



BRITISH COLUMBIA RUGBY UNION

RULES OF COMPETITION

AGE-GRADE RUGBY

Approved: August 2019

Amended by the Competitions Committee: July 2021

2015 Main Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V5T 0J8
T: 604.737.3065 E: info@bcrugby.com

BC Rugby gratefully acknowledges that its offices reside on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəyəm (*Musqueam*), Skwxwú7mesh (*Squamish*), Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Səlilwítlh (*Tsleil-Waututh*) Nations.





CONTENTS

Section 1 – General	pg. 3
Section 2 – Age-Grade Competitions	pg. 6
Section 3 – Team Eligibility	pg. 9
Section 4 – Player Eligibility	pg. 12
Section 5 – Match Conduct & Protocol	pg. 13
Section 6 – Playoffs & Finals	pg. 19
Section 7 – Sanctions & Fines	pg. 23
Section 8 – Application for Exemptions	pg. 27
Section 9 – Protests & Appeals	pg. 28
Section 10 – Competitions & Events Committee	pg. 30



SECTION 1 - GENERAL

1.1 Purpose of the Rules of Competition

The purpose of the Rules is to govern the conduct of all age-grade (junior) levels of contact Rugby Competition sanctioned or administered by BC Rugby to ensure that the sport, and its game variants, operates to the highest level of Player safety, development, and enjoyment.

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

1.2 Application of the Rules of Competition

The Rules apply to all age-grade Competitions and events owned by BC Rugby. All adults facilitating age-grade participation in BC Rugby Competitions and events are deemed to have full knowledge and understanding of these Rules and must ensure compliance.

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

1.3 Guiding Principles

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

- (a) Player Safety;
- (b) Growing participation;
- (c) Respect for one's opponent(s), fair play and good sportsmanship;



- (d) Protecting the integrity of the Competition; and
- (e) Developing world-class Rugby.

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

1.4 Definitions

- (a) **Adult** – any individual aged 19 years or older.
- (b) **Age-grade** – as a prefix to a Competition, Division or event indicates participation is determined by a birth year, age range or age limit.
- (c) **BCRRS** – stands for the BC Rugby Referee Society and is the recognised body responsible for allocating officials to Matches as requested by BC Rugby.
- (d) **Birth Year** - determined as at December 31 in the year that the first Match of a Competition takes place.
- (e) **Club** – a Delegate Voting Member as defined by the BC Rugby Bylaws.
- (f) **Competition** – a series of Matches held between two or more Teams in either Fifteens, Tens, Sevens or non-contact Rugby.
- (g) **Competition & Events Committee** – the operational Committee with delegated authority to support the CEO in managing BC Rugby's Competitions and referred to as the Committee in these Rules.
- (h) **Division** – a level of Competition, based on Age-grade, region or Teams' level of ability or motivation.
- (i) **Exhibition Match** – any Rugby Match that is a 'one-off' Match and does not count towards any Competition standings or Player awards.
- (j) **Fifteens Rugby** – the game of 15-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.
- (k) **Junior** – for or of ages between 18 years of age and 14 years of age.
- (l) **Laws** – refers to the Laws of the Game as determined by World Rugby.
- (m) **Loan** – the temporary movement of a Participant from one Club to another.



- (n) **Match** – a scheduled game of Rugby.
- (o) **Participant** – all and any person participating in BC Rugby sanctioned Competitions.
- (p) **Play** – to take the field in a Match from either a starting or substitute position.
- (q) **Player** – a person who Plays or is intended to Play in any Match.
- (r) **Playoffs** – any knock-out Match where the winner progresses towards the Final or gold-medal Match.
- (s) **Points Differential** – the quotient calculated by subtracting points scored against from the points scored for a Team.
- (t) **Points Ratio** – the quotient obtained by dividing the number of Matches Played into the points accrued.
- (u) **Roster** - the list of named Players to a Team for a Match in accordance with these Rules.
- (v) **Senior** – for or of 19 years of age or older.
- (w) **Sevens Rugby** – the game of 7-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.
- (x) **Team** – as defined by BC Rugby bylaws.
- (y) **Team Staff** – any adult appointed to coach, train, manage or provide medical services to a Team.
- (z) **Tens Rugby** – the game of 10-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.
- (aa) **Therapist** – an individual responsible for the prevention, identification, management, treatment and rehabilitation of sport injuries.
- (bb) **Transfer** – a permanent move, for the remainder of a Player’s annual membership, of a Player from one Club to another.

1.5 Amendments to the Rules of Competition

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



SECTION 2 – AGE-GRADE COMPETITIONS

2.1 Objectives

The stated objectives of Age-Grade Competitions in BC are:

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

2.2 Provincial Competitions

Provincial Competitions provide a critical player pathway to representative opportunities with BC Rugby's Age-Grade Boys' and Girls' XV's and 7s Teams.

- (a) **Provincial Regional Championships** – annual Competition open to entry from multiple age-grade Teams from a union or region and a key component to the BC Rugby Age-Grade XV's Teams Selection Policy.

2.3 Clubs' Competitions

Clubs' Competitions underpin and sustain playing opportunities for players of all abilities and aspirations and are structured as annual age-grade boys' and girls' Competitions open to entry from Clubs registered with BC Rugby as Voting Members.

2.4 Other Competitions



- (a) **Sevens Tournaments** – one-off tournaments open to entry from any sanctioned team.
- (b) **Exhibition Matches** – irregular Matches arranged between two Teams, primarily utilised as supplements to another Competition or as preparation for a Competition to ensure Players access the number and quality of Matches desired.

2.5 Scheduling

The CEO shall delegate the responsibility of scheduling all age-grade competitions to a BC Rugby staff member.

- (a) **Provincial Regional Championships** – Provincial Regional Championships shall be scheduled with the aim to achieving the following objectives:
 - i. Scheduling should reduce the risk of any player exceeding an absolute maximum of 70 playing minutes within a 24-hour period.
 - ii. Schedule all teams in each division the same number of fixtures per day of competition, including playoffs.
- (b) **Club Competitions** – Club Competitions shall be scheduled with the aim to achieving the following objectives:
 - i. Provide fairness in home/away scheduling and parity in Teams' travelling commitments;
 - ii. Schedule 'Club Days' where a Club has as many of their Teams as possible play at home;
 - iii. Provide 'bye' weekends for as many public holiday weekends as possible, not including make-up Matches;
 - iv. Fairly accommodate requests from participating Clubs; and
 - v. Sustaining regional rugby and established rivalries.

2.6 Venues



For any competition, matches must take place at venues that provide satisfactory facilities, which are to meet the following minimum standards:

- (a) **Field of Play** – any playing field must continuously meet World Rugby’s Law 1 including all lines and markings on the field and flag posts and, if an artificial turf field, must comply with World Rugby’s Regulation 22;
- (b) **Goal Posts** – throughout any Match, goal posts are padded to a height of not less of 1.5 metres;
- (c) **Facilities** – any home or main field must have access to potable water and at least one usable toilet within 250 metres.



SECTION 3 – TEAM ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Age-Grade Competitions

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

3.2 Provincial Competitions

- (a) **Number of Teams** – based on the stage of development and venue capacity, BC Rugby staff shall be responsible for advertising the maximum number of teams per region permitted entry into each age-grade division at least three months prior to the competition date.
- (b) **Conditions for entry** – Teams must be formed by a union or region of Clubs, based on either union membership or regional boundaries, that are Voting Members of BC Rugby. A Union or region must:
 - i. Enter and field a Team in both a boys' and girls' age-grade division;
 - ii. Ensure any Team entered is reasonably able to field the required number of players for the duration of the competition.
 - iii. Ensure all Teams entered have a minimum of two adults appointed as Team Staff;
 - iv. Ensure all Team Staff appointed are registered and have completed certification in World Rugby's Concussion Management for the General Public and Rugby Ready within 12 months of the date of competition;
 - v. For competitions held in 2020, ensure any individual appointed as a coach or assistant coach must, as a minimum, be trained in NCCP Rugby Competition Introduction / World Rugby Level 2.
 - vi. For competitions held in 2022 and beyond, ensure any individual appointed as a coach or assistant coach must, as a minimum, be



certified in NCCP Rugby Competition Introduction / World Rugby Level 2.

- vii. Any individual appointed as a Therapist must be a qualified and registered as a Healthcare Professional and hold certification in World Rugby's Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
- (c) **Application Process** – prior to the annual deadline set by BC Rugby, regional Unions must submit in writing their declaration to compete and include details of all Teams' compliance with Section 3.2 (b).
- (d) **Acceptance Procedure** – All Teams that meet the requirements of Section 3.2 (b), declaration deadlines and pay all relevant fees shall be accepted into the upcoming Provincial Competitions.

3.3 Clubs' Competitions

- (a) **Number of Teams** – four Teams is the required minimum to create a regional division or pool for age-grade Clubs' Competition.
- (b) **Divisions of Competition** – BC Rugby shall clearly communicate all available Divisions for each season and Clubs should determine the most appropriate and sustainable Division for each Team.
- (c) **Conditions for entry** – BC Rugby Clubs' Competitions are open to all Clubs that are Members of BC Rugby or Clubs outside of British Columbia that satisfy the rules of membership of the relevant Member Union recognized by Rugby Canada or World Rugby. Each Club must have:
 - i. At least one named Coach that is registered and, as a minimum, is trained in NCCP Rugby Competition Introduction / World Rugby Level 2; and
 - ii. At least one named Therapist that is registered and holds certification in World Rugby's Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
- (d) **Declaration of Entry** – any Club or Team wishing to enter a BC Rugby sanctioned Competition is required to declare their participation in writing by



the set deadline. Declarations made after the deadline may be accepted after considering the impact on the relevant Division(s), those Teams already declared and the circumstances that lead to a late declaration.

- (e) **Acceptance Procedure** – if the minimum number of Teams has been met, then all Teams that satisfy the requirements of Section 3.3 (c), declaration deadlines and pay all relevant fees will automatically be accepted into the requested Competition or Division. However, if more eligible Teams apply to one Division than the maximum permitted, then the Committee has the authority to move a Team up or down to ensure a level Playing field within a Division and/or as many Divisions as possible are viable.



SECTION 4 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

4.1 All Age-Grade Competitions

- (a) **Registration** – all Players must be registered with the competing Club, and therefore insured, prior to Playing in any Match.
- (b) **Age-Grade** – a Player must play in the age-grade division of their birth year, unless exempted in accordance with Section 8 of these Rules.
- (c) **Age-Grade Exemptions** – any player exempted to play in an older or younger age-grade, including Senior Rugby, may still play at the age-grade division of their birth year.
- (d) **Front Row** – eligibility to Play in these positions requires that such Players be suitably trained and experienced. In accordance with the Laws, it is essential that any scrum in which one or more front row Players lack this training and experience be uncontested.

4.2 Club Competitions

- (a) **Guest Players** – a Player may Play as a guest Player for another Club during an exhibition Match without a formal transfer or loan, provided the Player is registered with BC Rugby and in good standing with his or her Club.
- (b) **Visitor Players** – a Player may be registered as a two-week visitor and must not Play more than three Fifteens or Tens Rugby Matches or two Sevens Rugby tournaments within that period. Except for a Sevens Rugby tournament, a visitor Player is not eligible for Playoffs.
- (c) **Player Transfers** – a Player may transfer to from one Club to another. A Player may complete one intra-Provincial transfer per season. To do so, the Player must be in good standing with their original Club and follow the process as detailed on bcrugby.com. If a transferred Player does not meet the eligibility requirements for Playoffs, then an exemption may be considered by the Committee.



SECTION 5 - MATCH CONDUCT AND PROTOCOL

5.1 Endeavour to Play

Clubs and Teams alike are expected to make all efforts to play each of their scheduled Matches.

- (a) **Cancellations** – the following circumstances may result in the cancellation of a Match and failure to reschedule and play this Match is without penalty:
 - i. **Weather Conditions** – electrical storms and exceptionally poor weather conditions that jeopardise Player safety or make playing a Match impossible or near impossible.
 - ii. **Field Closures** – home and alternative fields are closed within 24hrs of the scheduled kick-off time of the first scheduled Match. A Match will not be considered a cancellation if the opponent's home or alternative field is open and within 60km of the scheduled venue.
 - iii. **Travel** – circumstances beyond control lead to travel being impossible or have delayed arrival beyond 45mins after the scheduled kick-off time.
 - iv. **Other** – any other reasonably unforeseen, uncontrollable circumstance.
- (b) **Conceding a win** – if a Team is unable to field a starting Team but the Match still takes place, the final score will only count for regular season matches if:
 - i. **Lack of Numbers for XV's Rugby in U19 competitions** – at least 15 players are present. The match will not be conceded and will be played with both Teams fielding 12 players with rolling substitutions.
 - ii. **Lack of Numbers for XV's or 12s Rugby in U17, U16, or U15 competitions** – if at least 15 players are present, the match will not be conceded and will be played with both Teams fielding 12 players with rolling substitutions. If less than 15 but at least 13 as present, the match will not be conceded and will be played with both Teams fielding 10 players with rolling substitutions.
 - iii. **Lack of Numbers for Tens Rugby** – at least 10 players are present. The match will not be conceded and will be played with both Teams fielding 7 players with rolling substitutions.



- iv. **Lack of Numbers for 7s Rugby** – at least 8 players are present. The match will not be conceded and will be played with both Teams fielding 6 players with rolling substitutions.
- (c) **Defaults** – the following circumstances will be treated as a default and one or both Teams involved will be deducted four points:
 - i. **Schedule Conflicts** – a Team that commits to another Competition, Tour or Exhibition Match within the BC Rugby Competition regular season and is unable to reschedule the Match.
 - ii. **Team Standings** – a Team or Teams that fails to play a regular season Match to manipulate the final Team Standings of a Competition.
 - iii. **Other** - if for any other reason a Team causes a Match to not take place and is unable to reschedule the Match.
- (d) **Disputed Matches** – the following circumstances will be considered by the Committee upon notice from one of the impacted Clubs:
 - i. refusal to cooperate;
 - ii. failure to communicate;
 - iii. disputed result; and
 - iv. any other circumstances not covered by these Rules.

5.2 Schedule or Venue Changes

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

5.3 Abandonment of a Match

A Match may be abandoned as follows:

- (a) **Weather deteriorates with less than 2/3 time Played** – if weather conditions prevent a Match from being Played or cause a Match to be abandoned with



less than two-thirds time having been Played, the Match shall be Played or replayed as a make-up Match.

- (b) **Weather deteriorates after 2/3 time Played** – if a Match is abandoned because of weather conditions after two-thirds or more time has been Played, then the score at that time shall be deemed to be the final score of the Match. The referee’s decision regarding the need to abandon the Match and the time Played shall be final.

5.4 Submitting Team Rosters

For all Age-Grade Competitions, Team Rosters must list all Players that participated as well as all coaches, managers and therapists, and must be completed in full, accurate and submitted to BC Rugby. Team Rosters submitted must demonstrate adherence to the relevant Rules and be submitted by the following deadlines:

- (a) **Provincial Competitions** – all Teams competing in Provincial Competitions must submit a Team Roster no later than 10am the day prior to each scheduled Match. Changes may still be made up until 2 hours after the final whistle and must include all substitutions made.
 - i. **XVs Matches** - each Team has a roster size of 28 nominated Players and must nominate 6 suitably trained and experienced front row Players in that squad and be able to replace, at the first time of asking, loose head prop, tight head prop and hooker.
 - ii. **Tens Matches** - each Team has a roster size of 20 nominated Players and must nominate 6 suitably trained and experienced front row Players in that squad and be able to replace, at the first time of asking, loose head prop, tight head prop and hooker.
- (b) **Clubs’ Competitions** – all Teams competing in Clubs’ Competitions must submit a Player Roster no later than 2 hours prior to each Match’s scheduled kick-off time. Changes may still be made up until 48 hours after the final whistle and must include all substitutions made.
 - i. **XVs Matches** - each Team is permitted a roster size of 25 nominated Players and must nominate 6 suitably trained and experienced front



- row Players in that squad and be able to replace, at the first time of asking, loose head prop, tight head prop and hooker.
- ii. **Tens Matches** - each Team is permitted a roster size of 20 nominated Players and must nominate 6 suitably trained and experienced front row Players in that squad and be able to replace, at the first time of asking, loose head prop, tight head prop and hooker.
 - iii. **Sevens Matches** - each Team is permitted a roster size of 15 nominated Players.
- (c) **Sevens Tournament** – all Teams competing in a Sevens Tournament must submit a 12-Player Team Roster prior to each playing day.

5.5 Laws of the Game & Age-Grade Variations

All Matches shall be Played in accordance with World Rugby's Laws of the Game and shall comply with the rules and regulations of World Rugby, Rugby Canada and BC Rugby. In addition, all Matches shall be Played in accordance with Rugby Canada's published Age-Grade Variations.

For further clarity, BC Rugby mandates adherence to World Rugby's Regulation 22 which applies to artificial turf Playing surfaces.

5.6 Concussion Management

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

5.7 Match Day Management



- (a) **Under 19 Variation** – on any given day, any Player aged 18 years or younger must not exceed Playing 70 minutes within a single Match, including overtime, and must not exceed Playing 90 minutes within that day. For multiple day tournaments, any Player aged 18 years or younger must not exceed Playing 70 minutes within each day of the tournament.
- (b) **Injury Replacement** – no player that is removed due to injury is permitted to return to the Match that they were removed from.
- (c) **Substitutions** – all Matches shall be permitted unlimited player exchanges.

5.8 Entering Playing Enclosure

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

5.9 Reporting of Scores & Point Scorers

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

5.10 Point Tabulations



- (a) **Competitions of Fifteens, Twelves or Tens Rugby** – Team standings shall be determined by the total number of Match points earned by a Team in regular season. The allocation of Match points shall be as follows:
- i. Four points for a win.
 - ii. Two points for a draw.
 - iii. A defaulted Match shall count as five points and recorded as a 20-0 score, as if the non-defaulting Team scored four non-converted tries. The defaulting Team shall lose four points in the league standings.
 - iv. In the event of uncontrollable circumstances that prevents a Match from being Played within regular season, final standings of that Competition will be determined on all participating Teams' Points Ratio.
 - v. In the event of a final score having a Point Differential greater than 50 points, the winning team will have their final score reduced to equal exactly 50 points greater than the losing team's final score.
- (b) **Competitions of Sevens Rugby** – Team standings shall be determined by the total number of Match points earned by a Team in pool Matches. The allocation of Match points shall be as follows:
- i. Three points for a win.
 - ii. Two points for a draw.
 - iii. One point for a loss.
 - iv. A defaulted Match shall count as three points and its score shall be recorded as 20-0 and will count as 4 unconverted tries



SECTION 6 – PLAYOFFS & FINALS

6.1 Tie-Breaking in Team Standings

- (a) **Two-Way Ties** – in the case of two Teams tied at the end of regular season or all pool Matches, the final standings of the two Teams shall be determined by considering in order of the factors below:
- i. The aggregate score of the Matches Played between the two Teams;
 - ii. The most wins in the league or pool;
 - iii. The Points Differential in the league or pool Play;
 - iv. Most tries scored in league or pool Play;
 - v. The toss of a coin by the Chair of the Committee or Tournament Director.
- (b) **Three-Way Ties** – in the case of a three-way tie at the end of regular season or all pool Matches, the final standings shall be determined by considering the factors, in order, below. If any of the steps results in a two-way tie, then the rules for breaking a two-way tie shall be applied. When Points Differential is used, the Team with the highest point differential will be considered the winner. If seeding is still required for the remaining two Teams, then this will revert to two-way tie breaking rules.
- i. The most wins between the Teams;
 - ii. The most wins in the league or pool play;
 - iii. The Points Differential in league or pool play between the Teams involved in the three-way tie;
 - iv. The Points Differential in league or pool play if all Teams tied Played all their Matches;
 - v. The toss of a coin by the Chair of the Committee or Tournament Director.

6.2 Tie-Breaking in Playoff Matches



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

- (a) First to score during a maximum of two five-minute halves of overtime shall be Played.
- (b) If the score remains tied, the winner shall be determined by considering in order of the factors below:
 - i. The team with the most tries scored during the playoff match;
 - ii. The team with the most converted tries scored during the playoff match;
 - iii. The team with the most penalty goals during the playoff match;
 - iv. The team with the most drop goals during the playoff match;
 - v. The team that scored first during the playoff match;
 - vi. The toss of a coin organised by the Match Official.

6.3 Determining Venues for Playoff Matches

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

- (a) **Qualification for Finals** – the venue of any Playoffs that determine Teams' qualification for the Final of a Competition or Division shall be determined by the higher ranked Team in the Competition Standings. BC Rugby may decide to host Playoff Matches at a single venue for logistical reasons.
- (b) **Finals** – the venue for any Clubs' Age-Grade Finals shall be determined by BC Rugby Staff, taking into consideration the following factors:
 - i. Ease of travel for all potential Participants and Clubs involved;
 - ii. Number of fields required to accommodate all Leagues or Divisions Finals;
 - iii. Capacity and quality of facilities required; and



- iv. Locations of other BC Rugby Competitions and events to consider geographical distribution within a 24-month period.

6.4 Determining Schedule for Playoff Matches

For Clubs' Competitions, excluding Sevens Rugby tournaments, schedules for Playoff Matches will be determined as such:

- (a) **Quarter- and Semi-Finals** – the schedule for quarter- and semi-final Matches will remain consistent with the regular season.
- (b) **Finals** – a schedule for the Finals which will be confirmed once all finalist Teams are confirmed. Amendments to the draft schedule may be made to accommodate travel time of finalist Teams.

6.5 Team Eligibility

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

- (a) **Not in Good Standing** – if a Team or Club is not in good standing with BC Rugby, then the Board has the authority to disqualify the Team or Club from participating in the Playoffs.
- (b) **Failure to Complete Regular Season** – if a Team fails to complete the regular season, the Committee has the authority to disqualify the Team from participating in the Playoffs.
- (c) **Conceding Playoffs** – if a Team wishes to withdraw from Playoffs, they must then inform BC Rugby at least 21-days prior to the first scheduled Playoff Match for the relevant Competition or Division. Failure to do so will be treated as a default and sanctioned in accordance with Section 7.5.

6.6 Player Eligibility



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

- (a) **Commitment** – a Player must have Played at least 50% of the Club's scheduled Matches for the Club to be eligible to represent that Club in Playoff Matches. Playing more than one Match within one week (Monday to Sunday) will only count as one Match towards the Player's eligibility calculation. The Committee will receive applications for exemptions in accordance with Section 8.3.
- (b) **Overtime** – regardless of any overtime required in Playoff Matches, any Player subject to World Rugby's U19 Variations must not exceed 70 minutes of Playing time in that Playoff Match.

6.7 Submitting Team Rosters

All Team Rosters for Playoffs must be submitted to BC Rugby by Friday 9am prior to each Playoff Match. Changes may still be made up until 2 hours after the final whistle and must include all substitutions made. Roster size is consistent with regular season.



SECTION 7 – SANCTIONS & FINES

7.1 Authority

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

BC Rugby staff will apply the rules as written and issue the following fines on behalf of the Committee.

7.2 Failure to Provide Satisfactory Facilities

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

- (a) **First offence** – warning, no penalty or fine.
- (b) **Second offence** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$200.
- (c) **All subsequent offences** – the Committee will consider the circumstances and the potential consequences of the failures and may determine that the Club is not permitted to host any home Matches until evidence is provided to BC Rugby office that the issue has been remedied.

7.3 Player Eligibility

The following fines will be applied to the relevant Club and point deductions for the relevant Team for any infraction of Player Eligibility Rules, as detailed in Section 3, in a BC Rugby sanctioned Competition or Match. For infractions relating to section 4.1 the sanctions (fine and point deductions) will be automatically doubled:

- (a) **First offence** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$100.



- (b) **Second offence** – the Club shall be fined a further CAD\$100 and the Team shall be deducted four-points from the league or pool table.
- (c) **Third offence** – the Club shall be fined a further CAD\$500 and the Team shall be deducted a further eight-points from the league or pool table points.
- (d) **Fourth offence** – the Club shall incur all fines accrued and the Team shall be expelled from the Competition or tournament. Furthermore, the Competitions Committee may apply further sanctions if the infractions relate to player safety being significantly compromised.

7.4 Failure to Submit Team Rosters

The following fines will be applied for failure to submit completed, accurate Team Rosters as per the procedures set out by BC Rugby:

- (a) **First offence** – no penalty or fine.
- (b) **Second offence** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$50.
- (c) **All subsequent offences** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$150 for each subsequent offence within the current Competition or tournament.

7.5 Defaulted Matches

- (a) **Age-Grade Divisions** – mandatory fines for Match defaults as follows:
 - i. 4-point deduction for all defaulted Matches; and
 - ii. CAD\$500 fine for all travel defaulted Matches, where the travelling Team is the defaulting Team; or
 - iii. CAD\$100 fine for all other defaulted Matches, provided notification to the opposition is confirmed before 7pm Thursday before the scheduled Match, otherwise the fine is CAD\$200.
- (b) **Unplayable Fields** – if a home Club confirms its field is playable for a travel Match and the opposition arrives to find the field is now unplayable, then the home Club will reimburse the travelling Club as follows for the relevant modes of transport:



- i. **Ferry travel** – the home Club will reimburse the relevant ferry passenger fee for each player, coach, manager and therapist that travelled, as well as the cost of school bus transportation or the cost of the number of cars taken on the ferry. Copies of all receipts must be available upon request of BC Rugby.
- ii. **Crossing USA border or Coquihalla** – the home Club will reimburse the cost of bus transportation or \$750 per Team if cars were used. Copies of bus transport must be available upon request of BC Rugby.
- iii. **Other** – if a Club incurs travel costs not addressed above, then the Committee will review the expenses and provide a decision on fair reimbursement.

7.6 Disputed Matches

Any circumstance considered by the Committee under Section 5.1 (d) may result in loss of home Matches, point deductions and/or fines to a maximum of \$1,000 by determination of the Committee.

7.7 Other Breaches of the Rules of Competition

Any other breach of the Rules of Competition not explicitly covered by Section 7 can be sanctioned and/or fined by the Competition & Events Committee.

7.8 Notice of Fines

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

7.9 Collection and Allocation of Fines

All fines are payable to BC Rugby within 45 days of receipt of notice.



All fines imposed under Section 7.5 are payable to the Club who has had the Match defaulted to it, minus a 10% administration fee that is payable to BC Rugby.

Excluding Section 7.5, the Committee will consider applications from Clubs to recoup sunk costs that arise from situations that have resulted in a fine being imposed on another Club.

7.10 Good Standing

Any club which does not (1) either pay a fine within 45-days or prior to Playoffs (whichever is sooner), and (2) abide by a sanction imposed in a Committee decision under Section 7 may be deemed by the Committee to not be in Good Standing and may therefore be disqualified from Playoffs.



SECTION 8 – APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTIONS

8.1 Age Restrictions

A Team may apply for a named Player to be exempt from an age-grade as an over-age or under-age player by providing BC Rugby with a written request stating the named Player's age, height, weight, position and brief overview of their playing experience & intended impact on the age-grade Team. No Age-Grade Team may exceed three over-age Players per roster. No player is exempted until written approval is provided by BC Rugby.

8.2 Player Eligibility for Playoffs

Applications for exemptions to the Player eligibility for Playoffs must be made to the BC Rugby office by the Wednesday prior to the first scheduled Playoff Match in the relevant Competition or Division. Applications must include supporting documentation that verifies the reason for the request. The following grounds for exemption will be considered by the Competitions and Events Committee with respect to Player eligibility for Playoffs:

- (a) **Injury Management** – if a Player has been unable to meet Section 6.6 (a) due to injury, then an exemption may be granted based on the evidence presented to the Committee that independently verifies an injury that prohibited the Player from Playing in the Club's scheduled Matches.
- (b) **National Duty** – if a Player has been unable to meet Section 6.6 (a) due to representing Rugby Canada, then an exemption may be granted based on the evidence presented.
- (c) **Other** – if a Player has been unable to meet Section 6.6 (a) for any other reason, then a Club may apply for consideration providing a detailed rationale and, if applicable, supporting documentation.



SECTION 9 – PROTESTS & APPEALS

9.1 Protests

- (a) **Grounds for Protest** - Clubs may lodge a protest when evidence of the following exists:
- i. **Extenuating Circumstances:** A Club may lodge a protest to a sanction or fine imposed if extenuating circumstances led to the situation sanctioned or fined. Protests against default fines will not require a deposit as described in Section 9.1 (b) to a maximum of 3 protests per Club per season. The fourth and all subsequent protests will require a deposit.
 - ii. **Rules infraction by another Club:** A Club may lodge a protest against another Club if they compete in the same Competition or Division and the infraction relates to that Competition or Division.
 - iii. **Investigation by the Committee:** The Committee may, on its own initiative, investigate any Club or Team for a suspected non-compliance of the Rules.
- (b) **Lodging a Protest** - Clubs may lodge a protest as follows:
- i. Authorized Representative – protests may only be lodged by an authorized representative of a Club.
 - ii. Provide Notice – to lodge a protest, a Club’s authorized representative must provide in writing all relevant information regarding the protest to enable the Committee to assess grounds for protest.
 - iii. Timeline – A Club must provide notice of a protest within two-weeks of the Match in question, or within two-weeks of receiving notice of a sanction or fine. Notice of a protest relating to a Playoff Match must be filed within 48 hours of the Match concluding.
 - iv. Deposits – protests must be lodged with a CAD\$200 deposit made payable to BC Rugby that will be refunded if the Committee rules in favour of that Club.



- (c) **Consideration of the Protest** – the Committee shall first consider if grounds for protest have been met. If the Committee deems the protest to be valid, then the following steps will be taken:
 - i. When applicable, other parties involved will be informed of the protest and provided 48 hours to provide a written response to the protest.
 - ii. If deemed by the Committee necessary, then a hearing may be called by the Committee when any party involved must be given the opportunity to speak
 - iii. Upon reaching a decision, the Committee has the discretion to maintain the mandatory fine imposed or reduce or nullify such fine and impose any sanction including, but not limited to, standing point deductions.
- (d) **Notice of Result** – the Committee shall provide all impacted parties with a written explanation for the decision made, including sanctions and/or fines imposed.

9.2 Appeals

Clubs may appeal decisions made by the Committee in accordance with BC Rugby's Appeals Policy.



SECTION 10 – COMPETITIONS & EVENTS COMMITTEE

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

10.1 Meetings of the Committee

The Committee shall meet at least six times a year.

10.2 Relationship with other Committees

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

10.3 Relationship with BC Rugby Staff

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



10.4 Contact the Committee

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