



RULES AND REGULATIONS

(as revised June 12, 2019)

Summary of Changes for 2019-20

Red cards no longer league and cup specific

Yellow accumulations remain league and cup specific

Clarification of what a team staff suspension entails – 11.12, 11.13

National travel grant no longer dependent on out of province tournament

Forfeit fine for Premier doubled to \$300

\$250 bonds are no longer grandfathered for clubs established in the VMSL prior to 2013

One time higher registration fee for new players of \$60. (i.e., when registering online with the league for the first time. NB: Returning player rate remains \$50)

Expansion of forgery fine 8C to include duplicate player registration and spoofing player registration data (incorrect names and dates of birth)

Relaxation (outside of Premier, Division 1 and Division 2) of rules limiting the players eligible to play in the completion of incomplete games

O45 Division 1 broken into O45 Division 1 and 2

Youth permit and Criminal Record Check requirements spelled out

Explicit clarification in rules of amateur status of league and BC Soccer Rule 5B prohibiting payment of players

Miscellaneous typos, formatting, streamlining of redundant content, rewording to better fit with online processes and the updated branding of BC Soccer and Canada Soccer

Unlimited substitutions at half time in Division 2 (Note: It was agreed that this would never creep into Division 1 in the future and that A form (Prov A Cup) vs B form (Prov B Cup) player registrations defined the cut off line. It was also agreed that unlimited substitutions at half time would NOT apply in the VMSL Division 2 Cup.)



Section 1 – Governance

- 1.1. The VMSL is a registered not-for-profit entity under the BC Society Act.
- 1.2. All competition in the league is governed by the VMSL Board of Directors.
- 1.3. The VMSL operates under its own Constitution and Bylaws, as well as pursuant to BC Soccer's.

Competition Rules and Regulations

1.4. The VMSL operates solely as an amateur league and the payment of players is strictly prohibited as governed by the bylaws of BC Soccer and in particular BC Soccer Rule 5b (*“An amateur player shall not receive any remuneration or consideration directly or indirectly from playing soccer except as provided in these rules”*)

1.5 Discipline will be applied according to the VMSL Discipline Policies and Procedures.

Section 2 – League Fee

2.1. The Board of Directors shall establish the Annual Membership fees, subject to approval of the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The fees shall be payable at a date fixed by the Board of Directors.

League Fees

- (a) VMSL Team Registration fee: \$350
- (b) BC Soccer Team Registration fee: \$50
- (c) BC Soccer Player Registration fee: \$50 (VMSLsoccer.com returning player); \$60 (player not already registered on VMSLsoccer.com)
- (d) BC Soccer Player Transfer fee: \$20
- (e) Fields fees will be charged according to a team's fields usage
- (f) Performance bond per team: \$500

The bond may be increased by the Board of Directors for teams, who, by their conduct, show a disregard for the Laws of the Game, the Bylaws, and/or the Rules and Regulations of the VMSL.

Section 3 – Competition Prize Tokens and Provincial / National Competition Subsidies

3.1. Divisional competition prize money may be established and funded by the clubs within each division and shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The VMSL will match premier division prize money funded by the clubs.

3.2. The VMSL will match the BC Soccer travel grants (currently \$500 per trip) that VMSL teams in provincial cup play receive for travel to Vancouver Island.



3.3. The VMSL will provide a travel grant (\$1000) to VMSL teams in national championship play.

Section 4 – Schedule

4.1. The VMSL Board of Directors shall be responsible for the scheduling of all VMSL games.

4.2. The VMSL Board of Directors shall appoint all game officials.

4.3. In the event that a match cannot continue through to full regulation time due to inclement weather or extenuating circumstances, it will resume within the next 24 hours (or some other date/time agreed upon by the competing teams and the VMSL) starting at the same minute that the match was originally suspended and with the same score, accumulation of cards (if there were any) and, for games in the open age Premier, First and Second Divisions, the same players that were listed on the teams' rosters and were present at the game at the time it was suspended. For games other than Premier, First Division and Second Division, teams can use any player listed and not suspended on the game day roster archived by the referee at the incomplete game regardless of whether they were present or absent, checked in, crossed out or unmarked. The VMSL Board of Directors shall have discretionary powers to decide whether unfinished games are to be replayed or the game declared officially completed.

4.4. The VMSL Board of Directors may institute temporary rules to deal with interrupted schedules, determining which games must be played, where and under what conditions, and how points are to be awarded.

4.5. Any team responsible for defaulting or cancelling a game will be charged with all the expenses incurred in preparation for such game as per Section 8.e. of the VMSL rules and Regulations. The Board of Directors shall have the power to suspend or expel any member club who has defaulted and/or forfeited 3 or more games in one regular season.

4.6. To change a scheduled match, the following process must be followed:

(a) Any team wishing to change or postpone a scheduled VMSL home game must apply in writing to the VMSL President explaining the reasons and/or circumstances of the change.

(b) Any team wishing to change or postpone a scheduled VMSL away game must apply in writing to the VMSL President explaining the reasons and/or circumstances of the change. An agreement of acceptance from the opposing club / team will be required before changes are made.

(c) A new date and field must be provided and no changes will be accepted within 14 days of a match, except under special circumstances, i.e., weather, National Championships, and health related issues.

(d) Approved match changes with new dates are subject to a fee of \$25 to the club initiating the change.

(e) Time changes within 14 days may only be allowed upon approval of the VMSL Executive.



4.8. The standing of teams resigning or removed from the VMSL before completion of the schedule will be expunged from the record as follows:

- (a) If a resignation or removal occurs prior to the completion of the first round of the schedule, all results involving that team will be expunged from the league record.
- (b) If a resignation or removal occurs prior to the completion of second round of schedule, only the second round results will be expunged.
- (c) The same formula shall apply for any subsequent rounds.

4.9. Points shall be awarded on the basis of three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) point for a loss.

4.10. In the event of inclement weather, teams must:

- (a) Be in attendance and prepared to play at the scheduled field and wait for the decision of the referee as to whether the ground is in playable condition or not, unless previously advised to the contrary by the Scheduling Secretary.
- (b) Be prepared to play if, within 24 hours, the game is changed to a venue, day and/or time different than the original schedule.

4.11. Admission fees:

- (a) In a regular VMSL game played in an enclosed park for which an admission is charged, the home team will retain the net gate.
- (b) In regular VMSL games, which form part of a double header, and for which an admission fee is charged the net gate will be divided between the two home teams.
- (c) In regular VMSL games played on open parks the home team is entitled to take and retain the proceeds of any moneys collected.

Section 5 – Division Section Championship

5.1. At the completion of the league schedule, the team with the most points shall be declared the Division Section Champion.

5.2. In the event of two teams having the same number of points, the Division Section Champion shall be determined by the result of a one game playoff.

The game will be played on neutral ground, with extra time periods, and a penalty kick series if necessary.



If the Championship playoff does not affect promotion (e.g. in the case where both teams are being promoted) and the Board of Directors feels that there is not sufficient time to complete the playoff, the formula in 5.3 will be used to break the tie.

5.3. In the event three or more teams are tied for first place a round-robin playoff will take place. Field and referee costs will be shared by the teams and the CAT system and ICP system and league suspensions will be in effect. If the Board of Directors feels that there is not sufficient time to complete the round-robin playoff, the following rules will be used to break the tie:

- (a) Total points in games played among tied teams.
- (b) Goal difference (goals for minus goals against) in games played among tied teams.
- (c) Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) in games played among tied teams.
- (d) Average goal difference in all games played.
- (e) Goal average in all games played.

If, after the round-robin playoff, two or more teams are still tied, the rules for breaking the tie will be the same as the ones above.

Section 6 – Promotion and Relegation and Vacancies

6.1. At the end of each season, the VMSL shall promote and relegate teams as follows:

- (a) The two last place teams in the Premier Division will be relegated to Division 1.
- (b) The first and second place teams in Division 1 will be promoted to the Premier Division.
- (c) The last two teams in Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2.
- (d) The winner of each of the Division 2 sections will be promoted to Division 1.
- (e) Three teams from Division 2 will be relegated to Division 3 as follows:

i- The last place team in each Division 2 section will be relegated to Division 3.

ii- A one game playoff on a neutral ground shall take place between the two penultimate teams in each of the two Division 2 sections . In case of a tie, two 15 minute extra time periods will be played, followed by penalty kicks if needed. Field and referee costs as well as field set up will be shared by the teams and the CAT system and league suspensions will be in effect. The losing team will then be relegated to Division 3

(f) Three teams from Division 3 shall be promoted to Division 2. The procedure to identify the teams will vary, depending on the number of groups in Division 3.



(g) In all of the above cases, the placement of promoted or relegated teams into divisions with multiple sections will be decided by a random draw.

6.2. In the event of two teams having the same number of points at the end of the league schedule, and providing that this situation affects the promotion or relegation of teams, a one game playoff on a neutral ground shall take place. In case of a tie, two 15 minute extra time periods will be played, followed by penalty kicks if needed. Field and referee costs as well as field set up will be shared by the teams and the CAT system and league suspensions will be in effect.

Where three or more teams are affected, a round-robin tournament among the tied teams will take place and the tie breaking formula outlined in Section 5.3 of the Rules and Regulations will be used.

6.3. Vacancies (or open spots in a division) are filled every summer as part of the setting of a new divisional structure prior to the start of a new season. Vacancies in any Division, except the ones covered by Section 6.1 shall be filled as follows:

(a) The next place team by points standing in its respective division, regardless of section, shall be promoted, assuming that the teams have played an equal number of games. If the teams have not played an equal number of games, then the team with the highest points/games quotient (points divided by number of games played) shall fill the vacancy.

(b) Where two or more teams are tied in points per game standing, then the rules defined in Section 5.3 will be used to break the tie.

(c) If there are more than 2 vacancies to be filled in a division, the VMSL executive reserves the right to consult the directly affected parties. When one or two vacancies are to be filled, they will go to teams next in line per 6.3(a) and 6.3(b).

(d) Vacancies created by teams dropping out once the season has started or being expelled once the season has started will be left unfilled until the following season. In such cases the vacating team does not count as one of the teams to be relegated unless it has completed at least half of the season (i.e. played each team once assuming a balanced schedule).

6.4. Realignment within Divisions with multiple sections:

Teams remaining for the next season in a division that is broken into sections will be redistributed to newly formed sections based on their placement in the previous playing season. The process to redistribute the teams will be based on a draw after placing the teams into various pots for the purposes of the draw based on past season performance (i.e., a seeded lottery). Where two or more teams are tied in points standing and it affects which pot the teams go into, the formula outlined in section 5.3 shall apply. If teams do not re-register for the upcoming season, the teams in that section that were below the exiting teams generally move up in the section ranking. Each pot contains a number of teams divisible by the number of sections and as the teams are drawn from each pot they are placed into the sections in rotation.



6.4.1 Realignment of Division 2. The pots to be drawn into the two Division 2 sections are constructed as follows:

- Pot A – the relegated teams from Division 1 (2 teams)
- Pot B – second, third and fourth place teams from each section (6 teams)
- Pot C – fifth, sixth and seventh place teams from each section (6 teams)
- Pot D – eighth, ninth and tenth place teams from each section (6 teams)
- Pot E – the winner of the Division 2 relegation playoff and the three teams promoted from Division 3 (4 teams).

6.4.2 Realignment of Division 3. The pots to be drawn into the three Division 3 sections are constructed as follows:

- Pot A – the relegated teams from Division 2 (3 teams)
- Pot B – second, third and fourth place teams from each section (9 teams)
- Pot C – fifth, sixth and seventh place teams from each section (9 teams)
- Pot D – eighth, ninth and tenth place teams from each section (9 teams)
- Pot E – eleventh and twelfth place teams from each section and/or all new teams to the league. (6 teams)
If required the lowest ranked one or two teams from Pot D will be moved to Pot E to make Pot D and E divisible by the number of sections)

If space remains, new teams registering for the league late and after the main draw will be assigned to the Division 3 sections via one or more supplemental random draws.

Section 7 – Clubs/Teams Responsibilities

The rules and regulations set forth in this Section are to be administered and enforced by the VMSL Board of Directors. Infractions may result in such disciplinary action as may be considered necessary.

7.1. Clubs failing to send a representative to any VMSL meeting will be subject to a twenty-five (\$25) dollar fine.

7.2. Every club is responsible to the VMSL for the actions of its teams, players, officials and supporters and is to take all necessary precautions to prevent behaviour that may bring the game into disrepute.

7.3. Any club, team, or individual who induces or attempts to induce a registered player of another club in the VMSL to leave his club without first giving seven (7) days' notice in writing to the club for which the player is registered, shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and be dealt with as per BC Soccer Rule 6 - Poaching.



7.4. All decisions and reports of the Board of Directors, or any business transacted at any meeting may be published at the discretion of the Board of Directors whether such publication shall or shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any club, player or spectator, and in the event of such publication, every club, player or spectator concerned or referred to therein shall be deemed to have assented to such publication.

7.5. Each club must, at least two weeks before the commencement of the season and in a form approved by the VMSL, submit a complete list of its officers together with the club mailing and email addresses and phone numbers to the VMSL Board of Directors. Any changes to this list must be communicated in writing or via electronic submission to the VMSL office immediately.

7.6. Any club wishing to change its name must apply to the VMSL for permission to do so.

7.7. Every team must have available two sets of jerseys of substantially different colours.

7.8. If, in the opinion of the referee, a conflict of jersey colours exists, it is the responsibility of the away team to change jerseys.

7.9. Each player must have an easily identifiable number displayed on his jersey that corresponds with the number on the team list. The same number must not be allotted to more than one player in any game.

7.10. Each club is responsible for seeing that the players are properly dressed and equipped and is expected to do everything possible to make the game as attractive as possible for the spectators.

7.11. Team lists must be game-specific VMSL system-generated roster sheets properly printed on an 8.5 x 11 inch sheet showing duplicate rosters for the referee and your opposition. The list shall be printed legibly and shall state the numbers and full names of all eligible players that the team intends to use in the game. Players not listed on the team list will be considered ineligible for the game.

(a) Both copies of the team list shall be handed to the referee at least ten (10) minutes prior to the commencement of the game.

(b) The referee shall sign both copies of the team list. He will retain one copy and, prior to the commencement of the game; give each team a copy of the other team's list.

7.12. The home team must make available two (2) high quality soccer balls from a list of approved balls published by the VMSL.

7.13. Each home team must provide the following (according to the Laws of the Game):

(a) The field must be properly marked to the referee's satisfaction.

(b) Regulation size corner flags properly and securely placed.



(c) Goal nets in satisfactory condition and properly hung.

(d) Fields shall be booked for not less than 2 hours for a regular League games and not less than 2:30 hours for a Cup games where overtime is a possibility.

7.14. In all VMSL league games, it is the home team's responsibility to pay the referee and the assistant referees prior to the commencement of the second half of the game. In games without assistant referees, the teams are responsible for providing one linesman each to call throw-ins only.

7.15. For all games, other than scheduled regular league games, the referee and assistant referee fees are to be shared equally by both teams. For cup games and playoff games at neutral venues, field fees are to be shared equally by both teams.

7.16. Playoff games are used to determine promotion status, championship status, relegation status and Provincial Cup and other qualification statuses. Playoff games are played at a neutral ground, with extra time periods, and a penalty kick series if necessary. The league will schedule two assistant referees regardless of the division involved. Field and referee costs are shared by the teams and the CAT system, ICP system, league suspensions and youth permits are all in effect. Field set up is shared - one net and two flags per team. If a playoff game is scheduled on grass, lining is coordinated between the teams.

Section 8 – Club / Team Fines

Clubs / Teams found guilty of committing the following offences will be fined as follows:

8.a. Team fails to appear for a scheduled game

Penalty: Minimum **\$150** fine, plus cost of game official(s), if less than one week's notice, (\$80/90) and Field cost, for away teams, (\$75 +). 3-0 result will be given to the opponent.

8.b. Use of ineligible player

1) First Offence-Penalty: **\$200** fine, stripped of any points acquired in the game and a further deduction of three (3) points. 3-0 result will be given to the opponent.

2) Second Offence- Penalty: **\$400** fine, stripped of any points acquired in the game and a further deduction of six (6) points. 3-0 result will be given to the opponent.

3) Third offence- Penalty: the team shall be expelled from the VMSL, and its bond forfeited.

4) Cup games- Penalty; **\$200** fine and expulsion from further cup competition.



5) Use of a player that has served their player suspension but has not paid the associated player suspension fine: \$20 per game eligible to play while fine outstanding (on top of original fine)

8.c.i Forgery of Player’s Signature on Registration Confirmation form

This applies (i) when a player enters the league for the first time and is required to sign the registration confirmation form, and (ii) when a player re-registers for a new season online.

In the context of the re-registration of players in an online registration system who have already been accepted into the league (and are not required to provide a signed registration confirmation each season), this penalty and fine also applies to the re-registering of a player in the VMSL without the player’s consent. (The VMSL strongly recommends that players maintain their own login versus delegating this to team staff)

Penalty: Minimum \$200 fine.

8.c.ii Entry of incorrect name or date of birth during annual player registration and/or duplicate registration

This applies when a player enters the league for the first time and registers his full name and date of birth and confirms that the data is correct and signs the registration confirmation form.

Penalty: Minimum \$200 fine.

8.d. Team fails to commence a game or withdraws from the game after it has started unless so directed by the Referee

Penalty: Minimum \$150 fine, plus cost of game official(s) (\$80/90) and Field cost (\$75+). 3-0 result will be given to the opponent. (Note: \$300 minimum for a forfeit in the VMSL Premier division.)

8.e. Defaulting, forfeiting or cancelling a game

Penalty: \$150 fine, plus cost of game official(s) (\$80/90 each) and Field cost (\$75+). 3-0 result will be given to the opponent.

8.f. Delay of start of game

Penalty: Minimum \$25 fine.

8.g. Failure to pay referee(s) before start of second half

Penalty: Minimum \$25 fine.

8.h. Insufficient or unacceptable uniforms



Penalty: Minimum \$25 fine.

8.i. Team fails to,

- 1) Mark field properly; **Penalty:** Minimum \$25 fine.
- 2) Supply appropriate goal nets; **Penalty:** Minimum \$25 fine.
- 3) Supply appropriate corner flags; **Penalty:** Minimum \$25 fine.
- 4) Supply match ball and/or spare match ball; **Penalty:** Minimum \$25 fine.
- 5) Provide team lists before kickoff; **Penalty:** Minimum \$50 fine
- 6) Provide VMSL digital identification (ID) cards before kickoff; **Penalty:** Minimum \$50 fine
- 7) Supply substitution slips; **Penalty:** Minimum \$50 fine

8.j. Team or teams held to be at fault for abandonment of a game

Penalty: Minimum \$150 fine plus game officials fees/s (\$80/90) and Field cost (\$75 +) - 3-0 result will be given to the opponent.

8.k. If requested by referee – lack of spectator control by team official(s) including failure to address the referee

Penalty: Minimum \$50 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition.

8.l. Harassment of referee, persistent criticism of the referee or disputing calls of the referee by team officials and/or players,

Penalty: Minimum \$50 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition.

8.m. If requested by referee – failure to identify spectator(s) responsible for misconduct towards a referee or assistant referee;

Penalty: Minimum \$50 fine and may be suspended from further participation in the competition.

8.n. Player/team official, while under suspension and attending a game as a spectator, behaves in a manner that brings the game into disrepute,

Penalty: Minimum \$100 fine and suspended from attendance at the game sites.

8.o. Team fails to send a representative to the VMSL Annual General Meeting and/or a pre-competition meeting,



Penalty: Minimum \$25 fine.

8.p. Team fails to fulfill Provincial and/or Club National commitment,

Penalty: Minimum \$100, plus the BC Soccer and Canada Soccer fines that are assessed to the VMSL.

Section 9 – Players

9.1. All players to be eligible to take part in VMSL games must be registered in a form approved by BC Soccer, and filed by the VMSL with the BC Soccer Registrar.

For clarity, this includes following the applicable FIFA / Canada Soccer / BC Soccer rules with respect to international and provincial transfer certificates. A player who fails to process an ITC / PTC when required to play in BC is deemed to be an ineligible player.

The VMSL player registration fee (independent of any ICT/PCT transfer fees) is currently set at \$50 for returning players (with a current VMSL login) and \$75 for new players to the league.

9.2. A player shall be eligible to take part in VMSL game play from the date of registration completion with the VMSL / BC Soccer providing he has a valid VMSL digital ID card or special permit issued by the VMSL and is not suspended. A player will not be given a VMSL digital ID card unless they have met all the requirements of registration which include completing the online registration, uploading a headshot, completing payment of the player registration fee, completing any necessary international or provincial transfer or amateur reinstatement and providing proof of identity and date of birth and signing the registration confirmation form.

9.3. A player under suspension by the VMSL or BC Soccer is an ineligible player and may not participate in a VMSL game. (See Section 11 for more detail.)

9.4. It is the team's responsibility to present the game-specific VMSL digital ID card at each game that the player intends to play in. A player who fails to produce a valid VMSL digital ID card or a special permit issued by the VMSL is deemed to be an ineligible player.

9.5. Players transferring from one team to another are subject to BC Soccer Rule 7 - Transfer of Players.

All player transfers must be filed with and approved by the VMSL.

1. When transferring to another team, a BC Soccer transfer form must be completed and releasing and accepting clubs signatures obtained before being submitted to the VMSL (in digital or hard copy) along with the current transfer fee.
2. A player is entitled to a transfer provided he has complied with all the provincial, district or league rules and regulations and is not indebted to the current team, district or league.



3. A player is entitled to a transfer as hereinafter provided, by January 15th of the current year for the coastal/winter-playing season, except as provided below, and by June 30th of the current year for the interior/summer-playing season, except as provided below.
4. A player shall not be allowed to transfer during the team's playing season without the consent of the team for which the player is registered. Such consent must not to be unreasonably withheld if the player is not indebted to the current team.
5. A player currently under suspension and seeking a transfer is not eligible to play until the suspension has been served with his current team.
6. Once a team plays its first league game in the current playing season any player movement thereafter would be subject to the transfer regulations.

9.6. Any player playing under more than one name, and/or for more than one BC Soccer affiliated team, shall be immediately suspended for the balance of the season at a minimum.

In addition, his club will be liable for a minimum one hundred dollar (\$100) fine. Any subsequent infringement of this regulation by the club will render the club liable to expulsion from the VMSL.

9.7. Only eligible players' names may appear on the team list. VMSL digital ID cards for all players on the current team list must be presented to the referee, together with the team list, before the commencement of the game.

9.8. To be current and acceptable, every VMSL digital ID card must indicate:

- (a) Name in full.
- (b) Current team playing for.
- (c) A passport size photograph of true likeness of player.
- (d) Annual authentication by the VMSL.

9.9. A youth player playing in the VMSL on permit must provide to the referee a current BC Soccer identification card issued by their youth soccer association. They must complete the BC Soccer youth to senior permitting process including the youth team, youth district, VMSL and BC Soccer approval stages and provide two copies of the fully executed game specific youth permit to the referee. A BC Soccer parental liability acknowledgment form must be completed once per season per player and registered with the VMSL. No team within a club can permit youth players (nor sign, CAT or ICP underage players) unless all their team staff have registered a current criminal record check with the VMSL.

9.10. An eligible player who is late for the kick-off may participate in the game upon presentation of his VMSL digital ID card to the referee, together with a substitution slip if required.



9.11. The referee will check the VMSL digital ID cards prior to the commencement of the game to verify the identity of each player. Any discrepancies must be reported to both teams prior to the commencement of the game and a detailed report submitted to the VMSL president within 24 hours.

9.12. Should the manager or coach insist on fielding a player without a valid VMSL digital ID card (or special permit issued by the VMSL), the referee must inform the opposing manager or coach and report the infraction to the VMSL within 24 hours. (A player without a valid VMSL digital ID card or special permit is an ineligible player. See VMSL Rule 8.b. for the ramifications of playing an ineligible player.)

9.13. Managers are responsible for ensuring that all VMSL digital ID card information is correct. Any discrepancies must be reported to the VMSL Board of Directors immediately.

9.14. Any player ejected from the game by the referee shall be reported to the Player Discipline Committee, within 48 hours.

9.15. The digital player identify card and the roster will be marked “suspended” until the player’s suspension has been served. If the associated fine (\$20 per game) has not been paid by the time the suspension is served, late fees accrue at \$20 per game.

9.16. Confirmation that the requisite number of games have been “sat out” by the player must be established prior to the player resuming playing.

Section 10 – Substitutes

10.1. In all matches under the jurisdiction of the VMSL, with the exception of the Masters’ Divisions, each team is allowed to make a maximum of five substitutions during a total entire game, which includes extra time when played.

10.2. Players substituted shall be permitted to take further part in a game, each change to be counted as a substitution.

10.3. In league play in the Divisions 2, 3 and the U21 Division, unlimited substitutions will be allowed at half time. Unlimited substitutions will be allowed at half time in the U21 Cup but not the Division 2 Cup.

10.4. In the Masters Divisions unlimited substitutions will be allowed during the entire game in League and League Cup Play.

10.5. With the exception of the Masters’ Divisions, and at half time, Divisions 2, 3, and the U21 Division, a substitute player must present to the referee a valid substitution slip upon entering the field of play.

10.6. With the exception of the Masters’ Divisions, and at half time, Divisions 2, 3, and the U21 Division, a team proven to have made more than five (5) substitutions in a game shall be



considered to have played an ineligible player. The provisions of Article 6.5 of the By-Laws and Section 8.b of the Rules and Regulations shall apply.

Section 11 – Discipline Committees

11.1. The Board of Directors shall form a Player Discipline Committee. Such committee shall consist of three (3) members, including a member of the VMSL Board of Directors who shall act as chairman of the committee.

- (a) The chairman shall only have a tie-breaking vote.
- (b) Attendance by any other person at committee meetings shall be by invitation only.
- (c) Player Discipline Meetings shall be held at a time and place as designated by the Board of Directors.

11.2. The Board of Directors shall form a Club Discipline Committee. Such committee shall consist of all members of the Board of Directors, including a member who shall act as Chairman of the committee.

- (a) The Club Discipline Committee Chairman shall only have a tie-breaking vote.
- (b) Attendance by any other person at committee meetings shall be by invitation only.
- (c) Club Discipline meetings shall be held at a time and place as designated by the Board of Directors.

11.3. Decisions made by the Player and Club Discipline Committees shall be based on the guidelines regarding discipline as declared in the Constitutions of BC Soccer and Canada Soccer respectively.

11.4. Any player who is ejected from a game either via a straight red card or a second caution and any team staff who is ejected from a game is ineligible to play or coach in VMSL League or League Cup play until their suspension is served.

11.5. A player suspended for the accumulation of yellows over multiple League games is not barred from playing in League Cup games.

11.6. A player suspended for the accumulation of yellows over multiple League Cup games, is not barred from playing in League games.

11.7. A player who accumulates three yellow cards in league play will be suspended for one game. A player who accumulates two more (five total) yellow cards in league play will be suspended for another game. A player who accumulates one more (six total) yellow cards in league play will be suspended until they appear before the Discipline Committee. A player who



accumulates more than six total yellow cards in league play will be suspended until they appear before the Discipline Committee each time they get another yellow card in league play.

11.8. A player who accumulates three yellow cards in league cup play will be suspended for one cup game.

11.9. A player who is under suspension for a game that is defaulted, will be deemed to have served a suspension for that game, regardless of which team forfeited the game.

11.10. League yellow accumulation suspensions (but not Cup yellow accumulation suspensions) will apply to all VMSL playoff games related to relegation, promotion, divisional and sectional championship and league placement for Provincial Cup qualification.

11.11. Both League yellow accumulation suspensions and Cup yellow accumulation suspensions will be separately carried over from season to season.

11.12 When a referee ejects a member of the team staff or reports team staff misbehaviour, the VMSL will determine the length of any suspension and associated fine. A suspended team staff member is also suspended from playing in the VMSL while serving their team staff suspension.

11.13 A suspended team official cannot be involved in any match-related activities, including warm-up, pre-game talks, dressing room access, player check in, referee payment, or half time talks. The suspended team official may attend the match as a spectator, but must stay well away from the field of play and the team benches from one hour before and 30 minutes after the game. This type of suspension prohibits interference in the match, or participation as a player or team official or communicating in any way with players, team officials or game officials.

Section 12 – Club Affiliated Team (CAT) System

12.1. Clubs fielding more than one team in the VMSL may operate one or more Club Affiliated Team (CAT) systems within their club.

A CAT system is a collection of teams within a club with no more than one team from each age group – Under 21, Open, Over 35 and Over 45 that allows for unlimited player sharing subject to age restrictions.

12.2. Clubs may run more than one CAT system within their club but each must be a distinct CAT system with distinct name that cannot share any players with the other CAT system(s), except potentially through an Intra Club Permit per Section 13.

A club must declare, prior to the commencement of the VMSL season, which of its teams is to be part of their CAT system(s). Teams in a CAT system must all have the same name other than the A, U21, M-A or M-B designation depending on the age group the team is in. The only exception to this rule is that a unique extension can be added following the A, U21, M, M-A or M-B designation (Note, clubs can have B and C teams in the open divisions but these teams cannot be CAT'd. B and C teams only participate in the Intra-Club Permit (call up) system detailed below).



If two or more clubs merge in order to form a CAT system, this must be declared prior to the commencement of the VMSL season.

The use of CAT players requires that the receiving team manager add, prior to the game via the league website, the required CAT players from their CAT system and to have these CAT players appear on the game-specific system-generated roster sheet and game-specific Digital Player ID cards. The system will only permit valid CAT players to be added to a roster.

12.3. Players registered on teams designated by a club to be within one of their CAT systems are eligible to play (in League games only) on certain applicable other teams designated to be part of that particular CAT system without a transfer. Players registered on teams not designated by a club to be within one of their CAT systems are not eligible to play on any other team in the league without a transfer or an intra-club permit (ICP).

12.4. Players are only eligible to compete in Cup competition for the team with which they are registered.

12.5. Players in the CAT system will serve any suspensions with the team with which they are registered. While they are serving a suspension with the team with which they are registered, they are not eligible to play for any other team in their CAT system.

Section 13 – Intra-Club Permits (ICP) – Call Ups

13.1. All clubs with more than one team in the VMSL may use the Intra-Club Permit (ICP) system to call up players. ICPs are only used when a CAT relationship between the teams is not in place or is not allowed (such as with teams in the same age category).

An ICP allows a limited number of players from a lower level team within a club to play up with a higher level team within a club subject to age restrictions. For the purposes of an ICP, the hierarchy of levels is Premier, Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Over 35 Premier, Over 35 Division 1, Over 35 Division 2, Over 45 Premier, Over 45 Division 1, Over 45 Division 2, Under 21.

Age restrictions apply to Over 35 divisions and O45 divisions as follows. An O35 underage player cannot ICP except into open. An O45 underage player cannot ICP except into O35 or open. Uunderage O35 and O45 players cannot ICP to a team in a division within the same age group.

13.2. No declaration other than to which club a team is affiliated prior to the commencement of the VMSL season is needed to use the ICP system within a club. Teams affiliated as a club must use the same core club name in their team name.

The use of ICP players (or Call Ups) requires that the receiving team manager add, prior to the game via the league website, the required ICP players and to have these ICP players appear on the game-specific system-generated roster sheet and game-specific Digital Player ID cards. The system will only permit valid call ups to be added to a roster.



13.3. ICPs are only in effect for league games. (Playoff games for Promotion, Relegation, Division Championship and Provincial Cup Qualification are considered league games.) Players are only eligible to compete in Cup competition for the team with which they are registered.

13.4. Open and Over 35 teams calling up players from one or more lower level teams within their club are limited to a maximum total of 4 players per game. Over 45 teams calling up players from a lower Over 45 Division team within their club are limited to a maximum of 8 players per game. Under 21 teams calling up players from an Under 21B Division team within their club (if an Under 21B Division is in place) are limited to a maximum of 8 players per game. Under 21 teams cannot call up players from Open divisions even if the players are under 21.

13.5. Players will serve any suspensions with the team with which they are registered regardless of whether the suspension was a result of playing in a game on an ICP. While they are serving a suspension with the team with which they are registered, they are not eligible to play for any other team in their club via an ICP.

Section 14 – Premier Division

14.1 The Premier Division shall be limited to one team per club.

Section 15 – Masters’ Divisions

15.1. For the 2019-2020 season, players born in 1984 and older will be allowed to play in the Over 35 Divisions.

For the 2019-2020 season, players born in 1974 and older will be allowed to play in the Over 45 Divisions.

15.2. For 2019-20, each team in the Over 35 Divisions will be allowed to register 3 underage players. These players must be born in 1985, 1986 or 1987. These players will be allowed to participate in regular League play as well as Cup play. However, they will not be allowed to participate in the Over 35 Provincial Cup competition.

For 2019-20, each team in the Over 45 Divisions will be allowed to register up to 3 underage players born in 1975, 1976 or 1977. These players will be allowed to participate in regular League play as well as Cup play. However, they will not be allowed to participate in the Over 45 Provincial Cup competition.

15.3. There will be 3 Over 35 Divisions: Premier Division, Division 1, Division 2, and 3 Over 45s Divisions, Premier Division, Division 1 and Division 2. The following promotion/relegation system will be in effect for both Over 35 Divisions and Over 45 Divisions: the two bottom teams from the Premier Division will be relegated to Division 1, while the two top teams from Division 1 will be promoted to the Premier Division. The two bottom teams from Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2 and the two top teams from Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1.



Teams in Over 35 Premier and Division 1 are entitled to enter the Masters A Cup. Teams in Over 35 Division 2 and Over 45 Premier, Division 1 and Division 2 are entitled to enter the Masters B Cup.

Section 16 – Under 21 Division

16.1. For the 2019-2020 season, players born in 1999 and younger will be allowed to play in the Under 21 Division.

16.2. Each Under 21 team will be allowed to use a maximum of 2 overage players, belonging to the club's CAT system, in League games (as an exception to the general CAT rules).

16.3. Each Under 21 team will be allowed to use an unlimited number of players who are under 21 but registered with the open age team in their CAT system, in League games.