

# West Coast Soccer League (WCL)

## RULES & REGULATIONS MANUAL

Established 2022

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## **POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL**

### **DEFINITIONS**

**BC Soccer** – Refers to the British Columbia Soccer Association. The use of “BC Soccer” before any procedure, rule, guideline, requirement or official indicates that the reference is to someone (or something) that operates under the auspices of the BC Soccer board (rather than the MSL Committee or a District Board.)

**District** – Refers to anybody duly constituted under the BC Soccer Constitution as a District Association. The use of “District” before any procedure, rule, guideline, requirement or official indicates that the reference is to someone (or something) that operates under the auspices of a District Board (rather than under the BC Soccer Board or the WCL Committee.)

**The West Coast League** – Refers to the league operating under these guidelines. Herein after referred to as, the “WCL” The use of WCL before any procedure, rule, guideline, requirement or official indicates that the reference is to someone (or something) that operates under the auspices of the West Coast League Committee (rather than under the BC Soccer Board or a District Board.)

**The West Coast League Committee** – Refers to a Committee comprised of the LISA President, or delegate, and the UIZA President, or delegate, who are jointly responsible for developing the rules and policies of the League.

**Upper Island Soccer Association or UIZA** – Refers to the Upper Island Soccer Association which is a District Association duly constituted under the BC Soccer Constitution.

**Lower Island Soccer Association or LISA** – Refers to the Lower Island Soccer Association which is a District Association duly constituted under the BC Soccer Constitution.

**League Game** – Any game scheduled by the WCL Scheduler and appearing on the published WCL Schedule distributed to all teams. To clarify, “additional games” are league games, which means that all league rules apply e.g. players can receive red and yellow cards; games can be used for serving discipline, teams/clubs can be fined for not playing the game.

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## **SECTION 1 – LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION**

It is understood that the West Coast Soccer League (WCL) is operating under both the BC Soccer Constitution and Bylaws and the BC Soccer Competition Rules and Regulations.

### **1.1 WCL Committee Composition**

- (a) The West Coast League is comprised of teams from the LISA and the UISA
- (b) The President, or a delegate, of the Lower Island Soccer Association (LISA) and the President, or delegate, of the Upper Island Soccer Association (UISA) will form the Rules & Policies Committee (WCL Committee).
- (c) Both WCL Committee members shall have one (1) vote each.
- (d) One member from LISA and one member from UISA constitute a quorum.
- (e) A vote may be held when there is a quorum.
- (f) A majority vote of those WCL Committee members in attendance at a WCL Committee meeting is binding.
- (g) The West Coast League Committee may make appointments as it sees fit to ensure the efficient operation of the league. These appointed positions do not carry votes.
- (h) An alternate will be accepted as a voting member at a West Coast League Committee meeting with either the written permission of the LISA President (if a LISA alternate) or the UISA President (if a UISA alternate).
- (i) The district representatives will mutually decide upon a third individual to be called upon in the event of a tie-breaking requirement situation.
- (j) A majority of the WCL Committee members must vote to approve all changes to the WCL Policy and Information Manual.
- (k) WCL administrative procedures will be dealt with by the WCL Committee.

### **1.2 Correspondence**

- (a) All WCL correspondence (both 'in' and 'out') should be directed to both the President of LISA and the President of UISA.
- (b) Only written correspondence will be discussed or acknowledged by the WCL Committee

### **1.3 Affiliation of Teams**

- (a) All WCL teams must be affiliated through either LISA or UISA District Associations.
- (b) The WCL Committee has the right to deny, place, or move teams as it deems appropriate.
- (c) The WCL Committee will determine maximum league sizes. Recommended maximum league size is 7 teams. To be reviewed each year.
- (d) All teams remain eligible for Provincial competitions only through affiliation with their own District. WCL entry does not imply any special procedures for teams with regard to Provincial Cup or other BC Soccer matters except where these are so stipulated herein.

### **1.4 Teams and Players**

- (a) West Coast League teams violating the WCL policies in relation to players will be withdrawn from play.
- (b) Teams failing to observe WCL deadlines indicated will not be accepted into the league for the upcoming season.

## **1.5 Discipline**

- (a) All discipline arising from specific games will be dealt with by the LISA Discipline Committee as per BC Soccer's Discipline Policy & Procedures Guide, in accordance with BC Soccer Rules and Regulations).
- (b) LISA will notify the UISA Director of Discipline when the hearing involves a UISA player.
- (c) Referee abuse will be handled by the BC Soccer Discipline Committee.
- (d) If the game is stopped by the referee due to bad behavior of a team, or lack of players, the offending team will lose the match.

## **1.6 Financial Control**

- (a) LISA and UISA will not charge each other fees for running or participating in the WCL.
- (b) LISA and UISA are each separately responsible for funds associated with their teams in the WCL.
- (c) Revenue from fines imposed as described in Appendix B will be shared 50/50 between LISA and UISA.

# **SECTION 2 – DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **2.1 Cooperation with the WCL League Committee**

- (a) Both LISA and UISA District Boards must identify their District's representative for the WCL Committee (if the President delegates this position)
- (b) Both District Boards must inform the WCL Committee of names of District Schedulers and up-date these as needed.
- (c) Both District Boards must inform the WCL Committee of names of Referee Coordinators used by each WCL Team and up-date these as needed.
- (d) The WCL Committee will identify one or more WCL Schedulers to schedule games per Rule 4.3

## **2.2 Operation of Teams**

- (a) Only teams forwarded by the President of each District may be entered for approval by the WCL Committee.
- (b) Districts are required to attempt to enter teams in all divisions of the WCL associated with their District subject to WCL approval.
- (c) Districts are responsible for the selection of teams they submit for entry into the WCL.
- (d) All costs associated with league membership are the responsibility of the Districts.
- (e) Each Club must provide all registered players and team officials with photo identification cards that meet the BC Soccer criteria prior to **February 15<sup>th</sup>** and these ID cards must be available for each League and Cup game throughout the remainder of the playing season.
  - i. If a team fails to produce valid ID cards after **February 15<sup>th</sup>**, the game is to proceed but will be considered to have been played as "under protest" and, if requested by the opposing team, will be reviewed by the WCL Committee with no protest fee required to confirm player eligibility (see Appendix B for WCL fines, fees and penalties).
- (b) Referees are asked to make a notation in their game report to flag it to LISA/UISA Teams registered by the Rule 4.1 may be subject to a fine if the team folds prior to the end of the first round.
- (c) UISA Teams will be registered with UISA. LISA teams will be registered with LISA.

## **2.3 Insurance for Teams**

(a) Insurance is a benefit of being a properly affiliated club and/or properly registered/reported player and/or team official with BC Soccer. See the BC Soccer website for insurance claim forms.

## **2.4 Risk Management**

(a) All volunteers must have on file the results of a Criminal Record Check with a Vulnerable Sector Check in accordance with policies approved by BC Soccer.

## **2.5 Provision of Referees and Assistant Referees**

(a) Each home team is responsible for ensuring one qualified referee is provided for their teams home league games.  
a. Recommendation is the referee is at least 2 years older than the players they are officiating.

(b) Each home team shall provide two qualified Assistant Referee's for their home league games. In those instances where the home team cannot provide two qualified Assistant Referees, each team will be responsible for providing a person as a Club Linesperson.

(c) Each District is responsible for ensuring one qualified neutral referee and two qualified assistant referees are provided for their team's home Provincial Cup playdown games. For the purposes of this rule, a neutral referee is a referee that is not normally assigned by the home team. For example, in a provincial cup playdown game involving UI-North as a home team, a neutral referee is a referee not normally assigned by UI-North. As another example, in a provincial cup playdown game involving Lakehill as the home team, the neutral referee is a referee not normally assigned by Lakehill. For clarity a Provincial Cup playdown game is defined as the WCL final.

(d) The WCL Committee, through the Referee Assessment Committee, may assess any referee (or assistant referee) put forward by a District to officiate WCL games.

## **2.6 Playing Fields and Game Start Times**

(a) UISA will only schedule WCL games on fields in the Nanaimo Regional District or the Comox Valley Regional District, Campbell River Regional District and the Port Alberni Regional District. Note: No games will be scheduled in Powell River

(b) LISA fields will only schedule WCL games on fields in the Capital Regional District or the Cowichan Valley Regional District

(c) Outlined below are acceptable start times for all WCL games.

Home Team	Away team	Earliest Start	Latest Start	Notes
UISA	LISA	Noon	3:00 PM	
LISA	UISA	Noon	3:00 PM	
LISA	UISA with PR players	Noon	1:00 PM	Preferred at central location
UISA with PR players	LISA	Noon	1:00 PM	Preferred at central location
UISA	UISA with PR players	Noon	3:00 PM	
LISA	LISA with SSI players	Noon	4:00 PM	
UISA	UISA	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	
LISA	LISA	10:00 AM	4:00 PM	

(d) The Home team is responsible for nets, corner flags and lining of field.

## **2.7 Trophies and Awards.**

- (a) In the event that the WCL awards an annual trophy, it is the responsibility of the recipient to return the trophy to their home District, in good condition, by February 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year.
- (b) The team awarded the trophy is responsible for the engraving of the trophy.

# **SECTION 3 – TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **3.1 Fulfilling League Commitments**

- (a) Teams will complete all games scheduled by the WCL Scheduler or will be subject to Fines, Fees and Penalties listed in Appendix B.

## **3.2 Respect of Officials**

- (a) Team management is expected to identify themselves to the referee and to the other team before the start of the game.
- (b) Team management is responsible for the behavior of parents and spectators. If a spectator is unmanageable, the referee may stop the match until the situation is under control.
- (c) No person from the sidelines shall make any derogatory comments about any player or staff on either team, match officials or other spectators.

- (d) Referees have the authority to order any person, including team officials or players, away from the field of play. Any time a person has been required to leave, the referee will report the incident on the BC Soccer Discipline site.
- (e) The quality of the referee will never be accepted as a defense against disciplinary action.
- (f) If problems occur, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the WCL, including fines and/or the deduction of points.
- (g) If a team official is called before discipline and given a suspension then the team official will be responsible (at their own cost) for completing the BC Soccer endorsed eLearning Respect in Sport Course – Parent or Coach as appropriate.

### ***3.3 Management of Team Behavior***

- (a) Team officials are expected to adhere to and implement the standards of behaviour as listed and described in BC Soccer's Conduct, Ethics and Discipline standards Policy, and Procedures.
- (b) Handshakes will be undertaken before the match, with cheering the opponent and thanking the referee after the match.

### ***3.4 Practical Matters***

- (a) Coaches and managers of opposing teams must use the contact list provided to contact each other prior to all scheduled games in order to confirm over night weather has not affect field status.
- (b) If possible, teams will provide a second line on each side of the field to restrain spectators and give the assistant referees room to move back and forth.
- (c) No one may coach from behind the goal line.

### ***3.5 Team Equipment***

- (a) A colour clash is based on the registered home team colours for each team.
- (b) In the event of a colour clash it is the responsibility of the home team to change their strip to the satisfaction of the referee.
- (c) The WCL requires numbered uniforms for all WCL teams for player identification.
- (d) All teams must at all times appear in proper uniforms, ie. proper footwear, shirt, shorts, socks and shin guards.

## **SECTION 4 – LEAGUE STRUCTURE & OPERATION**

### ***4.1 Player Registration***

- (a) All WCL teams will comply with BC Soccer's Player Registration
- (b) Each District is responsible for registering their players with BC Soccer according to BC Soccer's player registration deadlines.
- (c) **Players must be registered or reinstated as a youth from adult player or transferred to a team prior to January 15<sup>th</sup>** and seven days prior to taking part in that team's league games, as per the transfer and reinstatement rules outlined in the BC Soccer Rules and Regulations. Players must also have played at least one league game with that team before playing in District playdown or league games.
- (d) **No team entering a Youth Provincial Cup competition may register a new player after February 1<sup>st</sup> of the current Coastal/Island playing season.**

- (e) LISA and UISA will together ensure compliance and consistency to BC Soccer's/FIFA's international player rules.
  - (a) Teams must consist of a minimum of 14 registered players.
  - (b) The maximum number of players registered to a team shall be twenty (20).
  - (c) Teams must supply a completed "Official Team Roster for the league" to their District head office by **January 15th**. This will include a team roster and a list of the team officials with the Head Coach's coaching certification.
- (d) Any Team identified per rule 2.2(a) wishing to play in WCL but unable to identify 14 players by the deadline in Rule 4.1(d) may, at the discretion of the League Committee, be registered to play in WCL.

#### **4.1.1 Player Pick Ups**

- (a) Following the submission of a team's formal roster on January 15<sup>th</sup> teams may pick up a maximum of three (3) players to replace players registered to a team who are unable to take part in the West Coast League season or Provincial Championships
- (b) Player Pick-ups may only be used to allow teams to have enough players to compete. It is not designed to allow teams to strengthen their roster by dropping players to pick up stronger players. Any team proven to be abusing this privilege will be subject to discipline
- (c) No player shall be permitted to play for more than one team in the West Coast League in the same season
- (d) Pick-ups must come from players participating at a lower calibre in the same age category or from the same competitive level in a younger age category
- (e) Any player who is requested for pick-up can only be chosen from within a team's club system
- (f) Team officials who wish to pick-up players must submit a formal request to the District for approval
- (g) Players being replaced must be released through either:
  - a. Medical certificate stating reason, or
  - b. Letter from parent/guardian and player indicating reason for unavailability and supporting documentation
- (h) Once a player is released they are no longer eligible to be reinstated to a team

#### **4.2 District Boundaries**

- (a) WCL District boundaries correspond in every instance with those District boundaries sanctioned by the BC Soccer Board as published in the BC Soccer Constitution (as amended from time to time).
- (b) For a full geographic description of the existing District boundaries see the current BC Soccer Constitution

#### **4.3 League Scheduling**

- (a) Boy's games will be scheduled on Sundays
- (b) Girl's U14, U15, and U16 games will be scheduled on Saturdays. Girl's U17 and U18 will be played on Sundays
- (c) The regular schedule shall run from **the weekend after Family Day** through to June.
- (d) All regular scheduled matches against teams from within the same age category will be considered "competitive matches" for standings purposes. All regular scheduled matches against teams from outside of the same age category will be considered "crossover" matches and will not count towards standings.

- (e) Where possible all teams will be scheduled “home and away” matches against all teams from within the same age category. Where teams do not play an equal number of home and away matches against teams from within the same age category only the 2<sup>nd</sup> match will be considered a “competitive match” and count towards the standings.
- (f) Where possible the league scheduler will ensure teams do not travel between districts on consecutive weekends
- (g) Clubs are responsible for posting the time and location of each match on the LISA scheduling site no later than 9:00pm on Wednesday prior to the match

#### **4.4 Statistics and Reporting of Scores**

- (a) All teams are required to report scores directly to the WCL Score Recorder no later than 5:00 pm on game day after each league game, or 8:00 PM on game day after each Cup game.
- (b) Teams will be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw, and zero (0) points for a loss in “competitive matches”.
- (c) A maximum goal differential of 5 goals will be recorded for all league games.
- (d) The WCL Score Recorder shall publish and distribute league standings on a weekly basis. These standings shall include points, goals for and goals against with a maximum 5 goal differential recorded in any game.
- (e) The standing of teams resigning or removed from the WCL before completion of the schedule will be expunged from the records as follows:
  - i. If a resignation or removal occurs prior to the completion of the first round of the schedule all results involving that team will be expunged from the league record.
  - ii. If a resignation or removal occurs prior to the completion of the second round of the schedule, only the second round results will be expunged. The same formula shall apply for any subsequent rounds.
- (f) Regular Season Rankings are calculated in order of most points to least points with the following tie-breakers, in order:
  - I. Points over the season in competitive matches
  - II. Win, tie, loss record between the tied teams (head to head)
  - III. Goal Differential (goals for minus goals against in competitive matches over the whole season)
  - IV. Goals for (in competitive matches over the whole season)
  - V. Least goals against (in competitive matches over the whole season)
  - VI. Fewer Yellow Cards
  - VII. Fewer Red Cards
  - VIII. Drawing of lots

## **4.5 Cancellations and Rescheduling**

Once a game is scheduled by the District scheduler that game must be played unless:

- i. The District scheduler postpones the game due to field availability.
- ii. The referee decides at the field (prior to game time) that the game should not be played due to field or weather conditions.
- iii. The appointed referee does not show up and the coaches cannot agree on an official and cannot each appoint a person to officiate one half of the game.
- iv. The Severe Weather Game Cancellation Protocol is applied (see Appendix D)

### **4.5.1 Rescheduling due to field closures:**

- i. When inclement weather forces closure of the scheduled home field, and the home team cannot find another appropriate field within their District by the deadline of 72h before game time, then the game shall be rescheduled on the opposing teams field for the same time and day if possible.
  - a. The originally scheduled home team is still responsible for paying the officials.
- ii. The assigned referee may deem the field unplayable at the scheduled match time or at any time during the game. The game result will stand if two thirds of the game has been played, and the game is stopped by the referee due to weather.
- iii. The WCL Scheduler will reschedule the game for one of the league official make up dates if applicable. If a league official makeup date is not available the WCL Scheduler, in cooperation with both teams, shall set the replay date. The WCL Scheduler will reschedule the game if the teams cannot agree to a date.

### **4.5.2 Rescheduling Requests**

- i. The League Scheduler will only consider requests for the rescheduling of regular league games in very unusual circumstances i.e. Heavy team involvement in a special school function or illness or injury which reduces the team roster size below eleven (11) players.
- ii. Requests for rescheduling must be received no less than 7 days prior to the scheduled game. The request must include the reason for the request and the names of players involved.
- iii. No rescheduling will be authorized later than 9:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the game. Any rescheduling before that time will be at the discretion of the WCL Committee.
- iv. Cancellation of a scheduled league game without prior approval from the League Scheduler will result in a fine.
- v. If authorized by the WCL Committee, the preference will be to have the rescheduled match played before the original scheduled date or within three (3) weeks of the original scheduled date. The home team shall provide to the WCL Scheduler, and the

two Team Managers two (2) dates for the rescheduled game to be played. The WCL Scheduler, in cooperation with both teams, shall set the replay date. The WCL Scheduler will reschedule the game if the teams cannot agree to a date.

- a. League official make up dates will not be authorized for rescheduling requests.

#### **4.5.3 Rescheduling due to no referee**

- i. If a referee does not appear for the WCL match it is recommended that coaches and managers decide on a mutually agreeable referee. Should the match be played, then it is understood that the match stands as an official league game.
- ii. In all cases a fifteen (15) minute allowance must be given before abandoning the game.
- iii. Should rescheduling be required the procedure as outlined in Section 4.5.2 will be followed. Contact the WCL Scheduler who will assist in rescheduling the match.

#### **4.6 League Cups and Playoffs**

- (a) The WCL Scheduler will schedule all league cups, league challenge rounds and league playoff games.
- (b) These dates will be communicated to the teams involved through team officials.
- (c) It is not the responsibility of the WCL Scheduler to schedule the Provincial Cup or any other non-WCL activity. These are arranged by each District Scheduler for their WCL teams and other teams operated within each District.

### **SECTION 5 – DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

#### **5.1 General Procedures**

- (a) All ejection and caution cards issued to players and team officials of teams in the WCL must be reported within 48 hours by the referee on the LISA Discipline site.
- (b) Any individual receiving three (3) cautions during a season will be suspended for a minimum of one match automatically (see BC Soccer Discipline Sanction Guidelines). The suspension will be served in the team's very next match following the match in which the third card was received.
- (c) Any individual receiving an ejection card is to immediately leave the field of play. Any player or team official ejected is automatically suspended for the next scheduled league, playoff or Provincial Cup game, whichever comes first.
- (d) Any individual having been ejected in a WCL match will attend a discipline hearing and if unable to do so will be disciplined by the LISA Discipline Committee and informed in writing of the penalties imposed.
- (e) Please refer to the BC Soccer's Youth Provincial Championships Rules and Regulations and the attached summary "Special Rules for Youth Soccer" for further guidance on the general and specific rules of the game.
- (f) All team official reports of misconduct must be forwarded to the LISA Discipline Committee. Any player receiving two (2) ejections in one season must be reported to the LISA Discipline Committee.
- (g) All disciplinary matters shall be decided upon in accordance with the BC Soccer Discipline Guidelines.

- (h) All officials, staff and players deserve the right to a hearing. Failure to attend this hearing or submit a written response to the LISA Discipline Committee will result in an “Indefinite Suspension”. This person should be informed of this “Indefinite Suspension” in writing. The person will remain under “Indefinite Suspension” until the party requests, in writing, another hearing and appears at a subsequent hearing.
- (i) Disciplinary hearings will be held as required.
- (j) All disciplinary hearings will be held in LISA.
- (k) Players out of the LISA District can attend disciplinary hearings via teleconference.

## **5.2 Match Reports by Referees**

- (a) Must be submitted on the LISA Discipline site within 48 hours of the match. Failure to submit a Match Report within 48 hours may result in a fine to the Team providing the referee.
- (b) Reports on the following from referees should go directly to the LISA Discipline Chair.
  - i. Any match abandoned due to field conditions or bad weather must be reported and will be rescheduled by the League.
  - ii. Hazardous field conditions must be reported. The host District will be asked to investigate and correct or relocate future home games to avoid that condition.
- (c) Reports on any team official, player or spectator who was required to leave the area and who did not comply with the request must be sent immediately and directly to the BC Soccer office.

## **5.3 Protests & Appeals**

- (a) In the event of a protest, the WCL Committee will appoint a Chair to form a WCL Protest Committee.
- (b) The WCL Protest Committee will be comprised of one member from the LISA and one member from the UIZA, and a mutually agreed-upon third member.
- (c) Protests shall be dealt with by the WCL Protest Committee under BC Soccer Rules & Regulations, Rule 11-Protests.
- (d) The WCL Protest Committee Chair will provide all parties affected by a decision, a written ruling which shall include the rationale for the decision and the appeal procedure.
- (e) The decisions of the WCL Protest Committee are binding in accordance with BC Soccer Rules & Regulations, Rule 12- Appeals

# **Section 6 - SPECIAL RULES FOR YOUTH SOCCER**

## **6.1 Duration and Ball Size.**

- (a) Divisions U18 to U14 play under regular game rules as prescribed by the FIFA “Laws of the Game.” Exceptions of FIFA Laws on game duration, ball size and substitutions are noted below.

#### AGE, DURATION and BALL SIZE TABLE

Age	Game Duration	Ball Size
U18	2 equal halves of 45 minutes	#5
U17	2 equal halves of 45 minutes	#5
U16	2 equal halves of 40 minutes	#5
U15	2 equal halves of 40 minutes	#5
U14	2 equal halves of 40 minutes	#5

- (b) There shall be no limit on the number of substitutions allowed for league play. A substitution will not be allowed for a player ordered from the field.
- (c) Substitutions shall be made during a stoppage in the game, with the referee's consent.

### **6.2 Other Special Rules**

- (a) As per FIFA laws of the game, a minimum of seven (7) players is required to start a match and a match should not continue if there are fewer than seven (7) players on either team.
- (b) The home team is responsible for marking the field and supplying the match ball, corner flags and nets.
- (c) A team must be given 15 minutes from the scheduled start of the game to field a team. Failure to field a team may result in fines and/or penalties. Extra time will be given to teams traveling between Upper Island and Lower Island when road problems may have occurred.
- (d) All teams shall furnish a completed WCL game sheet and pick up list of those eligible players available for use in the game for which the game sheet is to be submitted. The game sheet shall be completed in triplicate, all copies of which shall be given to the referee at or before half-time of the game. The game sheet shall bear the name of the team, date of the game, the name of the opposing team and the name, ID number and jersey number of each player. Players playing under a permit will be identified as "Permitted" on the game sheet. The game sheet shall not contain the name of the players currently under suspension and therefore ineligible to take part in the game. The game sheet must contain the signature of a team official in charge of the team. It is the responsibility of an opposing team to obtain a copy of the game sheet from the referee. The game sheet must be signed by the referee.

## **Section 7 – PROVINCIAL “A” CUP PLAYDOWNS**

### **7.1 Playdown Format**

1. BCSA Provincial “A” Cup Playdowns will take place at the U14, U15, U16, U17, and U18 divisions respectively. The WCL Committee will determine the dates for the “A” Cup Playdowns in consultation with BCSA and distribute the information prior to the start of league play.
2. Playdown games will be played on the regularly scheduled game day. Only in extraordinary circumstances will a postponement be granted. Any team seeking a postponement must do so by submitting the application, in writing, to their home district. If the club’s host district approves the district shall submit the application to WCL Committee. Only in an extraordinary circumstance will a postponement be

approved. (In most cases, a simple shortage of players due to a conflicting event is not sufficient reason.)

3. The format will be a single knockout seeded draw based on standings from “competitive matches”.
4. Duration of Games:

<u>Div.</u>	<u>Regulation Time</u>	<u>Extra Time</u>
U18	45 minutes per half	N/A
U17	45 minutes per half	N/A
U16	40 minutes per half	N/A
U15	40 minutes per half	N/A
U14	40 minutes per half	N/A

5. Games Ending in a Tie: In the event that the two teams are tied on goals at the end of regulation time, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty spot according to FIFA rules.
6. Youth-to-youth permits are not valid for any Provincial “A” Cup playdown match.
7. Protests: Shall follow the rules as outlined for league games. In the event of a successful protest, in which a replay is to be ordered, the WCL Committee may order the game to be played at any time leading up to the “Island Final”. The WCL protest fee is set annually and must accompany the protest in writing. Protests must be filed within 48 hours after the end of the match. In the event the Protest is upheld, the Protest fee will be returned.

## Section 8 - GAME OFFICIALS FOR PROVINCIAL “A” CUP PLAYDOWNS

### 8.1 Game Officials

1. The home club is responsible for supplying and paying the referee for all matches except the “Island Final”. The host district is responsible for assigning the officials for the “Island Final”. When the site of the match is switched to a field being supplied by the “visiting” club the original “home” team’s club must either supply the referee or reimburse the “visiting” club for supplying the referee.
2. Assistant Officials: It is strongly recommended that all Provincial “A” Cup Playdown matches have three officials; that is, one referee and two uniformed assistants to run the lines. Such arrangements are the responsibility of the home club, although it may seek assistance from other associations. If assistant referees are not assigned to run the lines it is the responsibility of the two teams involved to supply the required volunteers. When non-uniformed volunteers run the lines they are to follow the referee’s instructions, they are to be respectfully treated as game officials and, in turn, must act as neutral officials the entire game. (No coaching or instructing is allowed while acting as a game official.)

3. Qualifications of Officials: All game officials and assistants must be BC Soccer registered officials (at the level required) to officiate the match. This does not apply to those who volunteer as officials when the assigned officials do not show up or if assistants have not been assigned.
4. Conflict of Interest: No game official (referee or assistant) is to be assigned to a Provincial "A" Cup Playdown match who may be perceived to be in a position of a conflict of interest. This definitely includes, but is not limited to, game officials who have family members or close relatives on either team (the "team" includes players and all team officials), and game officials who used to coach or manage either of the teams. If in doubt, assign a different game official; do not take the chance

## Section 9 - League Pick Ups

### 9.1 General Procedures

- (a) A team may permit up to three BC Soccer registered players to bring their roster up to the number of players on the team's affiliation form for the current season, or up to a maximum of 16, whichever is lower for **an individual league game**.
- (b) The purpose of pick ups is only to allow teams to have enough players to compete in the league. Teams are not allowed to strengthen their roster by dropping players to pick up stronger ones.
- (c) The WCL shall grant a player registered with a Lower Island Soccer Association or an Upper Island Soccer Association team permission to play for a WCL team **of their age or older age who;**
  1. is a younger WCL player permitting to an older age group WCL team from the same club, or
  2. is a female WCL player playing on a girl's WCL team, permitting to a boy's WCL team of the same age or older than herself from the same club.
  3. is a lower tier player permitting to the same age or higher age WCL team from the same club
- (d) The WCL shall NOT grant a player registered with a WCL team permission to pick up to another WCL team of the same age. For clarification only (not a rule change), if you are already playing in the WCL, you can only play to an older age group WCL team. ie. if you are playing U16 WCL but are U15 aged you cannot permit down to U15.
- (e) Players from BCSPL are not eligible for permitting in the League.
- (f) Permission is contingent on the player receiving the **consent of their parent team** with which they are registered (a.k.a. releasing team).
- (g) Any player requesting a pick up must apply for permission by completing a pick up form supplied by the League (See Appendix A). The application form bearing the consent of the releasing team must be submitted to the Youth District Designates prior to the game for which the pick up will be used.
- (h) Pick ups will be allowed for league games. Pick ups shall NOT be allowed for WCL, or Provincial Cup games— specifically no permits in WCL playdowns or finals.
- (i) LISA or UIZA may set additional conditions for approval of the league's permits and may elect not to approve any league permits.

## ***9.2 Suspension***

- (a) Players under suspension shall not be eligible to play under permit.
- (b) Any disciplinary action applied from misconduct reported while playing in a game under permit shall be served by the player during the very next game(s) with his/her registered team.
- (c) Any team playing a player on a permit that does not conform to the WCL Pick UpRule shall be sanctioned as for playing an ineligible player, and have Permit Privileges withdrawn. Teams found to have played a suspended player, or played in excess of their allowed Out-of-District (OOD) limit, shall forfeit the game(s) where the infraction(s) occurred. Any district approving permits not conforming to the above rules shall be sanctioned by withdrawal of pick up privileges for its District for up to one year.

## ***9.3 Boundaries***

- (a) Out-of-District players can be permitted for pick up as long as the Out-of-District number does not exceed the BC Soccer maximum.

## ***9.4 Application***

- (a) An approved pick up form for the permitted player must be made available on demand by the game official. Opposing coaches may request that game officials verify pick ups prior to the start of the game.
- (b) Players playing under permit will be noted as "Picked Up" on the game sheet.
- (c) Team Officials must forward completed pick up forms to LISA or UISA office before match (signed scanned copies of permits in PDF format are acceptable).

## Appendix A - League Pick Up Form

Any team using a picked-up player as designated in Section 9 must ensure that the appropriate form is completed and handed to the game official (on request) before the start of the game. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action against that team and or the player involved. A player is allowed to play in unlimited WCL league games in a higher division. ***There are no player pick ups allowed in any Playdowns, or Provincial Cup Games.***

## Lower Island Soccer Association Online Permit Form

## Appendix B - League Fines, Fees and Penalties

1. Failure of a WCL Team to present valid BC Soccer photo ID cards for each player and team official after February 15.
  - After February 15 each year, failure of a WCL Team to have available valid BC Soccer photo ID cards for each player and team official listed on game sheet at a League or Provincial Cup game, could result in a protest of the game and/or a fine of up to \$250.00 which will be invoiced to the Association of the Team that does not have the BC Soccer photo ID cards.
2. Failure of the home team to provide nets, corner flags or appropriately lined fields.
  - Failure to provide nets, corner flags or appropriately lined fields could result in a fine up to \$50.00 which will be invoiced to the Association of the Team that did not provide the nets, corner flags or lined field.
3. Failure to return a league trophy or failure to return a league trophy in good condition.
  - The home District will be charged for either repairing or replacing the trophy.
4. Failure to complete all scheduled league games or cup games.
  - Failure of a team to complete all league or cup games will result in a fine of \$300.00- \$500.00, which will be invoiced to the Association of the Team that did not complete all their games. Failure to complete a league game will also result in a loss of three points.
5. Failure to properly report scores to the WCLScore Recorder
  - Failure to report scores to the WCL Score Recorder three (3) times within a season will result in a \$50.00 fine. A further \$50.00 fine will be assessed for every week missed thereafter. These fines will be invoiced to the Association of the offending Team
6. Failure of the referee to properly submit a match report.
  - Failure to submit match reports on the LISA Discipline site may result in a \$50.00 fine which will be invoiced to the Team who provided the match referee.
7. Canceling a scheduled league game without prior approval from the WCL Scheduler
  - Canceling a scheduled league game without prior approval from the WCL Scheduler will result in a fine up to \$500.00 which will be invoiced to the Association of the offending Team.
8. Abandoning a game (unless by mutual agreement due to no referee, or referee's decision regarding

bad weather or hazardous field conditions).

- If a team is held responsible for the abandonment of a game, they will forfeit the 3 points and they may be subject to a fine up to \$500.00 which will be invoiced to the Association of the offending Team.

9. Protest fees.

- The team making the protest must submit the written protest, along with the \$250 protest fee (cheque or cash) to their District within the appropriate timelines. The \$250.00 protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

10. Failure to properly post game times and locations

- Failure to properly post game times and locations three (3)times within a season will result in a \$50.00 fine. A further \$50.00 fine will be assessed for every failure thereafter.

11. Withdrawing a WCL Team from a WCL Division

- Any Team registered in WCL per rule 4.1 that withdraws prior to the end of Round 1, may be subject to a fine of up to \$1000. This fine will be invoiced to the Association of the offending Team.

12. Failure to provide a referee by host

- First infraction: maximum fine of \$100.00
- Second infraction: maximum fine of not less than \$100.00, and not more than \$500.00
- Third infraction: a penalty as determined by the West Coast League Committee

## Appendix C – Severe Weather Protocol

Occasionally, games may have to be cancelled ON GAME DAY due to severe weather: snow, unsafe driving conditions, road closures, field closures, and ferry closures. Unfortunately, cold, wet and windy conditions are a part of winter soccer!

### In this order:

1. When severe weather is in the forecast and fields have not been closed, team officials in the affected communities are to call the opposing team's officials the night before the game to discuss.
2. Both teams' officials are to notify their respective players/parents and have them be prepared for a cancellation or to leave on short notice if necessary.
3. In the morning, the host team is to verify field condition, adhering to the field open/close decision of the host club.
4. Team Officials from both teams to look up the Drive BC website at [drivebc.ca](http://drivebc.ca) and check the [map](#) and [webcams](#) to assess travel routes to the game location.
5. Team Officials from both teams to look at Environment Canada's website at [weather.gc.ca/canada\\_e.html](http://weather.gc.ca/canada_e.html), to determine current and forecast weather conditions.
6. Team officials to make contact and discuss the field and road conditions as well as weather forecast and make a final decision on the game status.
  - Decisions must be made allowing for a minimum timeframe for communication and travel of:
    - i. 3 hours for any LISA vs LISA game
    - ii. 5 hours for any UI Storm scheduled game
    - iii. 6 hours for any LISA vs UI Riptide game
  - ***If fields are open, roads are clear, there is no snow in the forecast and the threshold for minimum timeframe has been met, the game must proceed and parents/players are to be notified immediately.***

If any game must be cancelled:

1. Both team's officials are to notify their Club designate and, if you are the HOME team, ensure that all internal calls are made to notify the: Club Administrator, Club Referee Scheduler and Club Field Scheduler. **Please follow your club's internal protocol.**
2. Both team's officials to email cancellation notification to UISA Executive Director @ [upperislandsocceroffice@gmail.com](mailto:upperislandsocceroffice@gmail.com)
3. UISA Executive Director to email those affected with further cancellation/rescheduling information, and update WCL website.

### Please note:

- Coaches contact info is also on the LISA website. Filter to desired division and team.
- It is good practice for all teams to become familiar with their opposing teams websites to check for field closures.
- On the UISA website: [uisa.ca](http://uisa.ca) - from the drop-down menus, choose "About UISA", then the "Members" page. Links to all Club websites are located here. All UISA Clubs have their field status on their home page.
- On the LISA website: [www.lowerislandsoccer.com](http://www.lowerislandsoccer.com) on the drop-down menu, click on "Clubs". Links to all Club websites are located on the "Member Clubs and Boundaries" page. All LISA Clubs have links to their field status on their home page.

## End of West Coast League Rules and Regulation