



2026 REGULATIONS



**ORGANISERS
CANADA SOCCER**

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1. MEN'S TELUS CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1.1 Canada Soccer's TELUS Canadian Championship (in French, "Championnat canadien TELUS") is an official Competition owned and managed by Canada Soccer (hereinafter referred to as the "Competition").
- 1.2 The Men's TELUS Canadian Championship will be played annually as a knock-out Competition in accordance with these Regulations (hereinafter: "Regulations") between Clubs identified by Canada Soccer from time to time. The winner of the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship will advance to the Concacaf Champions Cup, subject to meeting the criteria set forth by Concacaf.
- 1.3 A Club participating in the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship (hereinafter: "Club") shall have only such rights in relation to the Competition (and any match in the Competition) as they are expressly granted to the Club under the Regulations or by Canada Soccer in writing.
- 1.4 Canada Soccer's Board of Directors shall have the power to make, delete and amend the Regulations for the organisation, control, and management of the Competition as it, from time to time, deems expedient, subject only to the authority of Canada Soccer's Board of Directors where such matters relate to financial or commercial matters.
- 1.5 These Regulations regulate the rights, duties, and responsibilities of all Clubs taking part in the Competition. All participants shall be bound by and comply with the Regulations (and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to the Competition).
- 1.6 *Canada Soccer By-laws, Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations, and 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 case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the translations of *Canada Soccer By-laws, Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code, Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations, and Policies*, the English version shall be authoritative.



- 1.7 By signing the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship Participation Agreement, all Clubs undertake to:
 - 1.7.1 Observe these Regulations;
 - 1.7.2 Acknowledge that failure to comply with any of the requirements within these Regulations shall render any organisation or individual subject to disciplinary procedures;
 - 1.7.3 Observe the principles of fair play.

2. PARTICIPATING CLUBS

- 2.1 Participation in the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship shall be open to Men's Professional Clubs in Membership of Canada Soccer as well as a representative from each of League1 Alberta (L1AB), League1 British Columbia (L1BC), League1 Ontario (L1ON), and Ligue1 Québec (L1QC). All Professional Clubs must hold a current, valid National 1 Club Licence and participate in a sanctioned league approved by the Canada Soccer Board of Directors. L1AB, L1BC, L1ON, and L1QC clubs must hold a current, valid National 2 Club Licence.
- 2.2 A reserve team, as defined in the *Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations*, is not eligible for participation in the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship.
- 2.3 The Canada Soccer Board of Directors may reject the application of any Club to participate in the Competition at its entire discretion.
- 2.4 If a Club is removed from the league in which it is playing, once it has been accepted into the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship, the Canada Soccer Board of Directors has the power to remove the Club from the Competition.
- 2.5 If any Club entering the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship, or at any time during the course of the Competition, becomes subject to any of the following insolvency events, the Club must notify the Canada Soccer Board of Directors immediately in writing:
 - 2.5.1 A manager, receiver or administrative receiver appointed in respect of that Club; or
 - 2.5.2 Any part of its undertaking or assets;
 - 2.5.3 An administration order made in respect of that Club;
 - 2.5.4 A winding up order made in respect of that Club;



- 2.5.5 Entering into any arrangement with its creditors or some part of them in respect of the payment of its debts or part thereof.

The Canada Soccer Board of Directors will (at its absolute discretion) then decide whether to allow that Club to continue to compete in the Competition.

3. ORGANISATION

- 3.1 All matches shall be organised by Canada Soccer, in conjunction with the participating Clubs, according to the Regulations provided herein.
- 3.2 Where deemed appropriate by Canada Soccer, Canada Soccer will determine matchups by conducting a Draw (hereinafter: "Draw"). A copy of the procedures for the Draw will be provided to Clubs in advance of any Draw.
- 3.3 The Preliminary Round of the Competition will be organised in a single knock-out format. The winner of each match advances to the next round. If, after the end of regulation time, the two teams involved in a Preliminary Round match are tied, the tie-breaker criteria will be determined as follows:
- 3.3.1 Extra time will be played, consisting of two 15-minute periods.
- 3.3.2 If extra time is required, there will be a five-minute break between the end of regular time and the start of extra time. The players must remain on the field of play during the five-minute break, at the discretion of the referee.
- 3.3.3 If the result is still tied after extra time, then penalties (penalty shoot-out) will take place as per the IFAB Laws of the Game and will be used to determine the winner.
- 3.3.4 A sixth substitute and an additional opportunity will be allowed in extra time.
- 3.4 The Quarter-Final and Semi-Final Rounds will be organised in a home-and-away series format with each series winner advancing to the next round. The team which scores the greater aggregate of goals in the two matches advances to the next round. If the aggregate goals between the two teams are equal at the end of regulation time of the second leg match, the tie-breaker criteria will be determined as follows:



- 3.4.1 Extra time will be played consisting of two 15-minute periods.
 - 3.4.2 If extra time is required, there will be a five-minute break between the end of regular time and the start of extra time. The players must remain on the field of play during the five-minute break, at the discretion of the referee.
 - 3.4.3 If the result is still tied after extra time, then penalties (penalty shoot-out) will take place as per the IFAB Laws of the Game and will be used to determine the winner.
 - 3.4.4 A sixth substitute and an additional opportunity will be allowed in extra time.
- 3.5 The Final Match of the Competition will be organised as a single match. The winner of the match shall be declared champion of the 2026 Men's TELUS Canadian Championship (hereinafter: "Champion"). If, after the end of regulation time, the two teams involved in the Final Match are tied, the tie breaker criteria will be determined as follows:
- 3.5.1 Extra time will be played, consisting of two 15-minute periods.
 - 3.5.2 If extra time is required, there will be a five-minute break between the end of regular time and the start of extra time. The players must remain on the field of play during the five-minute break, at the discretion of the referee.
 - 3.5.3 If the score is still tied after extra time, then penalties (penalty shoot-out) will take place as per the IFAB Laws of the Game and will be used to determine the winner.
 - 3.5.4 A sixth substitute and an additional opportunity will be allowed in extra time.
- 3.6 As a general rule, all Clubs shall have the duty to host a match when assigned hosting duties, on the date(s) on which they are assigned. Participating Clubs shall have the duty to take all reasonable measures to secure the use of their home venue (or alternate venue approved by Canada Soccer, where demonstrated venue availability or suitability challenges are presented) for matches in which they are assigned to host, on the date(s) in which they are assigned. Articles 3.6.1, 3.6.2, and 3.6.3 below outline, in general, the process for assigning hosting duties. From time to time, it may be necessary for Canada Soccer to reassign hosting duties within a matchup. Canada Soccer shall have the right to reassign hosting duties for any reason, including but not limited to, reasons of demonstrated venue availability or



suitability challenges experienced by a Club. As a general rule, the hosting duties for each match shall be determined as follows:

3.6.1 The Preliminary Round:

3.6.1.1 As a general rule, the higher-ranking Club in a matchup, as per the Canadian Championship Club Ranking Index, will host the match as the home team (hereinafter: “Home Club”).

3.6.1.2 Canada Soccer shall have the right to reassign hosting duties for any reason, including but not limited to, reasons of demonstrated venue availability challenges.

3.6.2 The Quarter-Final and Semi-Final Rounds

3.6.2.1 Each Club in a home-and-away series shall host one of the two matches.

3.6.2.2 As a general rule, the lower-ranking Club in a matchup, as per the Canadian Championship Club Ranking Index, will host the first leg of the series.

3.6.2.3 As a general rule, the higher-ranking Club in a matchup, as per the Canadian Championship Club Ranking Index, will host the second leg of the series.

3.6.2.4 Canada Soccer shall have the right to reassign the hosting duties for each leg for any reason, including but not limited to, reasons of demonstrated venue availability challenges.

3.6.3 The Final Match

3.6.3.1 The host of the Final Match shall be determined by a Draw conducted by Canada Soccer.

3.6.3.2 Canada Soccer shall have the right to reassign the hosting duties for the Final Match for any reason, including but not limited to, reasons of demonstrated stadium availability challenges.

3.7 The visiting Club (hereinafter: “Away Club”) shall arrive in the city in which the match will be played no later than the evening before the date that the match is due to be played, otherwise known as Match Day-1 (hereinafter: “MD-1”).

3.8 Representatives from both the Home Club and the Away Club will be required to attend a Match Coordination Meeting on the day of the match. Details of said meeting will be provided to each team no later than one week prior to the



date the match is due to be played. The Home Club will arrange a suitable meeting room in conjunction with Canada Soccer. At the discretion of Canada Soccer, the Match Coordination Meeting may be held virtually. In the event of a virtual Match Coordination Meeting, Canada Soccer is responsible for providing the link to the meeting.

- 3.9 Both Clubs shall arrive at the match venue no later than 90 minutes prior to kick off.
- 3.10 If the Home Club considers the pitch unfit for play, then Canada Soccer, the appointed Match Commissioner and/or General Coordinator (hereinafter: “Match Commissioner” and “General Coordinator”), the match officials, and the Away Club shall be informed no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time. If the Home Club fails to do this, it will be obliged to cover all the expenses incurred for travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.
- 3.11 If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the pitch once the Away Club and the match officials have already left for the match venue, the referee shall decide whether the pitch is playable or not. If the referee declares the pitch unplayable, the procedure to be followed is described in Article 3.13.7 below.
- 3.12 If the match is abandoned before the completion of regulation playing time because of extreme weather, or for reasons outside the control of the Home Club, the match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted.
- 3.13 The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:
 - 3.13.1 The match shall recommence with the same players on the field and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;
 - 3.13.2 No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
 - 3.13.3 Play shall be restarted for the reason play was stopped before the match was abandoned, e.g., goal kick, corner kick, etc. If the ball was in play when the referee stopped the match, play shall be restarted by a dropped ball using the procedure as outlined in the Laws of the Game.
 - 3.13.4 The Clubs will have the same number of substitution opportunities and the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
 - 3.13.5 Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;



- 3.13.6 Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- 3.13.7 The kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by Canada Soccer;
- 3.13.8 Any matters requiring further decision shall be dealt with by Canada Soccer.
- 3.14 The Champion of the Competition will be entitled to be referred to as the “Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship Champion”.
- 3.15 The Champion will be presented by Canada Soccer with the Competition’s trophy for its possession until 1 January 2027, unless Canada Soccer requests the return of the trophy sooner. The Champion will also receive 35 medals and prize money. Additional medals may be produced upon request and at the cost of the requesting Club.
- 3.16 Referees for the Final Match will receive commemorative medals.
- 3.17 Separate trophies or recognition pieces will be given to individual award winners.

4. WITHDRAWALS

- 4.1 Clubs having entered the Competition are obligated to play all their matches. After entering the Competition, a Club that fails to participate shall be penalised as specified below, except in unforeseen circumstances and cases of force majeure as determined by the Canada Soccer Organising Committee.
- 4.2 If a withdrawal takes place:
 - 4.2.1 After entering the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship, but on, or before, the day of the first match of the Competition a fine of \$5,000.00 shall be paid;
 - 4.2.2 Anytime during the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship, a fine of \$10,000.00 shall be paid;
 - 4.2.3 Anytime after the completion of the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship for the team which has qualified for the Concacaf Champions Cup, a fine of \$100,000.00 shall be paid.



- 4.3 If a team does not report for a match – except in cases of force majeure recognised by the Canada Soccer Organising Committee for the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship – or refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the team shall be considered as having lost and will be disqualified from the Competition. In addition to the fine in Article 4.2.2, the guilty Club shall be disqualified from participating in the next two editions of the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship.
- 4.4 Depending on circumstances and the decision of the Canada Soccer Organising Committee, a Club which withdraws at any stage of the Competition may be ordered to reimburse Canada Soccer and the opposing Club(s) any expenses they have already incurred as a result of their proposed involvement or non-involvement in the Competition and also pay compensation for any damages or losses arising from its withdrawal.
- 4.5 Penalties specified in Article 4.4 above will not be applied in cases of force majeure, as verified by the Canada Soccer Organising Committee.
- 4.6 Canada Soccer, as the governing body for soccer in Canada, shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and complied with.

5. CANADA SOCCER ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- 5.1 The Canada Soccer Organising Committee for the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship is responsible for the organisation of the Competition.
- 5.2 The Canada Soccer Organising Committee shall be responsible for, but not limited to:
 - 5.2.1 Supervising general preparations, deciding on the Competition format, any draws and forming groups that may be required;
 - 5.2.2 Approving stadia for the matches;
 - 5.2.3 Approving the dates, venues, and determining kick-off times;
 - 5.2.4 Where a match is abandoned, determining when and where the match will be resumed or replayed;
 - 5.2.5 Verifying that the requirements concerning the eligibility of players are met;
 - 5.2.6 Appointing the Match Commissioner(s), General Coordinator(s), marketing officer(s), media officer(s), match officials, and referee assessor(s);



- 5.2.7 Approving requests from the Home Club in respect of match-related events including but not limited to promotion, marketing, and match production;
 - 5.2.8 Dealing with breaches of the anti-doping regulations;
 - 5.2.9 Choosing the stipulated technical material;
 - 5.2.10 Reporting cases in relation to disciplinary action to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee;
 - 5.2.11 Judging protests and taking appropriate steps to verify their admissibility;
 - 5.2.12 Settling cases of force majeure;
 - 5.2.13 Dealing with any other aspect of the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations.
- 5.3 The Canada Soccer Organising Committee's decisions shall be final.

6. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 6.1 Clubs will be required to field their first team eligible roster players to compete in the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship, subject to the requirements outlined in Article 7.1.
- 6.2 All players must be registered with the Club (by way of the Competition Management Expert System (hereinafter: "COMET") and with the National Association (by way of Canada Connect), and eligible to play in any first or reserve team league match for the current playing season as per the FIFA transfer dates at the time of submission of each 23-player roster.
- 6.3 To be eligible to be considered as a Canadian player and meet the requirements of Article 7.1, a player must be a Canadian Citizen and/or hold a Canadian passport.
- 6.4 A maximum of six registered, Canadian academy players may be called up to the first team to play in the Competition. The Club must officially submit the request to Canada Soccer for approval explaining the rationale for the call up.
- 6.5 Clubs must submit their 35-player roster via COMET no later than seven days prior to the team's opening match in the Competition. This list is binding and must contain the names of a minimum of 20 players and no more than 35.



- 6.5.1 If the Competition roster does not include the maximum 35 players, then additional players may be added, provided the maximum of 35 players is not exceeded.
- 6.5.2 In addition, Clubs must submit their 23-player roster (with a minimum of 18), selected from their 35-player Competition roster via COMET and to their opponent no later than 48 hours prior to each match. This roster must be able to fulfil the requirements of Article 7.1.
- 6.6 No reinforcement players may be registered.
- 6.7 Players must hold a valid passport, national identity card or a current Provincial or nationally issued driver's license; otherwise, they will not be permitted to play. At the Match Coordination Meeting of each team's first match in the Competition, the identification documentation for all players listed on the 35-player roster, specified in Article 6.5 above, will be verified by Canada Soccer. At subsequent matches, player identification will be required for any player listed on the 35-player roster whose identification has not previously been verified by Canada Soccer. In the event of a virtual Match Coordination Meeting, the Match Commissioner and/or General Coordinator may arrange with the Clubs a separate time to conduct the passport checks. Alternatively, at the discretion of the Match Commissioner or General Coordinator, the passport check may be conducted virtually.
- 6.8 Once a player has had active time on the field for a club in the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship, that player may not appear for any other club for the duration of the Competition.

7. START LIST AND SUBSTITUTES

- 7.1 Each Club shall submit to the General Coordinator, via COMET, the final roster of 20 players for the match, from their list of 23 players as specified in Article 6.5 above, no later than 90 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.
- 7.1.1 At least three Canadian players, per Article 6.3 above, shall be listed as starters.
- 7.1.2 At least three U-23 Canadian players (for the 2026 Competition, born on or after 1 January 2003) shall be listed on the final roster. If listed as a starter, they will count towards the contingent listed in 7.1.1.
- 7.2 A maximum of nine substitutes may be nominated. A Club may, at its discretion, use up to a maximum of five of those nine substitutes. To reduce disruption to the match each team will have a maximum of three opportunities



- to make substitutions during the match. Substitutions may also be made at halftime and will not count towards the three opportunities. Substitutions can only be made when play is stopped for any reason, and the referee has given permission. Prior to the substitution being made, the Club must identify to the match officials the number of the player out and the player in, in accordance with the final roster. A player who has been replaced may take no further part in the match.
- 7.3 The Competition will use additional permanent concussion substitutions. Where a player suffers a concussion (or potential concussion) during a Competition Match, the Club is permitted to use one additional substitution in accordance with the relevant IFAB protocol (IFAB Article 3.2).
 - 7.4 If any of the 11 starting players submitted on the start list are not able to begin the match due to injury or illness, they may be replaced by any of the eligible substitutes as long as the General Coordinator is officially informed prior to kick-off. The General Coordinator will advise the referee and the opponents.
 - 7.5 Further to the above, any injured or ill player who is removed from the start list will no longer be eligible to take part in the match, must be listed as injured on the start list, and will be ineligible to play the match, and thus cannot be selected as a substitute at any time during the match. The replacement player may not be replaced on the bench by an additional player, and the quota of substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. Such a change to the start list will not reduce the number of official substitutions that may be made by a team during the match. In accordance with Law 3 of the IFAB Laws of the Game, up to a maximum of five substitutions may still be made.
 - 7.6 Although no longer eligible to be named as a substitute, the injured or ill player who was removed from the start list may be seated on the substitutes' bench, and if so, would then be subject to the referee's authority and also be eligible for doping control selection.
 - 7.7 Only the players who were identified on the start list submitted to the General Coordinator or were confirmed as a warm-up injury/illness replacement player, 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 Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee.
 - 7.8 No more than 18 people (nine officials and nine substitutes) shall be allowed in the technical area. The names of these officials must be indicated on the "Club Officials" form to be provided to the General Coordinator via COMET. A suspended player or official will not be allowed in the technical area.

Small, hand-held electronic or communication devices are permitted in the technical area if used for coaching/tactics or player welfare. Use of



unauthorised equipment or behaving in an inappropriate manner as a result of the use of electronic or communication equipment will be sanctioned in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

- 7.9 Any team found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match.

8. DURATION OF PLAY

- 8.1 Each match shall feature 90 minutes of regular playing time, comprising two periods of 45 minutes with an interval of 15 minutes in between.
- 8.2 Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e., after 45 and 90 minutes respectively.
- 8.3 At the end of each of the periods of regular playing time (45 and 90 minutes), the referee will indicate to the fourth official the number of minutes they have decided to allow for time lost. Each allowance for lost time shall be announced to the public by the fourth official using electronic display boards and by the Home Club's public address announcer.

9. STADIA, FIELD OF PLAY, and ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT

- 9.1 Each Club organising matches in the Competition shall ensure that the stadia and its facilities in which the matches shall take place fulfill FIFA requirements and comply with the standards of safety and security required for professional matches. In the event that the match is not played in the home venue of a Club, Canada Soccer may request verification of compliance from the Provincial Member Association where the match will be played. The fields of play and the ancillary equipment shall comply with the provisions stipulated in the IFAB Laws of the Game. The fields and the facilities shall be in optimum condition.
- 9.2 As a general rule, matches may only be played at the recognised home venue of the Home Club.
- 9.3 The matches of the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Only soccer-specific markings are permitted on the field of play. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for artificial turf or the International Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is provided by FIFA. Authorisation for such an exception must be requested from Canada Soccer at least 30 days prior to the match. In such cases, the Away Club must be permitted a minimum of two training sessions on the artificial surface prior to the match.



- 9.4 Clubs will be permitted a one-hour official training on MD-1 at the stadium. The Home Club is responsible for advising the Match Commissioner or General Coordinator no later than 48 hours prior to training if there is any doubt in the condition of the stadium field, which may affect training or the match. The Home Club shall make best efforts to accommodate any reasonable request for training time by the Away Club. Where a conflict cannot be resolved, the Match Commissioner or General Coordinator will decide on training times for both teams, which will be final and not subject to appeal.
- 9.5 The Home Club shall guarantee that the field of play complies with the IFAB Laws of the Game. This shall be subject to the approval of the General Coordinator and the appointed referee.
- 9.6 The match balls for the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship shall be supplied by the Home Club. The Home Club will provide the Away Club with 20 balls, similar to the ones to be used for the match, for practice at the official training on MD-1 and warm-up.

The multiple ball system (where more than one ball may be used in a match) is permitted. However, the referee may withdraw this privilege where they consider that the spirit of fair play is not being adopted in the use of the multiple ball system. All balls that may be used shall be provided to the referee one hour before kick-off time for inspection. A new, unused match ball will be provided by the Home Club to the referee for the start of each match.

- 9.7 All matches shall be played on grounds enabling matches to be played wholly under floodlight conditions, provided that the installation meets with the approval of the Canada Soccer Organising Committee.
- 9.8 Floodlights shall be switched on prior to the team warm-up.
- 9.9 Electronic substitute boards should be provided by the Home Club for the fourth official to display the substitutions and the minimum additional time allowed at the end of each half. If electronic boards are not available, the normal manual substitute boards should be used.

10. EQUIPMENT

- 10.1 A Club's equipment must comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game with the following modifications.
- 10.2 Uniform Colours – Clubs must communicate their preferred and alternate uniform colours to Canada Soccer, no later than 21 days prior to their opening



match in the Competition. Notice of uniform colours will be communicated to both Club managers one week prior to the match. Should a conflict arise onsite, the Home Club will change to their alternate colours. Both Clubs shall have a least two different uniforms for each goalkeeper.

- 10.3 Player Names – Players may be identified by means of their surname, an abbreviation, or a nickname on their shirts. The player's name shall correspond with the name on the players' list.
- 10.4 Sponsor Advertising – Clubs may wear the uniform they wear in their current league competitions. However, the advertising of tobacco or related products, cannabis or related products, hard liquor, or distilled spirits, as well as slogans of a political, religious, or racist nature, or for other causes that offend common decency, is prohibited.

11. PROTESTS

- 11.1 For 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, ancillary match equipment, eligibility of players, facilities, and footballs.
- 11.2 Protests shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner at the match not later than two hours after the match and followed up immediately with a full written report, including the original protest, to be sent to the Canada Soccer General Secretary.
- 11.3 Protests for reasons outlined in Article 11.4, 11.5 and 11.6 are subject to a fee in the amount of \$1,000.00 payable to Canada Soccer within seven days.
- 11.4 Protests against the eligibility of players chosen to take part in the match shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner no later than two hours after the match in question.
- 11.5 Subject to the conditions of Article 11.7 below, protests against any incidents that occur during a match shall be made in writing to the Match Commissioner at the match not later than two hours after the match in question.
- 11.6 Protests against the state of the pitch, the markings, the floodlights, the ancillary equipment (goals, etc.) or the match balls shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the official responsible for the Club lodging the protest and followed up in writing to the Match Commissioner no later than two hours after the match in question.



- 11.7 No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
- 11.8 If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the Final Match of the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship has ended, any protest described in this article shall be disregarded.
- 11.9 If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures.
- 11.10 Clubs may not bring disputes with Canada Soccer before a Court of Justice, and they shall undertake to submit any such disputes, without reservation, to the jurisdiction of the competent authority of Canada Soccer, Concacaf, and FIFA.

12. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 12.1 The Participating Clubs and their Delegation Members agree to comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game as well as the *Canada Soccer By-Laws*, *Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations*, the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code*, the Canada Soccer Professional Soccer Disciplinary Procedures & Annex the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, and the *Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics*.
- 12.2 Disciplinary incidents are dealt with in compliance with the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code* and the Canada Soccer Professional Soccer Disciplinary Procedures & Annex in force, as well as with all relevant circulars and directives, with which the participating clubs undertake to comply.
- 12.3 In cases of infringement of these Competition Regulations, misconduct, or unsporting behaviour on the part of the participating Clubs, their players, officers, and directors, or in any kind of incident, Canada Soccer's Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to:
- 12.3.1 Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, match officials, Clubs, Club officials or coaches;
- 12.3.2 Take action in accordance with the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code* and the Canada Soccer Professional Club Disciplinary Annex against any person or Club(s) which may violate the Competition Regulations, the IFAB Laws of the Game or the rules of fair play;



- 12.3.3 Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of Canada Soccer-organised tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
- 12.4 Where a player accumulates three cautions (yellow cards) during the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship, they will be automatically suspended from the Club's next match in the Competition. A fine of \$500.00 will also be levied against the player. The fine must be paid in full prior to the player participating in any subsequent Men's TELUS Canadian Championship matches. This is not subject to appeal. In accordance with Law 10, although players who receive a yellow card during both the match and during penalties (penalty shoot-out) are not sent off, yellow cards received during penalties (penalty shoot-out) do count towards caution accumulation.
- 12.5 Where a Club official accumulates two cautions (yellow cards) during the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship, they will be automatically suspended from the Club's next match in the Competition. A fine of \$500.00 will also be levied against the Club official. The fine must be paid in full prior to the Club official participating in any subsequent Men's TELUS Canadian Championship matches. This is not subject to appeal. In accordance with Law 10, although Club officials who receive a yellow card during both the match and during penalties (penalty shoot-out) are not sent off, yellow cards received during penalties (penalty shoot-out) do count towards caution accumulation.
- 12.6 The Final Match shall be exempt from automatic suspension arising from caution accumulation. A fine will be imposed in lieu of any suspension that may have been incurred.
- 12.7 Where a player is sent off (red card), the player will automatically receive the standard sanction for the offence, as outlined in the *Canada Soccer Professional Club Disciplinary Annex*.

Where a Club official is sent off (red card), the Club official will automatically receive the standard sanction for the offence, as outlined in the *Canada Soccer Professional Club Disciplinary Annex*.

- 12.8 The following terms apply to match suspensions issued in the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship:
- 12.8.1 Match suspensions issued in accordance with the standard sanctions indicated in the *Canada Soccer Professional Club Disciplinary Annex* are final and not subject to appeal;
- 12.8.2 Match suspensions automatically come into immediate effect, beginning with the Club's next match in this Competition;



- 12.8.3 Match suspensions will only be served in the Competition in which the offence was committed.
- 12.8.4 Should a player or Club official be unable to serve their match suspension in full in this Competition (i.e. their club is eliminated from the Competition before they are able to serve the full number of matches issued), the person will be fined \$250.00 for each unserved match remaining in their suspension. This is in addition to the standard fine issued for the offence.
- 12.9 In certain circumstances, a club, on behalf of its player or Club official, is entitled to submit a Claim following a send-off in a Men's TELUS Canadian Championship match. For detailed information regarding the submission process and requirements, please refer to the *Canada Soccer Professional Club Discipline Annex*.
- 12.10 Canada Soccer reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against a Club, player, or Club official, in accordance with one or more of the provisions under the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code*.
- 12.11 Breach of Regulations, misconduct, or unsporting behaviour on the part of Clubs or their officials, shall be reported by the Canada Soccer Organising Committee to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for application of such sanctions as it may deem appropriate.
- 12.12 Failure to meet hosting standards shall be reported by the Canada Soccer Organising Committee to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for application of such sanctions as it may deem appropriate.
- 12.13 All Clubs must strictly adhere to the official match countdown schedule as issued by Canada Soccer, including the designated times for leaving the locker room, the walkout, and readiness for the kick-off time. Sanctions for lateness shall be automatic and administered by the Canada Soccer Organising Committee. The Discipline Panel shall not be involved in these determinations.
- 12.13.1 For a first offence where the Club is more than 30 seconds late beyond the scheduled countdown, the Club will receive a warning letter. A second offence will result in a fine of \$250.00. Subsequent offences in the same Competition season shall increase by \$100.00 for each offence.
- 12.13.2 If a delay does not affect the scheduled kick-off time, Canada Soccer may issue a written warning in lieu of a fine.



- 12.14 When making a decision, the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee shall refer to the reports made by the match officials, referee assessor, Match Commissioner, and General Coordinator. It may also refer to reports from the technical delegate, other Canada Soccer officials present, television and video recordings. The latter may be used as evidence, but only as far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and shall not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play.
- 12.15 The Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee may convene a personal hearing in accordance with the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code* and the directive titled "Canada Soccer Process for Conducting Virtual Personal Hearings."
- 12.16 If a Club does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure, recognised by the Canada Soccer Organising Committee, or if it refuses to continue to play, or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the Club shall be considered to have lost the match.
- 12.17 If a match is abandoned due to withdrawal, the Club(s) refusing to complete the match shall be ineligible to participate in the next two editions of the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship.
- 12.18 Any other infringement of these Regulations, whether by players, match officials, Club officials, coaches or officers that are punishable by economic sanctions shall be reported to the Canada Soccer General Secretary for consideration by the Canada Soccer Board of Directors.
- 12.19 All economic sanctions administered must be paid by the appropriate Club no later than 48 hours prior to the Club's next match unless otherwise specified. Where this involves a financial penalty against an individual, and the payment has not been made within the timescale outlined in this paragraph, the individual will not be permitted to participate in the Competition until such payment has been received in full. The total amount of all fines will accrue to Canada Soccer.
- 12.20 An Appeals Committee shall hear appeals lodged against decisions passed by the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code* except when such decisions are final and binding.

13. MEDICAL AND DOPING CONTROL

- 13.1 Each Club must have a duly licensed medical professional (i.e., a doctor) as part of their official delegation. Such a doctor should be fully integrated and familiar with all medical aspects of the delegation. The match officials will refer to such Club doctor in all cases as required and necessary.



- 13.2 Canada Soccer will not be held liable for any injury sustained by any participating player. Equally, Canada Soccer will not be held liable for any incident (e.g. death) linked to any injury or health problems of any participating player.
- 13.3 Each Club will be responsible, throughout the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship, for providing health, travel and accident insurance coverage for all members of its delegation.
- 13.4 In regard to non-traumatic loss of consciousness during a match, the referee will assume sudden cardiac failure until proven otherwise. The hand signal is the right-hand fist against the chest. Such a signal will indicate to the Club doctor and the medical emergency team (stretcher team) to immediately institute comprehensive resuscitation that includes the use of a defibrillator (AED) and CPR. It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that a properly functioning AED is immediately available and that an ambulance is equipped with an access and egress plan.
- 13.5 During the match if there is a traumatic head injury and concussion to a player, and the player remains on the field of play, the referee will stop play. In these instances, the referee will signal (hand to the top of the head) to the Club doctor to enter the field to assess and manage the player. Up to three minutes should be sufficient time to make this assessment. Once the player has left the field of play, he must be given a Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) or similar test. It is the responsibility of the Club doctor to determine the player's ability to return to play.
- 13.6 Further to the above, in regard to traumatic head injury and concussion, full return to play after a previous concussion must include no signs or symptoms of the previous head injury as well as an acceptable Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) assessment.
- 13.7 Extreme weather conditions may warrant cooling breaks to be implemented during the course of a match in accordance with the protocols established by the FIFA Medical Committee and/or documented in the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual. Such breaks will be considered on a match-by-match basis. Responsibility for implementing and controlling cooling breaks resides with the referee.
- 13.8 Doping is defined as the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing the physical and/or mental condition of a player, with a view to improving his athletic and mental performance. It is prohibited.
- 13.9 The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) is empowered to arrange doping tests and to decide at which laboratories and who shall carry out the



- analysis. Every player in a Club, including substitute players, will be liable to undergo doping tests.
- 13.10 Canada Soccer reserves the right to arrange random doping tests at all the matches in the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship.
 - 13.11 Any player or Club that refuses to take a doping test, falsifies the result of a test, or attempts to do so, or is found guilty of having taken prohibited substances whether intentionally or not, will be referred to Canada Soccer.
 - 13.12 Any official who encourages or incites a player, either intentionally or through negligence, to commit such an infringement as stated in Article 13.11 above, will be referred to Canada Soccer.
 - 13.13 Reference is made to the FIFA Doping Control Regulations, which contain the list of prohibited substances and methods. Although legal in Canada, cannabis is recognised as an illegal substance for this purpose.
 - 13.14 If, in accordance with the FIFA Doping Guidelines, a player tests positive for using banned substances, he shall be immediately declared ineligible for further participation in the Competition and shall be referred to the Canada Soccer Board of Directors for further consideration.

14. REFEREEING

- 14.1 The match officials (referees, assistant referees and fourth officials) for the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship shall be appointed for each match by Canada Soccer and selected from the current FIFA International List(s) or the Canada Soccer National List of Match Officials. For the Final Match only, a reserve assistant referee will also be appointed.
- 14.2 Canada Soccer's decision on the appointment of match officials shall be final and not subject to appeal.
- 14.3 After each match, the referee shall electronically complete and sign the official referee report forms via COMET. The referee shall submit the reports to the General Coordinator immediately after the match via COMET. On the report form, the referee shall note all occurrences of significance, such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behaviour by supporters and/or by officials or any other person acting on behalf of a participating Club at the match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.



- 14.4 After each match, the Match Commissioner shall complete their designated official Canada Soccer report form and submit it to the General Coordinator via COMET.
- 14.5 In the event of any of the match officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated the two Clubs shall agree to a substitute, arranged by the General Coordinator and the referee assessor, providing one is available, who is currently eligible to officiate in a league equivalent to the lowest level of soccer in which either of the two Clubs participate.
- 14.6 The Club(s) responsible for the payment of fees and expenses of all match officials appointed by Canada Soccer to officiate in the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship are determined in accordance with the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship Financial Considerations (Article 18). The responsible Club(s) must pay the fees/expenses directly to Canada Soccer which will reimburse the officials accordingly.
- 14.7 In all rounds of the Competition, economy class airfares for the match officials will be payable by the responsible Club(s) determined in accordance with the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship Financial Considerations (Article 18). An allowance of \$0.55 per km will be allowed to all match officials who travel to and from the venue by private car. In the event of a match official being unable to reach their destination, going to or returning from a match, without staying at a hotel, they shall be reimbursed for their hotel accommodation, by the home Club, provided that the home Club has not made appropriate arrangements for accommodation. A receipted hotel account must be provided.
- 14.8 Claims shall be submitted by the match officials directly to Canada Soccer who will invoice the responsible Club(s), as determined by the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship Financial Considerations (Article 18), for the fees, air fares and expenses accordingly.
- 14.9 Scale of Fees to be paid to the match officials:

	Preliminary Round and Quarter-Final Round	Semi-Final Round	Final Match
Referee	\$1128.00	\$1730.00	\$1957.00
Each assistant referee	\$633.00	\$1251.00	\$1421.00
Fourth official	\$633.00	\$1251.00	\$1421.00
Reserve assistant referee for the Final Match	N/A	N/A	\$1421.00

15. IFAB LAWS OF THE GAME



- 15.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the start of the Competition and as laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB). In accordance with FIFA's direction, in case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the translations of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.

16. COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

- 16.1 Canada Soccer is the sole and exclusive owner, on a worldwide basis, of all commercial rights for the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship. These commercial rights shall include, but are not limited to, marketing, media, sponsorship, intellectual property, merchandise and licensing, and all other commercial rights and opportunities, whether currently existing or created in the future, subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.
- 16.2 Please refer to the document entitled *2026 Men's TELUS Canadian Championship Commercial, Media & Broadcast Rights* for further details.
- 16.3 The designated broadcast media rights holder will be responsible for establishing the broadcast distribution for the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship.
- 16.4 Radio rights for the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship will be provided to the club's existing primary league season radio broadcast rights holder. These rights do not extend to any other access without the express approval of Canada Soccer at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Should the Away Club wish to exercise these rights the Home Club shall make every effort to accommodate the request.

17. TICKETING

- 17.1 The right to retain revenues and the responsibility to disperse revenues from the sale of tickets to matches in the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship are outlined in the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship Financial Considerations (Article 18).
- 17.2 The Home Club shall provide up to 120 "Category 1" match tickets (or equivalent highest level of available stadium bowl seating) for Competition sponsors, printed with a \$0.00-dollar value, to be delivered to Canada Soccer no later than 10 days prior to the match day for which the tickets apply. Tickets may be allocated from various sections in Category 1 pricing; however, they must be provided in minimum blocks of 10.



- 17.3 The Home Club shall provide match tickets for youth programme participants (flag bearers and player escorts) and one accompanying adult per child (flag bearers, ball retrievers, and player escorts). Canada Soccer reserves the right to provide direction regarding the distribution method of youth programme tickets (but not the selection of participants), with such direction being provided no less than two weeks in advance of match day.
- 17.4 The Home Club shall arrange for the provision of a private suite or loge area for a minimum of 12 people for the use of the Competition National Sponsors. Where a suite or loge is not available, an alternative hospitality or premium ticket product must be provided for a minimum of 12 people. All accommodations must be confirmed no later than 10 days prior to the match day for which the hospitality tickets apply.
- 17.5 The Home Club shall provide:
 - 120 complimentary Category 1 match tickets for Competition sponsors
 - 10 complimentary Category 1 match tickets for Canada Soccer
 - 10 complimentary match tickets for the match officials for the Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final Round, and Semi-Final Round, and 12 complimentary match tickets for the Final Match
 - 30 complimentary match tickets for the Away Club

18. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 18.1 The Home Club in each match of the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship shall have the right to retain all revenues resulting from the sales of food and beverage, parking, and local Club merchandise.
- 18.2 Entry fees for each Participating Club are as follows:

League1 Alberta, League1 British Columbia, League1 Ontario, Ligue1 Québec	\$1,000.00
Canadian Premier League	\$3,000.00
Major League Soccer	\$5,000.00

Entry fees for Clubs to participate in the Men’s TELUS Canadian Championship are due at the time of signing the Participation Agreement.



- 18.3 Canada Soccer will be responsible for the following Competition-related expenses:
- Costs for the Match Commissioner, General Coordinator, marketing officer, and media officer;
 - Awards and medals;
 - Competition branding costs and associated rights;
 - Its own costs associated with press conference participation;
 - Costs to secure broadcast partnerships;
 - Prize money;
 - Fulfilment of national sponsor deliverables/activations;
 - Media backdrops and signage;
 - Perimeter field level signage;
 - Shipping costs associated with moving Competition materials between venues.
- 18.4 The Home Club is responsible for the following Competition-related expenses:
- All staging and in-venue expenses within their home venue, including match officials' fees and expenses (referee, two assistant referees, the fourth official and, when assigned, reserve assistant referee);
 - Meeting room expenses for the Match Coordination Meeting;
 - Costs associated with enabling broadcasting such as power supply, satellite uplink or equivalent, infrastructure, and security of equipment;
 - All promotional expenses, posters and local advertising which require approval of Canada Soccer;
 - Cost to provide a clean stadium for marketing rights;
 - Home Club delegation expenses (i.e. accommodation, ground transportation, training facility rental, etc.);
 - Disbursing Canada Soccer 10 % of the ticket revenues net of tax and building capital fees (CRF). Excluded from the ticket revenues are tickets issued under Articles 17.2, 17.3, 17.4 and 17.5;
 - Its own costs associated with press conference participation;
 - Insurance costs;
 - Storage of national sponsor or Canada Soccer field boards, promotional items, equipment, etc., where required;
 - Replacement of any lost or damaged items left in possession and care of the Home Club.
- 18.4.1 For single knockout rounds only, the Home Club is responsible for certain expenses of the Away Club for a maximum of 20 players and nine staff as follows:
- Meal expenses shall not to exceed \$160.00 CAD/per person/per day, before taxes and service fees;
 - The Home Club is responsible for a maximum of six meals per person to include at most MD-1 dinner, MD breakfast, MD lunch,



- MD pre-match snack, MD post-match dinner, and MD+1 breakfast;
- When fewer than three meals are required in a day (ex. MD-1 dinner and MD+1 breakfast), the Home Club is responsible for a per-meal rate as follows:
 - Breakfast - \$40.00 CAD per person before taxes and fees
 - Lunch - \$55.00 CAD per person before taxes and fees
 - Dinner - \$65.00 CAD per person before taxes and fees
 - Accommodation for a maximum of two nights and a maximum of 10 double rooms and nine single rooms. The nightly room rate must not exceed \$160.00/room before taxes and fees.
 - Transportation to and from the host city via the lowest available air or rail fare or the rental of one 56-passenger charter bus.
 - Should the Away Club not be traveling to and from their home market, the Home Club is responsible for:
 - The cost equivalent to traveling to/from the Away Club's home market OR;
 - The cost of traveling to/from an alternative city/cities in which the Away Club has just played or will play next, whichever cost is less;
 - The Away Club shall choose their preferred method of transportation.
 - In-market transportation
 - One 56-passenger charter bus for in-market transportation to include:
 - Transfers to and from the airport upon arrival and departure;
 - Transfer to and from the official training session on MD-1;
 - Transfers to and from the host stadium on the day of the match.

The Home Club must liaise with the Away Club in making these arrangements.

18.4.2 For rounds in which home-and-away series are played, the Home Club shall not be responsible for any expenses associated with the Away Club's meals, accommodation, or transportation.

18.5 The Away Club is responsible for the following Competition-related expenses:

18.5.1 For single knockout rounds, the Away Club is responsible for any of their own additional expenses incurred outside of the allowed expenses listed in Article 18.4.1;



- 18.5.2 For rounds in which a home-and-away series is played, the Away Club is responsible for any expenses associated with their own delegation's meals, accommodations, and in-market transportation, and for any other additional expenses incurred.
- 18.6 The Home Club will be responsible for disbursing Canada Soccer 10% of the ticket revenues net of tax and building capital fees (CRF). Excluded from the ticket revenues are tickets issued under Articles 17.2, 17.3, 17.4 and 17.5 in these Competition Regulations. The Home Club will retain the balance of the ticket revenue.
- 18.7 Where a match is abandoned and must be replayed in accordance with Article 3.11 or 3.12 of these Regulations, each Club will be responsible for its own expenses incurred in respect of the abandoned match and any subsequent costs related to the match being replayed in accordance with Article 3.13.6.
- 18.8 Any expenses other than those stipulated in these Regulations and explicitly outlined to be borne by Canada Soccer and/or the Clubs shall be borne by the relevant party incurring the expense.
- 18.9 The Clubs agree to share information for the purposes of a greater understanding of the Soccer Community. The information includes, but is not limited to, all details relating to gate receipts, attendance, customer contact information, promotional campaigns, and various expense contracts. Notwithstanding the above, any information restricted by law (Privacy Act) that is not shareable is not to be shared.
- 18.10 Within 60 days after the Final Match, the Clubs shall provide Canada Soccer with all financial and other information, as well as an unaudited financial statement, including a profit and loss statement with respect to the matches staged by them as the Home Club.

19. INSURANCE

- 19.1 Each Club shall secure and maintain, at its expense, comprehensive general liability insurance with an insurer of recognised international standing with minimum insuring limits of \$5,000,000 (five million) for each occurrence of bodily injury, property damage and financial losses arising out of any operations associated with the staging and hosting of the Competition. Such insurances shall be in broad form. Any losses of gross receipts and expenses incurred as a result of cancellation, abandonment, postponement, curtailment, or failure of the television transmission of the Competition will be the responsibility of the Home Club. Canada Soccer shall be included as an Additional Insured.



Note: Gross Receipts shall mean all income including sale of tickets and any value in kind provided.

- 19.2 Canada Soccer will not secure Cancellation Insurance for any of the matches in the TELUS Men's Canadian Championship.
- 19.3 Any value in kind which may be provided by Sponsors shall be adequately insured by the Clubs. All costs associated therewith shall be the sole responsibility of the respective Club.
- 19.4 The Home Club has an obligation to insure all Clubs, Canada Soccer-appointed staff, and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, and disease in consideration of the relevant regulations while at the Home Club venue.
- 19.5 All insurance policies which the Clubs shall be required to maintain shall be effective (at a minimum) from 30 days prior to the commencement of the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship opening round and remain in force until a minimum of 60 days after the conclusion of the Competition.
- 19.6 Canada Soccer may request copies of Certificates of Insurance prior to the commencement of the Men's TELUS Canadian Championship.

20. COPYRIGHT

- 20.1 The copyright of the fixtures and matches adopted by the Canada Soccer Board of Directors and drawn up in accordance with these Competition Regulations are the property of Canada Soccer.

These Regulations were approved by Canada Soccer on 5 January 2026 and came into force immediately thereafter.

Any previous versions of these regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis (with the necessary changes having been made) to any matters that arose before these Regulations came into force.

Kevin Blue
General Secretary & CEO

Ottawa, January 2026