**IMPORTANT**: Mandatory circulation to - Districts & Clubs & their U11-U18 teams

**ATTENTION:**  Clubs and their Team Officials - Discipline Information

For those of you who aren’t aware, the BCCSL schedules youth games for the entire Lower Mainland approximately 1300 teams U11 to U18. This resulted in one weekend recently where there were 26 reds reported. And as you can imagine, this caused a back-log of hearings.

The BCCSL League Discipline Manager reviews the referees’ reports and can levy a sanction of up to three games (minimum games are mandated in the *BC Soccer Judicial Code*, “the Code”, document). The team officials are sent an email informing them of this decision and that said player or team official doesn’t have to attend a hearing.

If a team official still wanted to have a hearing they would have 24 hours from receipt of the notification to request one.

Having said that, the team officials should be aware that by asking for a hearing it would not result in any fewer games levied as the number of games would have been the minimum as per the Code.

Please be aware that there is the potential that if it goes to a discipline panel that the player/team official could receive a higher suspension. (In the case of team officials there could be fines and/or bonds on top of any suspension.)

In some cases all a team official wants to do is have their side on record and for it to be included in the file.

Please see the **BC Soccer Judicial Code** on the BC Coastal Soccer League and BC Soccer websites:

<https://bcsoccer.net/files/AboutUs/BylawsRulesRegsPolicies/judicial_code_and_policies_of_bc_soccer_20190923.pdf>

As the referee is in the midst of the game and may see something a team official and/or player didn’t see or hear generally there is not much point in disputing the details of what the referee has indicated in the match report.

As per the Laws of the Game: 2. Decisions of the Referee:

*Decisions will be made to the best of the referee’s ability according to the Laws of the Game and the ‘spirit of the game’ and will be based on the opinion of the referee, who has the discretion to take appropriate action within the framework of the Laws of the Game.*

**Complaints about referees** DO NOT go to the BCCSL Discipline Manager as the discipline committee only handles discipline arising from games. Teams are entitled to submit complaints about referees as long as they’re not frivolous. These complaints would go to your District’s/Club’s Head Referee/Assignor who would then contact the home team’s District/Club Head Referee,

The Discipline Panel is governed by the BC Soccer Judicial Code; there are minimum and maximum sanctions that the panel can hand out. Many of you may not be aware that the sanctions are higher than in previous years as BC Soccer is mandated by the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code. For instance the sanction for **Violent Conduct** ranges from 3 to 6 games. A player **will not** be sanctioned less than three games for this offense.

The offense of **Language and/or gestures** Directed at a Match Official is an automatic six (6) games suspension regardless of the age of the player.

**Touchline, Field and Administrative sanctions** are in addition to game suspensions. They are described as:

Touchline Suspension: A sanction that prohibits any participation as a player or Team Official or seeming in any way to instruct players or officials. (This is a games only sanction.)

Field Suspension: A Sanction that prohibits the participation in any match, practice or on-field activity related to playing or officiating. (This is a games & practices sanction.)

Administrative Suspension: A full suspension and complete prohibition against participating in any sanctioned soccer-related activities for the duration of the suspension. (While this is usually a team official sanction it can also be a player sanction.)

Once a player/team official has been either levied a minimum suspension (by the Discipline Manager) or been to a hearing and the panel determines the sanction the team officials will get an email notice of the number of games to be sat out by the individual.

At the same time I would then go onto the Stacks site and remove the players for X number of games. When you go to run off the roster from the **Stacks** site their names will not appear for those specific games.

As we can’t presently remove **suspended team officials** from Stacks; suspended team officials names must have a line drawn through their name prior to giving a copy to the referee and opposing team official.

**Language and/or Gestures and Violent Conduct** are being reported for players as young as U11. Team officials are strongly encouraged to have a discussion with their players and parents regarding the number of games that would be sanctioned for these offenses. It is suggested that you sub off the player before it gets to the point of an ejection.

And finally there are information documents that can be found on the BC Coastal Soccer League website, under **Documents**, that you are encouraged to check out: *BCCSL 2019-2020 Rules*, *BCCSL Discipline Information & Procedures*, and the *BCCSL Sanction Information* as well as other information found on the Home page.

Please note in the BCCSL Sanction Information document the process if you have a make-up or District cup game while your player (or team official) is under suspension. A copy of the roster showing the player/team official crossed out is required to be scanned and sent to me so I can remove that one game suspension from the Stacks roster.

*With your help we can keep the players playing – not sitting on the sidelines.*

Regards, Jackie Larson, BCCSL Discipline Manager

December 5, 2019