



W CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP **2026-27 REGULATIONS**

ORGANISERS
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1. W CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1.1 Canada Soccer's W Canadian Championship (in French, "Championnat canadien féminin") is an official Competition owned and managed by Canada Soccer (hereinafter referred to as the "Competition").
- 1.2 The W Canadian Championship will be played annually as a knockout Competition in accordance with these Regulations (hereinafter: "Regulations") between Clubs identified by Canada Soccer from time to time. The winner of the W Canadian Championship will advance to the Concacaf W Champions Cup, subject to meeting the criteria set forth by Concacaf.
- 1.3 A Club participating in the W 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, amend, and/or delete 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 Competition's 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. CANADA SOCCER ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- 2.1 Canada Soccer is responsible for the organisation of the Competition. Canada Soccer's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.1.1 Supervising general preparations, deciding on the Competition format, any draws and forming groups that may be required;
 - 2.1.2 Approving stadia for the matches;
 - 2.1.3 Approving the dates, venues, and determining kick-off times;
 - 2.1.4 Where a match is abandoned, determining when and where the match will be resumed or replayed;
 - 2.1.5 Verifying that the requirements concerning the eligibility of players are met;
 - 2.1.6 Appointing match delegates including the match commissioners (hereinafter: "Match Commissioner"), general coordinators (hereinafter: "General Coordinator"), marketing officers, media officers, and referee assessors;
 - 2.1.7 Appointing the referees, assistant referees, and fourth officials (hereinafter: "Match Officials") as well as the fifth official for the Final;
 - 2.1.8 Approving requests from the hosting club (hereinafter: "Home Club") in respect of match-related events including but not limited to promotion, marketing, and match production;
 - 2.1.9 Dealing with breaches of the anti-doping regulations;
 - 2.1.10 Choosing the stipulated technical material;
 - 2.1.11 Reporting cases in relation to disciplinary action to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee;
 - 2.1.12 Judging protests and taking appropriate steps to verify their admissibility;
 - 2.1.13 Settling cases of force majeure;
 - 2.1.14 Dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations.
- 2.2 The Canada Soccer Organising Committee's decisions shall be final.

3. PARTICIPATING CLUBS

- 3.1 Each participating Club shall be responsible throughout the Competition for the following:

- 3.1.1 The conduct of all players, coaches, officials, staff, representatives, and any guests of its delegation (hereinafter: “Club Delegation”), and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf;
- 3.1.2 Ensuring the provision of adequate insurance to cover its Club Delegation members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf against all risks, including but not limited to health, travel, and accident insurance;
- 3.1.3 Providing Canada Soccer with all the information and/or documentation requested within the stipulated deadlines;
- 3.1.4 Attending press conferences and other official media activities organised by Canada Soccer and in accordance with its instructions;
- 3.1.5 Attending the mandatory Match Coordination Meeting, at the predesignated time and location;
- 3.1.6 Arriving at the match venue at least 90 minutes before the kick-off time;
- 3.1.7 Allowing Canada Soccer to use their marks for the promotion of the Competition and allow event sponsors to use the marks in a collective form only, for the sole purpose of promoting the Competition as per the Competition’s *2026-27 W Canadian Championship Commercial, Media & Broadcast Rights* (hereinafter: “Commercial Regulations”);
- 3.1.8 Collaborating and supporting Canada Soccer with the promotions and activations of sponsors as per the Commercial Regulations.

3.2 The Home Club shall be responsible through each single-match series of the Competition for the following:

- 3.2.1 Ensuring that their stadium and facilities all comply with the standards of safety as outlined in their Club Licensing Regulations;
- 3.2.2 Ensuring that the stadium is made completely available on the day before the match is due to be played, otherwise known as Match Day-1 (hereinafter: “MD-1”);
- 3.2.3 Providing access to a training field that is similar in size and surface for use on MD-1 if the stadium is unavailable for any reason;
- 3.2.4 Obtaining insurance for the stadium and training fields, when applicable;
- 3.2.5 Organising and paying for the transportation, accommodation, expenses, and match fees of the Competition’s Match Officials, including but not limited to those expenses outlined in the Financial Considerations of these Regulations;

- 3.2.6 Providing all local information as may be reasonably requested by the visiting team (hereinafter: "Away Club");
- 3.2.7 Paying for certain travel-related expenses for the Away Club, as outlined in the Financial Considerations of these Regulations;
- 3.2.8 Providing the Away Club with access to an official training session, as requested on MD-1 at either the match field or training field;
- 3.2.9 Providing the Away Club's supporters with a segregated safe section in the stadium;
- 3.2.10 Providing Canada Soccer, when requested, with an office space as well as a meeting room (if required for the Match Coordination Meeting) as outlined in the *Canadian Championship Hosting Standards*;
- 3.2.11 Providing Canada Soccer with storage for any national sponsor or Canada Soccer field boards, promotional items, equipment, or other materials related to the staging of the Competition;
- 3.2.12 Fulfilling their roles and responsibilities outlined in the *W Canadian Championship Hosting Standards*;
- 3.2.13 Ticketing matters associated with Article 19 in these Regulations;
- 3.2.14 Covering all costs associated with Article 3.2 in these Regulations, as well as those costs outlined in Article 19.

3.3 The Away Club is responsible for the following:

- 3.3.1 Arriving at the host city where the match will be played no later than MD-1 to properly conduct the pre-match competition activities and fulfill media obligations as required;
- 3.3.2 Paying for certain travel-related expenses, including any costs which may exceed the rates covered by the Home Club as outlined in the Financial Considerations of these Regulations;
- 3.3.3 Providing any relevant information as may be requested by Canada Soccer or the Home Club;
- 3.3.4 Advising the Home Club of any special requests no later than one week before their travel to the host city;
- 3.3.5 Advising the Home Club of the approximate number of Away Club supporters who may be attending the match, also identifying any problematic supporters they know might attend or might try to access the stadium;
- 3.3.6 Traveling with a minimum number of 18 players from the approved list of players;
- 3.3.7 Covering all costs associated with Article 3.3 in these Regulations, as well as those costs outlined in Article 19.

4. ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION

- 4.1 The 2026-27 edition of the Competition will be open to:
- 4.1.1 All six teams from the Northern Super League's 2026 schedule, specifically: Vancouver Rise FC; Calgary Wild FC; AFC Toronto; Ottawa Rapid FC; Roses de Montréal FC; Halifax Tides FC.
 - 4.1.2 Two teams from Premier Soccer Leagues Canada, specifically: the winners (Simcoe County Rovers FC) and runners up (CS Mont-Royal Outremont) of the 2025 Women's Inter-Provincial Championship.
- 4.2 All Professional Clubs in the Competition must hold a current, valid National 1 Club Licence and participate in a sanctioned league approved by the Canada Soccer Board of Directors, specifically the Northern Super League for the 2026 and 2027 seasons. Other participating Clubs must hold at minimum a current, valid National 2 Club Licence, specifically those clubs participating in Premier Soccer Leagues Canada for the 2026 and 2027 seasons.
- 4.2.1 If a Club is removed from the league in which it is playing during the 2026-27 W Canadian Championship, or fails to maintain the appropriate club licensing standards, the Canada Soccer Board of Directors has the power to remove the Club from the Competition.
- 4.3 A reserve team, as defined in the *Canada Soccer Rules and Regulations*, is not eligible for participation in the Competition.
- 4.4 The Canada Soccer Board of Directors may reject the application of any Club to participate in the Competition at its entire discretion.
- 4.5 If any Club entering the Competition, 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:
- 4.5.1 A manager, receiver or administrative receiver appointed in respect of that Club; or
 - 4.5.2 Any part of its undertaking or assets;
 - 4.5.3 An administration order made in respect of that Club;
 - 4.5.4 A winding up order made in respect of that Club;
 - 4.5.5 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.

5. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 5.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as laid down by the International Football Association Board. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.

6. WITHDRAWALS, UNPLAYED MATCHES & ABANDONED MATCHES

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 If a withdrawal takes place:
- 6.2.1 After entering the Competition, but on or before the day of the first match of the Competition, a fine of \$5,000 shall be paid;
 - 6.2.2 Anytime during the Competition, a fine of \$10,000 shall be paid;
 - 6.2.3 Anytime after the completion of the Competition for the team which has qualified for the Concacaf W Champions Cup, a fine of \$100,000 shall be paid.
- 6.3 If a team does not report for a match – except in cases of force majeure recognised by the Canada Soccer Organising Committee for the Competition – 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 6.2.2, the guilty Club shall be disqualified from participating in the next two editions of the Competition.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 Penalties specified in Article 6.4 above will not be applied in cases of force majeure, as verified by the Canada Soccer Organising Committee.

- 6.6 Canada Soccer, as the governing body for soccer in Canada, shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and enforced.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:
 - 6.8.1 The match shall recommence with the same players on the field and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;
 - 6.8.2 No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
 - 6.8.3 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.
 - 6.8.4 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;
 - 6.8.5 Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
 - 6.8.6 Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
 - 6.8.7 The kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by Canada Soccer;
 - 6.8.8 Any matters requiring further decision shall be dealt with by Canada Soccer.

7. REPLACEMENTS

- 7.1 If any Club withdraws or is excluded from the Competition, the Canada Soccer Board of Directors shall decide whether to replace the Club in question with another Club.

8. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 8.1 A player who is selected to represent their Club in the Competition must comply with all Canada Soccer statutory requirements for eligibility of players.

- 8.2 Protests regarding the eligibility of players shall be decided by the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code.
- 8.3 Clubs will be required to field their first team eligible roster players to compete in the Competition, subject to the requirements outlined in Article 10.1.
- 8.4 All players must be properly registered with Canada Soccer (by way of Canada Connect) as well as the Competition's online registration system (the Competition Management Expert System, hereinafter: "COMET"). All players must be 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 matchday roster.
- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 No reinforcement players may be registered.

9. PLAYERS' LISTS

9.1 Competition Roster

- 9.1.1 Clubs may include up to 35 players in their official Competition roster across all rounds of the 2026-27 Competition, with players tied to their Club as outlined in Article 9.2;
 - 9.1.2 Clubs must submit a provisional, non-binding list of players to Canada Soccer no later than seven days prior to the team's opening match in the Competition. This list must contain a minimum of 18 players, but a maximum of 35 players;
 - 9.1.3 At least 48 hours before each match, Clubs must confirm to Canada Soccer a binding list of 18-23 players, with only those players eligible for that upcoming match;
 - 9.1.4 At least 24 hours before each match, Canada Soccer may share those rosters with broadcast and/or media.
- 9.2 Once a player has been listed on a Club's 20-player lineup sheet for a match in the 2026-27 W Canadian Championship, the player is tied to that Club for the duration of the Competition. The player may not be listed with another Club in the 2026-27 edition of the Competition.
- 9.2.1 Once a player has been tied to a Club's official Competition roster, that player will not be removed from the roster (they will

count towards the maximum of 35 players allowed across all rounds of the Competition).

- 9.3 All participating players must have a legal and valid government-issued identification containing a photograph and giving full particulars on the date of birth (day, month, and year). An image of each player's document must be uploaded into Canada Connect so that Canada Soccer may conduct a virtual team identification check before each match.

10. START LIST AND SUBSTITUTES

- 10.1 Up to 20 players may be entered on the start list (hereinafter: "Start List"), with specifically 11 starters and up to nine substitutes. In accordance with the Laws of the Game, five substitutes may take the place of the starters during three substitution windows during regulation time, not counting additional substitutions listed in Articles 10.3 and 10.4.

- 10.1.1 One player on the Start List must be identified as the goalkeeper;
- 10.1.2 One player on the Start List must be identified as the captain, be it the goalkeeper or an outfield player;
- 10.1.3 At least one substitute must be a goalkeeper;
- 10.1.4 At least three players on the Start List must be recognised as Canadian players. A Canadian player must not have played for any other Member Association's national soccer team, at any age level, unless a change of Association, in accordance with FIFA Statutes, to Canada Soccer was granted.

- 10.2 Substitutions can only be made when the referee has given permission during a stop in play. Prior to the substitution being made, the Club must identify to the Match Officials the player(s) coming out and the player(s) coming in. A player who has been replaced may take no further part in the match.

- 10.3 Whereby a player suffers a concussion (or potential concussion) during the match, the Club will be permitted to make one additional substitution (hereinafter: "Concussion Substitution"). The opposing team will also be permitted to make an additional substitution.

- 10.4 In the case of extra time, both Clubs will be permitted one additional substitution (and they will be given one additional opportunity for substitutions).

- 10.5 If one or more starting players identified on the Start List are not able to begin the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Start List. Such a replacement will only take

place with the approval of the General Coordinator, who will advise the referee. The replaced player(s) may no longer take part in the match while their replacement(s) do not count towards the quota of five substitutions outlined in Article 10.1.

- 10.5.1 If one or more substitutes identified on the Start List are not able to be fielded for any reason, the player(s) may not be replaced on the Start List or on the bench;
- 10.5.2 An injured or ill player who is removed from the Start List must be listed as injured on the Start List so that they cannot be selected as a substitute at any time during the match;
- 10.5.3 An injured or ill player who was removed from the Start List may be seated on the substitutes' bench and, if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.

10.6 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 begin 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.

10.7 A maximum of 18 people, specifically up to nine substitutes and nine Club officials (hereinafter: "Club Officials") are permitted on the substitutes' bench. Each Club Official must have their names and functions indicated on the COMET Start List.

- 10.7.1 Suspended players and/or Club Officials may not sit on the substitutes' bench.

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

11. FORMAT & STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

11.1 The Competition will be played across three knockout rounds with each round decided through a single knockout match: Quarterfinals; Semifinals; Final.

- 11.1.1 Any match in which the score is tied after regulation time will head into extra time. If the match is still tied after extra time, then the match will head to a penalty shootout, in accordance with the Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the round;
- 11.1.2 The four winners of the Quarterfinals (numbered QF1 through QF4) will advance to the Semifinals;

- 11.1.3 The two winners of the Semifinals (numbered SF1 and SF2) will advance to the Final;
 - 11.1.4 The winner of the Final will be Canada's 2026-27 champion and qualify for the next edition of the Concacaf W Champions Cup.
- 11.2 Canada Soccer will determine the Competition matchups, hosting, pathway, and match schedule through an official draw. Beyond the 2026-27 edition of the Competition, Canada Soccer may use a ranking index, developed through the results from previous editions of the Competition, to rank or seed Clubs before the draw.
- 11.2.1 For the first and second editions of the Competition, Clubs that hold a National 1 Club Licence will be ranked ahead of Clubs that hold a National 2 Club License;
 - 11.2.2 For the second edition of the Competition, the Clubs from the Northern Super League may be ranked based on the previous year's final regular season standings;
 - 11.2.3 For the 2026-27 Competition, only Clubs with a National 1 Club Licence (Northern Super League) will be selected to host a match in the Quarterfinals;
 - 11.2.4 The two Clubs from Premier Soccer Leagues Canada will not face each other before the Semifinals;
 - 11.2.5 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.

12. STADIA, FIELD OF PLAY, & ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT

- 12.1 Each Home Club 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 Laws of the Game. The fields and the facilities shall be in optimum condition.
- 12.2 As a general rule, matches may only be played at the recognised home venue of the Home Club.
- 12.3 The matches of the Competition 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.

- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 The Home Club shall guarantee that the field of play complies with the Laws of the Game. This shall be subject to the approval of the General Coordinator and the appointed referee.
- 12.6 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.
- 12.7 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 6.8.
- 12.8 The footballs for the Competition shall be supplied by the Home Club. The Home Club will provide the Away Club with 20 balls, similar to the balls that will be used for the match, for both the MD-1 training session and the matchday warmup.

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 Match Officials for inspection. A new, unused match ball will be provided by the Home Club to the referee for the start of each match.

- 12.9 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.
- 12.10 Floodlights shall be switched on prior to the team warm-up.
- 12.11 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 manual substitute boards should be used.
- 12.12 Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match if they run up (from 0'-45' in the 1st half and 45'-90' in the second half) and that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half. In cases of extra time, clocks must be able to run from 90'-105' and from 105'-120'.
- 12.13 At the end of each of the periods, the referee will indicate to the fourth official the number of minutes they have decided to allow for time lost. The added time shall be announced to the public by the fourth official using electronic display boards and by the Home Club's public address announcer.

13. TEAM EQUIPMENT

- 13.1 A Club's equipment must comply with the Laws of the Game with the following modifications.
- 13.1.1 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 at least two different uniforms for each goalkeeper.
 - 13.1.2 Players may be identified by means of their surname, an abbreviation, or a nickname on their shirts.
 - 13.1.3 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.
- 13.2 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 Laws of the Game.

14. TICKETING

- 14.1 The right to retain revenues and the responsibility to disperse revenues from the sale of tickets to matches schedule for the Competition are outlined in Article 19 for financial considerations.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 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 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.
- 14.4 The Home Club shall provide up to 170 complimentary match tickets to be used for sponsors, Canada Soccer, Match Officials, and the Away Club:
- Up to 120 complimentary Category 1 match tickets for the Competition sponsors, as outlined in Article 14.2;
 - 10 complimentary Category 1 match tickets for Canada Soccer
 - 10 complimentary match tickets for the Match Officials for the Quarterfinals and Semifinals or 12 complimentary match tickets for the Final
 - 30 complimentary match tickets for the Away Club
- 14.5 The Home Club shall provide additional 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.

15. TROPHIES, AWARDS, AND MEDALS

- 15.1 The Competition's champion (hereinafter: "Champion") will be entitled to be referred to as the "Canadian Championship Winner" or "Canadian Championship Champion."
- 15.2 Canada Soccer will present five commemorative medals to the Match Officials of the Final.
- 15.3 Canada Soccer will present the following player awards after the Final:
 - 15.3.1 Best Young Canadian Player of the Competition;
 - 15.3.2 Most Valuable Player of the Competition.
- 15.4 Canada Soccer will award 50 medals to the Champions.
- 15.5 Canada Soccer will present the winner's trophy to the Champion at an awards ceremony following the end of the Final. The winner's trophy and its case will be lent to the Champion for a period of up to four months after which the Champion is responsible for the safe return of the trophy and trophy case to Canada Soccer (as per the address identified on a Canada Soccer Loan Agreement).

16. REFEREEING

- 16.1 The Match Officials for the Competition will be appointed for each match by Canada Soccer. There will be four Match Officials for each match in the Quarterfinals and Semifinals, then five Match Officials (with the addition of a reserve assistant referee) for the Final.
 - 16.1.1 Canada Soccer's decision on the appointment of Match Officials shall be final and not subject to appeal.
 - 16.1.2 In the event of any of the Match Officials failing to arrive or being incapacitated, the two Clubs shall agree to a substitute official, 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.
- 16.2 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.

- 16.3 After each match, the Match Commissioner shall complete their designated official Canada Soccer report form and submit it to the General Coordinator via COMET.

17. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 17.1 The Participating Clubs and members of their Club Delegation 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.*
- 17.2 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.
- 17.3 In cases of infringement of these or any other 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:
- 17.3.1 Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, Clubs, Club Officials or coaches, or Match Officials;
 - 17.3.2 Take action against any person or Club(s), in accordance with the *Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code* and the Canada Soccer Professional Club Disciplinary Annex, which may violate these or any other Regulations, the Laws of the Game or the spirit of fair play;
 - 17.3.3 Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of Canada Soccer organised tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
- 17.4 Any person sent off by the referee, whether directly (a straight red card) or as a result of two yellow cards in the same match, is at minimum suspended for the next match in the 2026-27 edition of the Competition. The person will automatically receive the standard sanction for the offence as outlined in the *Canada Soccer Professional Club Disciplinary Annex.*

17.5 The following terms apply to match suspensions issued in the Competition:

- 17.5.1 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;
- 17.5.2 Match suspensions automatically come into immediate effect, beginning with the Club's next match in this Competition;
- 17.5.3 Match suspensions will only be served in the Competition in which the offence was committed;
- 17.5.4 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 for each unserved match remaining in their suspension. This fine will be in addition to the standard fine issued for the offence.

17.6 Where a player or Club official will be served a fine of \$500 if they accumulate cautions (yellow cards) from two separate matches during the Competition, not counting matches whereby two yellow cards resulted in a red card and expulsion. The fine must be paid in full prior to the player or Club official participating in any subsequent Competition matches. This is not subject to appeal.

17.7 In accordance with Law 10, any person who receives a yellow card during both the match as well as during the penalty shootout will not sent off. Yellow cards received during penalty shootout do count towards their caution accumulation.

17.8 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 Competition match. For detailed information regarding the submission process and requirements, please refer to the *Canada Soccer Professional Club Discipline Annex*.

17.9 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*.

17.10 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.

17.11 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.

- 17.12 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.
- 17.12.1 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. Subsequent offences in the same Competition season shall increase by \$100 for each offence.
- 17.12.2 If a delay does not affect the scheduled kick-off time, Canada Soccer may issue a written warning in lieu of a fine.
- 17.13 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.
- 17.14 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."
- 17.15 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.
- 17.16 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 Competition.
- 17.17 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.
- 17.18 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.

- 17.19 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.

18. PROTESTS

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 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.
- 18.3 Protests for reasons outlined in Article 18.4, 18.5, and 18.6 are subject to a fee in the amount of \$1,000 payable to Canada Soccer within seven days.
- 18.4 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.
- 18.5 Subject to the conditions of Article 18.7 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.
- 18.6 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.
- 18.7 No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.

18.8 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 Competition has ended, any protest described in this article shall be disregarded.

18.9 If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures.

18.10 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.

19. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

19.1 The Home Club in each match of the Competition shall have the right to retain all revenues resulting from the sales of food and beverage, parking, and local Club merchandise.

19.2 Each Club must pay Canada Soccer an entry fee at the time of signing their Club Participation Agreement. The entry fee will be it \$3,000 for Clubs with a National 1 Club Licence (Northern Super League) or \$1,000 for Clubs with a National 2 Club Licence (Premier Soccer Leagues Canada).

19.3 Canada Soccer will be responsible for the following Competition-related expenses:

- Costs for the Match Commissioner, General Coordinator, marketing officer, and media officer;
- Competition branding costs and associated rights;
- Its own costs associated with press conference participation;
- Costs to secure broadcast partnerships;
- Fulfilment of national sponsor deliverables/activations;
- Media backdrops and signage;
- Perimeter field level signage;
- Shipping costs associated with moving Competition materials between venues.

19.4 The Home Club is responsible for the following Competition-related expenses:

- All staging and in-venue expenses within their home venue, including fees and expenses of the four (or five) Match Officials;
- Any costs associated with rooms, meetings and/or storage spaces at the stadia, including meeting room expenses for the

Match Coordination Meeting and its own expenses associated with participation in any press conferences;

- 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.);
- Insurance costs;
- Storage of national sponsor or Canada Soccer field boards, promotional items, equipment, etc., where required;
- 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 Article 14;
- Replacement of any lost or damaged items left in possession and care of the Home Club.

19.4.1 The Home Club is responsible for certain expenses of the Away Club for a maximum of 20 players and nine staff, whereby the Home Club must liaise with the Away Club in making the following arrangements:

- Meal expenses shall not to exceed \$160 /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 per person before taxes and fees
 - Lunch - \$55 per person before taxes and fees
 - Dinner - \$65 per person before taxes and fees
- Accommodation for a maximum 10 double rooms and nine single rooms across two nights. The nightly room rate must not exceed \$160/room before taxes and fees.
- Transportation to and from the host city should be the lowest available rate of travel between either ground transportation (the rental of one 56-passenger charter bus), rail fare, or air travel.
- 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;

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.

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

19.5.1 The Away Club is responsible for any of their own additional expenses incurred outside of the allowed expenses listed in Article 19.4.1;

19.6 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 Article 14 in these Regulations. The Home Club will retain the balance of the ticket revenue.

19.7 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.

19.8 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.

19.9 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.

19.10 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.

- 19.11 The Club(s) responsible for the payment of fees and expenses of all Match Officials appointed by Canada Soccer to officiate in the Competition are determined in accordance with the Financial Considerations (Article 19). The responsible Club(s) must pay the fees/expenses directly to Canada Soccer which will reimburse the officials accordingly.
- 19.12 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 Financial Considerations (Article 19). 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.
- 19.13 Claims shall be submitted by the Match Officials directly to Canada Soccer who will invoice the responsible Club(s), as determined by the Financial Considerations (Article 19), for the fees, air fares, and expenses accordingly.

20. MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING CONTROL

- 20.1 Each Club must have a duly licensed medical professional (i.e., a doctor) as part of their Club Delegation. Such a doctor should be fully integrated and familiar with all medical aspects of the Club. The Match Officials will refer to such Club doctor in all cases as required and necessary.
- 20.2 Canada Soccer will not be held liable for any injury sustained by any participating player or member of the Club Delegation. 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 or member of the Club Delegation.
- 20.3 In regards to non-traumatic loss of consciousness during a match, the Match Officials 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 functioning AED is immediately available and that an ambulance is equipped with an access and egress plan.

- 20.4 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, they 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.
- 20.5 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.
- 20.6 Extreme weather conditions may warrant cooling or warming 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.
- 20.7 Doping is strictly prohibited and Canada Soccer reserves the right to arrange random anti-doping control tests at all the matches during the Competition. Every player, including substitutes who do not feature, may be subject to in-competition testing at the matches in which they compete as well as out-of-competition testing at any time and place.
- 20.7.1 Doping is the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing the physical and/or mental performance of a player, with a view to improving athletic and/or mental performance;
 - 20.7.2 Sport Integrity Canada (formerly known as CCES) is empowered to arrange doping control tests and to decide at which laboratories and who shall carry out the analysis;
 - 20.7.3 If, in accordance with the FIFA Doping Guidelines, a player tests positive for using banned substances, they 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;
 - 20.7.4 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 the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee;
 - 20.7.5 Any official who encourages or incites a player, either intentionally or through negligence, to commit such an

infringement, will be referred to the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee.

- 20.8 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.

21. COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

- 21.1 Canada Soccer is the sole and exclusive owner, on a worldwide basis, of all commercial rights for the W 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.
- 21.2 Participating Clubs must abide by the Commercial Regulations.
- 21.3 The designated broadcast media rights holder will be responsible for establishing the broadcast distribution plan for the Competition.
- 21.4 Radio rights for the Competition 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.

22. INSURANCE

- 22.1 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.
- 22.2 Canada Soccer will not secure Cancellation Insurance for any of the matches in the Competition.

- 22.3 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.
- 22.4 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.
- 22.5 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 Competition opening round and remain in force until a minimum of 60 days after the conclusion of the Competition.
- 22.6 Canada Soccer may request copies of Certificates of Insurance prior to the commencement of the Competition.

23. COPYRIGHT

- 23.1 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 in June 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.

Canada Soccer, Office of the General Secretariat