



Performance Bonds and Fines

(Effective November 4, 2003)

Over the past four years the LISA Club and District Boards have worked to better define the operations within the district. The development of a comprehensive set of operating rules has greatly reduced much of the conflict that previously existed between clubs and teams involved in inter-district play. It is believed that coaches and players generally hold a perception that everyone is being treated in a fair and equitable manner. While this may be the general case, there is no question that the district and clubs still face challenges from individuals and groups who either are not aware of certain processes that must be followed or simply choose a path that suits their particular needs at the moment.

While the LISA rules contain specific fines for some infractions and on occasion some teams and divisions have been placed on performance bonds, the district has never consolidated these concepts into a single area of the rules. In order to address some challenges that are still being faced within the district, the LISA board have, after discussion with the eleven district clubs, modified LISA Rule 316 in a manner that better defines penalties that may follow from an infraction of various rules. Each club must now post a \$200 bond that will cover all teams, 11-aside and small sided, that they have entered in inter-district play.

While the general bond would apply to all who participate in inter-district play, the district board reserves the right to place an additional bond on specific individuals as might be necessary. This would be done in order to address specific difficulties or concerns. Clubs are at liberty to pass on any of the fines or bonding requirements to specific individuals or teams as they think appropriate.

When reading the fines and bond applications that may be applied in specific instances some might think these items are new within the district. That is not the case. Each of these items currently exists within either the rules of the LISA or of the BCSA. While it is generally acknowledged that only a few individuals or groups tend to disregard some rules, it is only with the development of a stronger organizational structure that the district is now in a better position to encourage compliance by everyone.

One important reason for ensuring compliance with these rules is related to insurance. There is a expectation, properly held, by parents that when they register their child to participate in the sport of soccer they will be fully covered by a general insurance policy. While we have never had a major incident involving a number of players being injured at one time, that potential always exists given the large distances many of our teams must travel in the course of a year. Most claims to this point have been individual claims resulting from injuries sustained while on the field of play. If an insurance claim was denied and it could be demonstrated that this was due to either a club or the district failing to exercise due diligence in adhering to the various rules and regulations, a significant liability might accrue.

In order to properly qualify for insurance coverage some basic conditions must be met. First, and probably most important, all players must be properly registered through a club, to the district and then to the BCSA. In terms of registration, it became clear at end of last season that several players were not properly registered with the team on which they played. The District Registrar will be taking additional steps over the course of this season to insure players are properly registered.

Another area that requires ongoing attention is insuring that both the LISA and the BCSA have properly sanctioned competitions in which registered teams or players participate. There was a time when individuals and teams seeking to raise funds would simply run a tournament. A permit was not necessarily considered a high priority. A coach or parent putting together a team for one of these tournaments might not have checked to see if it was properly sanctioned or carried sufficient private insurance. Those who have attended some holiday indoor events know that a potential for an injury exists.



It will be noted that several infractions listed in this rule (316.2) refer to “teams”. In many instances it is actually the “coach” who holds the majority responsibility and liability in these matters. A coach, or another individual on the team, must make sure that the players they represent are being properly protected in the event of a serious injury. This means following the established rules. The liability to all concerned is far too great to simply leave these matters to chance. In most instances, all it will take is a simple phone call, email or fax, to the District Office to check things out.

In conclusion, the district board is optimistic that the majority of players, coaches, and spectators will comply with the existing rules and will compete in a manner that will bring credit to themselves, their team and to their club.

Tim Satterford
President

Rule 316 Fines and Performance Bonds (General)

1. Member Clubs shall post one \$200 Performance Bond with the District Association by September 15 of each season. Additional bonding may be required for specific teams or individuals as specified within these rules.
 - a) The club posted bond shall cover all teams the club has entered in league or cup play or in other competitions administered by the District Association.
 - b) If all or a portion of a Bond is consumed during the course of the season, the member club must forthwith replenish the bond to the \$200 level.
 - c) Bond funds remaining at that time will be returned to the party having made the bond deposit unless they have provided written agreement to leave the bond on file with the district.
 - d) Interest will not be paid on bond deposits.
2. In addition to the general bonding requirement as noted above, the LISA board may, for just cause, place any player, team, team official or spectator on a specific performance bond before or during the course of a season. In this case the bond shall outline the amount of the bond, the purpose(s) to be served, the duration of the bond and the conditions under which either all or a portion of the bonding amount may be forfeited.
 - a) In the case of a bond placed upon a player, team, team official or spectator, a Club Board may declare that the individual or group shall post the bond.
 - b) Any player, team official or spectator refusing to sign an undertaking that makes up the bond, or by failing to post the required bond deposit, shall be immediately suspended from further participation in district activities.
 - c) The retention and return of bond funds shall be covered as noted in Section 1.

Rule 316.1 Procedure

1. Except in the case of some minor rule infractions, such as Failure to Report a Score, the original complaint concerning an infraction must be in submitted in writing, dated, signed and accompanied by any supporting documents (e.g. referee match reports). These documents shall be mailed or delivered to the District Office within ten (10) days of the infraction becoming known to the complainant. Procedures and time limits in respect to



game protests are outlined in Rule 308.2. Procedures and time limits with respect to appeals to BCSA are outlined in BCSA Rule 13.

2. When the complaint originates from within the District Office, from a Score Recorder, from a member of the Board of Directors or from a Committee of the Board, the complaint must likewise be reduced to writing, dated, signed by an appropriate authority and mailed or delivered to the District Office as noted in 316.1(1).
3. Once assigned to the appropriate authority for follow-up, the substance of the complaint will be reduced to writing and provided to the individual or team alleged to have committed the infraction. A copy will be forwarded to the President of the club of which the individual or team is a member.
4. Once an individual or team that has been advised they have been reported for a rule infraction they have seventy-two (72) hours to provide a written response to the decision making body. If the decision making body deem a formal hearing is necessary, the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the BCSA discipline hearing procedures.
5. Once a decision is made, a written summation shall be provided to the individual or an official of a team concerned within seventy-two (72) hours of the decision having been rendered. A copy of the decision shall be provided to the President of the club concerned.
6. Appeals of the decision shall be directed to the BCSA as outlined in BCSA Rule 13.

Rule 316.2 Fines and Performance Bonds:

This section provides an outline of some general infractions that may be dealt with by the District Board. This section does not cover all instances in which a fine may be assessed or a bond imposed upon a player, team, team official or spectator for a violation of the rules of the LISA or of the BCSA. The sections covered below may or may not be specifically covered in other sections of the LISA rules.

1. **Fail to report a league or cup score to the division Score Recorder:**
Comments: Failure to report scores places a considerable administrative burden upon a volunteer score recorder.
First Infraction: Warning
Second Infraction: \$10.00 fine
Third and Subsequent Infraction: \$20.00 fine per infraction.
2. **Teams scheduled for a game fail to secure permission of Score Recorder to cancel or postpone the game:**
Comments: Score Recorders are given the responsibility to manage a division and must decide whether it is appropriate to allow the teams to cancel or postpone a game.
First Infraction: Warning
Second Infraction by one team: \$25.00 fine and team placed on \$200 bond with conditions
Third Infraction: As stipulated by the bond put in place after the second infraction.
3. **Team fails to appear for a scheduled game without just cause:**
Comments: Teams must appear for games as scheduled unless they have sought and received prior approval to cancel or postpone the game. Failing to attend a game as scheduled, without just cause, is inconsiderate at best and ties up valuable field and referee resources for no purpose.
First Infraction: Forfeiture of the game, \$80.00 fine and referee costs.
Second Infraction: Forfeiture of the game, \$80.00 fine, referee costs and the team is placed on a \$500 bond with conditions.
Third Infraction: As stipulated by the bond put in place after the second Infraction.



4. **Team fails to commence game or withdraws from the game after it has started unless so directed by the Referee:**
Comments: Coaches are not at leisure to take this decision upon themselves. The referee is the only person on the field who may decide that the game shall not go forward as planned or shall be abandoned once it is under way.
First Infraction: Forfeiture of the game, \$80.00 fine and referee costs.
Second Infraction: Forfeiture of the game, \$80.00 fine, referee costs and the team is placed on a \$500 bond with conditions.
Third Infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second Infraction.
5. **Team or teams held to be at fault for abandonment of a game:**
Comments: Specific conditions exist within Rule 315 concerning the abandonment of games by the referee. Either one or both teams may be held liable.
First Infraction: Forfeiture of the game, minimum \$100 fine and post a \$500 bond.
Second Infraction: Forfeiture of the game, Forfeiture of \$500 bond and post a \$1000 bond.
Third Infraction: Forfeiture of \$1000 bond, may be expelled from league and reported to the BCSEA.
6. **Team having accumulated excessive red cards and/or ejections of coaching staff or spectators, during the course of one season:**
Comments: Each season at least a few teams clearly attract the attention of referees due to a lack of discipline on the field or on the sidelines. These matters can escalate quickly and cause serious difficulties within an entire division. This may carry over from season to season.
Four (4) accumulated Red Cards/Ejections: A written warning will be sent to the home club of the team involved.
Six (6) accumulated Red Cards/Ejections: Team Coach and a Club Representative summonsed to attend a Discipline Meeting. Penalty \$100 fine and team placed on a \$500 bond with conditions to be outlined and signed at the Discipline Meeting.
Continuing Difficulty: As stipulated within the bond.
7. **If requested by referee – lack of spectator control by team official(s) including failure to address the referee, harassment of referee, persistent criticism of the referee or disputing calls of the referee by team officials, players or spectators:**
Comments: Sometimes difficulty on the field of play can be traced to the activities of coaches and spectators on the sideline. Team officials and spectators must afford referees who attempt to address these matters full co-operation. This is primarily a coaching Infraction. Carry over from season to season.
First Infraction: \$100 fine
Second Infraction: \$100 fine and coach is placed on a bond
Third Infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction
8. **If requested by referee – failure to identify spectator(s) responsible for misconduct towards a referee or linesperson:**
Comments: Again this is an attempt to assist referees to control games. While there may be isolated instances where it is difficult to identify a person responsible for misconduct, this is generally not the case and it is usually evident that the offending party is know to the coach or other spectators. This may be a coach or spectator assigned penalty.
First Infraction: \$100 fine and \$200 bond with conditions
Second Infraction: Forfeiture of \$200 bond and post a \$500 bond
Third Infraction: Forfeiture of \$500 bond and reported to the BCSEA



9. **Player/team official, while under suspension and attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings the game into disrepute:**
Comments: Some individuals have been found to continue agitating at games even after they have been previously fined and/or suspended.
First Infraction: \$100 fine and suspension from attending games for a period time determined appropriate by the discipline committee hearing the case.
Second Infraction: \$100 fine and suspension for twelve (12) months.
10. **Team playing an exhibition match against a registered team from outside their own club without first notifying the District Office of the date, time, location and name of opposing team.**
Comments: Insurance implications. Generally a coaching infraction. Simple phone call, email or fax to the office will suffice. Carry over from one season to the next.
First Infraction: Written warning.
Second Infraction: \$50.00 fine and coach placed on a bond.
Third Infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction.
11. **Team participating in a sanctioned tournament within BC without first notifying the District Office of the intent of the team to participate in the tournament:**
Comments: Insurance implications. Generally a coaching infraction. Simple phone call, email or fax to the office is all that is required. Carry over from one season to the next. Only properly registered or approved teams may participate within tournaments. Team must meet district criteria regarding use of guest players.
First Infraction: Written warning
Second Infraction: \$50.00 fine and coach placed on a bond.
Third Infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction.
12. **Team participating in a sanctioned tournament outside of BC without having first obtained the proper travel documents from LISA, BCSA or CSA as may be required.**
Comments: Insurance implications. Most tournament organizers require proper travel documents. Generally a coaching infraction. Carry over from one season to next.
First Infraction: \$100 fine.
Second Infraction: Minimum \$100.00 fine and coach placed on a bond.
Third Infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction
13. **Team plays in a non-sanctioned tournament:**
Comments: It is incumbent upon a coach to take steps to insure that the competition in which he or she is enrolling a group of players is a properly sanctioned or insured event. Generally a coaching infraction.
First Infraction: \$100 fine
Second Infraction: \$100.00 fine and coach placed on a bond.
Third Infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction.
14. **Registered team, coach, parent or club hosts a non-sanctioned tournament:**
Comments: Insurance Implications can be serious. While coaches entering teams in a tournament have an obligation to check that the tournament is properly sanctioned or insured, the tournament organizers have a much greater responsibility and liability. This section does not apply to a club hosting an event for players or teams in which only those who are registered within their own club are allowed to participate. When clubs host social or fund raising events such as dances, etc., they should check on the insurance carrier for any additional requirements.
Infraction: \$500 fine and suspension to be determined by adjudicating committee.



15. **Team playing in an exhibition match against a non-BCSA registered team without having received prior written permission from the District Office:**
Comments: There is a process under Rule 319 for a private team be approved to play a match against an affiliated team. Other teams may travel in from jurisdictions outside the Province. Registered teams must have prior permission to play these teams. Carry over from year to year.
First Infraction: Written warning
Second Infraction: \$100 fine and coach placed on a bond.
Third Infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction.
16. **Any team official who knowingly plays a suspended (ineligible) or unregistered (illegal) player.**
Comments: A non-registered player is the most common infraction. Clubs and teams need to make sure all their players are properly registered with the District. With respect to suspended players, coaches, in most instances, ought to be aware when they have a player under suspension. Carry over from year to year.
First Infraction: \$100 fine and coach responsible suspended for six (6) months.
Second Infraction (by same coach): \$100 fine plus coach suspended for twelve (12) months.
17. **Member club knowingly or with careless disregard fails to register player(s) with the district:**
Comments: Experience from last season suggests a number of teams within this district were fielding players who were not properly registered. Ensuring that all players are properly registered is identified as a priority within the district.
First Infraction: \$100 fine and written warning
Multiple Infractions: The Executive Director shall meet with the club registrar and/or other appointed club officials to determine the cause of the failure. A report will be submitted to the LISA Board of Directors. An additional fine may be assessed or bond put in place.
18. **Poaching player from another team:**
Comments: Some coaches and other individuals have walked a very fine line regarding this infraction. While the infraction may be somewhat difficult to prove, the penalties reflect the seriousness. Carry over from year to year.
First Infraction: \$100.00 fine and individual suspended for six (6) months
Second Infraction: \$100 fine and individual suspended for twelve (12) months
Third Infraction: \$100 fine and individual suspended for three (3) years
19. **Trophy Returns**
Comments: 2002-2003 was the best season in recent years for a timely return of trophies. It is believed that a combination of better administrative tracking and control, along with the prospect of a progressive fine have helped to improve the situation. Very few fines were levied in 2003-2004.
Fail to Return by December 16, 2003 \$20.00 fine
Fail to Return by January 19, 2004 Additional \$20.00 fine
Fail to Return by February 17, 2004 Cost of Replacement Trophy