

Chapter 10

Provincial (“A”) Cup and BCSA (“B”) Cup: *Lower Island Playdowns*





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Introduction

1. The Provincial (“A”) and BCSA (“B”) Cups are province-wide championship competitions governed by the BCSA. As such, the BCSA has the final say on all rules and regulations. Because the rules, regulations and policies that impact upon these two competitions are distributed in various documents and memos from the BCSA Competitions Committee this document has been prepared to reflect the latest known information as it relates to the Lower Island.

Caution: In the event of a conflict between this document and the BCSA rules and regulations, the BCSA rules and regulations will prevail.

2. If any team official has a question regarding these rules they should contact LISA rather than make an assumption that might have an adverse affect upon his/her team.
3. Unless otherwise provided in this document, all decisions respecting the playing or postponement of Provincial (“A”) or BCSA (“B”) Cup games between “in-district” teams will be made by the LISA Scheduling Committee.
4. Unless otherwise stated in this document, all decisions regarding the playing or postponement of inter-district Provincial (“A”) or BCSA (“B”) Cup games will be subject to consultation with the BCSA Competitions Committee.

Provincial (“A”) and BCSA (“B”) Cup -- General

1. The B.C. Soccer Association operates two province-wide cup competitions for boys’ teams and two province-wide cup competitions for girls’ teams. They are commonly referred to as the Provincial (“A”) Cup and the BCSA (“B”) Cup.
2. A team can only enter one province-wide cup competition.
3. Teams that enter the Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup might have their eligibility for District Cup play in the Lower Island restricted or might be ineligible for Lower Island’s District Cup competition. (For Lower Island District Cup eligibility rules see LISA’s rules and regulations, Chapter 11: District Cup.)
4. Prior to October 15th of each season, all teams seeking to enter a B.C. Soccer Association province-wide cup competition must declare to the district, which cup competition (Provincial “A” Cup or BCSA “B” Cup) it wishes to enter.
5. The Provincial (“A”) Cup is open to any youth team under the jurisdiction of the BCSA provided the team has played in properly constituted league matches and is not under suspension from the district.
6. The BCSA (“B”) Cup is open to any youth team under the jurisdiction of the BCSA playing at the “B” or “C” level provided the team has played in properly constituted league matches and is not under suspension from the district.
7. Metro (girls) and Select (boys) teams are only eligible for the Provincial (“A”) Cup competition.
8. Club teams playing at the “B” or “C” level (in the Lower Island this refers to the Silver and Bronze sections from Under-13 to Under-18, inclusive, plus the Gold sections from Under-14 to Under-18, inclusive) are eligible for either the Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup competition. For exception see (9).
9. Club teams that finish first in the BCSA (“B”) Cup finals in two consecutive years will be promoted to the Provincial (“A”) Cup level in the third year.

- a. If a team seeks to appeal a promotion to the Provincial (“A”) Cup it must make its appeal in writing to the LISA registrar (which will be forwarded to the BCSA Competitions Committee) by the first weekend of league play for that season.
10. In the Under-14 to Under-18 (inclusive) age divisions, all LISA teams that enter the Provincial (“A”) Cup will be placed in a playdown competition, in their age group, with all the other Coastal teams that have entered the Provincial (“A”) Cup competition in order to determine the Coastal (“A”) Cup champion.
11. The draw for the Under-14 to Under-18 (inclusive) Coastal (“A”) Cup playdowns will be conducted by BCSA at a date and location to be announced by BCSA.
12. At the BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament in all six age divisions, from Under-13 to Under-18 (inclusive), there will be four representatives from the Interior (one each from the following four regions: Thompson Okanagan; Columbia Kootenay; Cariboo North; and North Coast), two representatives from the Lower Mainland, one representative from the Vancouver Island and Powell River region, plus one representative from the host district for a total of eight teams. (See BCSA rules for how the host district berth is awarded.)
13. The eight teams that qualify for the BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament will be divided into two pools of four teams each and compete in a three-game round-robin format within their pool to determine the medal round match-ups. The first-place teams in the two pools (based upon round-robin standings) will play each other to determine the Gold and Silver medalists; the two second-place teams will play each other to determine the Bronze medalist and fourth-place finisher; the two third-place teams will play each other to determine fifth and sixth place; and the two fourth-place teams will play each other to determine seventh and eighth place in the final tournament standings.
14. The eight teams that qualify for the BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament will be divided into two pools of four teams each based upon their region’s results in the previous year’s championship tournament. (For a more detailed explanation see the BCSA rules.)
15. Uniforms: Teams participating in a provincial championship tournament (Provincial “A” Cup or BCSA “B” Cup) are required to have two complete sets of uniforms of different colours for all cup games to avoid colour conflicts. BCSA’s competition committee recommends that players have the same number on both sets of jerseys.
16. The formats for the Provincial (“A”) and BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournaments (as described in these rules) come under the jurisdiction of the BCSA. The BCSA has the right to change or alter the championship tournament formats, at any time.

Eligibility of Players

1. To be eligible for the Provincial (“A”) Cup or the BCSA (“B”) Cup competition players must be registered, reinstated as a youth-from-senior or transferred to a team at least seven (7) days prior to taking part in that team’s Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup game. Players must also have played in at least one regular-scheduled league game prior to playing in a Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup match.
2. A transferred player is not eligible to play for a new team in any Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup competition in which that player has already competed during the current playing season.
3. No player can transfer from one team to another team after January 15th of the Coastal playing season.
4. Under very specific and restrictive conditions, teams may be eligible to replace players they have legitimately lost for the Provincial (“A”) Cup championship tournament or the BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament, if they meet the criteria set out by BCSA. This is for the provincial tournament only, not for any games leading up to the provincial tournament. (For the pick-up rules see the BCSA Youth Provincial Championship Policies and Procedures Online Manual: Rules and Policies Governing Playdowns and Provincial Championships.)
5. Youth to youth permits are **not** valid for any Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup game.

Regulation Time, Extra Time and Ball Size

- | 1. | <u>Division</u> | <u>Length</u> | <u>Extra Time</u> | <u>Ball Size</u> |
|----|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| - | U18 | 2 – 45 min. halves | 2 – 15 min. halves | Size 5 |
| - | U17 | 2 – 45 min. halves | 2 – 15 min halves | Size 5 |
| - | U16 | 2 – 40 min. halves | 2 – 10 min. halves | Size 5 |
| - | U15 | 2 – 40 min. halves | 2 – 10 min. halves | Size 5 |
| - | U14 | 2 – 35 min. halves | 2 – 10 min. halves | Size 5 |
- EXTRA TIME** In the event that the two teams are tied on goals at the end of regulation time, in a Provincial (“A”) Cup or a BCSA (“B”) Cup match during the playdowns, the teams will play two equal halves of extra time (as per the duration that applies to their age group; see preceding chart). The FULL length of extra time will be played no matter how many goals are scored during the two extra time halves. Extra time is not sudden death; there is no “golden” or “silver” goal.
 - SHOOTOUT** If the score is tied at the conclusion of the full extra time session the outcome of the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty spot, as per FIFA rules.

Registration, Team Lists and Photo ID

- Teams that win the right to compete in a Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament will be provided with the necessary documents on which all players and team officials must be registered by a date to be announced by BCSA.
- At all *inter*-district Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup games, team officials must complete an official “team list” on the approved BCSA game report form. These forms will be made available by the home team or host district, at the field in advance of the game (the players and officials from both teams will appear on the same game report form).
- BCSA photo ID cards are required for all players and team officials** participating in any *inter*-district Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup match.
- At least one team official on each team attending a Provincial (“A”) Cup championship tournament must possess a minimum certification of Community Coach Senior and at a BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament must possess a minimum of Community Coach Youth. The following NCCP equivalents apply:
 - Provincial (“A”) Cup championship tournament: Minimum of Community Coach Senior, which is equivalent to Level III Technical and Level I Theory
 - BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament: Minimum of Community Coach Youth, which is equivalent to Level II Technical and Level 1 Theory.

Lower Island Competition Draws

- In the Under-14 to Under-18 (inclusive) age divisions, the Lower Island’s BCSA (“B”) Cup playdowns will be scheduled on behalf of BCSA by LISA in a single-game knockout format following random drawings conducted by LISA.
- The Lower Island’s BCSA (“B”) Cup playdowns will normally be scheduled to start in early February. However, a preliminary round (or rounds) will be scheduled prior to the December-January break if more than eight teams are entered in any specific division.
- If a preliminary round is scheduled prior to the December-January break there will be an attempt to avoid any disruption of regular-scheduled league games.

4. If a preliminary round is required in the Lower Island playdowns in an Under-14 to Under-18 (inclusive) BCSA (“B”) Cup competition: no Silver or Bronze team will receive a bye into the quarter-finals if that would require a Gold team to play in the preliminary round. In addition, Silver and Bronze teams will not play each other in the preliminary round if that would require two Gold teams to play each other.

General Postponements

1. No team official or club may postpone, cancel or reschedule a Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup game without the prior express approval of LISA.
2. Applying to postpone a preliminary-round match: If a preliminary-round BCSA (“B”) Cup game is scheduled to take place before the December-January break both clubs of the teams involved may make a written application to LISA to have the match postponed. In order to do this, *both clubs* must be in agreement to postpone the match. If approval is granted by LISA, the two clubs are then responsible to ensure the match is played prior to the start of the quarter-finals (“round of eight”) of the Lower Island playdowns. The application to postpone a preliminary-round match must be submitted to LISA at least one week before that match is scheduled to be played, unless LISA approves a later deadline. It is the responsibility of the clubs involved to make sure LISA has officially received the written application prior to the submission deadline. (This option only applies to preliminary-round matches scheduled to take place before the December-January break.)
3. A team that seeks to have a change in match day during the Lower Island quarter-finals, semi-finals or finals must submit the request in writing through its club to LISA.
4. Only if extraordinary circumstances prevail will such a postponement request be approved.

Forfeiture of Game, Fines, Bonds

1. Any team failing to fulfil its obligation to attend or complete a BCSA (“B”) Cup match during the Lower Island playdowns may be ruled to have forfeited the game to its opponent. The decision as to whether a game will be forfeited or will be subject to some other outcome will be made by LISA.
2. District teams and/or clubs must, at the earliest possible moment, alert LISA of any situation that exists wherein the team thinks it may not be able to meet its Provincial (“A”) Cup or BCSA (“B”) Cup commitment.
3. For Lower Island playdowns: A club may be assessed a fine for each time one of its teams, without just cause, fails to fulfil a game obligation after the Lower Island draw has been completed. Additional fines may also be assessed by BCSA.
4. The Provincial (“A”) Cup and BCSA (“B”) Cup: The BCSA has a performance bond system in place. Any team that fails to meet any of its cup obligations at anytime during either of these competitions may be assessed a fine or fines. (BCSA’s fines and performance bond system does not only apply to teams; it can also include players, team officials and spectators.)
5. Field Closures: The divisional score recorder or LISA district scheduler is to be advised at the earliest possible time.
6. Provincial (“A”) Cup and BCSA (“B”) Cup matches shall take precedence over all other games.

Home Field Responsibility:

1. The home team’s club is responsible for supplying the field.
2. If the home team’s club has no field available to play the BCSA (“B”) Cup game as scheduled and the “visiting” team’s club can supply a field then the game must be played at the visiting team’s field. During cup play the players and teams should be made aware of the possible need to change venues with short notice (including on the day of the game). The division score recorder shall be advised of the change in venue.

3. If neither club can supply a field to play the match on its scheduled date the LISA divisional scheduler is to be notified as far in advance as possible and LISA will attempt to supply a field. If LISA cannot supply a field LISA may then postpone the game.
4. In the event field closures prevent matches from being played as scheduled LISA reserves the right to re-schedule the matches for *any* time prior to the Region One (Vancouver Island and Powell River) final.
5. Clubs should make every effort to assign the best playing fields available for BCSA (“B”) Cup matches.

Game Officials

1. The home club is responsible for supplying and paying the game officials. 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. All Lower Island finals in BCSA (“B”) Cup must have three officials assigned: one referee and two certified assistants to run the lines. It is strongly recommended that two uniformed assistants be employed in all other rounds.
3. LISA will reimburse clubs for the assistant referees (line officials) based on a per line official fee of 50 per cent of the referee’s game fee.
4. Game official reports, naming the official lines persons, must be approved by the club and submitted to the LISA District Office within 48 hours of the game in order to claim for reimbursement of fees. Reports submitted after 48 hours will only be considered for payment under exceptional circumstances.
5. No fees will be paid for “volunteer” line officials.
6. Volunteers running the lines are to follow the referee’s instructions, and are to be respectfully treated as game officials. In turn, each **must act as a neutral official for the entire game** and shall not do any coaching or instructing while so acting. No payment will be made for volunteer line persons.
7. All game officials (referees and assistants) assigned to “B” Cup matches must be carded at the level required to referee the match.
8. No game official (referee or assistant) is to be assigned to a BCSA (“B”) Cup match if that official may be perceived to be in a position of a conflict of interest. Conflict of interest 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), or game officials who used to coach or manage either of the teams.
9. Referees assigned to BCSA (“B”) Cup matches must be a minimum of two years older than the players and hold a Level 4 certification or higher.
10. Referee assistants assigned to BCSA (“B”) Cup matches must be the same age or older than the players and hold a Level 4 certification or higher.
11. If the referee is not able to finish officiating a BCSA (“B”) Cup match the first assistant referee will take over. The first assistant must be the same age or older than the players.
12. If no referee shows for the game, the following procedures will be applied:
 - a) If two carded referee assistants have been assigned to the match they will agree upon which one will take over as the referee. If only one carded assistant shows up that assistant will referee the match.
 - b) If the assigned referee does not show up and no referee assistants have been assigned to the match or do not show up, then the two teams are encouraged to play the match using an agreed upon substitute to assume the role of referee. If this agreement is reached a note stating such shall be written on the back of each team list and signed by *both* coaches. Each coach shall keep a copy of the signed agreement.
 - c) If the match is not played because no one is available to referee the match and no agreement is reached on a substitute, LISA must be informed immediately. LISA can re-schedule such an un-played match for *any* time prior to the Region 1 final.

- d) If the two teams do not play the BCSA (“B”) Cup match, but proceed with playing an exhibition match instead, both coaches shall sign a note on the back of each team list stating what has taken place. Both teams will keep a copy of the signed agreement.

Protests

1. Game protests must be submitted in writing to LISA within 48 hours of completion of the match and must be submitted in the approved format with the protest fee (\$250).
2. In the event of a successful protest requiring a re-play LISA may re-schedule that match for any time prior to the Region 1 finals.

Coaching Sideline Behaviour

1. The players, coaching staff and spectators attending any BCSA (“B”) Cup match or national championship match shall act as ambassadors of this district and of his or her own club. Everyone should at all times behave in a manner that will bring credit upon all concerned.
2. The rules of behaviour as outlined in Chapter 3 shall apply to all LISA teams participating in any cup match. The district reserves the right to conduct an inquiry and issue fines or suspensions to any player, team official or spectator found to be responsible for contravening requirements.

Technical Area

1. The movement of players and coaching staff on the sidelines is stipulated within the BCSA Competitions Rules. At all Island, Coastal and Provincial cup finals the “technical area” is clearly defined. All team coaches and players must remain within this defined area.
2. For “in-district” BCSA (“B”) Cup matches, the technical area extends from one (1) meter behind the touch-line and within one (1) meter of the half line and no more than one (1) meter from the end of the team bench or equipment area.

Score Reporting

1. Results of all “in-district” matches must be reported by **both** teams to the division score recorder (listed on the league schedule).
2. The results of all “inter-district” cup matches involving a Lower Island team, whether winning or losing, must be reported to the district head scheduler. If results are not reported, or not reported within the deadline, fines may be issued from both LISA and BCSA. (The amount of a BCSA fine is set by BCSA on an annual basis.)
3. Scores must be reported before 5 p.m. the day of the match. For late-finishing afternoon games, scores should still be reported by 5 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter for travelling teams. If a match has been played in the evening the score must be phoned in immediately after the match is over.

Region 1 BCSA (“B”) Cup Qualifiers

1. The Lower Island’s BCSA (“B”) Cup representative is not eligible to play in the Lower Island District Cup. Also ineligible for the Lower Island District Cup is any team that has entered the Provincial (“A”) Cup competition.
2. The Lower Island’s BCSA (“B”) Cup representative will be scheduled to play one game against the Upper Island representative to determine who shall represent Region 1 (Vancouver Island and Powell River) in the BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament.

3. The hosts for the Region 1 BCSA (“B”) Cup qualifying finals are as follow:
 - a) LISA hosts the Under-14, Under-16 and Under-18 Region 1 qualifiers.
 - b) The Upper Island hosts the Under-13, Under-15 and Under-17 Region 1 qualifiers. (LISA does not participate at the Under-13 category.)
4. **Coastal (“B”) Cup:** The winner of the Region 1 qualifier not only qualifies for the BCSA (“B”) championship tournament it also qualifies for entry into the Coastal (“B”) Cup playdowns, a competition administered by BCSA, subject to the following:
 - a) The Region 1 qualifier will be drawn against a Lower Mainland team.
 - b) Results of matches in the Coastal (“B”) Cup competition do not alter entry to the BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament for a Region 1 representative, however, the competition, including the results against Region 1 representatives, does count toward determining the Lower Mainland qualifiers for the BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament.

Player Pick-up Rules for the BCSA (“B”) Cup Championship Tournament

BCSA’s Competitions Committee will allow teams to pick up players for the BCSA (“B”) Cup championship tournament under the following rules. The purpose behind allowing pick-up requests is to provide teams with the ability to have enough players to compete in the championship tournament. It is not designed to allow teams to strengthen their rosters by dropping players to pick up stronger ones. Any team proven to be abusing this privilege will face disciplinary action by the BCSA Board of Directors.

1. A team may pick up BCSA registered players to bring their roster up to 15 players or the number of players on the team’s affiliation form for the current season, whichever is less. (e.g. If a team has only 11 players eligible and available for the championship tournament and if its current BCSA team affiliation form has 16 players, that team may add a maximum of 4 players to its team roster. Or, if a team has 11 players eligible and available for the championship tournament and if its current team affiliation form has 13 players, it may add only 2 players to its championship tournament team roster.)
2. Players selected for inclusion in the pick-up rule for the BCSA (“B”) Cup are to be selected from a lower or equal age group, and lower/equal calibre of play. Players are subject to all cup-tied rules.

For the BCSA (“B”) Cup competition, a player is cup-tied from the moment when his/her team is identified as his/her district’s BCSA (“B”) Cup representative for inter-district play. Players can only be picked up from teams that have been eliminated from cup competition in that district.

3. Players registered on the BCSA team affiliation forms and not attending the championship tournament who are being replaced by a pick-up player must be released through:

Medical certificate, or (b) letter from parent and player indicating unavailability
4. Requests for players to be added/deleted from your roster must be submitted to the BCSA office prior to the deadline set by BCSA.
5. BCSA ID cards must be provided for all players, including pick-up players. Team officials are responsible for obtaining ID cards for all players under this clause.
6. Any player who is picked up for the championship tournament can only be chosen from teams within the same district, *and* with district approval.
7. Team officials who wish to pick up players must complete and submit a “Player Pick-up Application Form” available from BCSA.