c) **Unplayable Fields** – for home teams that confirm fields playable for a travel match and the opposition arrives to find fields are now unplayable, reimbursements shall be as follows for the relevant modes of transport:
- i. **Ferry travel** – the home team or club will reimburse the relevant ferry passenger fee for each player, coach, manager and therapist that travelled, as well as the cost of school bus transportation or the cost of the number of cars taken on the ferry. Copies of all receipts must be available upon request of BC Rugby.
 - ii. **Crossing USA border or Coquihalla** – the home club will reimburse the cost of bus transportation or \$750 per team if cars were used. Copies of bus transport must be available upon request of BC Rugby.



- iii. **Other** – if a club incurs travel costs not addressed above, the Committee will review the expenses and provide a decision on fair reimbursement.
- (d) Match Played at Away Team Venue** – for home teams that are unable to play on their home fields and the venue for the match is reversed to the original away team, the following reimbursements apply:
- i. If the schedule is a double round, the home venue will be reversed so each team still gets a home match; or,
 - ii. If the schedule is a double round, and the first match has already been played, or if the schedule is a single round, the away team will reimburse the home team, who are now travelling, CAD\$800 for a single team or CAD\$1,500 for two teams travelling together.

7.6 Failure to Communicate

Failure to communicate and receive acknowledgement from the opposition, the appointed referee or relevant referee allocator, and BC Rugby of any match cancellation, venue change or game abandonment may be fined to a maximum of \$500 by determination of the Committee.

7.7 Notice of Fines

Clubs that have incurred a fine or fines will be sent an itemised invoice from BC Rugby.

7.8 Recourse to Lost Revenue or Sunk Costs

If a Club has a game defaulted to it and the defaulting Club has paid or is liable to pay a fine to BC Rugby, then the former club may apply in writing to the Committee for a portion or all the collected default fine in compensation for sunk expenses caused by the default. Such written application must be delivered with the information set out in Appendix J attached hereto to the Committee at the BC Rugby office address within seven (7) days notification of the Committee decision on the status of the default fine. Payment of some or all of such collected fine will be decided by the Committee in a written decision and paid from the BC Rugby office to the club that was defaulted to. Such payment will not be made directly between the two clubs concerned.

7.9 Good Standing

Any club which does not pay a fine within 45-days or prior to Playoffs and abide by a sanction imposed in a Committee decision under Section 7 may be deemed to not be in Good Standing and will therefore be open to disqualification from Playoffs.



Section 8 – Application for Exemptions

8.1 Age Restrictions

The following exemptions will be considered by the Competitions and Events Committee:

- (a) **Over-age Players** – a Team may apply for a named player to be exempt from an age-grade Team by providing BC Rugby with a written request stating the named player's age, height, weight, position and brief overview of their playing experience & intended impact on the age-grade Team. No age-grade Team may exceed three over-age players per roster.
- (b) **Junior Players** – a Team may apply for a named player aged 17 years of age to be permitted to play in senior competitions by writing to BC Rugby and providing statements from the relevant Team Coach and Club Therapist that vouch for the physical preparedness and skill capability of the player to compete safely as a junior player. The Competition & Events Committee may seek the opinion of an independent, qualified Coach.

8.2 Restrictions on Players

Clubs may apply in writing for exemptions to the restriction on the number of capped, capped, contracted and/or import players as follows:

- (a) **Homegrown Player** – a player that is capped, carded or contracted and meets the definition of a Homegrown Player for that Club is exempt from Section 4.3 (b).
- (b) **University Player** – a player that is capped, carded or contracted and is playing for a University team and satisfies the Canadian Interuniversity Sport eligibility requirements is exempt from Section 4.3 (b).
- (c) **Capped Player** – a player that is capped but has not earned a cap within the 24 months prior to September 1 will be exempt from Section 4.3 (b). That is, a player that earns their first cap or a cap after a 24-month period without a cap within a Premier League season is exempt from Section 4.3 (b).
- (d) **Combined Restrictions** – for the 2018/19 season, Men's and Women's Premier League Teams may apply in writing for an increase to the combined restriction of one player per criterion as detailed:
 - i. In the previous season, the Club fielded a Senior Team of the opposite gender which completed more than three-quarters of its regular season matches.
 - ii. In the previous season, the Club had at least 30 registered Junior male players.
 - iii. In the previous season, the Club had at least 20 registered Junior female players.
- (e) **Combined Restrictions** – for the 2018/19 season, Men's and Women's Premier League Teams may apply in writing for an increase to the combined restriction of two players per criterion as detailed:
 - i. In the previous membership year to the 2018/19 season, the Club had at least 50 Mini Players registered;



- ii. In the previous membership year to the 2018/19 season, the Club had at least 40 Senior Players aged under 23 years OR at least one-third of all Senior Players aged under 23 years. That is, to determine exemption for the 2018-19 season, the Club must have had at least 40 or at least one-third of all Senior players to be born between 1995 and 1998, inclusive, registered in the 2017/18 season.
- (f) Maximum Combined Restrictions** – Men’s and Women’s Premier League Teams may not exceed a total of **five** capped, contracted and carded players and may not exceed a total of **seven** import, capped, contracted and/or carded players.
- (g) Application for Exemptions** – applications for exemptions to the restrictions on players must be submitted in writing. The Committee will consider received applications for each season and submissions must be submitted by August 1 with all decisions published within one month.

8.3 Player Eligibility for Playoffs

Applications for exemptions to the player eligibility of playoffs must be made to the Committee 21-days prior to the first scheduled playoff match in the relevant competition or division. The following exemptions will be considered by the Competitions and Events Committee with respect to player eligibility for playoffs:

- (a) Injury Management** – if a Player has been unable to meet Section 6.6 (a) due to injury, an exemption may be granted based on the evidence presented to the Committee.
- (b) National Duty** – if a Player has been unable to meet Section 6.6 (a) due to representing Rugby Canada, an exemption may be granted based on the evidence presented to the Committee.
- (c) Level of Competition** – if a Player is in violation of Section 6.6 (b), an exemption may be granted based on the evidence presented to the Committee.
- (d) Other** – if a Player has been unable to meet Section 6.6 (a) for any other reason, a Club may apply to the Committee for consideration providing an evidenced explanation.

8.4 Sanctions and Fines

An application for exemption to an imposed sanction or fine may be made in writing to the Competitions & Events Committee. The Committee may upon receipt of a written request for dispensation, direct a hearing of the party or parties concerned or may direct written submissions from such parties, and thereafter render its decision with written reasons. The Committee has the discretion to maintain the mandatory fine imposed or reduce or nullify such fine and impose any sanction including standing point deductions. In deciding that matter the Committee may have regard to the factors referred to in Section 11.3 herein. If the fine referred to in Section 11.3 is nullified pursuant to a Committee decision and no other sanction is imposed, the CAD\$200 deposit payable to BC Rugby referred to in Section 11.4 shall be returned to the defaulting club.



Section 9 – Complaints & Appeals

9.1 Complaints

Any participant which is charged with non-compliance with the Rules or is aggrieved otherwise affected by an alleged non-compliance with the Rules by another participant may apply to the Discipline Committee for hearing which shall include all parties concerned.

- (a) Such application to the Discipline Committee under section 11.1.2 must be filed in writing under the applicant's letterhead at the BC Rugby office within 7 days from the alleged non-compliance incident and the Discipline Committee has the discretion to extend the said filing period if it considers it is fair and reasonable in the circumstances of the matter. Such application must be made using the Notice of Non-Compliance Form and the application must be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of CAD\$200 payable to BC Rugby which shall be refunded to the Applicant if the application is successful.
- (b) The subject of the non-compliance incident shall be provided a copy of the Notice of Non-Compliance and shall within 7 days of the receipt of that Notice submit a Response to Non-Compliance Form to the BC Rugby office. The Discipline Committee has the discretion to extend the said filing period if it considers it is fair and reasonable in the circumstances of the matter.
- (c) The Discipline Committee may direct a hearing into the matter and prescribe the reasonable time limits to produce all information related to the hearing, or direct the party or parties concerned to make further written submissions to the Discipline Committee within a specified time. BC Rugby shall publish the decision with written reasons in a timely manner.
- (d) In addition, the Discipline Committee may, on its own initiative, investigate any alleged incident of non-compliance of the Rules by a participant and for that purpose direct a hearing into the matter and prescribe the reasonable time limits to produce all information related to the hearing, or direct the party or parties concerned to make written submissions to the Discipline Committee within a specified time. BC Rugby shall publish the decision with written reasons in a timely manner.

9.2 Appeals

Only Rules-based decisions made by the Competitions & Events Committee with respect to Sections 3, 4 and 5 are appealable. All other decisions by the Competitions & Events Committee, and any decisions made by the Board, are not subject to appeal.

An appeal from any "Rules Based" decision of the Competitions & Events Committee may be made by the Club or participant concerned to the Appeals & Complaints Committee. The Appeal must be in writing pursuant to Section 3 of the Appeal Rules. The Appeal must be filed with BC Rugby office to the attention of the CEO within 7 days of notification of the Committee Decision together with a CAD\$200 deposit payable to BC Rugby. The Appeals Committee has the discretion to extend the 7-day filing period for a further 7-day period if,



in the circumstances, it considers it is fair and reasonable to do so. An Appellant's excuse of ignorance of the Appeal Rules does not constitute a valid defense.

Section 10 – Competitions & Events Committee

The Competitions & Events Committee composition, responsibilities and conduct are outlined in the Charter of the Committee, which is approved by the Board.

10.1 Meetings of the Committee

The Committee shall meet at least six times a year.

10.2 Relationship with other Committees

- (a) **Discipline Committee** – any breach of these Rules of Competition, World Rugby's Laws of the Game or BC Rugby's Code of Conduct are to be reported to the Discipline Committee.
- (b) **Player Welfare Committee** – any recommendations made by BC Rugby's Player Welfare Committee must be considered by the Competitions & Events Committee. Player welfare is the top priority and must not be compromised.
- (c) **Appeals and Complaints Committee** – any appealable decisions of the Competitions & Events Committee or the Discipline Committee are to be made to the Appeals and Complaints Committee.
- (d) **Executive Committee** – in the event of the CEO being unavailable or the position being vacant, the Competitions & Events Committee shall report to the Executive Committee.

10.3 Relationship with BC Rugby Staff

The Competitions & Events Committee reports directly to the CEO of BC Rugby. While members of staff may join the Committee as an ex-officio member, the Committee does not have the authority to determine any staff members' work priorities, budget allocation or line manage staff members in any way.

10.4 Contact the Committee

The Committee may be contacted by emailing odaly@bcrugby.com.