



BC RUGBY

RULES OF COMPETITION

SENIOR RUGBY

Updated & Board Approved: May 31, 2022

Effective for the 2022-23 Season & Beyond



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SECTION 1 - GENERAL

1.1 Purpose of the Rules of Competition

The purpose of the Rules is to govern the conduct of all senior (adult) 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 senior Competitions and events owned, sanctioned, or administered by BC Rugby. All those participating 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 and retaining 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) **Academy** – any invite-only, fully-funded program for the development of elite athletes.
- (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 appointing Match Officials to Matches as requested by BC Rugby.
- (d) **Capped Player** – a Player that has Played for his or her country in a senior Fifteens Rugby Test Match or a National Sevens Rugby Team at an Olympic or World Rugby Sevens Series tournament.
- (e) **Carded Player** – a Player that is Senior Carded under Sport Canada’s Athlete Assistance Program.
- (f) **Club** – a Delegate Voting Member as defined by the BC Rugby Bylaws.
- (g) **Competition** – a series of Matches held between two or more Teams in either fifteens, twelves, tens, sevens, or non-contact Rugby.
- (h) **Competition 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.
- (i) **Contracted Player** – any Player that is currently under contract by Rugby Canada for any of their Senior National programs or any Player that has taken the field in the last 12 months representing a professional, top-tier rugby franchise (e.g., Major League Rugby, Top-14, Women’s English Premier League).
- (j) **Division** – a level of Competition, based on Age-grade, region or Teams’ level of ability or motivation.



- (k) **Exhibition Match** – any Rugby Match that is a ‘one-off’ Match and does not count towards any Competition standings or Player awards.
- (l) **Fifteens Rugby** – the game of 15-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.
- (m) **Homegrown Player** – any Player that was registered with his or her Club more than 24 months prior to meeting the definition of Capped Player, Carded Player, or Contracted Player.
- (n) **Import Player** – a Player that is not a citizen or permanent resident (or equivalent) of the country that their Club or Team is located within.
- (o) **Junior Player** – a Player aged 18 years of age or younger.
- (p) **Laws** – refers to the Laws of the Game as determined by World Rugby.
- (q) **Loan** – the temporary movement of a Participant from one Club to another.
- (r) **Match** – a scheduled game of Rugby.
- (s) **Participant** – all and any person participating in BC Rugby sanctioned Competitions.
- (t) **Play** – to take the field in a Match from either a starting or substitute position.
- (u) **Player** – a person who Plays or is intended to Play in any Match.
- (v) **Playoffs** – any knock-out Match where the winner progresses towards the Final or gold-medal Match.
- (w) **Points Differential** – the quotient calculated by subtracting points scored against from the points scored for a Team.
- (x) **Points Ratio** – the quotient obtained by dividing the number of Matches Played into the points accrued, including bonus points if awarded.
- (y) **Provincial Player** – any Player that has represented BC Rugby within the last 24 months.
- (z) **Roster** - the list of named Players to a Team for a Match in accordance with these Rules.
- (aa) **Senior Player** – a Player that is aged 19 years or older.
- (bb) **Sevens Rugby** – the game of 7-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.
- (cc) **Team** – as defined by BC Rugby bylaws.
- (dd) **Tens Rugby** – the game of 10-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.



- (ee) **Therapist** – an individual responsible for the prevention, identification, management, treatment, and rehabilitation of sport injuries.
- (ff) **Transfer** – a permanent move, for the remainder of a Player’s annual membership, of a Player from one Club to another.
- (gg) **Twelves Rugby** – the game of 12-a-side Rugby as defined by World Rugby.
- (hh) **Working Group** – a group appointed by the CEO who supports the Competitions & Events Committee through a delegated ad hoc project, event, or Competition.

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 – SENIOR COMPETITIONS

2.1 Objectives

The stated objectives of Senior 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 BC Players to lead Canadian National Men’s and Women’s 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 Senior Men's and Women's XV's Teams.

- (a) **McKechnie Cup** – annual Competition open to entry from Senior Men's Academy Teams from a region of Clubs and a key component to the BC Rugby Senior Men's XV's Team selection policy.
- (b) **Ruth Hellerud-Brown Cup** – annual Competition open to entry from Senior Women's Teams from a union or region of Clubs and a key component to the BC Rugby Senior Women's XV's Team selection policy.
- (c) **Dunbar Keg** – annual Competition open to entry from Senior Men's Teams, consisting of Players aged 20 years old or younger, from a union or region of Clubs.
- (d) **U23 Women's Cup** – annual Competition open to entry from Senior Women's Teams, consisting of Players aged 22 years old or younger, from a union or region of Clubs.

2.3 Clubs' Competitions

Clubs' Competitions underpin and sustain playing opportunities for players of all abilities and aspirations.

- (a) **Men's Premier League** – annual Competition open to entry from Senior Men's Teams who provide a high-performance rugby program to develop players to the highest standard possible.
- (b) **Women's Premier League** – annual Competition open to entry from Senior Women's Teams who provide a high-performance rugby program to develop players to the highest standard possible.
- (c) **Men's Divisional Leagues** – annual Competitions open to entry from Senior Men's Teams with Divisions determined by quality of play, Age-grade, or geography.
- (d) **Women's Divisional Leagues** – annual Competitions open to entry from Senior Women's Teams with Divisions determined by quality of play, Age-grade, or geography.



2.4 Other Competitions

- (a) **Times Cup** – annual Competition open to entry from Senior Men’s Teams, excluding Men’s Premier League Teams, located in the Vancouver Island region.
- (b) **Saratoga Cup** – annual Competition open to entry from Senior Men’s Teams located in the Northern and Interior Regions. Invitations may be made to Senior Men’s Teams located outside of these Regions.
- (c) **Masters Leagues** – annual Competition adhering to Masters Law Variations and governed by Rules of Competitions for Masters Rugby.
- (e) **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.
- (f) **Sevens Tournaments** – open competition from Senior Men’s and Women’s Teams, hosted by Member Clubs.

2.5 Calendar

Pending changes to better accommodate national level rugby or based on Clubs’ or players’ changing preferences, the following time frames will be followed:

- (a) **Provincial Competitions** – all Provincial Competitions will be scheduled to compliment the relevant BC Rugby XV’s Team Selection Policy and as best as possible facilitate participation from all Leagues.
- (b) **Premier Leagues** – the Men’s and Women’s Premier Leagues will commence no earlier than the second weekend following the Labour Day statutory holiday and the Leagues Finals will take place on the first Saturday in May, within which time between 15 to 22 regular Matches will have been scheduled.
- (c) **Divisional Leagues** – Divisional Leagues will commence no earlier than the weekend following the Labour Day statutory holiday and Leagues Finals will take place on the first Saturday in May. An exception is any Divisional league exclusively for Clubs located in the Interior or Northern Regions whereby Leagues may commence in April and conclude by August 31.



- (d) **Sevens Series** – the Tournaments of the Sevens Series will be scheduled to take place outside of Premier and Divisional Leagues' season, excluding Interior or Northern Regions' Leagues.
- (e) **Invitational, Exhibition & Other Competitions** – these may take place anytime, but consideration and priority should be given to any of the above.

2.6 Scheduling

The Competitions Committee shall be supported by the BC Rugby office who shall resource the drafting of schedules in accordance with 2.6 (b) for all Men's and Women's Premier Leagues, all Divisional Leagues as well as Provincial Competitions. All Provincial and Clubs' Competition schedules are to be approved by the Competitions Committee.

- (a) **Provincial Competitions** – Provincial Competitions shall be scheduled with the aim to achieving the following objectives:
 - i. Schedule Provincial Competitions with the least amount of overlap with Club Competitions.
 - ii. Schedule Provincial Competitions to best support player development towards representative opportunities.
 - iii. Schedule Provincial Competitions when the greatest participation from all Leagues can be achieved.
- (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. Consider special requests from participating Clubs; and,
 - v. Sustaining regional rugby and established rivalries.



2.7 Kick-off Times

Kick-off times for Club Matches shall commence at the scheduled kick-off time unless otherwise agreed to by all relevant parties or due to exceptional circumstances as detailed in Section 5. In exceptional circumstances, the referee may delay the start of the Match. Any Team causing a delay to the scheduled kick-off time must notify their opponent as early as possible. Failure to do so may result in sanctions pursuant to Section 7.

- (a) **Provincial Competitions** – kick-off times for any Provincial Competition shall be scheduled by the BC Rugby office.
- (b) **Men's Premier League** – kick-off time for Saturday Men's Premier League Matches is 2.30pm
- (c) **Women's Premier League** – kick-off time for Saturday Women's Premier League Matches is 12:45pm.
- (d) **Men's Divisions** – kick-off times for Division One is 2:30pm on Saturdays or 12:45pm if the home team is also scheduled to host a Men's Premier League match. Division Two and below is 12:45pm with other consecutive Division Matches scheduled in accordance with Section 2.7 (f).
- (e) **Women's Divisions** – kick-off time for Division One is 12:45pm on Saturdays or 11:15am if the home team is also scheduled to host a Women's Premier League match. Division Two will kick off at 11:15am on Saturdays.
- (f) **Consecutive Matches** – it is required that kick-off times for Matches on the same playing field be scheduled at least 1hr and 30mins for Fifteens Rugby Matches or 60mins if an earlier Match has a shorter running time. If an earlier Match fails to start as scheduled, then that Match must be reduced in length for each half of the Match so that the Match will finish within the allotted duration or at least five minutes before the next Match is scheduled to kick-off. However, if both Teams and the allocated officials agree, then the second Match may start later to allow the full duration of the earlier Match to be Played.
- (g) **Schedule clashes** - if circumstances lead to a clash of kick off times on one field, and Teams are unable to come to mutual agreement, the issue will be deferred to the Competitions Committee who may determine how best to adjust the schedule.



SECTION 3 – TEAM ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Senior Competitions

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

For any Team that will host any Match of a Competition, that Team must have access to satisfactory facilities, both at home fields and any alternative fields. As minimum standards, Teams must ensure that home or alternative fields meet the following:

- (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. For all Men’s and Women’s Premier League Matches, the main field must also have changing and shower facilities within 250 metres.
- (d) **Spectator restraints** – For all Men’s and Women’s Premier League Matches and when more than 50 spectators are in attendance of a Match, appropriate restraints are in place to keep spectators at least two metres back from the touch lines and/or dead ball lines. No aspect of the restraints should themselves be a potential source of injury to players or others.

3.2 Provincial Competitions

- (a) **Number of Teams** – a maximum of four Teams may be permitted entry into each Provincial Competition.



- (b) **Conditions for Entry** – only BC Rugby Delegate Voting or Affiliate Members in good standing may enter Teams that meet the following pre-requisites each season:
- i. Each Team must have a Head Coach that is registered and, as a minimum, holds NCCP Introduction to Competition (Certified) / World Rugby Level 2 certification.
 - ii. Each Team must have an Assistant Coach that is registered and, as a minimum, is trained in NCCP Introduction to Competition (Trained) / World Rugby Level 1.
 - iii. Each Team must have an appointed Therapist that is registered and holds a relevant healthcare qualification as well as certification in World Rugby Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
 - iv. Each Team must have a Manager that is registered and holds current certification in World Rugby's Concussion Management for the General Public.
- (c) **Entry Process** – the Competitions Committee shall provide written invitation to regional representatives, who will have one month to written acceptance to compete and include details of all invited Teams' compliance with Section 3.2 (b).

3.3 Clubs' Competitions

- (a) **Number of Teams** – a minimum of four Teams and a maximum of 12 Teams may be permitted entry into a Division or pool of a Clubs' Competition. Exceptions can be approved by the Committee for Teams that are not participating in Playoffs.
- (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 Delegate Voting Members of BC Rugby in good standing 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 Introduction to Competition / World Rugby Level 1 certification; and
 - ii. At least one named Therapist that is registered and holds a relevant healthcare qualification as well as certification in World Rugby's Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
- (d) **Combined entries** – Two Clubs may combine to enter a Team in Division Two or lower Club Competition, with that Team demonstrating compliance with all applicable Rules. Furthermore, both Clubs must be in good standing with BC Rugby.
- (e) **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 by the Committee after considering the impact on the relevant Division(s), those Teams already declared and the circumstances that lead to a late declaration.
- (f) **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. The Committee shall consider potential impact to Team, Club and Leagues, and are encouraged to open dialogue with the potential impacted parties to support the Committee's decision making.

3.4 Men's Premier League

- (a) **Number of Teams** – a maximum of 12 Clubs may be permitted entry.
- (b) **Conditions for Entry** – only Clubs that are BC Rugby Delegate Voting Members in good standing and that meet the following pre-requisites will be permitted entry each season:



- i. A Club must enter and compete in Men's Premier League and Men's Division 1, as a minimum;
 - ii. A Club must be prepared to fulfil all Matches for both Teams in Men's Premier League and Men's Division 1;
 - iii. Any new Club wishing to enter the Men's Premier League must have run two men's teams for the previous two seasons, without recording any defaults for their highest division team;
 - iv. A Premier Team must have an appointed Head Coach that is registered and, as a minimum, be certified in NCCP Introduction to Competition/World Rugby Level 2;
 - v. Each Team must have an appointed Therapist that is registered and holds a relevant healthcare qualification as well as certification in World Rugby Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
 - vi. A Club competing within the Men's Premier League must meet the Conditions for Entry throughout the season and fulfil the Premier League and Men's Division 1 schedule, in its entirety. Failure to do will be penalised as detailed in Section 7 as well as risk Team Eligibility for Playoffs as detailed in Section 6.
- (c) **Exemptions to the Conditions for Entry** – a Team or Academy funded by Rugby Canada, in support of Rugby Canada's National Senior Men's Fifteens Team, may enter the Men's Premier League without meeting the required number of additional Teams as outlined in 3.4 (b) i. The Team will not be restricted on the number of Capped, Carded or Contracted Players but is not permitted any Import Players.
- (d) **Application Process** – any Club wishing to enter the Men's Premier League must provide a written application by the advertised deadline. Applications must include supporting documentation with respect to the requirements set out in Section 3.4 (b) and details of the Club's compliance with Section 3.1 (a) and (c).
- (e) **Acceptance Procedure** – Applications that meet the entry of requirements will be invited to participate in the Men's Premier League for the forthcoming season.



3.5 Women's Premier League

- (a) **Number of Teams** – a maximum of 8 Clubs may be permitted entry.
- (b) **Conditions of Entry** – only Clubs that are BC Rugby Delegate Voting Members in good standing and that meet the following pre-requisites will be permitted entry each season:
 - i. A Club must be prepared to fulfil all Matches;
 - ii. A Premier Team must have an appointed Head Coach that is registered and, as a minimum, hold certification in NCCP Introduction to Competition/World Rugby Level 2;
 - iii. The Team must have an appointed Therapist that is registered and holds a relevant healthcare qualification as well as certification in World Rugby's Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals.
 - iv. A Club competing within the Women's Premier League must meet the Conditions for Entry throughout the season and fulfil the Premier League schedule in its entirety. Failure to do will be penalised as detailed in Section 7 as well as risk Team Eligibility for Playoffs as detailed in Section 6.
- (c) **Application Process** – any Club wishing to enter the Women's Premier League must provide a written application with supporting documentation by the advertised deadline. Applications must include supporting documentation with respect to the requirements set out in Section 3.5 (b) and details of the Club's compliance with Section 3.1 (a) and (c).
- (d) **Acceptance Procedure** – the Competition & Events Committee shall assess all applications based on each applicants' evidenced ability to meet all conditions of entry as detailed in Section 3.5 (b). If further distinction between applications is required, then the Committee shall assess each application based on previous season's performance, number of registered Players in current and past two seasons and standard of home field and facilities. All Teams that meet the Conditions of Entry, application deadlines and pay all relevant fees shall be accepted into the upcoming Women's Premier League. If more Clubs apply than the number of Teams permitted as per Section 3.4 (a), then the Committee shall make a recommendation on



which Clubs should be permitted entry, including their reasoning, to the Board for their approval.

SECTION 4 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

4.1 All Senior Competitions

- (a) **Registration** – all Players must be registered with the competing Club or Academy, and therefore insured, prior to Playing in any Match, unless loaned in accordance with 4.3 (d).
- (b) **Age** – a Player’s age is determined as at December 31 in the year that the first Match of a Competition takes place (i.e. birth year). Players aged 19 and older are eligible to Play without restriction. Players aged 18 years are eligible to Play but are subject to World Rugby’s U19 Variations. Players aged 17 years must apply for exemption as detailed in Section 8 and, assuming approval, are subject to World Rugby’s U19 Variations. **Players aged 18 or 17 years of age are not permitted to play in the front row. No player aged 16 or younger is permitted to play in any Senior Competition.**
- (c) **Return to Play Protocol** – if any player has sustained an injury, including a suspected concussion, they are not permitted to play unless they have successfully completed World Rugby’s Return to Play protocols.
- (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 depowered.

4.2 Provincial Competitions

For all Provincial Competitions, a Player must be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada and must also either be a current resident of or born in British Columbia.

Additional Player eligibility requirements are in place for the following Competitions:



- (a) **McKechnie Cup, Men's Competition** – open to all Senior Players.
- (b) **Ruth Hellerud-Brown Cup, Women's Competition** – open to all Senior Players.
- (c) **Dunbar Keg, Men's Competition** – open to all Players aged between 18 and 20 years of age. Age will be determined relative to the year that the final Dunbar Keg Match is taking place. A Team may apply for and be granted an exemption for named over-age Player or Player aged 17 years old in accordance with Section 8.
- (d) **U23 Women's Cup** – open to all Players aged between 18 and 22 years of age. Age will be determined relative to the year that the final Cup Match is taking place. A Team may apply for and be granted an exemption for named over-age Player or Player aged 17 years old in accordance with Section 8.

4.3 Clubs' Competitions

- (a) **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.
- (b) **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 his or her Club and in good standing with BC Rugby.
- (c) **Player Transfers** – a Player may transfer to from one Club to another. A Player may complete up to two intra-Provincial transfers 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.
- (d) **Player Loans** – a Player may be loaned to one Club from another for a maximum of two regular season matches per loan agreement. A Player on loan may not play against the Club which is loaning the Player. To do so, both Clubs and the Player must agree the terms of the loan. This agreement must be in writing, detailing the training and matches the player is being loaned for and submitted to BC Rugby three weeks prior to the first match



for approval by the Competitions Committee. This excludes the loaning of any player from a Rugby Canada funded team and the loaning of any player for any playoff match.

- (e) **University Student** – a Player must satisfy U Sports' (formerly Canadian Interuniversity Sport) eligibility requirements to Play for any Team fielded by their University.
- (f) **Multi-Team Clubs** – if a Club's higher Division Team has a bye or is not otherwise playing on the same weekend when that Club has a lower Division Team with a scheduled Match, then no Player who started for the higher Division Team in that Club in its most recent Match is eligible to start for the lower Division Team's Match. A maximum of three players who started for any higher Division Team for that Club in the higher Division Team's most recent Match are eligible to Play for the lower Division Team as reserves.
- (g) **Capped, Carded & Contracted Players in Premier Leagues** – all Men's and Women's Premier League Teams are restricted to Playing no more than a total of **five** Capped Players, Carded Players, and Contracted Players on the roster, unless the Team has written confirmation of an exemption as described in Section 8. A Player's status will be determined as of September 1 and as of January 1.
- (h) **Capped, Carded & Contracted Players in all other Leagues** – all Men's and Women's Teams in Division One and lower are restricted to Playing no more than a total of **three** Capped Players, Carded Players, and Contracted Players on the roster, unless the Team has written confirmation of an exemption as described in Section 8. A Player's status will be determined as of September 1 and as of January 1.
- (i) **Women's Lowest Division** – Any Club with a higher division women's team, is not permitted any starting player from the higher division team to play in the lowest division on the same day. All Teams are not permitted to play any BC Bears Senior XVs Team Players in women's lowest division unless their Club only has one women's team.

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. In the circumstances outlined below, Clubs must cancel, concede, or default Teams from the lowest Division upwards unless approved in writing by BC Rugby.

- (a) **Reduced Numbers** – the following Club Competitions are permitted to reduce playing numbers and the result will stand if communicated at least 24hrs prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Both Teams **MUST** have the same number of players on the field.
 - i. Men’s Division 1 and 2 – 14-a-side
 - ii. Women’s Division 1 – 14-a-side
 - iii. Women’s Division 2 –10-a-side
 - iv. Men’s Division 3 –12-a-side
- (b) **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, including a significant number of Team personnel suffering from a communicable disease.
- (c) **Conceding a win** – if a Team is unable to have a safe and compliant roster as detailed below but the Match still takes place, that Team will record a loss but incur no penalty:
 - i. **Player Safety** – Lack of suitably trained and experienced Players available for the front row in accordance with Law 3.8 of the Game.
 - ii. **Minimum Roster for Provincial Competitions & Premier Leagues** – A Team fails to field a player roster of at least 20 players.



- iii. **Minimum Roster for Clubs' Competitions** – A Team fails to field a player roster of at least 18 players. If the League permits 12-a-side matches, a conceded win will only be recorded if a Team fails to field a player roster of at least 15 players.
 - iv. **Minimum Roster for Sevens Competitions** – A Team fails to field a player roster of at least 10 players.
 - v. **Front Row Replacements and Depowered Scrums** – if a Team in a Men's or Women's Premier League Match does not nominate at least 5 suitably trained and experienced front row Players in their squad and the scrums must be depowered as a result, then that Team will record a loss.
- (d) **Defaults** – the following circumstances will be treated as a defaulted Match:
- 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.
- (e) **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) **The Committee** – the Competitions & Events Committee has the right to schedule make-up Matches and relocate venues that it deems necessary.
- (b) **Right of the Home Club** – the Home Club has the right to relocate a Match to an approved alternative field if its home field is closed. The Home Club



may use the home field of any other Club, with that Club's permission, as its alternative field.

- (c) **Reschedule Requests** – a Team may request their opponent to reschedule a regular season Match. Both Teams must agree, though the opponent must not unreasonably deny the request for rescheduling the Match. If the Match is rescheduled to an official make-up date, then required make-up Matches take precedence on that date.
- (d) **Schedule of Make-Up Matches** – unless otherwise approved by the Committee, make-up Matches shall be Played in the order in which they were cancelled, that is, the first Match cancelled shall be the first Match to be Played on the make-up date.
- (e) **Closure of Neutral Field** – if a Match is scheduled at a neutral field and that field is closed, then it is the responsibility of the listed home Team to attempt to find an alternative neutral field. If an alternative neutral field is unable to be confirmed by 2pm Friday, then the Match will not be Played and re-scheduled as available. Clubs involved in neutral site Matches will not be required to travel to home or opposing Clubs' fields unless agreement is reached. Where the neutral site sought requires travel time exceeding three hours by both Clubs, the BC Rugby Office will assist, if required, in finding and securing a neutral field.
- (f) **Availability of Opponent's Home Field** – if the home Club fails to nominate a playable field by 2pm Friday and the opponent's home field is open and within 60km of the scheduled venue, then the Match is automatically switched to the opponent's home field. The home Club may apply to the Competitions & Events Committee under Section 7.5 (d) to have any future away Match between the two Clubs switched to rebalance the share of home Matches.
- (g) **Providing Notice** – the home Club should communicate potential issues with their opponent in advance (ideally prior to 2pm on Thursday), and receive acknowledgement, of all changes, or potential changes, from the opponent, BC Rugby office and the relevant Referee Allocator. Final details of the agreed changes must be confirmed to BC Rugby offices no later than 2pm on the Friday prior to the scheduled Match. Failure to notify the opposition, the relevant Referee Allocator and BC Rugby of any field closure or venue change or Match abandonment may result in sanctions pursuant to Section 7.



- (h) **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.
- (c) **Power of the Referee** – a referee has the power to abandon a Match at any time if, in his or her opinion, the Match should not continue to full time. The referee will inform both Team captains that the Match is being abandoned and of the reason for taking that action.
- (d) **Power of the Team Captain** – a Team captain has the power to abandon a Match at any time, if in his or her opinion, the Match should not continue to full time. If a Team captain decides to abandon a Match, then he or she shall inform the referee of the reason for that decision.
- (e) **Other Reasons as Determined by Referee or Team Captain** – where a Match is abandoned for any reason other than weather conditions, the following steps will be followed:
 - i. The referee and representatives from both Clubs shall submit within 72 hours a written report detailing the reasons for abandoning the Match to the Committee.
 - ii. The Committee shall review the reports of the referee and the Team captains and consider such other evidence that it deems relevant to the matter and then decide as to the status of the Match.



- iii. The Committee has the power to declare a winner, order a replay, or to declare a no contest in which case no points are awarded to either Team, and may apply sanctions as it deems fit. If a replay is ordered, then it shall be held under conditions established by the Committee.

5.4 Team Rosters

For all Senior Competitions, Team Rosters must list all Players that participated as well as all coaches, managers, trainers, or therapists, and must be completed in full, accurate and submitted online to the BC Rugby offices via the provided Competitions management platform. Team Rosters submitted must demonstrate adherence to the following relevant Rules and be submitted by the following deadlines:

(a) Roster Size

- i. **Substitute Players** – in all Competitions and for all Law Variations, a minimum of three substitute players must be present and able to play.
- ii. **Provincial Competitions** – in all Provincial Competition Matches each Team is permitted a 23-player roster in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- iii. **Clubs' Competitions** – in all Clubs' Competitions Matches each Team is permitted a 22-player roster if 5 suitable front row players are available. If 6 front row players are listed, a team is permitted a 23-player roster in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- iv. **Sevens Competitions** – all Teams competing in a Sevens Competitions is permitted a 12-player roster for each Match.

(b) Submission Deadlines

- i. **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.
- ii. **Premier Leagues** – Men's and Women's Premier League Teams must submit a Team Roster for each Team no later than 10am the day prior to each scheduled Match. Changes may still be made up until 48 hours after the final whistle and must include all substitutions made.



- iii. **Clubs' Competitions** – all Teams competing in Clubs' Competitions must submit their 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 players who took the field.
- iv. **Sevens Competitions** – all Teams competing in a Sevens Competition must submit their Team Roster prior to each Match, or as specific tournament rules dictate.

5.5 Laws of the Game

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. 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.
- (b) **Matches with Reduced Numbers** – any Match being reduced to 12-a-side or 10-a-side in accordance with Section 5.1 (a) shall not exceed 60 minutes of playing time.



- (c) **Substitutions in Provincial Competition Matches** – substitutions are made in accordance with the Laws of the Game for a 23-Player roster if 6 suitably trained and experienced front row Players are nominated in that squad and can replace, at the first time of asking, loose head prop, tight head prop and hooker. If a Team can nominate only 5 suitably trained and experienced front row Players who are able to replace a prop and a hooker at the first time of asking, then substitutions are made in accordance with the Laws of the Game for a 22-Player roster.
- (d) **Substitutions in Men’s and Women’s Premier Leagues** – substitutions are made in accordance with the Laws of the Game for a 23-Player roster if 6 suitably trained and experienced front row Players are nominated in that squad and can replace, at the first time of asking, loose head prop, tight head prop and hooker. If a Team can nominate only 5 suitably trained and experienced front row Players who are able to replace a prop and a hooker at the first time of asking, then substitutions are made in accordance with the Laws of the Game for a 22-Player roster.
- (e) **Substitutions in Men’s & Women’s Club Competitions (excluding Premier Leagues)** – a Team is permitted an unlimited number of player exchanges during a Division One or Lower Division Match. That is, a removed Player may re-enter the Match as and when facilitated by the appointed Match Official.
- (f) **Substitutions in Sevens Matches** – substitutions are made in accordance with the Laws of the Game, Sevens Variations or as otherwise set by the tournament organisers.

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, which shall include bonus points. The allocation of Match points shall be as follows:
 - i. Four points for a win.
 - ii. Two points for a draw.
 - iii. One bonus point for finishing with a score which is seven points or less of the winner.
 - iv. One bonus point for scoring four or more tries in a Match.
 - v. A conceded Match shall count as four points and recorded as a 20-0 score, as if the non-conceding Team scored no more than three tries.
 - vi. 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.
 - vii. 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.



- (b) **Competitions of Sevens Rugby** – Team standings shall be determined by the total number of Match points earned by a Team in pool Matches, which shall not include bonus points. 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 5-0 and will count as one unconverted try.

SECTION 6 – PLAYOFFS & FINALS

6.1 Tie-Breaking in Team Standings

- (a) **Two-Way Ties in Senior Competitions** – in the case of two Teams tied at the end of regular season or all pool Matches (i.e. Sevens Tournament), 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. The toss of a coin by the Chair of the Committee or Tournament Director.
- (b) **Two-Way Ties in Leagues Based on Bonus Points** – in the case of two Teams tied at the end of regular season, the final standings shall be determined by the following, in order:
- i. The aggregate score of the Matches Played between the two Teams;
 - ii. The most wins in regular season;
 - iii. The Points Differential in league Play;
 - iv. The most bonus points earned in league Play; or
 - v. The toss of a coin by the Chair of the Committee.



- (c) **Three-Way Ties in Senior Competitions** – in the case of a three-way tie at the end of regular season or all pool Matches (i.e. Sevens Tournaments), 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.
- (d) **Three-Way Ties in Leagues Based on Bonus Points** – in the case of three Teams tied at the end of regular season, the final standings shall be determined by the following, in order. If any of the steps taken 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 Points Differential in regular season between the Teams involved in the three-way tie; or
 - iii. The most bonus points earned in regular season.

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) Two five-minute halves of overtime shall be Played.



- (b) If the score remains tied, then the Teams shall Play a five-minute period of overtime with the Team scoring first determined as the winner (i.e. sudden death).
- (c) If the score remains tied, then the Teams shall compete in kicks at goal as directed by World Rugby protocol and confirmed by BC Rugby prior to Playoffs.

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. The Committee will receive requests for venue changes in accordance with Section 8.4.
- (b) **Finals** – the venue for any Clubs' Competition Finals shall be determined by the Competitions & Events Committee, 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. The Committee will receive applications for rescheduling requests in accordance with Section 8.4.



- (b) **Club Finals** – BC Rugby staff shall draft 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) **Conditions for Entry** – if a Team or Club no longer meets the relevant Conditions of Entry, then the Committee has the authority to disqualify the Team from participating in the Playoffs.
- (c) **Premier League Conditions for Entry** – if the required accompanying Team defaults more than two Matches or any required additional Team fails to Play at least three-quarters of the relevant regular season, then the Premier League Team will not be eligible for Playoffs.
- (d) **Rugby Canada funded Team** - should a Team enter the Men's Premier League in accordance with Rule 3.4 (c), that Team is not eligible for Playoffs. That team will be removed from the Team Standings to determine Playoffs for the Men's Premier League. All points accrued by their opponents will count to their team standings.
- (e) **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.
- (f) **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** – firstly, a Player must have Played at least five Matches for the Club to be eligible to represent that Club in Playoff Matches. If a Club has 12 or less Matches played in all Men's or Women's Leagues it's participating in, then a Player must have Played at least four Matches for the Club. 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) **Level of Play** – secondly, for Clubs with more than one Team, no Player that has started more than two-thirds of his or her Matches in a higher Division Team may Play for the Club in a lower Division Team through Playoffs. That is, if a Player has started in 11 higher-Division Matches out of a total of 16 Matches Played, then that Player is ineligible for the lower-Division Team through Playoffs. Playing more than one Match within one week (Monday to Sunday) will only count as one Match towards the Player's eligibility calculation. If that Player starts in more than one Match within a week, then the higher Division Match will be counted. The Committee will receive applications for exemptions in accordance with Section 8.3.
- (c) **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.



6.8 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.
- (b) **Roster Size in Playoff Matches** – for all divisions of play in Club Competitions, Teams are permitted a 23-Player roster if 6 suitably trained and experienced front row Players are nominated in that squad and can replace, at the first time of asking, loose head prop, tight head prop and hooker. If a Team can nominate only 5 suitably trained and experienced front row Players who are able to replace a prop and a hooker at the first time of asking, then the Team is permitted a 22-Player roster
- (c) **Substitutes in Playoff Matches** – substitutions in playoff matches will be in accordance with regular season.

SECTION 7 – SANCTIONS & FINES

7.1 Authority

The Competition Committee has the power to impose fines and sanctions as set out in the Rules and deemed necessary for the operation and integrity 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** – a written warning shall be issued .
- (b) **Second offence** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$200.
- (c) **All subsequent offences** – for Premier Leagues, the Club will not be permitted to host any home Matches until evidence is provided to BC Rugby staff that the issue has been remedied. For all other Leagues, the Competitions 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 sanctions will be applied to the relevant Club and Team for each Match where infractions to Section 4 have occurred. For infractions relating to Section 4.1, the monetary fine will be automatically doubled. For infractions relating to Sections 4.3 (f), (g), (h) and (i), the relevant Match will be recorded as a default with the infringing Team treated as the defaulting Team, even for a first offence, in addition to the following sanctions:

- (a) **First offence** – a written warning shall be issued.
- (b) **Second offence** – the Club shall be fined CAD\$200 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 and any bonus points earned in that Match.
- (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 impose further sanctions if the infractions relate to player safety being significantly compromised.

7.4 Team Sheet Compliance

The following fines will be applied to the relevant Club per Match for failure to adhere to Section 5.4:



- (a) **First offence** – a written warning shall be issued.
- (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) **Premier Leagues** – mandatory fines for Match defaults are as follows for Men's and Women's Premier League and Men's Premier Reserve Matches:
 - i. where the travelling Premier League or Premier Reserve Team is the defaulting Team, that Team shall incur a CAD\$1,000 fine for all defaulted Matches; or
 - ii. CAD\$500 fine for all other defaulted Matches, provided notification to the opposition is confirmed before 7pm Thursday prior to the scheduled Match, otherwise the fine is CAD\$750.
- (b) **Men's & Women's Divisions** – mandatory fines for Match defaults as follows for Men's and Women's Divisional Matches:
 - i. where the away Team is the defaulting Team and needed to travel at least two hours to the home Team, that Team shall incur a CAD\$1,000 fine for all defaulted Matches; or
 - ii. CAD\$200 fine for all other defaulted Matches, provided notification to the opposition is confirmed before 7pm Thursday prior to the scheduled Match, otherwise the fine is CAD\$500.
- (c) **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.
- (d) **Match Played at Away Team Venue** – for home Teams that are unable to play on their home fields and the venue for the Match is reversed to the original away Team, the following reimbursements apply:
- i. If the schedule is a double round, then the home venue will be reversed so each Team still gets a home Match; or,
 - ii. If the schedule is a double round, and the first Match has already been Played, or if the schedule is a single round, then the away Team will reimburse the home Team, who are now travelling, CAD\$800 for a single Team or CAD\$1,500 for two Teams travelling together.

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 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

The following exemptions will be considered by the Competitions Committee:

- (a) **Over-age Players** – a Team may apply for a named Player to be exempt from an Age-Grade Team 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.
- (b) **Junior Players** – a Team may apply for a named Player aged 17 years of age to be permitted to Play in Senior Competitions by completing the BC Rugby



[Player Exemption Form](#) and submitting this to BC Rugby's Technical Director for approval.

8.2 Restrictions on Players

For each season of Play, Clubs may apply to the Competitions Committee in writing for exemptions to the restriction on the number of Capped Players, Carded Players, Contracted Players and Import Players as follows:

- (a) **Homegrown Player** – a Player that is a Capped Player, a Carded Player or a Contracted Player and meets the definition of a Homegrown Player for that Club is exempt from Section 4.3 (b).
- (b) **University Player** – a Player that is a Capped Player, a Carded Player or a Contracted Player and is Playing for a University Team and satisfies the USports' (formerly Canadian Interuniversity Sport) eligibility requirements is exempt from Section 4.3 (b).
- (c) **Capped Player** – a Player that is a Capped Player but has not earned a cap within the 18 months one day prior to a Match will be exempt from Section 4.3 (b). The Club must submit a written request and receive written confirmation of the Player being exempt under this Rule for the exemption to be valid. The written request may be submitted within four weeks of the **18-month period** concluding. Furthermore, a Capped Player that earns a cap within the current Premier League season after an 18-month period without a cap is exempt from Section 4.3 (b).
- (d) **Import Player for Provincial Competitions** – a Team may request in writing for the exemption of an Import Player for Senior Provincial Competitions, evidencing that the Import Player is residing in British Columbia, and is within 13-months of being eligible to represent Canada in accordance with World Rugby's Regulation 8.1.
- (e) **Application for Exemptions** – applications for exemptions to the restrictions on Players must be submitted in writing. The Committee will make a call for applications for each season, with all decisions published within one month of the advertised application deadline.



8.3 Player Eligibility for Playoffs

Applications for exemptions to the Player eligibility for Playoffs must be made to the Committee 21-days 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 or Illness Management** – if a Player has been unable to meet Section 6.6 (a) due to injury or illness, then an exemption may be granted based on the evidence presented to the Committee that independently verifies an injury or illness 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 to the Committee. This Rule excludes playing in the Rugby Canada Team entered in the Men’s Premier League in accordance with Rule 3.4 (c).
- (c) **Level of Competition** – if a Player is in violation of Section 6.6 (b), then an exemption may be granted based on a detailed rationale presented to the Committee.
- (d) **Other** – if a Player has been unable to meet Section 6.6 (a) for any other reason, then a Club may apply to the Committee for consideration providing a detailed rationale and, if applicable, supporting documentation.

8.4 Venues & Scheduling for Playoff Matches

Applications for venue or scheduling changes for Playoff Matches must be submitted by 10am of the Monday prior to the relevant Playoff Match. Exceptions may be considered under the following circumstances:

- (a) **Travel** – the away Team needs to travel greater than five hours one-way to reach the Playoff venue.



- (b) **International Travel** – the lower ranked Team would not be able to field a Team due to Players without valid documentation to cross into the United States of America.
- (c) **Unbalanced Schedule** – the lower ranked Team travelled away more than the higher ranked Team due to an unbalanced home/away schedule.
- (d) **Substitutes for Front Row** – a Club has more than one Team in the Men’s or Women’s Divisional Playoffs and the lower Team supplies more than one substitute to the higher Team’s front row.

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 vote to direct BC Rugby staff to 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 by Monday 12pm immediately following the Playoff Match, or within 48 hours of the Match concluding if the Match has not taken place on a Saturday.
 - 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 COMMITTEE

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

10.1 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) **Safe Sport Committee** – any recommendations made by BC Rugby’s Safe Sport Committee must be considered by the Competitions Committee. Player welfare is the top priority and must not be compromised.
- (c) **Appeals Committee** – any appealable decisions of the Competitions 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 Committee shall report to the Executive Committee.

10.2 Relationship with BC Rugby Staff

The Competitions 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.

10.3 Contact the Committee

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