

**RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE
MULTICULTURAL SOCCER ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

SECTION ONE

Introduction

- I. The Multicultural Soccer Association (the “Association”) is a non-profit organization that every year from April to September organizes a soccer tournament (the “Tournament”) in the community. This is to encourage the practice and spirit of the game of soccer as well as to bring together different groups into the game of soccer.
- II. A Board of Directors is elected by team representatives on a yearly basis. This is according to the bylaws of the Multicultural Soccer Association of B.C. (the “MSA”) as operated by its Board of Directors (the “Board of Directors”). Please refer to the Bylaws of the Association (page 3- article 3, page 4-article 4) (the “Bylaws”). A member of the Board of Directors has the ability to manage/coach or play on a team, whilst on duty with that team, such member shall have no authority as an executive of the MSA and such individual shall govern his/herself accordingly.
- III. Committees are formed and based on the needs of the Association as determined by the Board of Directors. Some of these committees are:
 1. Special Events Committee
 2. Discipline Committee
 3. Different Service Committee
 4. Auditor Committee
- IV. Teams must have two representatives each; these representatives shall be recognized by the Association. They shall be responsible to carry out the responsibilities of their team as well as their obligations as stipulated in the Bylaws and in these Rules and Regulations (the “Rules & Regulations”).
- V. The Annual General Meeting shall be scheduled by the Board of Directors (see MSA Bylaws, pages 5, 6 Article 5).
- VI. Representatives shall meet whenever the Board of Directors deems necessary. All representatives are obliged to attend such meetings and inform the Board of Directors in writing in the case of absenteeism. Teams not being represented at any Association meeting shall be subjected to fines as determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION TWO

Team Registration & Regulations

- I. Team registrations shall be processed before the season begins each year. In addition the Board of Directors shall schedule a meeting to inform representatives of the procedures for the upcoming season.
- II. Application fee is not refundable. After the application has been submitted, the Board of Directors shall take into consideration the following:
 1. The availability of playing fields for the season;
 2. The order in which the application was received;
 3. In the case of a team returning to the MSA after a period of non-participation, such Team's previous standing in the Association and in the Tournament. In the case of acceptance into the MSA, a returning team shall be considered a new team for the upcoming season;
 4. That for one season new teams shall be under Probation. Probation means that the Board of Directors shall reserve the right, at its sole discretion, to revoke a new team's eligibility to participate in the Tournament at any point during such team's first year should such team be deemed to be in violation of these Rules and Regulations.
- III. To be recognized as a team in the MSA Tournament, a team must register a minimum of eleven (11) players prior to the beginning of the season, should a team not be able to register the minimum number of players, the Board of Directors, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to appoint or assign players to complete the minimum number of players requirement. By failing to register the team with the minimum number of players the MSA sanction the team, either by a fine or expulsion at the discretion of the Board of Directors acting reasonably.
- IV. Teams are responsible for the following:
 1. Take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators, players, and team officials from posing a potential threat towards game officials, Board of Directors, representatives or team members.
 2. To submit proper registration for under aged (18 and under) players (form provided by the MSA).
 3. Include with the registration for the appropriate fees established by the MSA; for clarity, this pertains to players registered after a team has registered its first eighteen (18) players.

- V. Teams are not allowed to sell their spot in any of the divisions; a team found of breaching this rule shall be expelled immediately. In addition, the following regulations must apply:
1. Teams cannot change their name (This applies to all divisions) during the season. The Board of Directors, acting reasonably, reserves the right to alter this provision on a team to team basis and to take into consideration a team's reasonable request to change its name, subject to the request being made in writing no later than three (3) weeks prior to the start of Tournament.
 2. A team must be represented in the Association at all times.
 3. Teams shall be responsible to keep their fans behind the fence while playing on turf fields, failure to do so shall result in a \$50.00 fine for a first offence, a \$100.00 fine for a second offence and a \$200.00 fine for its third offence. Teams that are found to be in continuous violation of this rule, beyond those stated above, shall be subjected to point deductions as determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION THREE

Player Registration, Roster

- I. Teams must provide the following information to register a player:
 1. One picture (2.5 x 4);
 2. Registration form with all information filled in full, incomplete forms shall not be processed;
 3. Consent form as provided by the MSA for all under aged (18 and under) players;
 4. Registration fees as established by the MSA.
- II. A player is bound to the team for which he has signed with, unless transferred. Signing disputes shall be taken into consideration by the Board of Directors at its sole discretion.
- III. By signing the MSA registration form, players are subjected to the Rules and Regulations.
- IV. Teams that wish to register new players can do so until the deadline date as scheduled by the MSA.
- V. Teams shall be allowed to register an unlimited number of players prior to the registration deadline set forth by the Board of Directors for the given season.
- VI. Teams shall be allowed to dress a maximum of twenty (22) players for any given MSA Tournament game.

SECTION FOUR

Player Transfers

- I. A player is entitled to a transfer provided that he has complied with these Rules and Regulations. In addition, transferring players must be cleared of any debt or penalty owed to the MSA incurred while with their present team before a transfer is granted by the MSA.
- II. Players are eligible to transfer after their team's first game of the Tournament has been played (no exceptions) and no later than the Transfer Deadline Date set up by the MSA for the current season. Such date to be determined at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors prior to the commencement of the Tournament.
- III. If a player has been refused a transfer by his current team, he can apply, in writing, without fee, to the Board of Directors for a case review. The Board of Directors reserves the right to approve or reject any transfer at its sole discretion.
- IV. A player can transfer to any team. Transferring players cannot transfer back to a team from which they have transferred out of during the Tournament.
- V. The MSA, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, may transfer players from a team that has been declared defunct, but not later than the new player registration deadline date set for the current season.
- VI. All transfers are subject to a fee as determined from time to time by the MSA at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Such fee shall be set at \$10.00 per transfer transaction.
- VII. Players may only transfer from team to team.

SECTION FIVE

Home Team Duties

- I. Provide a game ball.
- II. Provide assistance to the referee as needed by delegating a linesman if necessary.
- III. To change to an alternate set of uniforms should the referee deem it necessary.
- IV. To move to the apposite side of the field from the away team.
- V. To put up/remove nets.

Away Team Duties

- I. To have a spare ball.
- II. Provide assistance to the referee as needed by delegating a linesman if necessary.
- III. To put up/remove nets.

SECTION SIX

Tournament

The Board of Directors shall notify the representatives about the commencement of the Tournament. If a game is suspended due to force majeure the Board of Directors shall re-schedule the game.

- I. The Board of Directors have control of how and when the tournament shall take place. 1st and Premier Divisions have been created and each team shall play according to their division. The Tournament shall be conducted as follows:
 1. The Board of Directors shall run the Premier division as follows:
 - a. Teams shall face each other twice in the regular season portion of the Tournament;
 - b. The team that finishes first overall in the regular season shall be crowned the Premier Division Regular Season Winner;
 - c. Teams that finish in the first two positions in the regular season shall advance to the semi-final round;
 - d. Teams that finish in positions 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall advance to the quarter final round;
 - e. Winners of the quarter final round shall advance to the semi final round;
 - f. Winners of the semi-final round shall advance to the final match;
 - g. The winner of the final match shall be crowned Premier Division Champion;
 - h. The best losing team in the semi-final round shall be awarded third place;
 - i. The two (2) teams that finish in the last and penultimate places in the regular season portion of the Tournament shall be relegated to the next lower division.
 2. The Board of Directors shall run the 1st Division as follows:

- a. Teams shall face each other twice in the regular season portion of the Tournament;
 - b. The team that finishes first overall in the regular season shall be crowned the 1st Division Regular Season Winner and gain direct promotion to the Premier Division for the following season;
 - c. Teams that finish in the first two positions in the regular season shall advance to the semi-final round;
 - d. Teams that finish in positions 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall advance to the quarter final round;
 - e. Winners of the quarter final round shall advance to the semi final round;
 - f. Winners of the semi-final round shall advance to the final match;
 - g. The winner of the final match shall be crowned 1st Division Champion and gain direct promotion to the Premier Division for the following season, should the 1st Division Champion be the same as the 1st Division Regular Season Winner, then the other finalist (runner-up in the final match) shall be awarded promotion to the Premier Division for the following season;
 - h. The best losing team in the semi-final round shall be awarded third place;
- II. In the event that a team is promoted to the next higher division and declines such promotion, the following teams shall be considered:
1. 3rd Place, 4th place or 5th place respectively from the previous year, with the highest finisher being granted promotion to the next higher division;
 2. Should the above noted teams decline promotion, the penultimate team from the higher division in the previous regular season shall be awarded promotion, should such team decline, the last place team in the higher division in the previous regular season shall be awarded promotion.

Quarter Final, Semi Final and Final Matches

- I. The Board of Directors shall be in charge of the quarter final and semi final matches for all divisions. The formula for these matches is as follows:

1. First and Second place advance to the Semi Final automatically;
 2. Third place shall play Sixth place with the winner of this match moving into the Semi Final to play the Second place team.
 3. Fourth place shall play Fifth place with the winner of this match moving into the Semi Final to play the First place team.
- II. After the semi final round the Board of Directors shall organize the final matches in all divisions. The awards shall be presented to the teams at the conclusion of the final match.

SECTION SEVEN

Laws of the Game (FIFA) and MSA Rules and Regulations

- I. Law 7 (FIFA) duration of the match.
1. Each match shall last two equal periods of 45 minutes, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the referee and the two participating teams. Any agreement to alter the periods of play (for example to reduce each half to 40 min. because of insufficient light) must be made prior to the start of play and must comply with the Rules and Regulations;
 2. The game is considered valid after 70 minutes have been played. The following points are awarded:
 - a) Three points for a win;
 - b) One point for a draw;
 - c) No points for a loss.
- II. Substitutions shall be limited to nine (9) per team per game, players are allowed to re-enter a game in which they have been previously substituted from. Teams conducting substitutions shall do so by having the incoming player provide the game official with an MSA Substitution Slip at the time of the substitution. Game officials shall be instructed to decline a substitution should it not be conducted in the above noted manner.
- III. The Board of Directors shall practice FIFA rules (laws of the game book) as a reference. In addition, these Rules and Regulations shall apply and be taken as correct in any conflict with FIFA rules.

SECTION EIGHT

Committees

- I. Committees shall be formed according to the needs of the MSA and at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Some of these committees are:
 1. Disciplinary Committee
 2. Special Events Committee
 3. Auditor Committee
 4. Operation Committee
- II. The Disciplinary Committee shall be selected by random basis; two representatives from each division shall be called to form such committee. The resolution taken by the disciplinary committee shall be final but shall be subject to Section Thirteen of these Rules and Regulations.
- III. A member of the disciplinary committee shall be asked to not partake in a decision in the case of the following:
 1. A member's team is involved in any Disciplinary Committee issue;
 2. A member's relative is involved in any Disciplinary Committee issue.
- IV. All decisions shall be based on these Rules and Regulations as established by the MSA and as directed by the Board of Directors as well as the report submitted by the authority of the game (FIFA-Laws of the Game, page 16, law 5-referee).
- IV. The Special Events Committee shall be in charge of organizing any project, from start to finish, this committee shall be in coordination with the MSA. This committee shall have the power to bring new project to the Board of Directors so it can be studied and acted upon accordingly.
- V. All committees shall be formed at the discretion of the Board of Directors, direction of projects, disciplinary action, audits and operations shall be given by the Board of Directors.

SECTION NINE

Sanctions

- I. Red cards shall be penalized as follows:

1. Serious foul play: Two (2) games and a \$25.00 fine;
2. Violent conduct: Three (3) games and a \$50.00 fine;
3. Denying of an obvious goal opportunity: One (1) game and a \$15.00 fine;
4. Abusive language or gesture: One (1) game and a \$15.00 fine;
5. Two (2) yellow cards in the same game: One (1) game and a \$15.00 fine;

II. The MSA shall penalize the following offences:

1. Accumulation of three (3) yellow cards: 1 game and a \$15.00 fine;
2. Fighting in or outside the field of play: Four (4) games and a \$50.00 fine.
3. Insulting the referee or assistant referee: first offence three (3) games and a \$50.00 fine, second offence two 2 years and a \$100.00 fine.
 - a) Physically assault or intend to assault the referee or assistant referee member of the MSA: First offence three (3) years and a \$200.00 fine (Two thirds (2/3) of this punishment must be served before an appeal can be made.)
 - b) Second offence: the player shall be expelled.
4. Players involved in a fight shall be penalized as follows:
 - a) First offence four (4) games and a \$50.00 fine;
 - b) Second offence six (6) games and a \$100.00 fine;
 - c) Third offence ten (10) games and a \$100.00 fine;
5. Teams involved in a fight shall be penalized as follows:
 - a) First offence shall receive a minimum of a \$100 fine. The fine amount shall be determined by the Board of Directors;
 - b) Second offence: the team shall be expelled.
6. New teams involved in a fight shall be expelled automatically from the league.
7. Teams forfeiting games shall be fined \$200 per occurrence, teams forfeiting two or more matches in any given season shall be subject to permanent expulsion from the MSA at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

- i. A forfeiture is also deemed to be not being able to continue to play due to force majeure (I.E. injury, red card, etc...) past the 70 minute mark of a match with minimum 7 players, – this shall carry a \$50 Fine
8. Unsportsmanlike Behaviour Suspension: Players found using evident racial slurs, slangs, gestures in a derogatory manner towards any player, coach, manager, Board of Director member or member of the Association shall be automatically red carded by the referee and serve a two game suspension plus a \$50 fine

SECTION TEN

Team Sanctions

- I. Team shall lose points awarded in a game played or automatically give up the available points in relation to such game for any of the following violations:
 1. Not showing up to an MSA scheduled game with the minimum number of players needed to play such game;
 - a) Should such violation affect a playoff game, a minimum fifteen (15) to thirty (30) point deduction in the standings shall be handed to the violating team plus an automatic \$500.00 fine. The violating team shall automatically be declared the loser of such game.
 - b) FOR GREATER CLARITY, TEAMS NOT ABLE TO REACH THE SEVENTY (70) MINUTE MARK OF A GAME WITH THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN ORDER FOR SUCH GAME TO BE COUNTED AS AN OFFICIAL GAME AS PER SECTION SEVEN, I, 2, SHALL BE DEEMED AS "NOT SHOWING UP TO AN MSA SCHEDULED GAME WITH THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS NEEDED TO PLAY SUCH GAME" AND SUCH GAME SHALL BE CONSIDERED A FORFEIT AND WHICH SANCTIONS SHALL BE CONSIDERED UNDER THIS SECTION TEN AND SECTION NINE ABOVE.
 2. Making more substitutions than stipulated by the Rules and Regulations. Violation of this Team Sanction I, 2 carries a minimum three (3) to nine (9) point deduction in the standings, inclusive of the lost points from the game in which the violation occurred, points from such game shall be awarded to the opposing team accordingly. Additional point deductions shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and such points shall not be awarded to opponents;
 3. Dressing more players than the maximum allowed in any given game as stipulated in the Rules and Regulations;

4. If a non-registered or suspended player participates in the game, and/or:
 - a) If a team refuses to cooperate with the game officials by not providing the name of such player(s); Violation of Team Sanction I, 4 carries a minimum three (3) to nine (9) point deduction in the standings, inclusive of the lost points from the game in which the violation occurred, points from such game shall be awarded to the opposing team accordingly. Additional point deductions shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and such points shall not be awarded to opponents.
5. If a team abandons a game;
6. If a game official is assaulted by a player(s);
7. If the game is suspended by the game officials due to a hostile player, coach or any member of a team.

II. The following sanctions shall apply in addition to the above:

1. Teams losing by default shall be responsible to pay all expenses in relation to such loss (referee fees, field costs, etc.);
2. A team in default shall lose by a 3-0 score or the same score as in the first game between the two teams, whichever is greater.

III. Further sanctions shall apply at the discretion of the Board of Directors to representatives, team or members of a team for the following violations:

1. If a representative is not present at an MSA meeting;
2. If a team or member of a team is, in consumption of forbidden substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.), or guilty of disorderly conduct in or out of the playing field and/or surrounding area. Disorderly conduct shall mean any conduct deemed detrimental to the MSA, the municipality in which the conduct occurs in and to the general public. Violation of Team Sanction II, 2 carries a minimum three (3) to nine (9) point deduction in the standings. Points shall be deducted accordingly at the discretion of the Board of Directors; however points shall not be awarded to other teams;
3. Any misconduct by representatives, players, coaches, or assistants towards the physical integrity to any of the members of the MSA. This violation shall be persuaded beyond the borders of the MSA and the Board of Directors and shall involved appropriate authorities if necessary;
4. If a team forfeits from the Tournament. A team shall automatically forfeit from the Tournament by not showing up with the minimum number of players required to begin

play of a game for three MSA scheduled matches;

- a) After a team forfeits from the current Tournament, its representatives may apply to be reinstated for the following season's tournament. The Board of Directors shall place such team in the next lower division from which it last played in and subject such team to the sanctions accumulated (if any) as stipulated in these Rules and Regulations.

IV. In case a team resigns, forfeits, or is removed from the Tournament in any phase judgement shall be as follows:

1. If the team has not played the majority of its games in the first round, the games already played won't count. (majority games = 51 percent games played in the first round);
2. If the team has played the majority of its games in the first round, the games already played shall count and the remaining games shall be 0-3 (majority games = 51 percent games played in the first round);
3. If the team has not played the majority of its games in the second round, the games already played won't count but the first round's games shall remain as is (majority games = 51 percent games played in the second round);
4. If the team has played the majority of its games in the second round, the games already played shall count and the remaining games shall be lost 0-1 (majority games = 51 percent games played in the second round).

V. All point deductions shall be effective in the current Tournament, for greater clarity in the season in which the violation occurred.

SECTION ELEVEN

Game Postponement

- I. Postponing of games shall be extended to teams wishing to be absent at the discretion of the Board of Directors, so long as playing fields are available to make up the game on a comparable date to the original scheduled game and so long as the request is made in writing three (3) weeks in advance. All postponement requests shall be reasonable and the Board of Directors shall act reasonably in granting or denying such requests.

SECTION TWELVE

Protests

- I. Game Protests must be received in writing by the Board of Directors within twenty four (24) hours of

the game in question being completed. Game protests will be heard at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Appeals

II. After a decision has been made, a team wishing to file an appeal, must do so in writing to the MSA within forty eight (48) hours of the decision being delivered to the team. In addition any appeal must be submitted with a \$50.00 fee.

III. Procedure after an appeal has been filed:

1. The Disciplinary Committee shall be called (section 8-II);
2. A representative from the party in dispute shall be called;
3. The report of the referee shall be taken as a fact for such appeals. These Rules and Regulations shall be used as reference and preside over any ruling by the Disciplinary Committee. It is the function of the Disciplinary Committee to either ratify or overrule a decision made by the Board of Directors based on the clauses and rules in these Rules and Regulations;
4. After a hearing is over and a decision is reached, the appealing party shall be notified in writing within one day;
5. If the party that filed the appeal has proved its case, the filing fee for the appeal shall be returned and the Board of Directors shall make the necessary adjustments.
6. The resolution of any appeal shall be final and adjudicated prior to the next playing date.
7. No more than one claim per team can be filed per case.
8. The Disciplinary Committee shall not have the right to rule in a matter where a clause or rule in these Rules and Regulations is ambiguous to the members comprising such committee or in the event that an appealing party questions the validity or intent of a clause or rule in these Rules and Regulations. In the event where the Disciplinary Committee finds itself interpreting or questioning the intent of a clause or rule in these Rules and Regulations, it shall deem itself unable to decide on an appeal until such rule or clause is reviewed and the original intent of such rule or clause is clarified accordingly by the Board of Directors. In such event, any appeal shall be halted pending a meeting by the Board of Directors to clarify any ambiguities and/or intent of any clause or rule in these Rules and Regulations to the Disciplinary Committee. Such clarification shall be made in writing to the Disciplinary Committee and be implemented into these Rules and Regulations immediately. Once the latter occurs, the Disciplinary Committee shall reconvene and pass judgement accordingly.

SECTION THIRTEEN

Interpretation of the Rules and Regulations

- I. These Rules and Regulations are meant to provide the official guidelines under which the Board of Directors shall run the Tournament. Along with the Bylaws they shall determine how the Board of Directors shall operate the MSA, furthermore:
 1. The Rules and Regulations are not open to interpretation by teams and representatives;
 2. The Board of Directors shall be the only authority on interpretation of an ambiguous or underdeveloped clause or rule;
 3. The Board of Directors shall act reasonably and to the best of its ability always interpret the Rules and Regulations in their original intent;
 4. The Board of Directors shall be impartial in any determination of ambiguity and further development of any clause or rule;
 5. Teams shall not benefit or question the validity of an underdeveloped clause or rule. Should teams or representatives find examples of ambiguous or undeveloped clauses or rules, it shall be their obligation to bring forward to the Board of Directors for immediate clarification and further development;
 6. Any rulings handed prior to the 2009 Tournament due to ambiguity or undeveloped clauses or rules in these Rules and Regulations shall not be used as a precedent moving forward.

SECTION FOURTEEN

Tie Breaking Formula

- I. The tie breaking formula shall apply in the event of a tie in any phase of in the regular season.
 1. Most aggregate goals in meetings against;
 2. Best goal differential;
 3. Most goals for;
 4. Number of games won during the regular season; and
 5. Playing of an extra game.
- II. Playoff formula:
 1. If after regular time is completed with the teams being tied, two fifteen (15) minute

halves shall be played;

2. If a tie persists after the above halves are completed, the teams shall compete in a penalty shootout (FIFA) to determine the winner of the match.

SECTION FIFTEEN

Prizes and Awards

I. Premier Division Regular Season Awards & Prizes

1. 1st Place team (Trophy & Cash Prize);
2. Best GAA team;
3. Fair Play team;
4. Top Goal Scorer.

II. 1st Division Regular Season Awards & Prizes

1. 1st Place team (Trophy & Cash Prize);
2. Best GAA team;
3. Fair Play team;
4. Top Goal scorer.

Playoff Awards and Prizes:

PREMIER DIVISION	AWARD	CASH PRIZE
Premier Division Champion	Trophy	TBD
Premier Division Runner-up	Trophy	TBD

1ST DIVISION	AWARD	CASH PRIZE
1 st Division Champion	Trophy	TBD
1 st Division Runner-up	Trophy	TBD