



**PLAYER-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**CHAMPIONNAT DU PROGRAMME DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DES JOUEURS**

**REGULATIONS • RÈGLEMENTS**

**2026**



## Table of Contents

1. PLAYER-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CHAMPIONSHIP .....	2
2. CANADA SOCCER'S COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE .....	3
3. CANADA SOCCER'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE .....	4
4. LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE .....	5
5. PDP REPRESENTATIVES.....	5
6. PARTICIPATING CLUBS .....	6
7. WITHDRAWAL, UNPLAYED MATCHES, ABANDONED MATCHES .....	9
8. REPLACEMENT CLUBS .....	11
9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS .....	11
10. ELIGIBILITY OF TEAM OFFICIALS .....	14
11. TEAM DELEGATION LIST (PLAYERS & TEAM OFFICIALS).....	15
12. MATCH SHEETS.....	17
13. FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION.....	19
14. DURATION OF PLAY, STANDINGS & TIE-BREAKING CRITERIA .....	19
15. EQUIPMENT .....	21
16. FIELDS OF PLAY, KICK-OFF TIMES, TRAINING SITES, FACILITIES .....	23
17. MEDICAL MATTERS & ANTI-DOPING CONTROL .....	24
18. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS.....	25
19. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS AND APPEALS .....	27
20. PROTESTS .....	29
21. COMMERCIAL RIGHTS.....	30
22. REFEREEING .....	30
23. LAWS OF THE GAME .....	31
24. CALL-UP PLAYERS .....	31
25. TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION.....	33
26. TROPHIES AND AWARDS .....	34
27. OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS.....	35
28. BREACH OF REGULATIONS .....	36
29. ENFORCEMENT .....	36
 ANNEX A	
MINIMUM FINES FOR BREACH OF REGULATIONS.....	37

## **1. PLAYER-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

1.1 Canada Soccer's Player-Development Program Championship (in English "PDP Championship" or in French "Championnat PDJ") are competitions owned and managed by Canada Soccer.

1.2 The PDP Championship takes place annually and consists of the following four amateur divisions: Boys' PDP U-17 Cup; Girls' PDP U-17 Cup; Boys' PDP U-15 Cup; Girls' PDP U-15 Cup.

1.3 For the purposes of these Regulations for the PDP Championship (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations"), wherever duly noted, "PTSO" refers to Canada Soccer's Provincial and Territorial Soccer Organisations (also known as Canada Soccer's Provincial and Territorial Member Associations).

1.4 For each division of the 2026 PDP Championship, two Clubs from each PTSO that operates a standards-based league recognised by Canada Soccer as a part of the PDP network are eligible to participate, subject only to the declared qualifying competition 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 participating Clubs taking part in PDP Championship (hereinafter: "Club") and of the Local Organising Committee (hereinafter: "LOC") 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.

1.6.1 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.

1.6.2 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 shall take precedence.

1.6.3 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 Within the constraints of these Regulations, Canada Soccer, through its Organising Committee may address specific situations not otherwise covered in the Regulations, but only as necessary to meet the competition objectives of Canada Soccer.

1.8 Any rights that are not ceded by the Regulations for the PDP Championship to the LOC or any PTSO or Club shall remain with Canada Soccer.

1.9 The Club's selected players, coaches, and staff members accredited for the PDP Championship are collectively referenced as the Team Delegation List (hereinafter: "Team Delegation List"). For the purposes of these Regulations, a youth is any person under the age of 18 before the 1st of January of the current year for participating in the PDP Championship.

1.10 The playing season referenced in these Regulations shall be the one ending in the calendar year in which the PDP Championship will be played (for the 2026 PDP Championship, the 2025-26 and 2026 seasons)

1.11 On entering the PDP Championship, all Clubs automatically undertake to:

- 1.11.1 Observe these Regulations;
- 1.11.2 Sign the Club Participation Agreement and comply with the terms therein;
- 1.11.3 Acknowledge that failure to comply with any of the requirements within these Regulations shall render any organisation or individual subject to disciplinary procedures; and
- 1.11.4 Observe the principles of fair play and abide by all Safe Sport principles being enforced by Canada Soccer.

## **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. In addition to its overall responsibilities the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee has specific responsibilities for the PDP Championship including, but not limited to:

- 2.1.1 Replacing Clubs who have withdrawn from the PDP Championship;
- 2.1.2 Deciding on cases each PTSO or Clubs failing to adhere to the timelines and/or the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents;
- 2.1.3 Settling cases of force majeure; and
- 2.1.4 Dealing with any other aspect of the PDP Championship 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 PDP Championship are final and binding, unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

2.3 Each PTSO operating standards-based leagues recognised by Canada Soccer as a part of the Player-Development Program network have specific responsibilities for the PDP Championship including, but not limited to:

- 2.3.1 Determining its Clubs for participation in the PDP Championship;
- 2.3.2 Liaising with the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee and Development Department on all matters pertaining to the PDP Championship.

### **3. CANADA SOCCER ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

3.1 A Canada Soccer Organising Committee shall be appointed for each PDP Championship. It will consist of the appointed Match Commissioner, General Coordinator, Assistant General Coordinator, Supervisor of Officials, host Member Association Representative and/or the LOC Chair, and any other persons deemed necessary.

3.2 The Canada Soccer Organising 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 (hereinafter: “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 General Coordinator (hereinafter: “General Coordinator”) is responsible for all operational aspects related to the staging of the competition.

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

3.6 The Supervisor of Officials (hereinafter: “Supervisor of Officials”) is responsible for the overall management of referees, assistant referees and fourth officials (hereinafter: “Match Officials”) as well as the referee assessors. The Supervisor of Officials is appointed to each competition by Canada Soccer Referees Committee.

## **4. LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE (LOC)**

4.1 Canada Soccer appoints the hosts for the respective PDP Championship (hereinafter: “Host”).

4.2 The Host is responsible for organising, hosting, and staging the selected PDP Championship competition. The Member Association appointed as the Host shall serve as the LOC unless it is unable to do so, in which case it shall set up a 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. The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee requires Hosts to complete Concepts of Operations in accordance with the timelines approved by Canada Soccer.

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

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

## **5. PDP REPRESENTATIVES**

5.1 Each PTSO participating in a PDP Championship competition must appoint a person to act as its representative (hereinafter: “PDP Representative”). The PDP Representative will support their qualified teams throughout the competition, but they are not an active member of the teams.

5.1.1 Each PTSO may appoint up to two PDP Representatives for the 2026 PDP Championship;

5.1.2 Each PDP Representative must be actively involved in the delivery of the Player-Development Program within its Member Association;

5.1.3 One accreditation badge will be provided to each PDP Representative for the PDP Championship.

5.2 The PDP Representative must:

5.2.1 Not be a member of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee, Team Delegation List, or immediate family of a person on the Team Delegation List, even if they serve on the PTSO Board or staff from the PTSO;

5.2.2 Be approved by the PTSO 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;

- 5.2.3 Be in possession of a working cell phone for the duration of the competition so that they can be reached by the Match Commissioner; the phone must have any required applications installed to allow participation in group communication with the Match Commissioner and other PDP Representatives;
- 5.2.4 Stay at the Canada Soccer host hotel, or the hotel of one of their qualified teams, unless dispensation has been granted by Canada Soccer (but they will not share a hotel room with any members of the Club);
- 5.2.5 Be present in the host location for the entire duration of the PDP Championship. They must arrive with, or on the same day as, the first Club and depart with, or after, their last Club has left the host venue;
- 5.2.6 Be present at all Canada Soccer mandated meetings, including the pre-departure meeting for Club coaches and staff (hereinafter: "Team Officials") traveling to the PDP Championship;
- 5.2.7 Attend both the PDP Representatives Meeting as well as the Pre-Competition Meeting;
- 5.2.8 Attend all disciplinary hearings involving players or Club Officials with one of their Clubs;
- 5.2.9 Attend daily meetings with the Match Commissioner during the competition and be available to attend any other meetings called by the Match Commissioner;
- 5.2.10 Be responsible to the Match Commissioner for the communication of all matters relating to the Clubs, including requests from Canada Soccer related to the competition;
- 5.2.11 Ensure that all players and Team Officials adhere to the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics;
- 5.2.12 Ensure players and Team Officials wear their Canada Soccer accreditation badges in the appropriate zones;
- 5.2.13 Participate on a Competition Discipline Committee if appointed by the Match Commissioner during the competition;
- 5.2.14 Attend all official functions of the competition and must be dressed appropriately as advised by the LOC;
- 5.2.15 Report all incidents of property damage by the team(s) involved to the Match Commissioner and to the LOC Chair.

## **6. PARTICIPATING CLUBS**

6.1 Clubs may participate in the following four divisions of the 2026 PDP Championship, although they may not have more than one qualified team in any division as per Article 1.4:

## **Player-Development Program Championship**

### PDP U-17 Cup – Youth Boys and Girls

All players under 17 years of age before 1 January of the current year.

### PDP U-15 Cup – Youth Boys and Girls

All players under 15 years of age before 1 January of the current year.

### **Other Player-Development Program competitions**

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

6.2 Each PTSO operating a standards-based league must confirm their participation for entry in the respective divisions of the PDP Championship annually as determined by Canada Soccer. Each PTSO shall determine how Clubs qualify for the PDP Championship.

6.2.1 Each PTSO must provide Canada Soccer with an overview of each of their declared qualifying competitions (which includes all league and/or cup matches that may lead into the final qualifying stage for the PDP Championship). A general overview must be provided in a timely manner from the moment the PTSO declares for the upcoming PDP Championship (with further updates to the overview provided as they become available). The required details include:

6.2.1.1 Format and link to competition website;

6.2.1.2 Start date and end date;

6.2.1.3 List of all teams in all parts of league and/or cup matches (including final standings);

6.2.1.4 Total number of matches.

6.3 Each PTSO must advise Canada Soccer of its qualified Clubs immediately and, once determined, their provincial seeding. Each Club must meet the minimum Canada Soccer National Youth Club Licence requirement and the qualified team must participate in a standards-based league for that competition year to be eligible to participate in the PDP Championship.

6.4 On entering the PDP Championship, the Club automatically undertakes to:

6.4.1 Comply with the maximum number of players and Team Officials as defined in these Regulations;

6.4.2 Observe these Regulations and the principles of fair play;

6.4.3 Accept and obey all decisions taken by Canada Soccer and its officials under the terms of these Regulations;

6.4.4 Respect the deadlines as set by Canada Soccer and the LOC;

6.4.5 Participate in all matches of the respective PDP Championship in which the Club is scheduled to take part;

6.4.6 Accept all the arrangements relating to the respective PDP Championship made by Canada Soccer and the LOC;

- 6.4.7 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 PDP Championship; and
  - 6.4.8 Ensure the provision of adequate insurance to cover the Club and any other person carrying out duties on its behalf against all risks, including, but not limited to, injury, accident and travel.
- 6.5 In addition, each Club shall be responsible for:
- 6.5.1 The actions of its Club members including the Team Delegation List and spectators; they must take all precautions necessary to prevent anyone from threatening or assaulting any other person at matches, especially the Match Officials and volunteers;
  - 6.5.2 Paying for costs incurred not covered by the LOC during the course of its stay in the host venue;
  - 6.5.3 Attending official media activities when requested to do so; and
  - 6.5.4 Attending official meetings, PDP Representative meetings, disciplinary hearings, and other meetings called by Canada Soccer in-venue.
- 6.6 Qualified teams must be able to dress a minimum of 16 players to participate in a PDP Championship, including at least one goalkeeper. Clubs who fail to meet this minimum standard for any match will be subject to sanction.
- 6.6.1 Any Club that lists only one goalkeeper on their Team Delegation List must identify, to both their PTSO and Canada Soccer, at least one player who can serve as a backup goalkeeper in case the first goalkeeper is injured or suspended.
- 6.7 Each Club must be affiliated with its respective PTSO. Each Club's Team will be certified as eligible for the National Championships after their Team Delegation List has been approved by their PTSO. Only members of the Team Delegation List approved by the PTSO will be provided an accreditation badge for permission to enter any accredited areas.
- 6.8 No qualified team(s) may be replaced without the approval of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee (see Article 8).
- 6.9 Any PTSO or Club that withdraws after the deadline will be subject to sanction in accordance with Articles 7.2 and 7.3.
- 6.10 Members of the Team Delegation List cannot temporarily leave and return to the National Championships, without prior approval of the Match Commissioner. Depending on the reason for leaving, players may be required to submit a return-to-play form.
- 6.10.1 Any member of the Team Delegation List who wish to permanently leave the National Championships must notify the Match Commissioner prior to their departure, confirmed by the PTSO Representative.

6.10.2 A player who receives any medical attention during the National Championships will be required to provide the Match Commissioner with a return-to-play form signed by the registered medical practitioner who attended the player.

6.11 Once a PTSO has declared its Clubs and before departure to the PDP Championship, the Team Officials and PDP Representative must review these Regulations and attend a virtual preparation meeting where Canada Soccer will review expectations. Canada Soccer will provide the content for this meeting.

6.11.1 Following the Canada Soccer preparation meeting, Team Officials 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.

6.12 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may reject the participation of any PTSO, Club or the Club's qualified team at its entire discretion where the PTSO, Club or Club's qualified team fails to meet the criteria.

## **7. WITHDRAWAL, UN-PLAYED MATCHES, ABANDONED MATCHES**

7.1 All Clubs undertake to play all of their matches.

7.2 Any Clubs failing to attend or withdrawing from a PDP Championship competition after the deadline shall be fined a minimum of \$2,500 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 Organising 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 Club must arrive at the venue for its scheduled match no later than 50 minutes before the designated kick-off time.

7.5.1 Failure to do so, without just cause, may result in the Club forfeiting the game or expulsion from the competition and all its scheduled matches declared null and void. The PTSO will be required to provide an explanation of the actions of its Clubs 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 70 percent of the match has been played, the result at the time of abandonment will be recorded as the final score.

7.6.1 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 General Coordinator in the presence of the Match Commissioner and the respective PDP Representatives.

7.7 Where a match is abandoned because of floodlight failure, weather, or any outside influence, and less than 70 percent of the match has been played, the match shall recommence with the 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 Clubs 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; and

7.7.7 Any matters requiring further decision shall be dealt with by the Match Commissioner in consultation with members of the Canada Soccer Organising Committee as necessary.

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 General Coordinator in the presence of the Match Commissioner and the respective PDP Representatives.

7.9 Efforts should be made to ensure alternate venues are available in case of adverse weather conditions. Where match(es) is(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 Clubs, 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 Disciplinary Committee for its action.

7.11 Where a Club 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 CLUBS**

8.1 If a qualified Club is unable to participate, the PTSO will have the authority to name a replacement.

8.2 If a PTSO is unable to field a Club for a PDP Championship, a recommended solution will be made by representatives of the PTSO operating PDPs for approval by the Competitions Committee. Canada Soccer Competitions Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion.

## **9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

9.1 Only players registered with their PTSO shall be eligible to compete in the PDP Championship. All players must be eligible to participate in their PDP standards-based league which qualifies into the PDP Championship.

Player eligibility for the PDP Championship shall be dictated by the rules and regulations of the Player-Development Program in which the Club participates. For 2026, Canada Soccer's standards-based (PDP) youth leagues for both boys and girls include, but may not be limited to, the BC Soccer Premier League, the Alberta Player Development League, the Ontario Player-Development League, and the Première Ligue de Soccer Juvénile du Québec.

Each PTSO shall be responsible for validating rosters of participating Clubs and confirming eligibility of participating players.

In accordance with the *Canada Soccer Rules & Regulations*, any player that transfers from another country into Canada must obtain an International Transfer Certificate prior to registering and playing soccer in Canada. Likewise, any player that transfer from one PTSO into another PTSO must obtain an Inter-Provincial Transfer Certificate. Any player who competes in a declared qualifying competition before they have obtained, through their Club and PTSO, an International or Inter-Provincial transfer will not be eligible to compete in the 2026 PDP Championship.

9.2 The Match Commissioner may request proof of identity or eligibility at any time. Failure to provide the proof will result in the player not being permitted to play. A valid government-issued photo identification card may serve as proof of identity.

9.3 The deadline for registration with the PTSO shall be stipulated by the respective PTSO, but in all cases before 31 July 2026.

9.4 The deadline for player transfers shall be stipulated by the respective PTSO, but in all cases before 31 July 2026.

9.5 Transfers from a Club in one PTSO to a Club in another PTSO must be completed in writing, duly signed by the club and forwarded to the PTSO where the player is currently registered for final approval. A player will be considered transferred once the transfer has been accepted by the receiving PTSO and correctly marked with the player's registration in Canada Soccer's competitions platform (COMET).

9.5.1 Any player who had been registered with a Club in one PTSO and then registered with a Club in another PTSO without the proper inter-PTSO transfer will be ineligible to play in the 2026 PDP Championship.

9.6 All registered players must have been assigned to the team by the date stipulated by the PTSO, but in all cases by 31 July 2026.

9.7 A Club may not register additional players or have additional players assigned to the team beyond the PTSO deadlines as outlined in Article 9, with the exception of call-up players who may be assigned to the team in accordance with Article 24.

9.8 Any player registered as a professional player will only be eligible to play after they are reinstated as an amateur player. A player must be reinstated before 31 July 2026 if they wish to compete in the 2026 PDP Championship.

9.9 An amateur player who is registered and is listed on a match sheet with a Club in a Professional League, Member Association Professional or Pro/Am League (sometimes referenced as semi-professional, such as League1 Canada) before the completion of the declared qualifying competition is not eligible to compete in the 2026 PDP Championship, unless they have been listed as trial player under the following conditions in accordance with the *Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations*:

9.9.1 The amateur player registered to a Club that has an amateur team participating in a Pro/Am League (including leagues in League1 Canada) can play with that team in a Pro/Am League.

9.9.2 The amateur player registered to a Club has a 30-day trial permit to play a set of three trial matches with a different Club in Membership of a Member Association (such as a Pro/Am

League). An amateur player is limited to two trial permits per season with Clubs in Membership of a Member Association, but not with the same Club.

- 9.9.3 The amateur player has a 30-day trial permit to play a set of three trial matches with a Professional Club. The amateur player is allowed to play a maximum of two sets of three trial games per calendar year with any Professional Club in membership with Canada Soccer.
- 9.9.4 The amateur player has a development permit as outlined in the *Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations*.

In all cases, the permit-to-play form (available from Member Associations) must be submitted and approved by the PTSO. Each trial permit and/or development permit with a different Club must be correctly marked with the player's registration in Canada Soccer's competitions platform (COMET). A 30-day trial must be registered with both a start date and an end date.

The following chart may be referenced to understand player eligibility for the PDP Championship.

<b>Registered or Participated PDP League (2025-26 / 2026)</b>	<b>#PDP U-17 Cup</b>	<b>#PDP U-15 Cup</b>
Canadian Championship 2026 (appeared on a 2026 match sheet)	NO	NO
Professional Player in a Pro League	NO	NO
Amateur Player in a Pro League	NO	NO
Pro League (with a trial permit)	See Article 9	See Article 9
Pro League (with a development permit)	See Article 9	See Article 9
Member Association Pro League or Pro/Am League (including League1 Canada)	NO	NO
Member Association Pro League or Pro/Am League (maximum two 30-day trial permits during qualifying competition)	See Article 9	See Article 9
Amateur League (adult or youth competitive)	See Article 9	See Article 9
MLS NEXT (youth, any age)	NO	NO
National Development Centres (youth, any age)	See Article 9	See Article 9
#PDP U-18 League	NO	NO
#PDP U-17 League	YES	NO
#PDP U-16 League	See Article 9	NO
#PDP U-15 League	See Article 9	YES
#PDP U-14 League	See Article 9	See Article 9
#PDP U-13 League	See Article 9	See Article 9
Youth Competitive, at any age	See Article 9	See Article 9

9.10 A player who is registered and assigned to a Club's PDP team in a standards-based league is not eligible to participate at the youth National Championships in that same competition year.

9.10.1 Players who participate in a standards-based league as a trial player (sometimes referenced as a "guest" player) may still be eligible to participate at the youth National Championships (in accordance with the Regulations for the National Championships as well as the *Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations*).

## **10. ELIGIBILITY OF TEAM OFFICIALS**

10.1 Each Club must have at least two Team Officials (one of which must be a coach) identified as the same gender as the division in which the Club competes, be it a boys' youth division or a girls' youth division. One such Team Official must be present within the technical area for every match (the role cannot be filled by a player) and must remain with the Club for every day of the competition.

10.2 Each Club must have at least one Team Official that has completed the CCES E-learning requirements as mandated by the Canada Soccer. A copy of the CCES certificate for each of the required courses must be submitted through the competition platform along with the Team Delegation List.

10.3 All accredited Team Officials (coaches and staff) must have completed proper Background Screening within the last 12 months, as approved by the PTSO, including at minimum:

- 10.3.1 Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screen or Enhanced Police Information Check;
- 10.3.2 NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Module and/or Online Evaluation;
- 10.3.3 Respect in Sport Activity Leader Program;
- 10.3.4 NCCP Making Headway Module;
- 10.3.5 NCCP Emergency Action Planning Module;
- 10.3.6 NCCP Rule of Two Module.

10.4 Coaches are required to have the following active licences:

- 10.4.1 The Head Coach must have a current and valid Canada Soccer Youth Diploma, Canada Soccer National B Diploma, Canada Soccer B Diploma, or Concacaf B Diploma;
- 10.4.2 Additional coaches, including assistant coaches and goalkeeper coaches, must have a current and valid Canada Soccer C Diploma or Concacaf C Diploma.

10.5 Coaches may apply for dispensation if they do not meet the minimum coaching standards. Applications for dispensation must be made in writing by

the PTSO to the Canada Soccer Technical Department who shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion.

10.5.1A coach shall only be eligible for dispensation for one year.

10.6 The Canada Soccer Technical Department, at their discretion, may deny exemptions from any Club who has already been granted an exemption for this year's competition for another coach or for a different coach in prior year's competitions.

## **11. TEAM DELEGATION LIST (PLAYERS & OFFICIALS)**

Each PTSO will ensure that Canada Soccer can announce a Club's qualification to the National Championships on the day that the Club qualifies.

11.1 Within five days after the Club's qualification to the PDP Championship, the PTSO and Club will provide Canada Soccer with the following:

11.1.1 Club Contacts, specifically the name(s) and email(s) of the person(s) that will be responsible for registering the Team Delegation List on Canada Soccer's competitions platform (COMET);

11.1.2 Club President contact, specifically the name and email of the Club President;

11.1.3 An excel sheet (XL document) listing the Club's eligible players and staff from the declared qualifying competition, including all requested player information as identified in the XL document by Canada;

11.1.4 Pictured of at least two variations of the team uniform colours (hereinafter: "Team Kit") for outfield players as well as at least three variations of the Team Kit for goalkeepers (as outlined in Article 15 for Equipment).

11.2 Within 10 days after the Club's qualification, the Participating Club must complete the following requirements for participation in the PDP Championship:

11.2.1 complete Canada Soccer's Club Participation Agreement;

11.2.2 ensure that the Club's registered players from their qualifying competition have been added and linked to their "Club" on COMET for the PDP Championship, including each player's details and headshot image (Clubs must upload cropped headshots to COMET for each person in their potential Team Delegation List);

11.2.3 ensure that all Team Officials (coaches and staff) from their qualifying competition have been added and linked to their "Club" on COMET for the PDP Championship (Clubs must upload cropped headshots) and (when applicable) coaching certification number as well as CCES certification;

11.2.4 provide to the PTSO and Canada Soccer the team names (including leagues/divisions and age categories) for any teams or

reserve teams within the Club structure from which potential call-up players may be considered.

11.3 At 28 days before the Pre-Competition Meeting for the PDP Championship (Tuesday 28 July 2026), or within five days after the Club's qualification to the PDP Championship, the Club must:

- 11.3.1 Upload their Team Kit colours to their COMET Team page, as per Article 15;
- 11.3.2 Confirm approval of their sponsors list as well as use of sponsors on their Team Kits, as per Article 21;
- 11.3.3 Confirm approval of maximum one Club display banner, as per Article 21.

11.4 At 22 days before the Pre-Competition Meeting for the PDP Championship (by Monday 3 August 2026 at 15.00 of the Club's local time zone), or within five days after the Club's qualification to the PDP Championship, all Clubs must submit their Team Delegation List for the PDP Championship, specifically:

- 11.4.1 From the list of players linked to the "Club" on COMET, select a minimum of 16 players (including at least one goalkeeper) for their "Team" participating at the PDP Championship. Clubs can select maximum 20 players for the PDP Championship;
- 11.4.2 From the list of Team Officials linked to the "Club" on COMET, select minimum of two officials (including those from the same gender as the division in which their players are competing) with a maximum of six Team Officials for their qualified "Team" participating at the PDP Championship;

11.5 By 14 days before the Pre-Competition Meeting for the PDP Championship (by Tuesday 11 August 2026), or within seven days after a Club's qualification, each PTSO must approve the eligibility of the Team Delegation Lists submitted for the PDP Championship.

- 11.5.1 Each Club must also identify each player's official Team Kit Number for the PDP Championship so that the same Team Kit Number is worn by the same player across the entire week of the PDP Championship. Within the last 14 days before the PDP Championship, any and all changes may only be made with the approval of Canada Soccer.

11.6 Eligible players and Team Officials from the Team Delegation List who have received Canada Soccer accreditation badge and 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.

11.7 At the PDP Championship, all members of the Team Delegation List must wear their Canada Soccer accreditation badge starting from before arrival at all competition venues (including any official transportation to the stadiums and

fields). All members of the Team Delegation List must also wear their Canada Soccer accreditation badge to any official functions and within any official spaces, including those in and around all areas of the official team hotel or venue.

## 12. MATCH SHEETS

12.1 Clubs must submit their completed COMET Teamsheet (also known as their match sheet or starting lineup) through Canada Soccer's competitions platform no later than 45 minutes prior to the match's scheduled start time. Once submitted, the lineup is locked and no changes will be permitted to the match sheet unless approved by the General Coordinator or designate.

12.2 Clubs will list their players and Officials on the COMET Teamsheet including one starting goalkeeper and one starting captain).

12.3 Each Club will be provided six substitution slips per match which may be used in the following manner: one "Half-Time" slip which may be used only at half-time for an unlimited number of substitutions; five regular slips that may be used during regulation time for five substitutions (one substitution per slip), but not after the full-time whistle in matches to be decided by a penalty shootout.

12.3.1 Eligible players may re enter the match even after a previous exit through substitution but may not re-enter if they were substituted out with a suspected concussion.

12.4 In accordance with the Laws of the Game, each Club may also use a "Concussion" substitution slip. Each Club will be permitted to use a maximum of one "Concussion" substitution in a match, regardless of the number of substitutions already used in the match. When a "Concussion" substitution is used by one Club, the opposing Club has the option to use an additional substitution for any reason.

12.5 If any of the 11 starting players submitted on the COMET Teamsheet are not able to begin the match due to injury, illness or any reason whatsoever, they may be replaced by any of the eligible substitutes as long as the General Coordinator or Assistant General Coordinator is officially informed prior to kick-off. The General Coordinator or Assistant General Coordinator will advise the Match Officials; the Fourth Official will advise the opponent.

12.5.1 Further to the above, any player who is removed from the start list will no longer be eligible to take part in the match, and thus cannot be used as a substitute player at any time during the match. Such a change will not reduce the number of official substitutions that may be made by a Club during the match.

12.5.2 Although no longer eligible to be used as a substitute, the player who was removed from the start list must be seated on the

substitutes' bench unless medical attention is necessary. The player will be subject to the authority of the Match Officials and will be eligible for doping control selection.

- 12.5.3 If the Club believes a player should be removed from the starting lineup but would still like to feature the player later in the match, the Club may start the match without the player and then make the tactical decision to use one of their official substitutions after kick off.

12.6 Only the players who were identified on the official match sheet submitted through COMET (or submitted to the General Coordinator or Assistant 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 Match Commissioner.

12.7 The minimum number of players required to start a match is seven, one of whom must be a goalkeeper.

- 12.7.1 After a team starts the match with only seven players, if they are further reduced to less than seven players at any point for any reason including medical attention, the match will be suspended until the team fields seven players;
- 12.7.2 Within 30 minutes of the match being suspended, if the team is unable to proceed with seven players, the match is abandoned and the Club forfeits the match in accordance with Article 7.11. A report will be submitted by the referee to the Match Commissioner;
- 12.7.3 If a player from a Club with only seven players is sent from the field of play for a disciplinary offence, the match is abandoned. The Club causing the abandonment will forfeit the match and a report will be submitted by the referee to the Match Commissioner in accordance with Article 7.11.

12.8 Youth-aged players must serve their suspension by sitting in a designated position in the technical area by or on the team bench (the suspended player must wear a bib as determined by the General Coordinator). This designated position is subject to approval of the Match Officials.

- 12.8.1 Suspended persons, including those sitting in the technical area, may not take any part in the match, which includes any unwarranted engagement with Match Officials, opposing players, or Team Officials. Suspended persons remain subject to the authority of the Match Officials.

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

### **13. FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION**

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

13.2 For the 2026 PDP Championship, each PTSO will be ranked in each division based on their highest final ranking in that division from the 2025 PDP Championship.

2025 Boys' PDP U-17 Cup: ON QC AB BC  
2025 Girls' PDP U-17 Cup: ON BC QC AB  
2025 Boys' PDP U-15 Cup: ON QC BC AB  
2025 Girls' PDP U-15 Cup: QC ON BC AB

13.3 Clubs from the same PTSO will not be seeded in the same group for the round robin stage. In an eight-Club format with four Clubs in each group, the PTSO's "second" Club will be seeded into the opposite group of the "first" Club.

### **14. DURATION OF PLAY, STANDINGS & TIE-BREAKING CRITERIA**

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

<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>REGULATION TIME</b>	<b>HALF TIME</b>	<b>EXTRA TIME</b>	<b>SIZE OF FOOTBALL</b>
PDP U-17 Cup	2 x 40 minutes	10 minutes	No extra time	5
PDP U-15 Cup	2 x 35 minutes	10 minutes	No extra time	5

14.2 Teams may be provided a 30-minute warm-up period on the pitch before each match, subject to the schedule and condition of the pitch. The warm-up period will be monitored and any team abusing the privilege will be subject to sanction.

14.2.1 Canada Soccer may, for any reason related to the schedule or the condition of the pitch, adjust, shorten and/or cancel the warm-up period.

14.3 In a three-team group whereby each team plays each other once (total three matches with each team playing two matches), group standings will be determined on points accumulated. Any match in this group phase that is even after regulation time will head straight to a penalty shootout.

- 14.3.1 Three points will be awarded for a win (in regulation time), one point will be awarded to each team for a draw, and an additional point will be awarded for the winner of a penalty shootout;
  - 14.3.2 If teams are tied on points at the completion of the group phase, then the tie-breaking scenario outlined in 14.5 will be used to determine the group.
- 14.4 In a group with four or more teams whereby each team plays each other once, group standings will be determined on points accumulated. All matches in this group will be played to regulation time only.
- 14.4.1 Three points will be awarded for a win and one point will be awarded for a draw;
  - 14.4.2 If teams are tied on points at the completion of the round-robin group phase, then the tie-breaking scenario outlined in 14.5 will be used to determine the group standings.
- 14.5 In any group phase where each team plays each other once, the following tie-breaking criteria shall be used to determine standings:
- 14.5.1 If two teams are tied on points after all matches concerned, then:
    - 14.5.1.1 Greater number of points in the match between the teams concerned (head-to-head competition);
    - 14.5.1.2 Greater goal differential in all group matches (goals scored minus goals conceded);
    - 14.5.1.3 Greater number of goals scored in all group matches;
    - 14.5.1.4 Drawing of lots to determine ranking at a time and place decided by the Match Commissioner.
  - 14.5.2 If three or more teams are tied on points after all group matches, then only the following tie-breaking scenario will be used to rank those teams:
    - 14.5.2.1 Greater goal differential in matches concerned between the three (or more) teams tied on points (goals scored minus goals conceded);
    - 14.5.2.2 Greater number of goals scored in all matches concerned between the three (or more) teams;
    - 14.5.2.3 Greater goal differential in all group matches;
    - 14.5.2.4 Greater number of goals scored in all group matches;
    - 14.5.2.5 Drawing of lots to determine ranking at a time and place decided by the Match Commissioner.
- 14.6 In any other group format or parts of the PDP Championship whereby points will be used to determine standings or rankings, as long as those teams have played the same number of matches, then all results from the group, knockout and playoff matches will be counted.
- 14.6.1 In a group format where each team does not play each opponent in the round, any match that is even after regulation time will head straight to a penalty shootout.

- 14.6.2 In any scenario under this article, three points will be awarded for a win (in regulation time), one point will be awarded to each team for a draw, and an additional point will be awarded to the winner of a penalty shootout;
- 14.6.3 If teams are tied on points at the completion of the round, then the following tie-breaking scenario will be used to determine the ranking or standings:
  - 14.6.3.1 Greater goal differential in all matches (goals scored minus goals conceded);
  - 14.6.3.2 Greater number of goals scored in all matches;
  - 14.6.3.3 Most wins in regulation time across all matches (excluding the penalty shootout);
  - 14.6.3.4 Drawing of lots to determine ranking at a time and place decided by the Match Commissioner.
- 14.7 For any match that requires a penalty shootout, penalties will be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
  - 14.7.1 When penalties are required for a tie-breaking scenario, players under suspension are not eligible to participate. In such a case, the scenario does not constitute the serving of any disciplinary suspension already awarded.

## 15. EQUIPMENT

- 15.1 Each Club must have a minimum of two field player kits of different and contrasting colours that are also distinctly different from the goalkeeper kits.
  - 15.1.1 Large numbers on the back of each kit must be of contrasting colours, so a light shirt will have dark (or black) numbers while a dark shirt will have light (or white) numbers;
  - 15.1.2 Each player and goalkeeper shall be identified by the same number on all sets of Team Kits throughout the competition, including players who may play at both goalkeeper and outfield positions;
  - 15.1.3 All Clubs must bring both the “light” Team Kit and “dark” Team Kit to every match;
  - 15.1.4 All Clubs must bring at least two additional outfield shirts (one “light” and one “dark”) that either has no number or has a number not allocated to any players on the Team Delegation List (in case an outfield player unexpectedly needs to switch their shirt because of a blood and/or damage to the shirt).
- 15.2 Each Club must have a minimum three goalkeeper kit combinations featuring at least two different shirts that are distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as the field player kits outlined in Article 15.1. The three goalkeeper kit combinations must feature their own set of different sock colours.

- 15.2.1 A third goalkeeper shirt may be used, but must be numbered in the same way (as per Article 15.1.2);
- 15.2.2 Both the starting goalkeeper and substitute goalkeeper must wear the same colour Team Kit assigned for the match;
- 15.2.3 All Clubs must bring an additional goalkeeper shirt with a number that is not allocated to any player (in case an outfield player unexpectedly needs to switch to the goalkeeper position).

15.3 Canada Soccer will inform the Clubs of the colours that they shall wear for each match. Clubs who fail to wear the assigned colours, without the approval of the General Coordinator, will be subject to sanction.

- 15.3.1 Clubs who fail to wear the uniform number registered on the Team Delegation List without the approval of the General Coordinator will be subject to sanction.

15.4 During the match, substitutes must wear bibs of a different colour than the players on the pitch. Team Officials must also wear a colour different from the colours of the outfield players on the pitch.

15.5 Undershirts must be the same colour as 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 same Club must wear the same colour. Players who do not comply 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 a any material is applied or worn externally to a sock, it must be the same colour as that part of the sock to which it is applied or covers (unless it is clear tape).

15.7 Players are not permitted to wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players. This includes casts or braces made of hard materials. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry (not even if it has been covered with tape), including but not limited to rings, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, and any other visible body piercing. An exception will be made for medical alert bracelets which must be either made of Velcro or similar soft material or covered with a sweatband.

15.8 Canada Soccer will supply all qualified teams with the competition's official patches featuring the crest of the PDP Championship.

- 15.8.1 Clubs will affix the official patch to all sets of jerseys for outfield players and goalkeepers (patches are sent from Canada Soccer to each PTSO);
- 15.8.2 Each shirt must have a free zone located at the centre of the right-arm sleeve, measuring at least 9 cm high and 9 cm wide, completely free of any sponsors or brands;
- 15.8.3 Only the National Championships official patch will be affixed to that position on each shirt.

15.9 Each Club must bring the flag from their province or territory (6' x 3') to every match of the PDP Championship.

## **16. FIELDS OF PLAY, KICK-OFF TIMES, TRAINING SITES, AND FACILITIES**

16.1 The selection of fields and start times will be approved by Canada Soccer in consultation with the LOC.

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 Canada Soccer. Where multi-purpose fields are proposed, all other sport appurtenances shall 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. If some or all of the match is expected to be played under floodlight conditions, the floodlights should be switched on before the warmup period.

16.4 The LOC is responsible to provide a training site for the qualified teams. This training site may or may not be the same pitch as identified for official matches. 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. The training site 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 or General Coordinator shall rule on any disputes with their decision deemed final.

16.6 Clubs may, at their own expense, request additional training sessions through the LOC. Should a Club cancel a training session, they will be responsible for any cancelation costs incurred by Canada Soccer or the LOC.

16.7 If an approved venue has a time clock, the time clock should not show the time allowed (otherwise known as additional time) before the end of each half.

16.8 All venues used for the PDP Championship shall be free of any and all commercial activities and identifications (including boards and signage), other

than those approved by Canada Soccer, from at least one day prior to the opening match to the day following the final match on that field.

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

## **17. MEDICAL MATTERS & ANTI-DOPING CONTROL**

17.1 After receiving any form of medical attention from any registered medical practitioner (including an Emergency Medical Technician or Doctor) during the PDP Championship, a player must submit a “Return To Play” form that has been signed by the attending medical practitioner. The signed form must be approved by either the Match Commissioner or General Coordinator before the player is allowed any further participation at the PDP Championship.

17.2 A player wearing a cast, brace or medical support must have their cast, brace, medical support or equipment checked by the Supervisor of Officials (or their designate) before the Pre-Competition Meeting at the PDP Championship (or before their first match wearing the cast, brace or medical support). The Supervisor of Officials will determine the player’s eligibility to play in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The Supervisor of Official’s decision is final and binding for the whole PDP Championship.

17.2.1 Hard casts are considered dangerous and, as such, are not permitted for the PDP Championship;

17.2.2 A soft cast may be permitted as long as that cast does not present a danger to any individual on the pitch;

17.2.3 Modern protective equipment made of soft, lightweight, padded materials may be permitted as long as that equipment does not present a danger to any individual on the pitch;

17.2.4 Any player who uses a cast with the intent to intimidate or injure an opponent shall be sent off.

17.3 A player who, after an injury sustained at the National Championships, requires the use of a cast, brace, or medical support, that cast, brace, medical support or new equipment must be checked and approved by the Supervisor of Officials. The player must also submit a “Return to Play” form that has been signed by an attending medical practitioner.

17.4 All members of the Team Delegation List are subject to the rules of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (hereinafter: “CADP”), which protects the integrity of sport, safeguards the health of athletes, permits elite athletes to participate in international competitions, fulfills obligations imposed by FIFA, and satisfies government policy that requires all financially-supported sport organisations to have World Anti-Doping Code-compliant programs.

17.4.1 Athletes including those participating in the National Championships, accept the rules of the CADP as a condition of participation in sport and agree to be bound by these rules.

17.5 Each Club will ensure that at least one Team Official has completed the “True Sport Clean” (Untracked) course as delivered by the Canadian Centre of Ethics in Sport (hereinafter: “CCES”). Proof of education (such as a screenshot of the online certificate) must be submitted to Canada Soccer.

## **18. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

18.1 Canada Soccer will review all disciplinary incidents in compliance with the FIFA and Canada Soccer Disciplinary Codes as well as any relevant FIFA Circulars or Directives with which Canada Soccer is required to comply.

18.2 Clubs and members of their Team Delegation List agree to comply with: the Laws of the Game; Canada Soccer By-laws; Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations; Canada Soccer Policies, in particular the Disciplinary Code, Anti-Doping Regulations, Code of Conduct and Ethics, as well any instructions or decisions that have any significance regarding the PDP Championship.

18.2.1 In addition, members of each Team Delegation List agree to: respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence; behave accordingly; and refrain from doping as defined by the Anti-Doping Policy.

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

18.4 The Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee may, at its discretion, take action against any PTSO and/or Club whose players, Team Officials or spectators have been found guilty of misconduct and/or violence toward anyone present at a match, especially towards Match Officials.

18.4.1 A PTSO or Club may also be fined for offences committed by their supporters.

18.5 Canada Soccer Competitions Committee shall rule on any alleged breach of these Regulations by an individual or organisation. If the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee rules, at its sole discretion, that an individual or organisation has breached one or more of these Regulations, the specified penalty shall be applied. Canada Soccer will collect any financial sanction directly from the Member Association in accordance with the Participation Agreement. These decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.

18.6 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may refer an individual, team or Club and/or PTSO, found in breach of the Regulations, to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for further review.

18.7 Damage by any members of a Club to any property, other than their own, shall be the financial responsibility of, and dealt with equally, by the PTSO of the members involved in the incident and causing the damage. All such incidents must be reported to the Match Commissioner. Sanctions may be imposed by Canada Soccer where appropriate.

18.8 A youth-aged player at the PDP Championship shall not acquire, possess, purchase, or consume alcohol or any illegal drugs (nor shall any participant who is under the age of majority in the province where the PDP Championship is played). Sanctions will be applied to an individual, Club, and/or PTSO, found in breach of Regulation.

18.9 The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee may refer all issues of misconduct, wilful damage, and/or bringing the match into disrepute by an individual, Club and/or PTSO to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee.

18.10 A player or Team Official dismissed from a match during the PDP Championship, except in their Club's final match of the PDP Championship, will receive, at minimum, an automatic one-match suspension. Along with the automatic suspension incurred, additional disciplinary action shall be imposed as follows:

- 18.10.1 In breaching the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics, the file will be sent to Canada Soccer Ethics Committee;
- 18.10.2 For minor infringements of the Laws of the Game, action will be taken in accordance with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code;
- 18.10.3 For serious infringements of the Laws of the Game, action will be taken in accordance with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code and the Match Commissioner may conduct a disciplinary hearing;
- 18.10.4 For Team Officials dismissed from the technical area in accordance with the Laws of the Game, a minimum two-match suspension will be imposed;
- 18.10.5 For any misconduct against Match Officials, action will be taken in accordance with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code;
- 18.10.6 For disorderliness at the match and/or during the competition, expulsion from the National Championships and the file sent to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for further sanctions;
- 18.10.7 For team misconduct, action will be taken in accordance with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code.

18.11 Any player who accumulates a third caution during the PDP Championship shall receive a one-match suspension. The suspension will be served in their Club's next competitive match, be it their next PDP Championship

match or as directed by the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee in accordance with Article 18.14.

18.12 Any Team Official who accumulates a second caution during the PDP Championship shall receive a one-match suspension. The suspension will be served in their Club's next competitive match, be it the next National Championships match or as directed by the Canada Soccer Discipline Committee in accordance with Article 18.14..

18.13 When a Team Official receives a suspension during the National Championships, the Team Official will be suspended from all divisions of the National Championships until the suspension is served, yet only the matches in the division where the suspension was given will count as matches served.

18.14 Any member of the Team Delegation List with an outstanding suspension, whether they were dismissed in their Club's final match of the PDP Championship or were serving a suspension through accumulation of cautions, will be referred to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for sanction.

18.15 Fines levied by Canada Soccer must be paid within 30 days after receiving written notification.

## **19. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS AND APPEALS**

19.1 The Match Commissioner may, at their 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 Codes 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 (referenced in these Regulations as a "Competition Discipline Committee").

19.3 A Competition Discipline Committee that hears the complaint shall have a minimum of three members, one of whom will be the Match Commissioner who serves as the chair. As per the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code*, the Committee may appoint a non-voting recording secretary to attend the hearing.

19.4 The Competition Discipline Committee may 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 if it sees fit, including suspension for the remainder of the competition. Furthermore, it may refer the matter to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee for review and disposition.

19.4.1 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 Disciplinary Committee.

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

19.6 When summoned to a hearing by the Match Commissioner, any player or Team Official reported for misconduct must attend the hearing. The PDP Representative shall accompany the accused person to the hearing (and they may be accompanied by a Team Official).

19.6.1 At the discretion of the Match Commissioner, the accused person may appoint a representative to attend the hearing on their behalf. Anyone representing an accused person must provide a signed proxy from the accused before being allowed to participate at a hearing.

19.7 The hearing must be held behind closed doors and shall proceed as follows, although the chair may adjust the sequence of these actions.

19.7.1 The chair shall read the complaint and clearly state the charge;

19.7.2 The author of the complaint (if present) shall be given an opportunity to comment on or to add any qualifications to the complaint;

19.7.3 The accused person shall be allowed to ask relevant questions to the complainant (if present) and to make submissions and/or statements on their own behalf;

19.7.4 Committee members may question the complainant and the accused, as well as any witnesses invited to participate by either the complainant or the accused;

19.7.5 The complainant and the accused will be invited to make summary statements before withdrawing;

19.7.6 The Committee shall consider the evidence presented and decide the case before the accused person's next match in the competition.

19.8 Failure to appear at a disciplinary hearing when due written notice has been given will result in suspension of the accused person until they request a further hearing in writing and then appear at that subsequent hearing.

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 matches or of up to two months; or
- 19.9.4 a decision passed in compliance with these 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 or the General Coordinator within two hours post the match report having been finalized online. A protest fee of \$500 will be levied by Canada Soccer.

20.3 In all cases, the Competition Discipline Committee must 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 Discipline Committee may impose a sanction.

20.5 The referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, including but not limited to the result of the match or even a decision as to whether a goal was scored, are final and binding. Protests can not be made against decisions made by 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 PDP Championship, any protest in regards to player eligibility already ruled on by the Match Commissioner, will not change the results of the competition.

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 division of the PDP Championship 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 PDP Championship. 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 as well as any logos of the PDP Championship cannot be duplicated or manipulated by Clubs or the LOC

21.3 Each Club shall grant Canada Soccer the right to use the Club's names, logos, badges and marks in connection with their participation in the National Championships for marketing and promotional purposes (including website, programs, etc.)

21.4 Each Club's playing and/or warmup shirts from the Team Kit may display the branding of Club sponsors, albeit with a maximum of four sponsor brands per Team Kit (with a maximum of two sponsors per side). This rule includes any sponsor branding that may be embedded in a league logo. The jersey manufacturer logo is exempt from this rule.

21.4.1 Any Clubs that feature sponsors not approved by Canada Soccer will have to have those sponsors either covered or removed.

21.5 Clubs are permitted to display one banner provided the banner has been approved by the Canada Soccer Business Development Department. The banner shall be no larger than 3' x 8', may feature Club sponsor branding, and must be displayed behind the team bench.

21.5.1 The Club's banner must not display any sponsor branding which conflicts with the sponsor categories of the PDP Championship. The banner must display the logo of the Club which indicates the relationship between the Club and its sponsors;

21.5.2 The Club's banner cannot be displayed during the walkout, match protocol or any events like the Awards Ceremonies;

21.5.3 Any Clubs displaying a sponsor banner which has not been approved by Canada Soccer will be subject to a fine

## **22. REFEREEING**

22.1 The Match Officials shall be appointed to the National Championships by Canada Soccer working in conjunction with the LOC and PTSO.

22.2 Match Officials shall be appointed to individual matches in the respective competitions on behalf of the Canada Soccer Referees Committee by the Supervisor of Officials in venue.

22.3 The referee must complete their report through the Canada Soccer competitions platform (COMET) at the playing venue immediately after the match. The report will be complete once the match has been set to "Played". On the report form, the referee must note all occurrences of significance including goals, 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.

22.4 The decision of Canada Soccer Referees Committee is final and binding and not subject to appeal.

22.5 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 PDP Championship 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. CALL-UP PLAYERS, RETURNING PLAYERS & LATE INJURY REPLACEMENTS**

24.1 Club may request permission to call up (or pick up) players who might not otherwise be eligible within the deadlines set below. These requests must be submitted in writing on the appropriate form to their respective PTSO. Regardless of the decisions taken by the PTSO or the Canada Soccer Call-Up Panel, the final Team Delegation List must be separately approved by Canada Soccer.

24.1.1 A Club may only call up a player who is eligible to participate in a PTSO's PDP standards-based league as outlined in Article 9.1.

24.2 Clubs may call up a maximum of three players to replace unavailable players already registered with the Club but who are unable to take part in the PDP Championship. Players called up from the Club's approved team(s), as submitted to Canada Soccer when the Club qualified, may be approved by the

PTSO in accordance with the competition Regulations. The PTSO must confirm any call-up requests to Canada Soccer when the Team Delegation List is submitted on COMET.

24.2.1 Initial Call-up requests must be submitted to the PTSO a minimum of 21 days prior to the start of the PDP Championship (Wednesday 5 August 2026). The Canada Soccer Call-Up Panel will meet on select dates before the PDP Championship to consider any requests that can't be approved by the PTSO, including players that may need to be called up (or picked up) from a team not approved by Canada Soccer at the time of the Club's qualification to the PDP Championship.

24.3 Clubs may call back returning players who helped the Club qualify for the National Championships but afterwards registered with or transferred to a new Club during or after the 2025-26 / 2026 season. The qualified Club must have written permission from the player's new Club and PTSO in order to include the player in their Team Delegation List for the 2026 PDP Championship. The returning player must be registered as "Additional Eligibility" in COMET with both a start date and end date.

24.4 Under extraordinary circumstances, Clubs may request permission to replace one player from the Team Delegation List who is injured within the last seven to 21 days before the PDP Championship (specifically injured between 5-18 August 2026). The PTSO must provide written confirmation of the date of the player's injury accompanied by a medical certificate that confirms the player's injury.

24.4.1 Late injury replacements for the 2026 PDP Championship must be confirmed in writing by Tuesday 18 August 2026 at 15.00 (the team's local time).

24.5 Under special circumstances, a Club may request a call-up goalkeeper within the last 21 days prior to the start of the PDP Championship for either a reason other than an injury or because of an injury sustained after 5 August 2026. This special request may be approved by the Chair of the Competitions Committee.

24.6 The criteria for a player to be eligible for a call-up request or late injury replacement request will be as follows:

24.6.1 Players must meet the age requirement outlined in Article 6 for the respective division of the PDP Championship in which they are competing;

24.6.2 Players must come from the Club's approved team(s), if such teams are in place;

24.6.3 Call-up players can not be selected from a team that has also qualified for another division of the PDP Championship taking place at the same time;

- 24.6.4 Players may start the 2026-27 season with a new Club and still participate at the 2026 PDP Championship with the Club in which they qualified during the 2025-26 or 2026 season (in which case this call-up player must have written permission from their new Club, as approved by the PTSO);
- 24.6.5 Call-up players and late injury replacements must come from a lower level in the same age category or from the same competitive level in a younger age category;
- 24.6.6 Call-up players and late injury replacements must not come from a higher level, including but not limited to those players currently enrolled with Canada Soccer's National Development Centres or identified as nationally-carded athletes;
- 24.6.7 Players who have registered in an older age group can not be selected to play in their own age group (as an example, a U-15 aged player registered on a PDP U-16 or PDP U-17 team is not eligible to participate in the PDP U-15 Cup).

24.7 Once a registered player has been replaced by a call-up player, the replaced player can not participate in any PDP Championship in that same season.

24.8 Where a Club has exhausted its maximum number of call-up requests outlined in Article 24.2 a Club may submit additional call-up requests if their Team Delegation List has fallen below the mandatory threshold of 16 players. The Club, in conjunction with their PTSO, must provide in writing the reasons for their additional call-up request(s). Subject to meeting the criteria outlined, the Canada Soccer Call-Up Panel may, at their discretion, approve this call-up.

24.9 Clubs may not replace any registered players who wish to play at the PDP Championship, unless medical instructions indicate that the injured player(s) should not play.

24.10 Decisions taken by Canada Soccer regarding call-up requests are final, binding and not subject to appeal.

## **25. TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION**

25.1 Each Club must arrive at the host location of the PDP Championship at least one day before the first match of the competition. At least one Official must arrive early enough to attend the Pre-Competition meeting on that day before the first match. Except in the case of force majeure, where a Club does not arrive at the hosting location in accordance with this Article, it will result in expulsion from the competition at the Club's expense.

25.2 For PDP Championship, each Club is responsible for its transportation to and from the host location as well as its local ground transportation in the host location.

25.3 All Clubs are required to respect the deadlines communicated by Canada Soccer and the LOC.

25.4 Clubs participating in the PDP Championship must stay in the hotels designated by the LOC. Clubs registered within a 50km radius of the hosting location may request an exemption from this Article.

25.5 Parents shall not share the same hotel room as players.

25.6 Players and Team Officials shall not share hotel rooms.

25.7 Youth-aged players must be appropriately supervised by Team Officials from the Club.

25.8 Curfews shall be appropriate for the age of the players. Unless Team Officials from the Club have stipulated an earlier curfew time, all youth-aged players at any youth or adult/senior National Championships shall adhere to an “in-room” curfew of not later than 23:00 (local time).

25.9 The youth curfew time may be extended if the Club is attending an official function which runs past the established time.

25.10 All Team Officials shall adhere to a curfew as set by their PTSO.

## **26. TROPHIES AND AWARDS**

26.1 The Match Officials in each division that officiate the Final will receive a Gold Medal for the National Championships. All Match Officials as well as PTSO Representatives will receive a commemorative medallion from the PDP Championship.

26.2 A Most Valuable Player (hereinafter: “MVP”) will be selected in each division of the PDP Championship. The MVP will be selected from the winning Club after which they will be presented an MVP trophy at the Awards Ceremonies. Canada Soccer, in consultation with the winning Club, will confirm the MVP for each division.

26.3 The three medal-winning Clubs in each division will receive medals (either Gold, Silver or Bronze) only for members of their Team Delegation List.

26.4 The Winners' Trophies presented to the winning Clubs at the PDP Championship remain the property of Canada Soccer. The winning Clubs are asked to take part in a post-celebration photo session with the Winners' Trophy (individual photos of each player with the trophy) after which the trophy will return to Canada Soccer's main office in Ottawa.

26.5 Whereby a member of the Team Delegation List has been dismissed before, during or after the last match in the PDP Championship, the Match Commissioner will have the discretion to decide if the person may participate in the Awards Ceremonies.

26.6 Whereby a member of the Team Delegation List has been suspended from their last match of the PDP Championship, that person may receive their medal during the Awards Ceremonies, providing that the period of suspension was completed at the end of the Club's last match.

26.6.1 In the event that a member of the Team Delegation List is serving a suspension that extends beyond their last match of the PDP Championship, the Match Commissioner will have the discretion to decide if the person will participate in the Awards Ceremonies. Whereby the person is not permitted to participate in the Awards Ceremonies, they shall receive their medal at a later time.

## **27. OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

27.1 Each Club's members are required to attend official functions associated with the PDP Championship, as determined by Canada Soccer and the Local Organising Committee. Any member not in attendance may face disciplinary action at the discretion of Canada Soccer.

27.1.1 At least one Team Official must attend the Pre-Competition Meeting as well as any other meetings called by the Match Commissioner;

27.1.2 Players must attend the Official Opening Ceremony organised by the LOC;

27.1.3 In the spirit of creating a memorable atmosphere for the competing teams as well as the LOC and its volunteers, all Clubs must attend one of the Final matches in the host location where they competed, unless approved under special circumstances by Canada Soccer.

27.2 Each Club's members must adhere to the following minimum standards to ensure that their Club, their PTSO and Canada Soccer maintain a good reputation:

27.2.1 Punctuality and appropriate dress, as required by the LOC, at all official functions;

27.2.2 Supervision by at least one Team Official to ensure that players are not left unattended at any official function.

27.3 The PDP Representative must attend the Pre-Competition Meeting as well as any other meetings called by the Match Commissioner.

## **28. BREACH OF REGULATIONS**

28.1 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 Club's PDP Representative. Mitigating circumstances to be taken into consideration by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee must be provided by the PTSO to the Canada Soccer Competitions Manager within 14 days of the last day of competitions.

28.2 Canada Soccer has approved a schedule of fines which shall be levied by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee (see Annex A).

28.3 Any decision taken by the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee on a breach of Regulations is final and binding and not subject to appeal.

## **29. ENFORCEMENT**

These Regulations were approved by Canada Soccer in November 2025 and came into force immediately thereafter.

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

Kevin Blue  
CEO/General Secretary  
Ottawa 2025

## ANNEX A

### Approved Schedule of Minimum Fines for Breach of Regulations 2026

Failure to attend the PDP Championship (Club or PTSO withdraws after the deadline).	\$2,500 plus expenses
Failure for a Club to participate in a scheduled match without just cause.	\$2,500 plus expenses.
Fielding an ineligible player who has not obtained an International Transfer Certificate during the qualifying competition and/or the PDP Championship.	\$2,500 - \$5,000 plus expenses
PDP Representative not in attendance at Pre-Competition Meeting or other meetings mandated by Canada Soccer.	\$500 per meeting
Club representative not in attendance at pre-Competition Meeting or other meetings mandated by Canada Soccer.	\$500 per meeting
Failure of Club representative or PDP Representative to attend all official functions.	\$500 plus expenses
Failure to wear the assigned Team Kit colours.	\$500
Failure to submit the required excel sheet (XL document) featuring the qualified team's players, coaches and staff by the deadline	\$250-\$500
Submitting false or incorrect information relating to a player's City of Birth or arrival date into Canada	\$1,000-\$2,000
Failure to submit the full Team Delegation List in COMET before the deadline	\$500
Failure to wear the registered Team Kit number.	\$250 - \$500
Failure to have a second set of Team Kits.	\$500
Failure to have the alternate set of Team Kits at the playing venue.	\$500
Failure to have Canada Soccer PDP Championship crests on light and dark Team Kits (including a third goalkeeper jersey when applicable).	\$1,000
Failure of the PDP 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, their first Club and depart with or after their last Club.	\$500 - \$1,000
Failure by a Club to comply with gender requirements for Team Officials.	\$1,000
Failure to comply with requirements for Club signs/banners.	\$1,000
Failure to submit required information to the Canada Soccer staff by the deadlines.	\$500
Failure to submit the duly signed Club Participation Agreement to Canada Soccer staff at least 14 days prior to the start of the National Championships.	\$500
Registering a youth-aged Team Official without an exemption from Canada Soccer.	\$500
Submitting a match sheet that is incomplete or a match sheet that features less than 15 players	\$250 per match
Failure of participants to use appropriate washroom facilities at competition venues.	\$250

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

\*By a PTSO Association – From a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$5,000 per breach plus any expenses incurred.

\* By a Club – 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.



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