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## Canada Soccer Competition Regulations for the Regional Masters Club Championships 2022

### **1. Regional Masters Club Championships**

1.1 The Regional Masters Club Championships (hereinafter referred to as the Regional Masters) are competitions owned and managed by Canada Soccer.

1.2 Regional Masters take place annually and consist of the following competitions: Eastern Men's Regional Club Masters, Western Men's Regional Club Masters, Women's Regional Club Masters.

1.3 For the purpose of these Regulations for Regional Masters, wherever duly noted, Provincial Associations also include Territorial Associations.

1.4 All Regional Masters are open to one (1) representative team of each Association in Membership subject only to Regional preliminary qualifying series as may be determined by Canada Soccer and provided for in these Regulations.

1.5 These Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all teams taking part in Regional Masters and of the Local Organizing Committee by forming an integral part of the Hosting Agreement.

1.6 *Canada Soccer By-laws, Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations*, and all Policies in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to *Canada Soccer By-laws, Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations*, and Policies refers to those valid at the time of application. In the event of any conflict, *Canada Soccer By-laws, Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations* and Policies refers to those valid at the time of application.

1.7 Within the constraints of these Regulations, Canada Soccer, through its Organizing Committee may adapt these Regulations to address specific situations not otherwise provided for, as necessary to address the competition objectives of Canada Soccer.

1.8 Any rights that are not ceded by the Regulations for the Regional Masters to the Local Organizing Committee or any Provincial/Territorial Association or Participating Team shall remain with Canada Soccer.

1.9 The playing season referred to in these Regulations shall be the one ending in the calendar year in which the Regional Masters will be played.

1.10 On entering the Regional Masters competitions, all teams automatically undertake to:

- 1.10.1 Observe these Regulations;
- 1.10.2 Sign the Participation Agreement and comply with the terms therein;
- 1.10.3 Acknowledge that failure to comply with any of the requirements within these Regulations shall render any organization or individual subject to disciplinary procedures;
- 1.10.4 Observe the principles of fair play.

### **2. Canada Soccer Competitions Committee**

2.1 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee is an Operational Committee of Canada Soccer appointed by the General Secretary to oversee competitions in accordance with its Terms of Reference.



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In addition to its overall responsibilities the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee has specific responsibilities for the Regional Masters including, but not limited to:

- 2.1.1 Replacing teams who have withdrawn from the Regional Masters;
- 2.1.2 Deciding on cases of Provincial/Territorial Associations or participating teams failing to adhere to the timelines and/or the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents;
- 2.1.3 Settling cases of force majeure;
- 2.1.4 Dealing with any other aspect of the Regional Masters that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations or Canada Soccer By-laws.

2.2 Any decisions taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee regarding the Regional Masters are final and binding, unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

### **3. Canada Soccer Organizing Committee**

3.1 A Canada Soccer Organizing Committee shall be appointed for each Regional Masters. It will consist of the appointed Match Commissioner, Supervisor of Officials, the LOC Chair and any other persons deemed necessary.

3.2 The Canada Soccer Organizing Committee shall be responsible for the in-venue operation and execution of the respective Competition to which it is appointed. The duties of each position will be provided to the appointee.

3.3 The Match Commissioner acts as the senior Canada Soccer appointee and is responsible for the overall management of the competition and specifically deals with disciplinary matters, protests, admissibility, and leads the crisis management team.

3.4 The LOC Chair is responsible for all logistics and delivering the requirements of the Hosting Agreement.

3.5 The Supervisor of Officials is responsible for the overall management of match officials and assessors.

### **4. Local Organizing Committee (LOC)**

4.1 Canada Soccer appoints the Hosts for the respective Regional Masters.

4.2 The Host is responsible for organizing, hosting, and staging the selected Regional Masters competition. It shall set up a Local Organizing Committee (LOC) in accordance with the Hosting Agreement to establish financial controls, budgets and reports, preparing concepts for review, and ensuring standards are met for each event.

4.3 The obligations and responsibilities of the LOC with respect to the Regional Masters are stipulated in the Hosting Agreement.

4.4 The LOC shall ensure that any decision taken by Canada Soccer Competitions Committee relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.



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**5. Participating Teams**

5.1 Teams shall participate in one of the following competition categories:

**Regional Masters Club Championships**

Over 35 Men

All players must be thirty-five (35) (and over) years of age prior to January 1 of the current year

Over 30 Women

All players must be thirty (30) (and over) years of age prior to January 1 of the current year

**Other National Championships**

As may be defined from time to time by Canada Soccer.

5.2 To be eligible to participate in the Regional Masters, a team must have a minimum of seventeen (17) registered players who are eligible to participate in the Provincial Tournament leading to a Regional Competition.

5.3 Teams must be able to field a minimum of fifteen (15) players to participate in a Regional Competition. Teams who fail to meet this minimum standard will be subject to sanction.

5.4 Each club team entering shall be affiliated with its respective Member Association and will be certified an eligible team upon having its Member Association approve the Online Team Roster.

5.5 On entering a Regional Masters Championship, the Participating Teams automatically undertake to:

- 5.5.1 Comply with the maximum number of players and officials as defined in these Regulations (see Article 11.3);
- 5.5.2 Observe these Regulations and the principles of fair play;
- 5.5.3 Accept and obey all decisions taken by Canada Soccer and its officials under the terms of these Regulations;
- 5.5.4 Respect the deadlines as set by Canada Soccer and the LOC;
- 5.5.5 Participate in all matches of the respective Championship in which the team is scheduled to take part;
- 5.5.6 Accept all the arrangements relating to the respective Championship made by Canada Soccer and the LOC;
- 5.5.7 Accept the usage by Canada Soccer, as well as the recording and broadcast of the images, names and records of all participants that may appear in connection with the Regional Masters;
- 5.5.8 Ensure the provision of adequate insurance to cover the team and any other person carrying out duties on its behalf against all risks, including, but not limited to, injury, accident and travel.

5.6 In addition, each participating team shall be responsible for:

- 5.6.1 The actions of its players, team staff, and spectators and must take all precautions necessary to prevent them from threatening or assaulting anyone at matches, especially the match officials;
- 5.6.2 Paying for costs incurred not covered by the LOC during the course of its stay in the host venue;



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- 5.6.3 Attending official media activities when requested to do so;
- 5.6.4 Attending team meetings, Provincial/Territorial Representative meetings, disciplinary hearings, and other meetings called by Canada Soccer in-venue.
  
- 5.7 Players and staff cannot temporarily leave and return to the championship, without prior approval of the Match Commissioner. Depending on the reason for leaving, players may be required to submit a Return to Play Form.
  
- 5.8 A player who receives any medical attention during the Championship will be required to provide the Match Commissioner with a return to play form signed by the registered medical practitioner who attended the player.
  
- 5.9 Players/team staff who wish to permanently leave the competitions/Championship and are not returning must notify the Match Commissioner prior to their departure, confirmed with appropriate Provincial/Territorial documentation.
  
- 5.10 Provincial/Territorial Associations shall confirm their participation for entry in the respective Regional Masters competitions annually as determined by Canada Soccer.
  
- 5.11 Any Province/Territory that withdraws after the deadline will be subject to sanction in accordance with article 7.2
  
- 5.12 Provincial and Territorial Associations shall advise Canada Soccer of its qualified teams. No qualified team(s) may be replaced without the approval of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee. (see Article 8).
  
- 5.13 Once a Province or Territory has declared its representative teams and before departure to the Regional Masters competition, the Provincial/Territorial Executive Director, or designate, shall meet with the team staff and Provincial Representative to review these Regulations and expectations. The Canada Soccer Events Coordinator will provide the agenda and content for this meeting.
  
- 5.14 Following the meeting with the Provincial/Territorial Executive Director, or designate, team staff shall meet with their players and review these Regulations and expectations. Players are also to be informed of the procedures to follow, and who to contact, in the event of any problems during the competition

### **6. Provincial/Territorial Representatives**

- 6.1 Each Province/Territory participating in a Regional Masters competition must appoint a person to act as its Representative. The Provincial/Territorial Representative shall:
  - 6.1.1 Not be a member of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee, team staff, a player, or immediate family of a player/team staff in the competition regardless if he/she serves on the Provincial/Territorial Board or staff from the Provincial/Territorial Association;
  - 6.1.2 Stay at the host hotel, unless dispensation has been granted by Canada Soccer, but not share a hotel room with team staff members or players;
  - 6.1.3 Be present in the host venue for the entire duration of the Competition. They shall arrive with, or on the same day as, the first team and depart with, or after, their last team has left the host venue;



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- 6.1.4 Be approved by the Provincial/Territorial Association Board and hold enhanced police information check (E-PIC) Clearance. For this purpose, an E-PIC clearance must have been issued within 12 months of the start date for respective competition;
- 6.1.5 Be present at all Canada Soccer mandated meetings.  
This includes the information meeting held in the Province/Territory for staff of teams traveling to any Canada Soccer Regional Competition;
- 6.1.6 Attend, together with a team representative, the pre-competition meeting;
- 6.1.7 Attend all disciplinary hearings involving a player or staff member with one of his/her teams;
- 6.1.8 Attend daily meetings with the Match Commissioner during the competition;
- 6.1.9 Be responsible to the Match Commissioner for the communication of all matters relating to the teams. In this regard, the Provincial/Territorial Representative must be in possession of a cell phone that can operate in the host venue;
- 6.1.10 Ensure that all players and team staff adhere to the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics;
- 6.1.11 Participate on a Competition Discipline Committee if appointed by the Match Commissioner during the competition;
- 6.1.12 Attend all official functions of the competition and must be dressed appropriately as advised by the LOC;
- 6.1.13 Report all incidents of property damage by the team(s) involved to the Match Commissioner and to the LOC Chair.

### **7. Withdrawal, un-played matches, and abandoned matches**

- 7.1 All Participating Teams undertake to play all of their matches.
- 7.2 Any team failing to attend or withdrawing from a Regional Masters competition after the deadline shall be fined a minimum of \$2500 plus any associated expenses incurred by Canada Soccer and/or the LOC.
- 7.3 Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, Canada Soccer may impose additional sanctions, including the expulsion from subsequent competitions.
- 7.4 Where a match is not played, except in the case of force majeure recognised by Canada Soccer Organizing Committee, the Match Commissioner shall be presented with the facts. The Match Commissioner will determine if/when the match can be played and if any disciplinary action needs to be taken.
- 7.5 A team shall arrive at the venue for its scheduled match no later than fifty (50) minutes before the designated KO time. Failure to do so, without just cause, will result in the team being expelled from the remainder of the competition and all its scheduled matches declared null and void. The Provincial/Territorial Association in membership will be required to provide an explanation of the actions of its team to Canada Soccer, and may be subject to sanction.
- 7.6 Where a match is abandoned because of floodlight failure, weather, or any outside influence, and more than seventy percent (70%) of the match has been played, the result at the time of abandonment will be recorded as the final score. If the score is tied and the competition requires a result, the winner will be determined by the toss of a coin, which will be conducted by the Match Commissioner and the respective Provincial/Territorial Representatives.
- 7.7 Where a match is abandoned because of floodlight failure, weather, or any outside influence, and less than seventy percent (70%) of the match has been played, the match shall recommence with the



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same score at the minute at which play was interrupted. The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:

- 7.7.1 The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned;
- 7.7.2 No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
- 7.7.3 The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- 7.7.4 Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- 7.7.5 Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- 7.7.6 The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by the Match Commissioner in consultation with the LOC;
- 7.7.7 Any matters requiring further decision shall be dealt with by the Match Commissioner who may refer them to Canada Soccer Organizing Committee.

7.8 Where a match is abandoned because of floodlight failure, weather, or any outside influence on the final day of the competition, regardless of how much of the match has been played, the result at the time of abandonment will be recorded as the final score. If the score is tied the winner will be determined by the toss of a coin, which will be conducted by the Match Commissioner and the respective Provincial/Territorial Representatives.

7.9 Where match(es) are cancelled or cannot take place because of adverse weather conditions, Canada Soccer will determine the subsequent action and outcome of the competition. This decision will be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

7.10 Where a match is abandoned as a result of a discipline issue from one of the competing teams, the matter shall be reported to the Match Commissioner who will convene a disciplinary hearing to decide the appropriate course of action. On the final day such issues will be referred to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee for its action.

7.11 Where a team forfeits a match, it is considered to have a loss of 3-0, unless the goal difference on the pitch is greater than 3-0, in which case the score at the time of abandonment is upheld. The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may take further action as deemed appropriate.

### **8. Replacement Teams**

If a qualified team is unable to participate in the Regional Masters, Canada Soccer Competitions Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion.

### **9. Eligibility of Players**

9.1 Only players registered with an Association in Membership shall be eligible to compete in a Regional Masters competition. Each player shall be either:

- 9.1.1 A Canadian Citizen; or
- 9.1.2 A Permanent Resident (as defined by the Government of Canada);
- 9.1.3 A Protected Person (as defined by the Government of Canada).

9.2 The Match Commissioner may request proof of eligibility at any time. Failure to provide the proof will result in the player not being permitted to play. Proof of eligibility is as follows:



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- 9.2.1 Canadian Citizen – valid passport or birth certificate (or colour copy of birth certificate);
- 9.2.2 Permanent Resident – valid permanent resident card; or proof of permanent residency as provided by the Government of Canada;
- 9.2.3 Protected Person – documents as provided by the Government of Canada;
- 9.2.4 Provincial/Territorial Association photo ID card for both players and team staff.

9.3 The deadline for registration with the provincial/territorial association shall be July 31st of that competition year or earlier, as stipulated by the respective Provincial/Territorial Association.

9.4 The deadline for player transfers shall be July 31st of that competition year or earlier, as stipulated by the respective Provincial/Territorial Association.

9.5 Transfers shall be in writing, duly signed by the club and forwarded to the Provincial/Territorial Association where the player is currently registered for final approval. A player will be considered transferred once the transfer has been accepted by the receiving Provincial/Territorial Association.

9.6 A player moving from one Provincial/Territorial Association to another during the playing season must receive written clearance from the Provincial/Territorial Association with which he/she was last registered in order to be eligible.

9.7 Any player who registered with one Provincial/Territorial Association and then registers with another without the proper inter-provincial transfer will be ineligible to play in the Regional Masters for that calendar year.

9.8 All registered players must be assigned to the team by August 31st of that competition year or earlier, as stipulated by the respective Provincial/Territorial Association.

9.9 A team may not register additional players or have additional players assigned to the team after qualifying for a Regional Masters.

9.10 A team may request to call up additional players that are not assigned to the team, in accordance with Article 28.

9.11 Any player registered as a professional player will only be eligible to play when reinstated as an amateur player. Any player reinstated after July 31<sup>st</sup> shall not be eligible to play in the Regional Masters for that calendar year.

9.12 An amateur player who is registered and is listed on a match sheet with a professional team after July 31 in the current year shall not be eligible to play in any Regional Masters, except if the player has a trial permit to play a maximum of 2 sets of three (3) trial matches per outdoor season with any Professional Team provided a permit-to-play form, available from Provincial/Territorial Associations, has been duly completed and approved.

9.13 A player who is registered to an amateur club which has an amateur team participating in a Provincial/Territorial Semi-Professional league and who has been called up to play with said amateur team over the course of the season, shall be deemed eligible to participate in the Regional Masters.

9.14 Any player not meeting the required eligibility may apply, via their respective Provincial/Territorial Association, to the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee Eligibility Panel for an exemption. The decision of the Competitions Committee Eligibility Panel is final and not subject to





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appeal. The deadline for submitting the exemption request is July 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year or prior to qualifying for the Regional Masters, whichever comes earlier. Any exemption granted is only valid for the year in which it was issued.

### **10. Eligibility of Team Staff**

10.1 One member of the team staff must be the same gender as the team. This person can be a player/coach. This person must be at all matches and remain with the team until the end of the competition.

10.2 All staff listed on the team's online roster for teams participating in the Regional Masters competitions must be E-PIC cleared. For this purpose an E-PIC clearance must have been issued within 12 months of the start date for respective competition. One member of the team staff must have completed the CCES E-learning: True Sport Clean 101 and the Role of Athlete Support Personnel Course. A copy of the CCES certificate for each of the listed courses must be submitted with the Canada Soccer Online Team Roster.

### **11. Players and Official Delegation List**

11.1 Teams participating in a Regional Masters shall be required to provide the following information to Canada Soccer within seven (7) days of qualifying for a Regional Masters competition:

- 11.1.1 Name of the team;
- 11.1.2 A team list giving the full name of each player/team staff
- 11.1.3 Team Contact;
- 11.1.4 A list of sponsors that are on the team's playing uniforms.

11.2 Teams will be provided with a link to an online form to complete the Regional Masters requirements. The deadline to complete this requirement will be set by the Canada Soccer Events Coordinator.

The online requirements are:

Players: name, Date of Birth, passport style headshot, jersey number, position, player ID number and CCES Certificates, where applicable.

Coaches: name, Coaching Certification Number, headshot and CCES Certificates where required

Team Colours – Light and Dark plus Goalkeeper colours.

11.3 Teams participating in the Regional Masters competitions shall enter the names of players and team staff in the Canada Soccer Competitions online team roster. The online team roster shall be the final list and will have a maximum of twenty-five (25) players (a minimum of one (1) of whom shall be a goalkeeper) and a maximum of five (5) staff.

11.4 Once the online team roster has been completed by the team and the eligibility confirmed by the Provincial/Territorial Association on the Canada Soccer Competitions Website changes may only be made by the Canada Soccer Event Coordinator.



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11.5 Team staff and players who are indicated as present on the match sheet must occupy a position in the Technical Area unless dispensation has been granted by the Match Commissioner.

### 12 Match Sheets

12.1 Teams must fill out their preliminary team sheet on Canada Soccer's online competition management platform no later than two (2) hours before the start of each match, Changes to the team sheet can be made after filling this out; the final team sheet does not need to be submitted at this time, See 12.2 for rules for submitting the completed match sheet.

12.2 Teams must submit their completed match sheets through Canada Soccer's online competition platform no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Once submitted, the team roster is locked, and no changes will be permitted to the match sheet unless approved by the General Coordinator or designate.

12.3 Teams shall list a maximum of twenty (20) players and five (5) team staff on the match sheet. Teams must identify the goalkeeper and captain for each match.

12.4 Only the players who were identified on the official match sheet submitted to the Match Commissioner may start the match. In the case of any discrepancies of players on the pitch at the beginning of a match, the matter will be submitted to the Match Commissioner.

12.5 In Regional Masters competitions there will be unlimited substitutions. A player who has been substituted is eligible to re-enter.

12.6 The minimum number of players required to start a match is seven (7), one of whom must be the goalkeeper.

12.7 If a player, from a team with only seven (7) players, leaves the field of play to receive medical attention, the match will be suspended until this player has received treatment and is able to return to the field of play. If the player is unable to return, the match is abandoned and the team forfeits the match in accordance with Article 7.11. A report will be submitted by the Referee to the Match Commissioner.

12.8 If a player from a team with only seven (7) players is sent from the field of play for a disciplinary offence, the match is abandoned. The team causing the abandonment will forfeit the match and a report will be submitted by the Referee to the Match Commissioner. See Article 7.11.

12.9 Players serving a suspension are not permitted to sit in the technical area.

12.10 A team that is found guilty of fielding an ineligible player for any reason shall forfeit the match in accordance with Article 7.11.

12.11 The referee shall submit the Referee Report online immediately after the match.

### 13. Competition Format

13.1 The format for each competition shall be determined in advance by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee and set out in the championship schedule.



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13.2 Teams will be seeded on the basis of their Provincial/Territorial Associations team’s final standing in the previous year’s championship.

13.3 Host teams may be added at the discretion of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee in consultation with the Provincial/Territorial Association concerned. The host team shall be the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team from the Provincial/Territorial Association qualifying provincial championship. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team is unable to compete the hosting Provincial/Territorial Association may request permission from the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee to enter another team. The decision taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee will be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

13.4 When a host team is required at a Regional Masters competition, the team shall be seeded in last position and shall be eligible for medals. The seeding for the following year will exclude the host team.

**14. Duration of Play, Tie-Breaking, and Standings**

14.1 The duration of play and size of match ball shall be as follows:

AGE GROUP	REGULAR	EXTRA-TIME	SIZE OF FOOTBALL	HALF-TIME
Masters	2 x 40 minutes	No extra-time	5	10 minutes

14.2 Teams will be afforded a minimum thirty (30) minute warm-up period on the pitch before each match, subject to the condition of the field. If the pitch is not in good condition, or if the warm-up sessions would negatively affect the state of the pitch for the match, or if the pitch is to be used for ceremonies related to the Championship, Canada Soccer may shorten or cancel the warm-up session. The Match Commissioner will monitor this and teams abusing the privilege will be subject to sanction.

14.3 In Regional Masters competitions (or parts thereof) organized on a knock-out basis, all matches shall be played to a decision. If at the end of regulation time, the score is tied, kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the Laws of Game, will be used to determine a winner.

14.4 In a Regional Masters competition (or parts thereof) organized on a round-robin basis all matches shall be played to regulation time only.

14.5 Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a tie (including the taking of kicks from the penalty mark). Standings shall be determined by points won at the completion of the round robin.

14.6 In the third match of any three (3) team round robin, if the team not participating has zero points, has been suspended, or has withdrawn whether part or all of the championship, the match shall be played to a decision in accordance with this rule. In the event that the score is tied after regulation time, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the Laws of the Game will be used to determine the winner.

14.7 The following criteria shall be used to determine the final standings:

14.7.1 Most points in all group matches;

14.7.2 If two (2) teams are tied in points in all group matches:



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- 14.7.2.1 Greater number of points in matches between the teams concerned (head to head competition);
- 14.7.2.2 Greater goal difference in all group matches;
- 14.7.2.3 Greater number of goals scored in all group matches;
- 14.7.2.4 Kicks from the penalty mark as per the Laws of the Game, at a time and place decided by the Canada Soccer Match Commissioner.

14.8 Where kicks from the penalty mark are used for tie breaking (article 14.7.2.4) players under suspension are not eligible to participate; however this does not constitute the serving of any disciplinary suspension already awarded.

14.9 If three (3) or more teams are tied in points in all group matches the following are the only criteria to break the tie:

- 14.9.1 Greater goal difference in matches between the teams concerned (head to head competition);
- 14.9.2 Greater number of goals scored in all matches between the teams concerned;
- 14.9.3 Greater goal difference in all group matches;
- 14.9.4 Greater number of goals scored in all group matches;
- 14.9.5 Drawing of lots to determine ranking at a time and place decided by the Match Commissioner.

14.10 In a six (6) team Regional Masters competition, on the final day, all matches that are tied at the end of regulation time shall go directly to the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

### 15. Equipment

15.1 All teams shall have two (2) sets of numbered playing uniforms (one light and one dark).

15.2 Goalkeepers must wear playing uniforms that distinguish them from the other players and the match officials. Each team goalkeeper must have two (2) sets of jerseys, three (3) sets of separate and different colour socks and may have a third goalkeeper jersey which must be numbered in the same way.

Goalkeepers who are outfield players must dress the same as their team's players.

Teams must bring an additional Goalkeeper jersey with a number that is not allocated to any player.

All Teams must bring an additional light/dark jersey that has no number or a jersey with a number that is not allocated to any player in case blood cannot be removed from a jersey or a jersey is damaged beyond repair.

15.3 Canada Soccer will inform the teams of the colours that they shall wear for each match. Teams who fail to wear the assigned colours, without the approval of the Match Commissioner will be subject to sanction.

15.4 Teams shall bring both sets of playing uniforms to each match.

15.5 Undershirts must be the same colour of the main colour of the shirt sleeve; undershorts/tights must be the same colour as the main colour of the shorts or the lowest part of the shorts – players of the



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same team must wear the same colour. Players not complying will not be allowed to enter the field until the match officials are satisfied that the equipment conforms to the Laws of the Game.

15.6 Where tape or similar material is applied externally to a sock, it shall be the same colour as the part of the sock to which it is applied.

15.7 Players are not permitted to wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players. NO jewelry: that includes rings, bracelets (except medical alert bracelets — which must be either made of Velcro or similar soft material, or covered with a sweatband), earrings, necklaces, other visible body piercing, etc. The practice of taping jewelry is not acceptable.

### **16. Fields of Play, kick-off times, training sites, and facilities**

16.1 The selection of fields and kick-off times shall be proposed by the LOC and approved by Canada Soccer.

16.2 The fields of play, accessory equipment and all facilities for each match shall be in optimum condition. All goals shall be equipped with white goalposts, a white cross bar and goal nets. Matches may be played on natural grass or artificial surfaces. Artificial surfaces must be approved by the Canada Soccer. Where multi-purpose fields are proposed all other sport appurtenances are to be removed.

16.3 Matches may be played in daylight and under floodlight. Where matches are played at night the venue floodlighting installations must provide that the whole pitch is evenly lit. In the event that some or all of the match is required to be played under floodlit conditions the floodlights are to be switched on for team warm-up.

16.4 The LOC shall provide a training site for the teams. This should not be the same pitch as identified for the competition. Where the competition is played on artificial surface the competition pitch may be used for training prior to the opening match provided that adequate maintenance is provided after each training session. The training site should be within reasonable travel distance from the team hotel. It should be equipped with adequate changing and washroom facilities.

16.5 The LOC shall manage the training site allocation and training times on an equitable basis. The Match Commissioner shall rule on any disputes with that decision being final.

16.6 Where a time clock exists in an approved venue it may be run during the match provided that it can be stopped at the end of normal playing time at the end of each half.

16.7 Panels or electronic substitution boards, shall be provided by the LOC for use by the fourth official to indicate the substitution of players and the number of minutes of time allowed at the end of each half.

16.8 All venues used for competition play shall be free of any and all commercial activities and identifications (e.g. boards and signage) other than those approved by Canada Soccer from at least one (1) day prior to the opening match to the day following the final match on that field.

16.9 Smoking is not allowed in any of the competition areas including but not limited to the technical area, the vicinity of the field of play, or within the competition areas such as the dressing rooms.



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**17. Medical/Anti-Doping**

17.1 A player who receives any form of medical attention from any registered medical practitioner (i.e. Emergency Medical Technician or Doctor) during the competition, shall provide to the Match Commissioner a letter signed by the attending medical practitioner advising that the player can return to play.

17.2 The Canada Soccer Cast Policy shall apply. Any player wearing a cast is to be presented for inspection prior to the pre-competition meeting. Where a player intends to wear a brace or medical support the player and the brace or medical support is to be presented at the same time. The Supervisor of Officials will assess the player's eligibility to play in accordance with the Laws of the Game. This decision is final and binding for the whole competition.

17.3 Where a player sustains an injury during the competition that requires a cast, brace or medical support to be worn an inspection will be carried out by the Supervisor of Officials. The player shall also have a certificate from a medical practitioner advising that the player can return to play.

17.4 Canada Soccer has accepted and adopted the 2021 Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP) to protect the integrity of our sport, to safeguard the health of our athletes, to permit our elite athletes to participate in international competitions, to fulfill obligations imposed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), and to satisfy government policy that requires all financially supported sport organizations to have World Anti-Doping Code (Code) compliant anti-doping programs.

17.5 Administered by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES), the 2021 CADP is fully compliant with the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code and its associated International Standards. Athletes, including those participating in the Regional Masters, accept these rules as a condition of participation in sport and agree to be bound by these rules.

17.6 Participants registered for the Regional Masters must be aware that doping control may be conducted by the CCES in accordance with the CADP.

17.7 Canada Soccer requires that one member of the team staff for all Regional Masters has completed the CCES e-learning: True Sport Clean 101 and the Role of Athlete Support Personnel Course.

17.8 In addition, the team captain must have completed the CCES E-learning - True Sport Clean 101.

17.9 True Sport Clean 101 can be completed on the CCES website: <https://cces.ca/course-outline>

17.10 A copy of the CCES certificate of True Sport Clean 101 completion must be submitted with the online registration.

**18. Disciplinary Matters**

18.1 Disciplinary incidents are dealt with in compliance with the FIFA and Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code in force as well as any relevant FIFA Circulars or Directives with which Canada Soccer is required to comply.

18.2 Participating Teams and their delegation members agree to comply with the Laws of the Game, and with Canada Soccer By-laws, Rules and Regulations and Policies, in particular the Disciplinary



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Code, Anti-Doping Regulations, Code of Conduct and Ethics, as well any instructions or decisions that have any significance regarding the Regional Masters.

18.3 In addition the players agree to: respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence; behave accordingly; and refrain from doping as defined by the Anti-Doping Policy.

18.4 The Match Commissioner shall investigate any formal complaint or protest prior to laying any charges of misconduct and shall form a Competition Disciplinary Committee to conduct a hearing and take appropriate action if necessary.

18.5 The Canada Soccer Discipline Committee may, at its discretion, take action against any club/team/Province/Territorial Association whose players, team staff or spectators have been found guilty of misconduct and/or violence toward anyone present at a match and especially towards match officials.

Club/Team/Provincial/Territorial Associations may also be fined for offences committed by their supporters.

18.6 Canada Soccer Competitions Committee shall rule on any alleged breach of these Regulations by an individual or organization. Where Canada Soccer Competitions Committee finds, at its sole discretion, an individual or organization to have breached one or more of these Regulations, the specified penalty shall be applied. Canada Soccer will collect any financial sanction directly from the participating teams in accordance with the Participation Agreement. These decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.

18.7 Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may refer an individual, team or Provincial/Territorial Association, found in breach of the Regulations, to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee for further review.

18.8 Damage by a team member(s) to any property, other than his/her (their) own shall be the financial responsibility of, and dealt with equally, by the Provincial/Territorial Associations of the members involved in the incident causing the damage. All such incidents must be reported to the Match Commissioner. Sanctions may be imposed by Canada Soccer where appropriate.

18.9 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may refer all issues of misconduct, wilful damage, and bringing the match into disrepute by an individual, team, Provincial/Territorial Association to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee.

18.10 A player or member of team staff dismissed from a match during the Regional Championships, except in his/her team's final match of that competition, will receive, at minimum, an automatic one (1) match suspension. Including the automatic suspension incurred, additional disciplinary action shall be imposed as follows:

- 18.10.1 Breaching the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics  
File to be sent to Canada Soccer Ethics Committee.
- 18.10.2 Minor Infringements of the Laws of the Game  
As per the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code
- 18.10.3 Serious Infringements of Laws of the Game



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As per the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code. Discipline Hearing at the discretion of the Match Commissioner

18.10.4 Team Official dismissed from the technical area in accordance with the Laws of the Game

Team staff are subject to the jurisdiction of the referee. Team staff may be cautioned or ejected from the match and be dismissed from the technical area.

18.10.5 Misconduct against Match Officials

As per Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code.

18.10.6 Disorderliness at Match and Competitions

Expulsion from the competition; file to be sent to Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for further sanctions.

18.10.7 Team Misconduct

As per the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code

18.11 A player who receives a third caution during the Regional Masters shall receive a one-match suspension to be served in their next match.

18.12 A team official who receives a yellow card during a Regional Masters shall receive a one-match suspension to be served in their next match.

18.13 A player or member of team staff who is dismissed in the final match of the Regional Masters, a player who receives a third caution in the overall competition or a team official who receives a yellow card in the final match, will be referred to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee for sanction.

18.14 Fines levied by Canada Soccer must be paid within thirty (30) days after receiving written notification.

### 19. Disciplinary Hearings and Appeals

19.1 The Match Commissioner may, at his/her sole discretion, conduct a hearing for misbehaviour on or off the field of play. A Competition Discipline Committee shall be formed to conduct this hearing in accordance with the FIFA and Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code and Canada Soccer By-laws, Rules and Regulations and Policies.

19.2 The Match Commissioner shall establish and chair a Competition Discipline Committee to conduct a hearing and take appropriate action if necessary.

19.3 A Competition Discipline Committee shall include at least two (2) Provincial/Territorial Representatives.

19.4 Any decision taken by the Competition Discipline Committee shall be final as far as the competition is concerned but further disciplinary sanctions may be imposed by the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee.

19.5 Misconduct by players or team staff reported by the referee shall be dealt with by the Match Commissioner or a Competition Discipline Committee prior to the team's next match.





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19.6 When summoned to a hearing by the Match Commissioner a player or member of team staff reported for misconduct shall attend. The Provincial/Territorial Representative shall accompany the player or team staff to the hearing. In addition, the player or team staff may be accompanied by a team official.

19.7 Failure to attend a Discipline Hearing, after receiving written notification by the Match Commissioner to do so, shall result in immediate suspension until the player or team staff involved requests a further hearing in writing and appears at that subsequent hearing.

19.8 The Competition Discipline Committee shall hold a hearing into any allegation of misconduct off the field of play or bringing the match into disrepute. The Committee may take any disciplinary action it sees fit, including suspension for the remainder of the competition. Furthermore, it may refer the matter to the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee for review and disposition.

19.9 An appeal may be lodged with Canada Soccer Appeals Committee in accordance with Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, unless the disciplinary sanction pronounced is:

- 19.9.1 a warning;
- 19.9.2 a reprimand;
- 19.9.3 a suspension for fewer than three (3) matches or of up to two (2) months;
- 19.9.4 a decision passed in compliance with Canada Soccer Competition Regulations where such decisions are final and binding.

### 20. Protests

20.1 For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, facilities, and footballs.

20.2 Unless otherwise stipulated, any protest arising out of any match in a Canada Soccer Competition shall be made in writing to the Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the completion of the match. A protest fee of \$500 will be levied by Canada Soccer.

20.3 In all cases, the Competition Discipline Committee shall rule on the protest, including the disposition of the protest fee, prior to the commencement of the next day's matches. Any decision taken by this Committee on a protest shall be final and binding, as far as the competition is concerned.

20.4 If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Competition Disciplinary Committee may impose a sanction.

20.5 The referee's decision regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final. There can be no protests against a decision of the referees as outlined in the Laws of The Game.

20.6 Protests or challenges in respect to player eligibility not ruled upon, or requiring further investigation, will be dealt with by the appropriate Canada Soccer Committee and may result in the overall standings being amended.

20.7 After the completion of the Regional Masters, any protest in regards to player eligibility already ruled on by the Match Commissioner, will not change the results of the Competition.



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20.8 If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations is not met, such protests shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match in the respective Regional Masters competition has ended, no further protests under this article will be received.

### 21. Commercial Rights

21.1 Canada Soccer is the owner of all of the rights around the Regional Masters. These rights include among others, audiovisual and radio recording rights, reproduction and broadcast rights, multimedia rights, sponsorship, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as logo and emblems and rights arising under copyright law, whether currently existing or created in the future, subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.

21.2 The Canada Soccer logo and Regional Masters logo cannot be duplicated or manipulated by participating teams or the Local Organizing Committee.

21.3 Each participating team shall grant Canada Soccer the right to use the teams' names, logos, badges and marks in connection with their participation in the Regional Masters for marketing and promotional purposes. (Examples include: website, program, etc.)

21.4 Participating team playing uniforms (jerseys) may display the branding of team sponsors, to a maximum of two (2) sponsor brands per playing uniform. This includes any sponsor branding that may be embedded in a league logo.

21.5 The jersey manufacturer logo is exempt and does not count toward two sponsor brands.

21.6 The Sponsors whose brands are visible on participating team playing uniforms must have supported the team prior to qualification to the Regional Masters competition.

21.7 Participating Teams wearing a playing uniform which features a sponsor logo that has not been approved by Canada Soccer shall cover or remove the offending logo (the jersey manufacturer is exempt).

21.8 Teams will be permitted to display one (1) banner featuring team sponsor branding, provided the banner has been approved by Canada Soccer no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled start of the championship. The banner shall be no larger than 3' x 8' and must be displayed behind the team bench. The banner must not display any sponsor branding which conflicts with the Regional Masters sponsor categories. The banner must display the logo of the participating team which indicates the relationship between the sponsors and the team.

These signs cannot be a part of the Awards Ceremonies.

21.9 Teams displaying a sponsor banner which has not been approved by Canada Soccer will be subject to a fine. This rule does not apply to the display of Provincial/Territorial flags.

### 22. Refereeing

22.1 The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials, collectively referred to as "match officials", shall be appointed to the Regional Masters by the LOC working in conjunction with Canada Soccer and the Provincial/Territorial Association where the competition is held.



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- 22.2 Supervisor of Officials shall be appointed to each competition by Canada Soccer Referees Committee.
- 22.3 Match Officials shall be appointed to individual matches in the respective competitions on behalf of Canada Soccer Referee Committee by the Supervisor of Officials in venue.
- 22.4 The referee shall complete the online referee report at the playing venue immediately after the match. On the report form the referee shall note all occurrences of significance such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behaviour or misconduct by team officials or spectators and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.
- 22.5 The decision of Canada Soccer Referees Committee is final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- 22.6 Match Assessors, where appointed, must complete the online Incident Report Form for all matches.

**23. Laws of the Game**

Except where provided for in these Regulations all matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the Regional Masters and as laid down by the International Football Association Board. In accordance with IFAB direction, in case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the translations of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.

**24. Travel**

- 24.1 Teams participating in a Regional Masters Championship are required to make their own travel arrangements.
- 24.2 A Team shall be responsible for all costs incurred.
- 24.3 All teams are required to respect the deadlines as set out by the LOC as communicated in the information package.

**25. Accommodations**

- 25.1 Players and team staff shall not share hotel rooms.

**26. Trophies and Awards**

- 26.1 The medal winning teams will receive a maximum of thirty (30) medals.
- 26.2 An additional medal will be allocated to the teams for their Provincial/Territorial Representative.
- 26.3 In the event that a player/team official is dismissed in the championship final that player will NOT receive their medal during the awards ceremony
- 26.4 Where a player or team official is suspended from the championship final, that player/team official may receive his/her medal during the Awards Ceremonies providing that the period of suspension is



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completed at the end of the team's game. In the event that the player is serving a suspension that extends beyond the competition the player may NOT receive their medal during the awards ceremony. Where a player/team official is not permitted to participate in the Awards Ceremonies, they shall receive their medal at a later time.

26.5 All trophies presented to the winning teams at Regional Masters remain the property of Canada Soccer and must be returned by June 1 of the following year.

26.6 The Provincial/Territorial Representative will be required to sign a receipt for any trophy and shipping case which is won by one of its teams prior to leaving the competition.

26.7 The Provincial/Territorial Association shall insure the trophy while in its possession and be responsible for any costs for repair or restoration of either trophy and/or shipping case.

26.8 Where a trophy and/or shipping case is not returned, lost, or broken beyond repair, the Provincial/Territorial Association will be responsible for the replacement cost of the trophy.

**27. Official Functions**

27.1 All participants are required to attend all official functions associated with the championship. Anyone not in attendance may face disciplinary action at the discretion of Canada Soccer.

27.2 It is essential that Canada Soccer's good reputation be maintained at all times, and this can be ensured, in part, by maintaining high standards of behavior and adherence to the following minimum standards:

- Proper dress, as required by the LOC, is required at all official functions;
- Punctuality shall be required for all events.

27.3 The Provincial/Territorial Team Representative and a minimum of one (1) team staff shall attend the pre-competition meeting and any other meetings as required.

**28. Call-ups**

28.1 A Participating Team may request permission to call up players to participate who might not otherwise be eligible within the deadlines set below. This request must be in writing, to their respective Provincial/Territorial Association who will forward it to the Canada Soccer Events Coordinator. If approved, permission will be provided in writing. The appropriate team staff shall make this permission available to the Match Commissioner upon request.

28.2 Participating Teams may call-up a maximum of two (2) players to replace players already registered with the Team Roster who are unable to take part in the Regional Masters.

28.3 Call-up requests must be submitted on the appropriate form a minimum of 14 days prior to the start of the Canada Soccer Regional Masters.

28.4 The criterion for a player to be eligible for call-up will be as follows:

- 28.4.1 Call-ups must meet the age requirement outlined in Art 5 for the Regional Masters they are being called to play in.



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- 28.4.2 Call-ups must be registered with the Provincial/Territorial Association of the Participating Team requesting the call-up in accordance with Art 9 of these Regulations.
  - 28.4.3 Call-ups must come from the team's club system, if such a system is in place.
  - 28.4.4 Call-ups must not be cup tied. For the avoidance of doubt a player is cup tied where they have participated at the Provincial/Territorial or Regional Masters Competition leading to the winner qualifying for the respective Regional Masters.
  - 28.4.5 If the playing season is not over, a call-up must have written permission of the team/club for which they play.
  - 28.4.6 Call-ups may not be a nationally carded athlete.
- 28.5 Once a player has been replaced by a call-up, they cannot participate in a Regional Masters in the current year.
- 28.6 Where, after approval, a call-up player is injured and cannot compete in a Regional Masters, a Participating Team may seek to replace this player with another call-up providing that the Participating Team has not exhausted its maximum number of call-ups. A medical certificate must accompany this request. Subject to meeting the criteria outlined, the Chair of Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may, at their sole discretion, approve this call-up.
- 28.7 A Participating Team may request a goalkeeper call-up within the 14-day window referred to in Art 28.3. Subject to meeting the criteria outlined, the Chair of Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may, at their sole discretion, approve the call-up of a goalkeeper. The team must outline the reasons why the goalkeeper is unable to participate in its request.
- 28.8 Where a Participating Team has exhausted its maximum number of call-ups outlined in Art 28.2 a Participating Team may request one (1) additional call-up if the approved online team roster falls below the mandatory 15 player threshold. The team must provide in writing the reasons for the additional call-up. Subject to meeting the criteria outlined, the Chair of Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may, at their sole discretion, approve this call-up.
- 28.9 Regular registered team members who wish to play may not be replaced.
- 28.10 Decisions taken by Canada Soccer regarding call-ups are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

### **29. Breach of Regulations**

- 29.1 Where a breach of these Regulations occur the Match Commissioner shall complete a Breach of Regulation Form and submit it to Canada Soccer. A copy of the form will be provided to the team's Provincial/Territorial Representative who may submit mitigating circumstances to be considered by Canada Soccer Competitions Committee.
- 29.2 Canada Soccer has approved a schedule of fines which shall be levied by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee. This schedule is at Annex A.
- 29.3 Any decision taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee on a breach of regulations is final and binding and not subject to appeal.

These regulations were approved by Canada Soccer November 2021 and came into force immediately thereafter.



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Any previous versions of these regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to any matters that arose before these Regulations came into force.

General Secretary  
Ottawa 2022



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Annex A

**Approved Schedule of Fines for Breach of Regulations 2022**

Failure to submit the online team roster within seven (7) days of qualifying for the Regional Championship	\$500
Provincial/Territorial Representative not in attendance at Pre-Competition meeting or other meetings mandated by Canada Soccer	\$500 per meeting
Team Representative not in attendance at Pre-Competition meeting or other meetings mandated by Canada Soccer	\$500 per meeting
Failure of team or Provincial/Territorial Representative to attend all official functions	\$500 plus expenses
Failure to submit team information within seven (7) after qualifying for the Regional Masters	\$500
Failure to wear the assigned team colours	\$500
Failure to inform the Canada Soccer Events Coordinator and Host Province of travel schedule	\$500
Failure to have a second set of uniforms	\$500
Failure to have the alternate set of uniforms at the playing venue	\$500
Failure for a team to participate in a scheduled match without just cause	\$2,500 plus expenses.
Failure to return trophies by June 1	\$500
Failure of the Provincial/Territorial Representative to be present in the host location for the entire duration of the competition. They must arrive with, or on the same day as, the first team and depart with or after their last team.	\$500 - \$1000
Failure to attend Regional Masters competitions (Provinces/Territory withdrawing after the deadline)	\$2500 plus expenses
Failure to comply with requirements for team signs/banners	\$1,000
Failure to submit required information to the Canada Soccer office by the deadlines	\$500
Failure to submit the duly signed Participation Agreement to the Canada Soccer Events Coordinator seven (7) days prior to the start of the Regional Competition.	\$500
Submitting an incomplete match sheet	\$250 - \$500

Where no penalty is specified, a breach of the Regulations shall carry a penalty as follows:

- \*By a Provincial/Territorial Association – From a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$5,000 per breach plus any expenses incurred.
- \* By a Participating Team – From a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$2,000 per breach plus any expenses incurred.
- \* By an individual – From a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$1,000 per breach plus any expenses incurred.