

LISA ADMINISTRATION MANUAL

Chapter 6

Disciplinary Rules, Regulations and Policy

(Updated August 20, 2013)





Chapter 6 – Disciplinary Rules, Regulations and Policy

Rule 600 Coaching/Sideline Behaviour

1. Coaches shall maintain a respectful manner and professional decorum on the sidelines.
2. Coaching from the sidelines – giving direction to *one's own team* on points of strategy, position and matters of discipline – is permitted, providing:
 - A. Neither mechanical nor electric devices are used;
 - B. The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue;
 - C. Each coach, substitute, or player is to remain within the “technical area”. (1 meter behind the touchline, and within 1 meter of the half line and no more than 1 meter from the end of the bench or team equipment.)
3. No coach, substitute, or player is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes or spectators.
4. No coach, substitute, or player is to use profanity.
5. No coach, substitute, or player is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behaviour of any kind.
6. It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager and team, club or league official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.

Rule 601 Zero Tolerance Policy: All LISA officials are instructed to take the following actions:

- A. Officials will ask the coach to remove any fan(s) whom the official feels is undermining his or her authority. The official will not restart the game until the offending party has removed themselves or has been removed.
- B. If the offending party still refuses to leave the official will abandon the game. The coach of the team with the offending party will be called to discipline.
- C. First offence: The team will be placed on a \$500 bond, receive a \$200 fine and a possible game forfeiture.
- D. A team who has a game called for the second time due to fan behaviour will lose their \$500 bond, placed on a \$1,000 bond and a possible game forfeiture.
- E. A team who has a game called for the third time due to fan behaviour will lose their bond and have their eligibility to participate further in the league reviewed by a committee of the LISA Board.
- F. All team officials called to discipline shall be required to take the Respect in Sport course prior to returning to coaching.

Rule 602 Game Abandonment: If it has been determined that a game is abandoned by the referee due to actions of the coach, players, spectators or any combination thereof of either one or both teams, **NO REPLAY WILL BE GRANTED**, unless the Board determines special circumstances dictate otherwise.

1. Subject to final consideration by the board, at the time of abandonment:



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- A. If one team caused the abandonment and the opposing team is ahead, the score at the time of abandonment will be the final score.
 - B. If the team causing the abandonment is ahead, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 shall be recorded in favor of the opposing team.
 - C. If one team caused the abandonment and the score is tied, the game shall be considered forfeited and a score of 1-0 in favor of the opposing team will be awarded.
 - D. If it has been determined that both teams caused the abandonment, then both teams will be given a loss (zero points to both teams).
2. The Board retains final authority to consider the circumstances and determine whether a game will be replayed or how the points may be awarded.

Rule 603 Fines and Performance Bonds

1. General

- A. Bonding may be required for specific teams or individuals. If bonds are imposed, the following rules apply:
 - i. 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 \$500 level.
 - ii. If a club merges or folds the bond, less any fines, will be returned.
 - iii. Interest will not be paid on bond deposits.
- B. 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.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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.

2. Procedure

- A. Except in the case of some minor rule infractions, such as “failure to report a score”, the original complaint concerning an infraction must be submitted in writing to the Association’s Executive Director, 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 307.2. Procedures and time limits with respect to appeals to BC Soccer are outlined in Rule 307.3.
- B. 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 Rule 603.2(A).



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- C. 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.
 - D. Once an individual or team that has been advised that 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 BC Soccer discipline hearing procedures.
 - E. If a Club fails to notify a player of their required attendance at a Discipline Hearing the respective Club may be levied a fine as follows: 1st offence – \$50; 2nd offence - \$100.00 (per season).
 - F. 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.
 - G. Appeals of the decision shall be directed to BC Soccer as outlined in Rule 307.3.
 - H. Rule 603 shall not be used to bypass submitting a proper protest as required in Rule 307.2. The complaint committee, in making a determination regarding a complaint, shall give due consideration to whether the complaint should have been submitted in the original instance as a protest. If the committee believes this to be the case, they may rule in a manner that does not provide an advantage to the complainant while still addressing the concerns outlined in the complaint.
3. **Infractions:** This section provides an outline of some general infractions that may be dealt with by the Executive Director, District Office or 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 BC Soccer. The sections covered below may or may not be specifically covered in other sections of the LISA rules.
- A. Failure to report a league or cup score to the division Score Recorder:
 - i. Comments: Failure to report scores places a considerable administrative burden upon a volunteer score recorder.
 - ii. First infraction: Warning
 - iii. Second infraction: \$50.00 fine, third and subsequent infraction \$100.00 fine per infraction.
 - B. Teams scheduled for a game fail to secure permission of Score Recorder to cancel or postpone the game:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. First infraction: Warning
 - iii. Second infraction: \$100.00 fine and team placed on \$200 bond with conditions
 - iv. Third infraction: As stipulated by the bond put in place after the second infraction.
 - C. Team fails to appear for a scheduled game without just cause:



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- i. 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.
 - ii. First infraction: Forfeiture of the game, \$100.00 fine and referee costs.
 - iii. Second infraction: Forfeiture of the game, \$150.00 fine, referee costs and the team is placed on a \$500 bond with conditions.
 - iv. Third infraction: As stipulated by the bond put in place after the second infraction.
- D. Team fails to commence game or withdraws from the game after it has started unless so directed by the Referee:
- i. Comments: A team official is not at leisure to take this decision upon him or herself. The referee is the only authority to decide that the game will not go forward or shall be abandoned once it is under way.
 - ii. First infraction: Forfeiture of the game, \$100.00 fine and referee costs.
 - iii. Second infraction: Forfeiture of the game, \$150.00 fine, referee costs and the team is placed on a \$500 bond with conditions.
 - iv. Third Infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction.
- E. Team or teams held to be at fault for abandonment of a game:
- i. Comments: Specific conditions exist within Rule 602 concerning the abandonment of games by the referee. Either one or both teams may be held liable.
 - ii. First infraction: Forfeiture of the game, minimum \$200 fine and post a \$500 bond.
 - iii. Second infraction: Forfeiture of the game, Forfeiture of \$500 bond and post a \$1000 bond.
 - iv. Third infraction: Forfeiture of \$1000 bond, may be expelled from league and reported to BC Soccer.
- F. Team having accumulated excessive red cards and/or ejections of team official or spectators, during the course of one season:
- i. 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.
 - ii. Three (3) accumulated Red Cards/Ejections: A written warning will be sent to the home club of the team involved.
 - iii. Six (6) accumulated Red Cards/Ejections: Team official 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.
 - iv. Continuing Difficulty: As stipulated within the bond.
- G. If requested by referee – spectator control by team official(s) including failure to not address the referee, harassment of referee, persistent criticism of the referee or disputing calls of the referee by team officials, players or spectators:



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- i. Comments: Sometimes difficulty on the field of play can be traced to the activities of team officials 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 team official infraction. Carry over from season to season.
 - ii. First infraction: \$100 fine plus disciplinary action
 - iii. Second infraction: \$150 fine and team official is placed on a bond plus disciplinary action
 - iv. Third infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction
- H. If requested by referee – failure to identify spectator(s) responsible for misconduct towards a referee or linesperson:
 - i. 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 team official or other spectators know the offending party. This may be a team official or spectator assigned penalty.
 - ii. First infraction: \$100 fine and \$200 bond with conditions plus disciplinary action
 - iii. Second infraction: Forfeiture of \$200 bond and post a \$500 bond plus disciplinary action
 - iv. Third infraction: Forfeiture of \$500 bond and reported to BC Soccer.
- I. Player/team official, while under suspension and attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings the game into disrepute:
 - i. Comments: Some individuals have been found to continue agitating at games even after they have been previously fined and/or suspended.
 - ii. First infraction: \$100 fine and suspension from attending games for a period time determined appropriate by the discipline committee hearing the case.
 - iii. Second infraction: \$100 fine and suspension for twelve (12) months.
- J. 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:
 - i. Comments: Insurance implications. Generally a team official infraction, simple email or fax to the office will suffice. Carry over from one season to the next.
 - ii. First infraction: Written warning.
 - iii. Second infraction: \$100.00 fine and team official placed on a bond.
 - iv. Third infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction.
- K. 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:
 - i. Comments: Insurance implications. Generally a team official infraction, simple 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 during their season. Team must meet district criteria regarding use of guest players.



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- ii. First infraction: Written warning
 - iii. Second infraction: \$100.00 fine and team official placed on a bond.
 - iv. Third infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction.
- L. Team participating in a sanctioned tournament outside of BC without having first obtained the proper travel documents from LISA, BC Soccer or CSA as may be required:
- i. Comments: Insurance implications. Most tournament organizers require proper travel documents. Generally a team official infraction. Carry over from one season to next.
 - ii. First infraction: \$100 fine plus disciplinary action
 - iii. Second infraction: Minimum \$200.00 fine and team official placed on a bond plus disciplinary action
 - iv. Third infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction
- M. Team plays in a non-sanctioned tournament:
- i. Comments: It is incumbent upon team officials to take steps to insure that the competition in which he or she is enrolling a group of players is a properly sanctioned event. Generally a team official infraction. First infraction: \$500 fine
 - ii. Second infraction: \$500.00 fine and team official placed on a bond.
 - iii. Third infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction.
- N. Registered team, team official, parent or club hosts a non-sanctioned tournament:
- i. Comments: Insurance implications can be serious. While team officials entering teams in a tournament have an obligation to check that the tournament is properly sanctioned 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 with the insurance carrier for any additional requirements.
 - ii. Infraction: \$500 fine and suspension to be determined by adjudicating committee.
- O. Team playing an exhibition match against a non-BC Soccer registered team:
- i. Comments: Other teams may travel from jurisdictions outside the Province. These teams must provide their “permission to travel” from their home Province. District registered teams must have prior permission from the District office to play these teams. Carry over from year to year.
 - ii. First infraction: \$100 fine:
 - iii. Second infraction: \$500 fine and team official placed on a bond.
 - iv. Third infraction: As stipulated in the bond put in place after the second infraction.
- P. Any team official who knowingly plays a suspended (ineligible) or unregistered (illegal) player:
- i. 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.



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With respect to suspended players, team officials are aware when they have a player under suspension. Carry over from year to year.

- ii. First infraction: \$100 fine and team official responsible suspended for six (6) calendar months or six (6) playing months.
- iii. Second infraction (by same team official): \$500 fine plus team official suspended for twelve (12) months.

Q. Member club knowingly or with careless disregard fails to register player(s) with the district:

- i. Comments: Ensuring that all players are properly registered is identified as a priority within the District.
- ii. First infraction: \$100 fine and written warning
- iii. 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.

R. Poaching player from another team:

- i. Comments: Refer to Rule 701.3 for the definition of poaching. While the infraction may be somewhat difficult to prove, the penalties reflect the seriousness. Carry over from year to year.
- ii. First infraction: \$100.00 fine and individual suspended for six (6) months
- iii. Second infraction: \$500 fine and individual suspended for twelve (12) months
- iv. Third infraction: \$1,000 fine and individual suspended for three (3) years

S. Trophy Returns:

- i. Fail to return by first published deadline \$50 fine per trophy.
- ii. Fail to return by second published deadline \$100 fine per trophy.
- iii. Fail to return by third published deadline \$100 per trophy plus cost of replacement trophy.

T. Failure to send a Representative to District Meetings:

- i. Comments: District meetings, such as Registrars, Reps and Presidents are where the decisions regarding placements of players, league play, Constitution changes etc. are made. When a club fails to attend their voices/concerns cannot be addressed and may lead to future confrontation or confusion amongst their members.
- ii. First infraction \$50 fine
- iii. Second infraction \$100 fine
- iv. Third infraction forfeiture of bond

U. Non-Specified Penalties:

- i. Comments: The Complaints Committee may assess a fine or issue a suspension for any infraction of the rules for which a penalty is not presently specified within the BC Soccer Association or the LISA Rules, Regulations or Discipline Guidelines as follows:



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- ii. For a first offence a maximum fine of \$100 and/or a suspension to a maximum of one month of in season league play;
- iii. For a second offence of the same section, a maximum fine of not less than \$100, nor more than \$500 and/or and a suspension of not less than one (1) month nor more than six (6) months of in season league play.
- iv. For a third offence, a penalty as determined appropriate by the Complaints Committee but in any event not less than the penalty issued for the second offence.
- v. Offences may carry over from season to season.