



SOCCKER NOVA SCOTIA

COMPETITIONS HANDBOOK

Last Amended July 2012
Competitions Committee

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
2	IMPORTANT DATES.....	5
2.1	SOCCER NOVA SCOTIA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DATES	5
2.2	TOURNAMENTS	5
2.2.1	APPLICATIONS-SANCTIONING	5
2.2.2	REPORTS	5
2.2.3	PROMOTION-ADVERTISING	5
2.3	PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS DATES.....	6
2.4	CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING APPLICATION DATES.....	6
2.5	CHAMPIONSHIP REPORTING DATES	6
3	HOSTING STANDARDS FOR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	7
3.1	INTRODUCTION.....	7
3.2	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	7
3.2.1	SNS COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES	7
3.2.2	SNS OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES	7
3.2.3	DISTRICT ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES.....	8
3.2.4	HOSTING RESPONSIBILITIES.....	8
3.3	HOST BIDDING-SELECTION	10
3.4	WITHDRAWAL FROM HOSTING.....	10
3.5	CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING STANDARDS	10
3.5.1	FIELDS-EQUIPMENT	10
3.5.2	ADMINISTRATION.....	11
3.5.3	WASHROOM FACILITIES	11
3.5.4	MEETING ROOMS	11
3.5.5	MEDICAL ATTENTION	12
3.5.6	REFEREES.....	12
3.6	OBJECTIVES OF HOSTS.....	12
4	PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – SECTION I – GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS.....	13
4.1	GENERAL.....	13
4.2	CATEGORIES FOR PROVINCIALS	13
4.3	PLAYER AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY	14
4.3.1	PLAYERS.....	14
4.3.2	TEAMS	14
4.3.3	TEAM DROP OUTS- TEAM REPLACEMENTS	14
4.3.4	WILDCARD TEAMS.....	15
4.3.5	PLAYER IDENTIFICATION	17
4.3.6	USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYER	18
4.3.7	NUMBER OF PLAYERS DRESSED	18
4.4	GAME RULES	18
4.4.1	GENERAL	18

4.4.2	TEAM COLOURS	18
4.4.3	SUBSTITUTIONS	19
4.4.4	DURATION OF PLAY AND SIZE OF GAME BALL	19
4.4.5	LIGHTNING SAFETY/SEVERE WEATHER POLICY	20
4.5	COMPETITION RULES	20
4.5.1	FIELD QUALITY AND SIZE	20
4.5.2	OVERTIME	21
4.5.3	KNOCKOUT COMPETITION	21
4.5.4	ROUND-ROBIN COMPETITION	21
4.6	ADMINISTRATION OF ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	22
4.6.1	GAME OFFICIALS	22
4.6.2	TOURNAMENT DISCIPLINE, CONDUCT, AND PROTESTS	23
4.6.3	GAME LOCATIONS	24
4.6.4	MEDICAL ATTENTION	24
4.6.5	BANNERS	25
4.6.6	PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING OF TEAM REPRESENTATIVES	25
4.6.7	HOSTING RESPONSIBILITIES	25
4.6.8	TOURNAMENT EXPENSES	27
4.7	PENALTY KICKS	27
5	PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – SECTION II – SPECIFIC REGULATIONS 29	
5.1	TIER II	29
5.1.1	COMPETITION FORMAT	29
5.1.2	REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS	29
5.1.3	LOCATION OF PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	30
5.1.4	CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT	30
5.2	TIER I	31
5.2.1	COMPETITION FORMAT	31
5.2.2	LOCATION OF PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	31
5.2.3	CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT	31
5.3	SENIOR “B” AND MASTERS	33
5.3.1	COMPETITION FORMAT	33
5.3.2	LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE	33
5.3.3	LOCATION OF PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	34
5.3.4	CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT	34
5.4	SENIOR “A”	36
	NO GAME WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE 9:00 A.M. ON ANY GIVEN DAY	36
5.5	LADIES 7-A-SIDE	37
5.5.1	COMPETITION FORMAT	37
5.5.2	LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE	37
5.5.3	LOCATION OF PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	37
5.5.4	CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT	37
5.6	ALTERNATE COMPETITION FORMATS	39
6	RULES OF THE GAME – INDOOR SOCCER	41
	LAW 1 - FIELD OF PLAY	41
	LAW 2 - THE BALL	42
	LAW 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS	42
	LAW 4 - EQUIPMENT	43

LAW 5 - REFEREE	43
LAW 6 - ASSISTANT REFEREES	44
LAW 7 - LENGTH OF THE GAME	44
LAW 9 - THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY	45
LAW 10 - METHODS OF SCORING	45
LAW 11 - OFFSIDE (ADDED 2009)	46
LAW 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT	46
LAW 13 - FREE KICKS.....	48
LAW 14 - PENALTY KICK.....	49
LAW 15 - THROW-IN.....	50
LAW 16 - GOAL KICK	51
LAW 17 - CORNER KICK.....	51
INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE TAKING OF KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK	53
7 RULES OF THE GAME – LADIES 7-A-SIDE.....	54
7.1 ELIGIBILITY	54
7.2 LAW 1 - FIELD OF PLAY	54
7.3 LAW 3 - THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS	54
7.4 LAW 7 - THE DURATION OF THE MATCH.....	54
7.5 LAW 8 - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY	54
7.6 LAW 11 – OFFSIDE.....	54
7.7 LAW 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT.....	54
8 SNS REPRESENTATIVE ROLE – PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	56
8.1 GENERAL DUTIES	56
8.2 DISCIPLINE HEARINGS.....	56
8.3 DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES.....	56
9 SNS REPRESENTATIVE ROLE – NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	58
10 CODE OF CONDUCT AT NATIONALS	59
10.1 INTRODUCTION	59
10.2 STANDARD OF CONDUCT	59
11 CALL-UP POLICY FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	61

1 INTRODUCTION

This Competitions Handbook is meant to serve as a reference source for organizers, clubs, teams, and players that participate in competitive soccer events in Nova Scotia under the direct control of Soccer Nova Scotia.

The Handbook is reviewed annually and re-published as frequently as required by the SNS Competitions Committee. The most recent version of the Handbook shall be circulated to members on the Soccer Nova Scotia website by April 1st for any changes effecting Outdoor play and by September 1st for any changes effecting Indoor play.

The following process will be followed for any changes or revisions to the Competition's Handbook:

- Proposed Changes require a Request For Decision to be submitted to SNS 45 days prior to the November or July Competitions Committee meeting
 - Submitted RFDs shall be reviewed for approval at the November or July Competitions Committee meeting
 - Approved RFDs shall be subject to final approval by the SNS Board :
 - at the March Board Meeting for RFDs approved at the previous Competitions Committee November meeting , to be effective April 1 of the same year,
 - at the September SNS Board Meeting for RFDs approved at the previous Competitions Committee July meeting, to be effective October 1 of the same year.

"Indoor" Changes	"Outdoor" Changes
March (Committee) – table/discuss proposed changes requiring RFDs	July (Committee) – table/discuss proposed changes requiring RFDs
Mid May – submit RFDs to SNS (45 days prior to July Committee meeting)	Mid Sept - submit RFDs to SNS (45 days prior to November Committee meeting)
July (Committee) – Approve RFDs / revised Handbook	November (Committee) – Approve RFDs / revised Handbook
Sept.(SNS Board) – Approve RFDs / revised Handbook, effective October 1	March (SNS Board) – Approve RFDs / revised Handbook, effective April 1

The Handbook is meant to be used in conjunction with the **Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures** and the **Soccer Nova Scotia Bylaws**. Where conflicts do exist between this Handbook and these other documents, the Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures and/or the Soccer Nova Scotia Bylaws shall prevail.

This Handbook also refers to a number of Application and Report forms. For simplicity and efficiency in distribution, these forms are not included in this Handbook but are available from the Soccer Nova Scotia office or the Soccer Nova Scotia website.

2 IMPORTANT DATES

2.1 SOCCER NOVA SCOTIA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DATES

Most of the dates contained here are copied from the Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures and are here for convenience only. Where conflicts/differences exist, the SNS Policies and Procedures shall prevail.

Reference should be made to the SNS Policies and Procedures Players, Teams, and Leagues sections for specific requirements and deadlines for player and team registrations.

2.2 TOURNAMENTS

2.2.1 Applications-Sanctioning

Outdoor Inter-district tournaments must submit written applications for sanctioning to the SNS office no later than March 1st each year. Outdoor District tournaments must receive sanctioning from their district.

Indoor Inter-district tournaments must submit written applications for sanctioning to the SNS office no later than **November 1st** each year. Indoor District tournaments must receive sanctioning from their district.

The Competitions Committee Chair shall review all submitted applications and determine sanctioning within a reasonable time frame.

Late applications may be submitted, but are subject to:

- 1) **Receipt by Soccer NS office, with all conditions met, at least 30 days prior to the tournament start date**
- 2) **Sanctioning by the Competitions Committee Chair.**

2.2.2 Reports

The SNS office must receive inter-district tournament reports in writing within forty five (45) days of the final day of play of the tournament. If the report is not received, SNS will cash the \$250 bond which accompanies the request for sanctioning.

2.2.3 Promotion-Advertising

Tournament Organizers shall not be permitted to advertise/promote a tournament as 'Soccer NS Sanctioned' until official sanctioning has been given.

2.3 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS DATES

The general dates-weekends for summer provincials are:

Tier II B	U12-U14	Weekend after Labour Day weekend
Tier II (A)	U12-U16	Labour Day weekend
Tier II	U18	Weekend before Labour Day weekend
Tier I	U14-U16	Weekend after Labour Day weekend
Tier I	U18	Third week of August
Senior A	Men	Third week of August
Senior A	Women	Third week of August
Senior B	Men	Weekend before Labour Day weekend
Senior B	Women	Weekend before Labour Day weekend
Masters	Men	2 nd Weekend after Labour Day in Sept
7 A Side	Ladies	Last full weekend in September

2.4 CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING APPLICATION DATES

Associations must submit written applications to host championships to the SNS office on or before **March 1st** each year.

The Competitions Committee shall review all applications for hosting provincials at the **March** meeting and declare hosts, dates, and fees at this meeting.

2.5 CHAMPIONSHIP REPORTING DATES

Championship Reports must be received in writing at the SNS office within fourteen (14) days-of the championships final day of play.

3 HOSTING STANDARDS FOR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This document is designed for local organizers (District Associations or the Leagues or Clubs delegated by District Associations) that have accepted the responsibility and challenge of hosting and staging a Provincial Championship.

3.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A large number of people, in different organizations, must all work together to stage a good championship. Excellent facilities are not enough-the hosting pool of volunteers must work closely with:

- The Soccer N.S. Competitions Committee, particularly the host area's Regional Representative on the SNS Competitions Committee and the Committee's Provincial Championship Representative;
- The SNS Office staff; and
- Contact people from the local regional soccer referees association (or in the case of Tier 1 youth or senior A) the SNS Referee Development Committee.

3.2.1 SNS COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Select hosts, locations, and dates for provincial championships at the March Competitions meeting each year.
- Identify number of participating teams, type of schedule and championship rules. This, and other relevant information, shall be published in a SNS Competitions Handbook, which shall be made available on or before July 15th each year
- Appoint a SNS Representative for each Championship
- Review SNS Representatives' Championship Reports

3.2.2 SNS OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Arrange for Championship packages to be prepared. Packages to include handbooks, schedules, game sheets, medals, badges, banner, substitute slips for youth tier I and senior A and a cheque for referee fees.

NOTE: Game sheets will be one page, triplicate copies

- Arrange for referees at Tier 1 youth and Senior A championships.
- Coordinate with Regional Representatives on Competitions Committee, the notification, completion and submission to the

office, by the required dates, of the following forms: Provincial Championship Host Application Forms; the Provincial Championships Pre- Championship Reports; the SNS Representatives Provincial Championship Reports.

- Throughout Provincial Championships, have staff member available on cell phone.
- Print team registration forms and fax copies to host Championship Coordinators and SNS Provincial Championship Representatives at least 48 hours prior to the Championship.
- Send pre-championships information to provincial media.

3.2.3 DISTRICT ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Effective in 2010, each Region must host at least one Tier 2 Youth Championship. Failure to host a championship will make all Tier 2 Youth teams from that Region ineligible for that year's Provincial Championships. (2009)

A District Association formally hosts each Championship. This Association may delegate the organization of the Championship to a committee, a league or a club, but the Association is always ultimately responsible.

District Associations must:

1. Ensure there are adequate District funds budgeted to cover hosting costs;
2. Ensure that that a Championship Organizing Committee is appointed to establish financial controls, budgets, reports and plans to administer the Championship;
3. Ensure the Championship Organizing Committee does its job well;
4. Inform SNS office of the name, phone number(s), and, if possible, fax number, of the hosting Championship Contact Person who shall be a member of the hosting Championship Organizing Committee;
5. Immediately send any harassment complaints to the Competitions Committee Chair.

3.2.4 HOSTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Required

The hosting Championship Organizing Committee is the body that makes it all work. They handle the local details, including, but not limited to:

- Booking suitable playing fields, and ensuring they meet the required standards.
- When requested by visiting teams, arranging accommodations for them.
- Booking meeting rooms for championship needs (pre-tournament team reps meeting, discipline and appeals meetings etc).
- Arranging certified on-site physiotherapy/first aid services and standby ambulance services.
- For Tier 2 youth, Senior B, Masters and 7-a-Side, liaising with local referees association regarding the appointment of game officials. Liaising with SNS office to ensure that referees have been appointed for Tier 1 youth and Senior A.
- Setting up advance local publicity and having local media cover events.
- Liaising with provincial and local sponsors, if any. Local sponsors must be approved by SNS Chief Executive Officer.
- Setting up closing ceremonies and protocol (guest appearances, etc.).
- Setting up a Discipline Committee
- Faxing, emailing, or phoning game results to SNS Office, as games are completed,
- Forwarding ALL game sheets to Soccer Nova Scotia along with the Championship Report
- Providing Field Marshals and game balls.
- Providing washroom facilities as indicated in the Hosting Responsibilities section of this Handbook.
- Paying referees on site.
- Having the hosting Championship Contact Person be available on cell phone throughout the Championship.
- Having inter-field communications (cell phone).
- Posting game results in convenient location for participants to see.

Optional

- Providing opening ceremony, welcome/championship packages for teams.
- Providing skill competitions, social activities, game refreshments etc for teams, hospitality suite.
- Having Championship T-shirts etc available to buy.
- Providing special awards (Player of the Game, Top Scorer, Sportsmanship, etc.) with approval of SNS Competitions Committee.
- Providing refreshments for referees and other officials.

- Providing Championship program, identifying teams, players, colours etc.
- Providing ball boys/girls to retrieve balls out of play.
- Having P.A. announcements.
- Providing seating for spectators.

3.3 HOST BIDDING-SELECTION

District Associations wishing to host a provincial championship (Tier 2 Youth, Masters, Senior B or Ladies 7-A-Side) must submit the required SNS Provincial Championship Hosting Form to the SNS Office on or before March 1st of the year in which they wish to host.

The following process shall be followed for designating provincial hosts for Tier 2, Senior B, Masters and Women's 7 A Side:

1. Each region bids to host.
2. A draw is made for selecting the order of championship hosting. Each round reverses order.
3. The region selected first chooses their preference for hosting a championship.
4. If a region chooses not to select when their turn comes, the opportunity is extended to the next highest region selected in order and so on.

3.4 WITHDRAWAL FROM HOSTING

Once a District Association's bid to host has been accepted by the SNS Competitions Committee, the District is required to fulfill its obligation. If the District Association then withdraws from its hosting responsibilities, that District will not be given a championship to host the following year, unless that District can show evidence, acceptable to the Competitions Committee, that the withdrawal was caused by necessity.

3.5 CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING STANDARDS

3.5.1 Fields-Equipment

Field Requirements

Hosts must provide soccer fields for provincial play that meet the following requirements:

- Their quality and dimensions shall be as indicated in the '*Provincial Championships - General Rules and Regulations*' section of this handbook. Note that field dimensions are preferably longer than the minimum requirements.

- Hosts wishing to use artificial playing surfaces must apply for permission to the SNS Competitions Committee, including the request in the Provincial Championship Host Application Form.
- Hosts are responsible for having the fields rented, lined, mowed, watered if necessary, and prepared to meet the above standards.
- Goals must meet FIFA Law requirements. No football uprights are permitted. Must have good quality nets free from holes.
- Corner flags are required as per Laws of the Game.

Number of Fields

Championships with 4 teams or less require 2 fields (one of which may be used as a back-up). Championships with 6 teams or more require 4 fields. Additional fields must be available in case of severely inclement weather or field damage by vandalism.

Game Balls

Two good quality game balls, meeting standards of the Laws of the Game, shall be provided by the Field Marshal to the referee before each game.

3.5.2 Administration

Hosts must:

- Appoint a Championship Committee Coordinator who shall be the contact person for competing teams and SNS. The Coordinator shall ensure that all the hosting responsibilities in this Handbook are met.
- Submit the following documentation, as required by SNS, to the local Regional Representative on the SNS Competitions Committee: Provincial Host Pre-Championship Report.
- Supply Field Marshals who are present at every Championship game. Their responsibilities are described in the '*Representative Role – Provincial Championships*' section of this Handbook.
- Arrange for local publicity and report game results each day of play to local and provincial media described in the '*Representative Role – Provincial Championships*' section of this Handbook.

3.5.3 Washroom Facilities

Hosts must ensure that public toilets are within a half kilometre walk from the fields of play. If there are none available, then the hosts must provide at least one portable toilet at the fields of play where more than one game per day is played.

3.5.4 Meeting Rooms

Hosts must supply a meeting room or tent to be used as the Championship Office, particularly for the Pre-Tournament Meeting of Team Representatives and Discipline Committee Meetings.

3.5.5 Medical Attention

The Host is responsible for obtaining emergency medical services at each playing field. Personnel with current first aid certification must be available on site.

There must be on-call arrangements (telephones and emergency numbers at fields) for emergency ambulance services.

3.5.6 Referees

Hosts are responsible for the on-site payment of game officials. These expenses will be reimbursed by SNS at SNS approved rates.

Hosts shall schedule referees in conjunction with the Referee Coordinator at SNS and the local Regional Referees Association. Tier 1 Youth and Senior A officials shall be assigned by SNS.

3.6 OBJECTIVES OF HOSTS

- To promote soccer in the local region.
- To hold a major soccer event in the local region.
- To achieve a high profile/status for soccer in local sports community.
- To enhance the image of local soccer organization(s).
- To attract spectators.
- To ensure an enjoyable experience for all participants.
- To provide local referees with an opportunity to officiate at a Provincial Championship.

4 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – Section I – General Rules & Regulations

4.1 GENERAL

Provincial outdoor championships will be held annually for the following categories: Tier I and Tier II (A & B) Youth; Senior A and B; Masters; and Ladies 7-a-Side

If a host is not found for an age category by June 30th of that year, the championships may not be held in that category.

Soccer Nova Scotia (SNS) may, at its discretion, introduce indoor championships

The format of the Provincial Championships shall be as designated by SNS through the Competitions Committee.

Teams entering Provincial Championship tournaments are required to submit the SNS approved Championship Entry Fee at the Pre-Tournament Meeting

Teams entering Provincial Championship tournaments must complete their Provincial Championship tournament schedule. For teams not completing the match schedule at Provincials, a fine of \$250 will be applied to the District, with a list of players/coaches considered as not eligible for Provincials the following year sent to the District.

District Associations must inform the SNS office in writing of non-participation of a team from their District in any Provincial Championship at least seven (7) days before the championship's first game. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of double the current Provincial Championship entry fee to the District Association. Soccer Nova Scotia will inform the Competitions Representative if one of their region's team drops out of provincials.

All fines must be paid in full to SNS prior to the SNS Annual General Meeting, unless otherwise stated in these Rules and Regulations.

4.2 CATEGORIES FOR PROVINCIALS

Each year the SNS Competitions Committee will clarify which specific age and gender categories will have provincial championships.

4.3 PLAYER AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY

4.3.1 Players

All Players shall be subject to the Age Category definitions and restrictions as outlined under '*Definitions of Age Categories and Tiers*' in the '*Players*' policy contained in the '*Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures*'

4.3.2 Teams

Only teams and players properly registered with those same teams, as outlined under Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures, may participate in provincial championships for the specific season in which the team and players are registered.

4.3.3 Team Drop Outs- Team Replacements

The following policy will be applied where provincial championships are based on regional representation:

Teams that drop out of Provincial Championships shall be replaced by the next highest ranked team in the region.

If a region had no original team or cannot replace the team that dropped out, this replacement team will come from the region with the highest number of registered teams at the specific level (Tier/gender/age) of the championships. For this procedure the host region's number of teams will be reduced by one. In the case of two or more regions having an equal number of teams, SNS will conduct a draw to determine the order.

This procedure will continue until a replacement team is found.

Once a region has replaced a team from another region it will not be eligible to make another replacement until every other region has been given the opportunity in the order as described above.

If a replacement team cannot be found, the format of the championships will be changed.

If a team eligible to play in the Bronze game drops out, if possible the next highest seeded team from that division may be substituted in the Bronze game.

4.3.4 Wildcard Teams

To qualify for a wild card entry in any competitions leading to participation in a provincial championship, a team must meet the following criteria:

- 4.3.4.1** Apply to Soccer Nova Scotia by submitting a letter of intent to challenge no later than June 30th with a \$300 bond, such bond to be returned after either elimination from challenge competitions, or in the case of making provincial championship participation, after completing competition in the provincial championship
- 4.3.4.2** Soccer Nova Scotia shall be responsible for identifying the League with authority over the host region of the wild card Club and shall give notice to:
 - a. The League that one or more wild card teams exist within their region of authority and must be accommodated as outlined in this policy
 - b. The Wild Card Team that the designated League is competitive body of authority and where all opposing teams wild card competitions shall come from.
 - c. The league affected shall have the right to appeal any wild card declaration as per SNS appeals process.
 - d. Where no League can be identified as having authority over the host region of the wild card Club, Soccer Nova Scotia shall assume authority to accommodate such teams as outlined in this policy
- 4.3.4.3** The team must be properly registered as a Competitive Team in the Tier Level and Age Category in which they wish to challenge as a Wild Card team, as per SNS Policy 8-2 (Teams-Registration).
- 4.3.4.4** The team agrees to pay or share (if more than two teams vie for wild card challenge) all officiating and facility rental costs (games to be played on grass or artificial turf) of any qualifying games forming part of the challenge process. The amount to be paid shall be determined by the body responsible for organizing any challenge competition or related competitions leading to declaring a provincial representative.
- 4.3.4.5** Where more than one challenge team exists in the same Tier/Category:
 - a. For Senior A and Tier I, the wild card teams must play off against each other to identify a single wild card team in a competition format coordinated by SNS.

- b. For Senior B and all Tier 2, where a League has authority to declare a provincial representative for the host region of the wild card Club, the wild card teams must play off against each other to identify a single wild card team in a competition format coordinated by said League
- c. For Senior B and all Tier 2, where no League has authority to declare a provincial representative for the host region of the wild card Club, the wild card teams must play off against each other to identify a single wild card team in a competition format coordinated by SNS
- d. In all such games, the wild card teams shall be responsible for covering referee costs and any field fees associated with the game. All fees are to be paid up front.

4.3.4.6

A wild card team challenging to earn a spot in Senior A or Tier 1 provincial championships:

- e. Must play a challenge game with the lowest provincial championship seed of the NSSL, such game to be played on the home field of the NSSL team, with the game to be coordinated by the NSSL.
- f. The wild card team shall be responsible for covering referee costs and any field fees associated with the game.
- g. The winner of the game shall advance to the provincial championship as the lowest seed, and be subject to all conditions of participation in Senior A / Tier I provincial championships.

4.3.4.7

A wild card team challenging to earn a spot in Senior B or any Tier 2 provincial championships:

- h. Must play a challenge game with the lowest seeded team to be involved in league provincial play downs of the League with the authority to declare a provincial representative for the host region of the wild card Club, such game to be played on the home field of the same League team, with the game to be coordinated by the same League.
- i. The wild card team shall be responsible for covering referee costs and any field fees associated with the game.
- j. The winner of the game shall advance to the league provincial play down competitions of the League as the lowest seed, and be subject to all conditions of

- participation in such competition, including any League rules regarding game locations and costs.
- k. If the wild card team wins the right to represent that region in provincials, they are subject to all conditions of participation in Senior B / Tier 2 provincial championships.
 - l. Where no League exists with the authority to declare a provincial representative, Soccer Nova Scotia shall determine and coordinate all required play down competitions required, with the wild card team responsible for covering referee costs and any field fees associated with such games.

4.3.4.8

In the event that a wild card team:

- m. Fails to meet any requirements of this policy in regards to League play downs, including withdrawal at any time, shall forfeit their bond to the same League.
- n. Fails to meet any requirements of this policy in regards to non-League challenge games or provincial championships, including withdrawal at any time, it shall forfeit their bond to Soccer Nova Scotia.
- o. Withdraws from wild card competitions at any point, the last team they either defeated or were subject to play shall advance in their place to subsequent matches, being either league play downs, or provincial championships

4.3.5 Player Identification

Youth age players must be in possession of a Soccer Nova Scotia ID Card which must be produced upon request not later than the conclusion of the game started by the players.

Player ID Cards generated by the ITSportsNet System are recognized as an official Soccer Nova Scotia ID card (along with the current Soccer Nova Scotia ID Cards).

Soccer Nova Scotia ID Cards are not mandatory for Senior A, Senior B, Masters and Ladies 7-A-Side. If requested by tournament coordinator, players must be able to produce, not later than the conclusion of the game, a recognized legal identification card that includes a picture (eg. drivers license, birth certificate, passport) to be eligible to participate.

4.3.6 Use of Ineligible Player

An Ineligible Player is defined as any player who does not meet the player registration, team registration, player identification policies of Soccer Nova Scotia as outlined in this Handbook and the '*Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures*'. This includes participation of any player suspended from play from disciplinary actions.

Any team that ties or wins a game while using an ineligible player in that game during a championship shall be deemed to have lost that game by a 3:0 score.

4.3.7 Number of Players Dressed

Tier 1 Youth - The same number of players as allowed by CSA rules.

Senior A - The same number of players as allowed by CSA rules.

Masters - The same number of players as allowed by CSA rules.

Tier 2 Youth - The same number of players that are permitted to register on a team.

Senior B - The same number of players that are permitted to register on a team.

Ladies 7 A Side - The same number of players that are permitted to register on a team.

4.4 GAME RULES

4.4.1 General

Unless otherwise specified in this Handbook, all soccer competitions shall follow standard *FIFA Laws of the Game* as adopted by the Canadian Soccer Association.

4.4.2 Team Colours

All participating teams must provide their players with a team uniform shirt, shorts and socks of the same colour, and each shirt must have a number that distinguishes players from their teammates. Referees, in consultation with the Soccer Nova Scotia Rep., shall allow only players following this dress code to play.

Where the home team colours are similar to, or identical with, the colours of the visiting team, the visiting team (listed second on the schedule) must change into colours that are distinct from those of the home team. Teams from the host league/association will always be the home teams. Where two teams from the host league/association are playing each other, the highest seed will be given home team status.

Note: The referee's decision is final, but to assist the referee in the performance of his/her duties, all teams attending Provincial Championships should make every effort to have a spare set of uniforms available and be prepared to use them.

4.4.3 Substitutions

Senior B, Masters, and Tier II Youth

There shall be unlimited substitutions with a maximum of three (3) players entering at any one time.

Ladies 7-A-Side

There shall be unlimited substitution as provided in the Ladies 7-A-Side Rules.

Tier I U-14, Tier I U-16, Tier I U-18, Senior A

There shall be a maximum of five (5) substitutions allowed during regulation time and overtime. Unlimited substitutions may be made at half time, or at full-time before any overtime. A player who has been substituted is eligible to re-enter. No unlimited substitution at half-time of the overtime.

In all other Championships

Unlimited substitutions shall be allowed during regulation time and overtime.

4.4.4 Duration of Play and Size of Game Ball

For all Provincial Championships, the following shall be in effect:

Age Group	Regulation	Overtime	Ball Size
Under-12	2 x 35 minutes	2 x 10 minutes	4
Under 14	2 x 40 minutes	2 x 10 minutes	5
Under 16	2 x 45 minutes	2 x 15 minutes	5
Under 18	2 x 45 minutes	2 x 15 minutes	5
Senior A	2 x 45 minutes	2 x 15 minutes	5
Senior B	2 x 45 minutes	2 x 15 minutes	5
Masters	2 x 40 minutes	No extra time	5
Ladies 7-a-Side	2 x 30 minutes	2 x 10 minutes	5

Overtime will be administered in compliance with current FIFA rules.

The maximum wait time for a team to show up is fifteen minutes past the posted game time

4.4.5 Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy

The safety of players, coaches, management and spectators is the primary concern in any weather event that occurs during all matches sanctioned by the CSA.

By understanding and following the information below, the safety of everyone shall be greatly increased. Ultimately the referee has the final say over delaying or restarting a match due to weather. Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Referees are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches they are controlling

When lightning is detected, you can determine the distance of lightning in your area by counting the number of seconds between the flash and the first sound of the thunder and dividing by five(5). This will give you the distance in miles from your location. Remember, if you are in a higher elevation, the lightning can come upon you much quicker and your reaction time is greatly hindered.

30/30 RULE

When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If this time is thirty (30) seconds or less, seek proper shelter. Wait thirty (30) minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving the shelter. If you can not see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back up rule.

4.5 COMPETITION RULES

4.5.1 Field Quality and Size

4.5.1.1 Provincial Championships must be played on well-grassed fields and/or artificial turf fields that are clearly lined.

4.5.1.2 The minimum dimensions for provincial championship fields are as follows:

U-12: 75 m x 55 m

U-14: 92 m x 55 m

Ladies 7-A-Side: As per Women's-7-a-Side Rules

All other categories: 92 m x 60 m

Note: These are minimum requirements. Fields larger than the minimum requirements are recommended.

4.5.2 Overtime

Where specified in these Rules, when the score is tied at the end of regulation time, overtime shall be played as outlined under '*4.4 Duration of Play and Size of Game Ball*'. If the score is still tied at the end of the overtime, the winner shall be decided by taking kicks from the penalty spot, in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

4.5.3 Knockout Competition

In Provincial Championships where the "knockout format" is in effect, all games must have a winner. If the game is tied after regular time, overtime shall be played as outlined under '*4.4 Duration of Play and Size of Game Ball*'.

4.5.4 Round-Robin Competition

In Provincial Championships where the "round-robin format" is in effect, all games shall be regulation time only, except that in a three-team round-robin, the third game should be played to a decision if the team not participating in that game has six or zero points.

Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a draw. If two or more teams amass an equal number of points, the following formulas will be used to determine the final standings. Where more than two teams have amassed an equal number of points, any team that fails to remain tied after applying a formula shall be ranked accordingly and the remaining tied teams shall continue to apply tie breaking formulas starting again with the first formula.

4.5.4.1 Tiebreaker for *all provincials*

1. Previous Match Results. The team with the best record (most points) in games involving only the tied teams shall be awarded the higher standing.
2. Goal Difference. The team with the best goal difference (total 'goals for' minus total 'goals against') shall be awarded the higher standing. A maximum difference of five (5) goals shall be awarded in each game.
3. Fewest Goals Allowed. The team allowing the fewest goals shall be awarded the higher standing.

4. Penalty Kicks If two or more teams are still tied under the first three criteria, then the higher standings shall be decided by kicks from the penalty spot, as follows, with the winner awarded the higher standing:

Two teams tied:

As per FIFA Laws of the Game, at a time and place decided by the SNS Representative.

Three teams tied:

Each team is designated A, B or C. Three (3) mini-shootouts consisting of five (5) penalty kicks shall be played (A vs B, B vs C, C vs A), at a time and place to be decided by the SNS Representative. The standings after these three mini-shootouts shall be ranked according to the four criteria listed above.

Four teams tied:

Each team is designated A, B, C or D. Six (6) mini-shootouts consisting of five (5) penalty kicks shall be played (A vs B, C vs D, A vs C, B vs D, D vs A and C vs B), at a time and place to be decided by the SNS Representative. The standings after these six mini-shootouts shall be ranked according to the four criteria listed above

4.6 ADMINISTRATION OF ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

4.6.1 Game Officials

A. The SNS Referee Committee shall designate each year the procedure for appointing qualified officials for each game of the Provincial Championships. All Tier 1, Tier 2, Senior A, Senior B, and Masters provincials shall have three (3) officials appointed to each game (referee and two assistants). All Tier 1 and Senior A provincial games will be further provided with a fourth official. All Ladies 7-A-Side provincials shall have one (1) official appointed to each game (a referee). Under no circumstances will the two (2) referee systems be used.

B. Referee and Assistant Expenses

The responsibility for the game fees of the officials will be borne by SNS. In the event that referees must be obtained from another district, the Host Association shall cover the cost of mileage and meals for out-of-district referees in accordance with SNS rates (See Section 4.6.8).

C. Referee's Report

The referee must forward the game sheet within one (1) hour of the completion of the game to the Host Coordinator or Field Marshall. Any

misconduct reports must be forwarded to the Tournament Discipline Committee within one (1) hour of the completion of the game.

4.6.2 Tournament Discipline, Conduct, and Protests

The SNS Representative for Provincial Tournaments, whenever possible, will be neither a player nor a referee.

The SNS Representative shall establish a Tournament Discipline and Protest Committee, consisting of three (3) persons approved by SNS.

A. The SNS discipline guidelines apply to both players and team staff.

* **Note:** Copies of referee's and assistant referee's misconduct reports must be sent to SNS along with the Championship report.

B. Conduct at Provincial Championships

Unsportsmanlike conduct and conduct likely to bring the game of soccer into disrepute are not acceptable at Provincial Championships. It is the responsibility of SNS to discipline such conduct. The SNS Representative at each Provincial Championship shall submit a report (with relevant documentation) of such conduct within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the Championship.

C. Discipline

Misconduct by players or team officials reported by the referee shall be dealt with by the Tournament Discipline Committee prior to the next game, except as noted below:

For any misconduct in his/her team's final games in any competition, discipline shall be delegated to the District in membership which the player or team official represents.

The Tournament Discipline Committee shall conduct hearings to deal with misconduct in accordance with the SNS Constitution. The Tournament Discipline Committee's decisions are final and binding. The District in membership of the player or team official involved shall be informed of the Tournament Discipline Committee's decision.

All players or team officials reported for misconduct that requires a hearing shall attend the Tournament Discipline Committee hearing and may be accompanied by a club Representative. Failure to attend the hearing after notification by the SNS Representative shall result in immediate suspension until the player or team official involved requests a further hearing in writing and appears at that subsequent hearing.

The Tournament Discipline Committee shall also hold a hearing into the behaviour off the field of play of any players or team official alleged by the SNS Representative to have brought the game into disrepute. The Committee may take any disciplinary action it sees fit, including suspension from all remaining soccer activity at the Tournament.

All harassment issues will be brought immediately to the attention of the Competitions Committee Chair.

Discipline Reports

The Soccer Nova Scotia Rep shall forward [fax or hand-deliver] Discipline Reports to the SNS Office within 48 hours of the conclusion of the hearing.

Protests

Any protest arising out of any game in a SNS competition shall be made in writing to the SNS Representative within one (1) hour of the completion of the game, accompanied by a protest fee of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) in cash or cheque, payable to SNS.

The Tournament Discipline Committee shall rule on the protest, including the disposition of the protest fee.

Any decision taken on a protest shall be final and binding, as far as the competition is concerned.

4.6.3 Game Locations

The Host Association shall be responsible for providing the playing area for the competition, which shall meet SNS standards for acceptable size (see '*Provincial Championships – General Rules and Regulations – Competition Rules*' section of this Handbook) and which shall be clearly marked and provided with proper nets and corner flags.

4.6.4 Medical Attention

The Host Association is responsible for obtaining emergency medical services at each playing field. Personnel with medical or first aid training or qualifications must be available and in attendance at Provincial Championships.

4.6.5 Banners

All banners presented to teams at the Provincial Championships will become the property of the winning team.

4.6.6 Pre-Tournament Meeting of Team Representatives

All participating teams are required to send a representative to a pre-tournament meeting chaired by the SNS Representative (including for Senior A's).

Teams participating in Provincial Championships will pay their Provincial Championships entry fee to the SNS Representative (cheques made payable to 'Soccer Nova Scotia') at the pre-championship meeting of Team Representatives. Teams shall pay this entry fee before their first scheduled game or will be ineligible to participate.

This meeting shall normally take place prior to play on the first day of competition.

Teams not represented at the pre-tournament meeting will be fined Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). This fine will be levied to the Club, and is to be paid to SNS for donation to Kidsport. The fine must be paid before their first game or the team(s) will be ineligible to participate.

4.6.7 Hosting Responsibilities

Districts Associations or Leagues host Provincial Championships. Associations or Leagues are responsible for the championship even though they may delegate administration of championship to teams or clubs.

The Host Association is responsible for the following:

- A. Requisition of a suitable location(s) and forwarding this information to SNS by June 30th of each year. All regions expecting to host Tier I Youth provincial championships must also submit their field choices to the July Competitions Committee Meeting.
- B. Work with the SNS Representative, who shall serve as Tournament Chairperson.
- C. Distribution of information kits, prepared by SNS.
- D. Booking motel/hotel accommodations if required by visiting teams.
- E. Arranging for special events for visiting teams.

- F. Arranging for games to be played on good quality fields, lining the field according to C.S.A. standards and ensuring fields at least meet the minimum requirement for dimensions (See Regulation 5.1B]).
- G. Scheduling referees in conjunction with the SNS Referee Committee. Tier I and Senior A game officials will be assigned by SNS.
- H. Supplying the game balls, nets and corner flags at all fields.
- I. Providing a Field Marshal at each field to check team sheets, provide game balls and assist the Tournament Chairperson. The Field Marshal shall check team sheets prior to the start of each game. Any discrepancies shall be reported to the SNS Representative immediately. The Field Marshal is responsible for notifying the Tournament Chairperson of the results of all games no later than two hours after the completion of the last game of each day. A Field Marshal may be required by the SNS Representative to assist with the inspection of I.D. cards.
- J. Providing proper washroom facilities; at a minimum, hosts must ensure that public washroom facilities are within a half kilometer walk from the fields of play.
- K. Arranging for emergency medical services at each field. The Host Committee must ensure that qualified medical personnel are at each site where games are played along with a First Aid Kit.
- L. Providing a statistician to compile game results that should be displayed prominently.
- M. Arranging for local publicity and reporting results to the local media.
- N. Fax or phone game results daily, as games are completed, to the SNS Office.
- O. Closing ceremonies and procurement of local dignitaries for such ceremonies.
- P. May submit a report within two weeks of the conclusion of the competition.
- Q. The final championship report must be submitted by the Soccer Nova Representative on the form provided by SNS (including Senior A's). This form must be accompanied with required discipline reports, including misconduct reports filed by game officials, and all game sheets.

- R. In consultation with the region's Representative on the Competitions Committee, appoint a three-person Tournament Discipline Committee.

4.6.8 Tournament Expenses

Referee Payment

The officials at a Provincial Championship competition will be paid before each game. The money for this will be given to the Tournament Coordinator by SNS.

Hosting Grant

A grant of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) will be made available to the Host Association, hosting non-Tier 1 championships. Associations hosting Tier 1 championships will be awarded seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00), if hosting according to the six-team format. All other hosting grants will be proportionate, dependent on the number of teams participating. Hosting grants will be paid 50% upon acceptance of hosting and 50% upon fulfilling all requirements of hosting. SNS will not be responsible for any additional costs Host Associations may incur.

4.7 PENALTY KICKS

The following outlines the procedures under which kicks from the penalty-mark shall be taken to determine which of the two teams in a drawn match, in a knockout competition, shall be declared the winner:

1. The referee shall choose the goal at which all the kicks shall be taken.
2. The referee shall toss a coin, and the team whose captain wins the toss shall take the first kick.
3. Both teams shall take five kicks. The kicks shall be taken alternately.
4. If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could, even if it were to complete its five kicks, the taking of kicks shall cease.
5. If teams remained tied after both teams have taken five kicks, the taking of kicks shall continue, in the same order, until such time as both have taken an equal number of kicks (not necessarily five more kicks) and one has scored a goal more than the other.
6. The team which scores the greater number of goals based on the results of the number of kicks taken in accordance with the terms of the foregoing paragraphs 3-4-5, shall be declared the winner.

7. With the exception referred to in the following paragraph 8 only the players who are on the field of play at the end of the match shall take part in the taking of the kicks.
8. Provided that his/her team has not already made use of the maximum number of substitutes permitted by the rules of the competition, a goalkeeper who sustains an injury during the taking of the kicks, and who, because of the injury, is unable to continue as goalkeeper, may be replaced by a substitute.
9. Each kick shall be taken by a different player. Only when all eligible players of any team, including the goalkeeper (or the named substitute by whom he was replaced in terms of paragraph 8), have each taken a kick, may a player of the same team take a second kick.
10. Subject to the terms of paragraph 7, any player who is eligible may change places with his goalkeeper at any time during the taking of the kicks.
11. Other than the player taking a kick from the penalty-mark, and the two goalkeepers, all players shall remain within the centre circle while the taking of kicks is in progress.

NOTE: In the event of light failing before the end of the taking of kicks from the penalty-mark, the result shall be decided by the toss of a coin or of the drawing of lots.

5 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – Section II – Specific Regulations

5.1 TIER II

5.1.1 Competition Format

SNS has designated that regional representation for each region shall determine Provincial Tier II Championships.

It is recommended, if a regional competition is held, that it be held in accordance with these regulations.

Participants in the Tier II Provincial Championships shall be determined and seeded on the basis of a draw conducted by the SNS Competitions Committee.

There shall be eight (8) teams in the Provincial Championship tournaments. The eight (8) teams shall include:

- i) One team from each of the seven regions;
- ii) A second team from the host region.

5.1.2 Representative Teams

A. For the purpose of regional representation, Nova Scotia is divided into the following:

1. Halifax
2. Harbour East
3. Scotia [Scotia United, Sackville & East Hants]
4. Valley
5. Highland
6. Cape Breton
7. South Shore [including South West Nova]

B. The region's representative, team name and contact person must be submitted to the SNS office no later than the Monday before the first day of competition.

C. A maximum of eight (8) teams shall be in the Provincial Championships. It is the intent for SNS to run eight-team provincial tournaments. When there are fewer than 8 teams identified for participation using the procedures contained here, the alternate formats listed under '*Alternate Competition Format*' of this Handbook shall govern, following the format that matches the number of attending representative teams.

- D. The Provincial Championships shall be jointly coordinated by the SNS Competitions Committee and the Host District, according to the Responsibilities set out in these rules.

5.1.3 Location of Provincial Championships

The Competitions Committee shall select the location of each Provincial Championship at March meeting and will inform the District Associations of the competition locations by May 1st.

5.1.4 Championship Format

Group games shall be played with a round robin format with regulation time only (no overtime).

GROUP #1 A – B – C – D

GROUP #2 E – F – G – H

Saturday

A vs D	B vs C	GROUP #1
E vs H	F vs G	GROUP #2

A vs C	B vs D	GROUP #1
E vs G	F vs H	GROUP #2

Sunday a.m.

A vs B	C vs D	GROUP #1
E vs F	G vs H	GROUP #2

(all four games to be played at same time on four different fields.)

The remaining format varies based on Age Group:

For all groups:

Sunday p.m.

Bronze Medal Game	2 nd Group 1	vs	2 nd Group 2
Gold Medal Game	1 st Group 1	vs	1 st Group 2

Bronze and Gold medal games shall be staggered by at least one hour.

5.2 TIER I

5.2.1 Competition Format

SNS will annually administer Tier I Provincial Championships in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Soccer League for U-14, U-16, and U-18 Age Categories.

For the purposes of Provincial Championships, SNS will annually run four-team divisional tournaments. Entries will be awarded to the top four finishers of the NSSL. The Nova Scotia Soccer League must declare teams for provincials to Soccer Nova Scotia no later than the Monday morning before the first day of provincials. SNS Competitions Committee will address the number of teams in a Provincial Championship whenever exceptional circumstances arise.

In cases where a region has properly registered teams that are not represented in the NSSL, yet wish to participate in the Provincial Championships; they must notify SNS of their intentions to challenge as a wildcard team as outlined under '4.3.4 Wildcard Teams' of this handbook.

It is recommended, if a regional competition is held, that it be held in accordance with these regulations.

The SNS Competitions Committee will annually appoint a SNS representative to each Tier I provincial championship at the July Competitions Committee meeting.

5.2.2 Location of Provincial Championships

Championships in U-14, U-16, and U-18 categories shall be hosted by Soccer Nova Scotia. However, Soccer Nova Scotia will delegate that responsibility to the District Association of the first place teams in their respective NSSL divisions if those teams are located outside HRM.

5.2.3 Championship Format

The format is based on the following guide:

Saturday

GAME 1 #1 Seed vs #4 Seed

GAME 2 #2 Seed vs #3 Seed

Note: Seedings will correspond to final standings in the respective divisions of the NSSL.

Sunday

GAME 3 Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2 (Bronze Medal Game -U14 and U16)

GAME 4 Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2 (Gold Medal Game)

Semi-final and medal games will occur at different times with games being played back-to-back at the same location.

No game will take place before 9:00 a.m. on any given day.

Note: The NSSL may apply to the Competitions Committee for approval of an alternative playoff format.

5.3 SENIOR “B” and MASTERS

5.3.1 Competition Format

There shall be eight (8) teams in the Provincial Championship tournament, playing in two (2) divisions of four (4) teams each. The eight (8) teams shall include:

- a host team
- a potential wild-card entry, and
- league representatives

Leagues and Teams shall be identified through information available in the IT Registration System after the registration deadline. Any League or Team not properly registered shall not be considered for participation.

The SNS Committee shall carry out a random draw of teams for seeding, with any league having more than one team being further identified by number, that number representing their final standing in league competition leading to provincials.

SNS has designated that representation shall be determined by each sanctioned League. Where more than one team from any League is awarded, the League shall determine the finish order for those teams.

5.3.2 League Representative

A. SENIOR B

- a. The League representation shall be in proportion to the respective number of “B” teams in each League. Leagues with a Senior B division of four or more teams playing a regular schedule with eleven (11) aside shall have a minimum of one (1) representative. When assigning Senior B provincial berths, where 2 or more Leagues exist in the same region, the number of teams from all those Leagues will be combined to determine eligible provincial spots. The format for assigning provincial berth will be a random draw.
- b. To be eligible to be a league representative in Men’s/Women’s Senior B provincial competition, teams must register and play in a League Senior B division with an open age division.

B. MASTERS

- a. Provincials representation shall be in proportion to the respective number of teams in each League.

- b. Where there are fewer than 7 Leagues, the SNS Committee shall determine which leagues are awarded more than one berth based on the number of league teams.
 - c. Where there are more than 7 Leagues, the SNS Committee shall determine a challenge format where two or more leagues must play off to identify a team for one or more berths.
 - d. Leagues with a Division having four or more Teams registered in the MASTER category and playing a regular schedule of six or more games with eleven (11) aside shall have a minimum of one (1) representative.
- C.** Where there are teams properly registered with SNS but do not have access to a League for participation in regular league play, they are eligible to participate in a challenge for a wild-card entry as outlined under '4.3.3 Wildcard Teams' of this handbook.
- D.** The Provincial Championships shall be jointly coordinated by the SNS Competitions Committee and the Host District according to the responsibilities set out in these regulations.

5.3.3 Location of Provincial Championships

- A.** The Competitions Committee shall select the location of each Provincial Championship at March meeting and will inform the District Associations of the competition locations by May 1st.

5.3.4 Championship Format

In each group, two round robin games shall be played on Saturday and one on Sunday. Medal games shall be played on Sunday.

No game will take place before 9:00 a.m. on any given day.

GROUP #1 A – B – C – D
GROUP #2 E – F – G – H

Saturday

A vs D	B vs C	GROUP #1
E vs H	F vs G	GROUP #2

A vs C	B vs D	GROUP #1
E vs G	F vs H	GROUP #2

Sunday

A vs B	C vs D	GROUP #1
E vs F	G vs H	GROUP #2

Gold Medal Game (1st Group 1 vs 1st Group 2)

A Bronze Medal Game is not to be played under an 8-team format. If Masters is a 6-team format, Bronze Medal Games will occur. There will be a Bronze Medal Match at the Sr. B women's level.

Note: When there are fewer than eight (8) teams, the SNS Competitions Committee shall designate the format from the alternate formats listed under '*5.6 Alternate Competition Format*' of this Handbook.

5.4 SENIOR "A"

Each year, the Provincial Championship format shall be as designated by SNS.

No game will take place before 9:00 a.m. on any given day

5.5 LADIES 7-A-SIDE

5.5.1 Competition Format

It is intended that the championship have the same eight-team format as Under 12 Tier II Provincials, using the three-day format.

When there are fewer than eight (8) teams, the SNS Competitions Committee shall designate the format from the alternate formats listed under '5.6 *Alternate Competition Formats*' of this Handbook.

5.5.2 League Representative

The League representation shall be in proportion to the respective number of "Ladies 7-A-Side" teams in each League. Leagues with a Ladies 7-A-Side division of four or more teams playing a regular schedule with seven (7) aside shall have a minimum of one (1) representative. When assigning Ladies 7-A-Side provincial berths, where 2 or more Leagues exist in the same region, the number of teams from all those Leagues will be combined to determine eligible provincial spots. The format for assigning provincial berth will be a random draw.

5.5.3 Location of Provincial Championships

The Competitions Committee shall select the location of each Provincial Championship at March meeting and will inform the District Associations of the competition locations by May 1st.

5.5.4 Championship Format

Group games shall be played with a round robin format with regulation time only (no overtime).

GROUP #1 A – B – C – D

GROUP #2 E – F – G – H

Friday Evening

7:30pm A vs D B vs C GROUP #1

7:30pm E vs H F vs G GROUP #2

* 7:30 times if host has lighted fields, otherwise earlier start times required

Saturday

10:00am A vs C B vs D GROUP #1

10:00am E vs G F vs H GROUP #2

2:00pm	A vs B	C vs D	Group # 1
2:00pm	E vs F	G vs H	GROUP #2

Sunday

Semis

10am	1st place Group 1 vs 2nd place Group 2
	1st place Group 2 vs 2nd place Group 1

2:00pm	Bronze	two losing semi finalist
4:00pm	Gold/Silver	two winning semi finalist

No game will take place before 9:00 a.m. on any given day.

5.6 ALTERNATE COMPETITION FORMATS

When there are fewer than eight teams identified for any eight team provincial championships, the following schedule formats will be applied based on the number of participating teams.

A. Two teams - 2 game (total points) series

- 1) A vs B
- 2) B vs A

In the event of a tie in total points, two overtime periods will be played following the second game. If still tied, penalty kicks will be taken according to these Regulations.

B. Three teams - Double round-robin

Day One

- 1) A vs B
- 2) A vs C
- 3) B vs C

Day Two

- 4) A vs B
- 5) A vs C
- 6) B vs C

C. Four teams - A round-robin format

Day One

- 1) A vs B
- 2) C vs D
- 3) A vs C

Day Two

- 4) D vs B
- 5) A vs D
- 6) B vs C

D. Five teams - A round robin format

Day One

- 1) A vs B
- 2) C vs D
- 3) A vs E
- 4) B vs C
- 5) D vs E

Day Two

- 6) A vs C
- 7) B vs D
- 8) C vs E
- 9) A vs D
- 10) B vs E

E. Six teams - A round-robin format

Day One

GROUP #1

- 1) A vs B
- 2) C vs A
- 3) B vs C

GROUP #2

- 4) D vs E
- 5) F vs D
- 6) E vs F

Day Two

The top four teams will play a knockout format:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 7) First in Group 1 | vs | Second in Group 2 |
| 8) First in Group 2 | vs | Second in Group 1 |
| 9) Third in Group 1 | vs | Third in Group 2 (5th and 6th places) |

- 10) Loser Game 7 vs Loser Game 8 (3rd and 4th places)
- 11) Winner of Game 7 vs Winner of Game 8 (championship)

6 RULES OF THE GAME – INDOOR SOCCER

The FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply to Indoor Soccer competitions with the following modifications: (As of July 2012)

Law 1 - FIELD OF PLAY

- **Dimensions**

The field of play must be rectangular. The length shall in all cases exceed the breadth. Where space is available, the recommended dimensions will be 61 metres by 30.5 metres (200 ft. by 100ft.)

- **Marking**

The field of play shall be marked with distinctive lines not more than 10 cm (4 inches) in width. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field of play. The centre of the field of play shall be indicated by a suitable mark and a circle with a three metre (10 ft) radius marked around it.

- **Goal Area**

At each end of the field of play two lines shall be drawn at right angles to the goal-line, 60 cm (2 ft) from each post. These shall extend into the field of play for a distance of 1.5 metres (5 ft) and shall be joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal-line. Each of the spaces enclosed by these lines and the goal-line shall be called a goal area.

- **Penalty Area**

At each end of the field of play two lines shall be drawn at right angles to the goal line 7.25 metres (24 ft) from each post. [The total length of the penalty area will be 18 metres (59 ft)] These shall extend into the field of play for a distance of 10 metres (33 ft) and shall be joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal-line. The enclosed space is called the penalty area. (2009)

- **Penalty-Kick Spot/Arc**

On an imaginary line forming a right angle with the centre point of each of the end lines and at a distance of 9 metres (29.5 ft) from said lines there shall be a spot of 10 cm (4 in) in radius that shall be called the penalty-kick spot.

From each penalty kick mark an arc of a circle, having a radius of 5 metres shall be drawn outside the penalty area.

- **Corner Area Arcs**

At each corner a quarter circle having a radius of one metre (3 ft 3 in) will be drawn inside the field of play.

- **Goals**

These shall be located on the centre of each goal line, facing the internal part of the playing field. They are formed by two posts, fixed equidistant from the intersections of the end lines with the sidelines and 3.5 m (12') distance between the inner side of the two posts. The posts will be joined by a crossbar whose inner side should be two metres (6' 6") from the surface of the playing field.

Law 2 - THE BALL

- The ball shall be spherical; the outer casing shall be of leather or other suitable materials. No material shall be used in its construction that might prove dangerous to the players. For competitions up to and including Under-12 the ball shall be a size 4. For all other competition the ball shall be a size 5.
- The ball shall be judged fit for play by the referee and shall not be changed during the game unless authorized by the referee.

Law 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- Games shall be played between two teams, each consisting of seven players, one of whom is designated as the goalkeeper. A game will not start or continue if a team has less than five players.

Substitutions

- Substitutes may be used in any match played under the jurisdiction of Soccer Nova Scotia and may either be "flying" in nature or made during a stoppage in play.
- A "flying" substitution is one that is made while the ball is in play and for which the following conditions apply:
- "Flying" substitutions will take place along the sideline, between the team bench and the centerline and within three metres (10 ft) of the centerline.
- When any player other than the goalkeeper is to be replaced, the substitute shall not enter the field of play until the player being replaced is within 1 metre ("handshake distance") of the substitution area. Neither the player entering nor the player leaving may interfere with the play while both are on the field. The substitution is completed when the substitute enters the field of play, from which moment the substitute becomes a player and the player being substituted ceases to be a player.
- Unlimited substitution shall be allowed.
- Any of the other players may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that the referee is informed before the change is made, and provided also, that the change is made during a stoppage of the game..

Infringements/Sanctions

- Play shall not be stopped for an infringement of the paragraph above (goalkeeper substitution). The player(s) concerned shall be warned and/or cautioned immediately after the ball goes out of play.
- If during a player substitution, a substitute player enters the playing field before the player being replaced is within one metre, the referee shall stop the game. (S)He shall warn and/or caution the substitute and restart the game with an indirect free kick to be taken by the team opposing that of the infringing player from the spot where the ball was situated when the game was stopped. (in accordance with Law 13)

Law 4 - EQUIPMENT

- A player will not be permitted to use any object that the referee may judge to be dangerous to other players. The referee will require players to remove equipment and jewellery that in his/her judgment can be dangerous to another player. If a player fails to carry out the referee's instruction, the player shall not take part in the match.
- The usual player's uniform consists of: a shirt of long or short sleeves, shorts, socks, shin pads and appropriate footwear. The use of footwear is mandatory and what is appropriate will be determined by the laws of the indoor facility in which the game is being played.
- The players' shirt shall be numbered, each player of the same team having a different number. Shirts must be tucked into the shorts.
- Shin pads must be covered by socks.
- Team colors shall not conflict with each other or those of the referee.
- The goalkeeper will wear a uniform of different color from the other players and the referee. For protection, (s)he will be allowed to wear long pants.

Infringements/Sanctions

- For any infringement of this playing law, the player at fault shall be instructed to leave the field of play by the referee, when the ball next ceases to be in play, unless by then there is no longer an infringement. Play shall not be stopped immediately for an infringement of this playing law. A player who is instructed to leave the field to adjust equipment or obtain missing equipment shall not return without first reporting to the referee, who must ensure that the player's equipment is in order. The player shall only re-enter the game at a moment when the ball has ceased to be in play.

Law 5 - REFEREE

- A referee shall be appointed to officiate at each game and direct the game within the playing field. The authority and exercise of the powers granted to the referee by these playing laws commence as soon as the referee enter the field of play. The referee's powers of penalizing shall extend to offences committed when the ball is in play, the ball is out of play, or play has been temporarily suspended. The referee's decision on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned.
- The powers and duties of the referee shall be as stated in FIFA: Laws of the Game, Law 5 - the Referee.

Law 6 - ASSISTANT REFEREES

- This law does not apply to indoor soccer

Law 7 - LENGTH OF THE GAME

- The length of the games will be fifty minutes, divided into two equal twenty-five minute halves.
- The duration of any one of the halves will be extended to allow the taking of a penalty kick, even if the normal time has expired.
- The half-time interval shall not exceed three minutes.

Law 8 - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

- Preliminaries: A coin is tossed and the team that wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the game and kicks off in the second half of the game. The other team takes the kick-off to start the game. In the game's second half, the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals.
- Kick-Off : A kick-off is the way of starting or restarting play;
 - at the start of the game
 - after a goal has been scored
 - at the start of the second half of the game
 - at the start of each extra period of extra time, when applicable
- A goal may not be scored directly from a kick-off.
- **Kick-Off Procedure:** The referee having given a signal, the game shall be started by a player taking a place kick (a kick at the ball while it is stationary on the ground in the centre of the field of play) in any direction (forwards, sideways, or backwards) on the field of play. All players shall be in their own half of the field and every player of the team opposing that of the kicker shall remain not less than 3 metres (10 ft) from the ball until it is kicked. The

ball is in play when it is kicked and moves. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

Infringements/Sanction

- For any infringement of this playing law, the kick-off shall be retaken, except in the case of the kicker playing the ball again before it has been touched or played by another player; for this offence, a free kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the over-riding conditions as described in Law 13.
- When restarting the game after a temporary suspension of play from any cause not mentioned elsewhere in these playing laws, provided that immediately prior to the suspension the ball had not passed over the touch or goal lines, the referee shall drop the ball at the place where it was when play was suspended, unless it was within the penalty area at that time, in which case it shall be dropped on the penalty-area line, parallel to the goal line, nearest to where the ball was when play was suspended. It shall be deemed in play when it has touched the ground.

Law 9 - THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- The ball is out of play:
 - a) when it has crossed completely, whether on the ground or in the air, the sidelines or end lines;
 - b) when the game is stopped by the referee;
 - c) when it comes in contact with the ceiling or any apparatus hanging from the ceiling
- The ball will be in play on all other occasions, from the beginning of the game until its end, including:
 - a) if the ball bounces off one of the goalposts or crossbars;
 - b) if it hits the referee when s(he) is in the field of play;
 - c) in the event of a supposed infringement of the Laws of the Game until a decision is given by the referee.

Law 10 - METHODS OF SCORING

- Except as otherwise provided by these Laws, a goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross-bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm, by a player of the attacking side.
- The team which scores the greater number of goals during the game will be the winner. If there is an equal number of goals or if no goals are made by either competing team, the game will be considered a tie.

- For games ending in a draw, the competition laws may state provisions involving extra time and/or the "*Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark*" (see end of these rules) or other procedures to determine the winner of a game.

Law 11 - OFFSIDE

There is no offside rule in indoor soccer.

Law 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

A player who commits any of the following six offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force:

- a) kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- b) trips or attempts to trip an opponent;
- c) jumps at an opponent;
- d) charges an opponent, including forcing into the boards;
- e) strikes or attempts to strike an opponent; or
- f) pushes an opponent;

or who commits any of the following five offenses:

- g) when tackling an opponent makes contact with the opponent before contact is made with the ball;
- h) spits at an opponent;
- i) holds an opponent;
- j) handles the ball deliberately, i.e., carries, strikes or propels the ball with hand or arm (this does not apply to the goalkeepers within their penalty areas); or
- k) slide tackles or attempts to slide tackle (Sliding without attempt to contact the opposing player shall not be considered a slide tackle). (goalkeepers are allowed to slide within their area in an attempt to play the ball as long as it is not done in a dangerous or reckless manner)

shall be penalized by the award of an **indirect free kick** to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the offense occurred, subject to the over-riding conditions described in Law 13. Should a player of the defending team commit one of the above eleven offences within the penalty area, the player shall be penalized by a **penalty kick**, regardless of the position of the ball, as long as it is in play.

A player committing any of the six following offences:

- 1) playing in a manner considered by the referee to be dangerous.
- 2) charging fairly, i.e., with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned and they are definitely not trying to play it;
- 3) when not playing the ball, impeding the progress of an opponent, i.e., running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an

obstacle to an opponent.

- 4) moving with the goalkeeper while he/she is holding the ball in an effort to prevent the goalkeeper from releasing it.
- 5) when playing as a goalkeeper and within the penalty area commits any of the following five offences:
 - a) takes more than six seconds while controlling the ball with her/his hands, before releasing it from her/his possession,
 - b) touches the ball again with her/his hands after it has been released from her/his possession and has not touched any other player,
 - c) touches the ball with her/his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to her/him by a team-mate,
 - d) touches the ball with her/his hands after she/he has received it directly from a kick-in taken by a team-mate,
 - e) wastes time
- 6) **during a “flying substitution” enters the playing field before the player being substituted is within one metre of the touch line.**

shall be penalized by the award of a free kick to be taken by the opposing side from where the infringement occurred, subject to the over-riding conditions of Law 13.

A player shall be cautioned and shown the yellow card if, in the opinion of the referee, the player:

- a) is guilty of unsporting behaviour;
- b) shows dissent by word or action;
- c) persistently infringes the Playing Laws Of Indoor Soccer;
- d) delays the restart of play;
- e) fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or a free kick;
- f) enters the field of play without the referee’s permission other than in the act of substitution;
- g) deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee’s permission other than in the act of substitution, or
- h) slide tackles or attempts to slide tackle in a dangerous or persistent manner.

If the referee stopped play to administer the caution, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the place where the offence occurred, subject to the over-riding conditions imposed in Law 13, unless a more serious infringement of the playing laws was committed.

A player shall be sent off the field of play and shown the red card if, in the opinion of the referee, the player:

- a) is guilty of serious foul play;
- b) is guilty of violent conduct;
- c) spits at an opponent or any other person;
- d) denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within her/his own penalty area);
- e) denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- f) uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures; or
- g) receives a second caution in the same match.

If play is stopped by reason of a player being ordered from the field of play for an offence without a separate breach of the playing law having been committed, the game shall be resumed by a **free kick** awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the over-riding conditions described in Law 13

Law 13 - FREE KICKS

- All free kicks shall all be classified as "indirect" (a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal).
- When a player is taking a free kick inside their own penalty area, all of the opposing players shall be at least five metres (16 ft) from the ball and shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball has been kicked out of the area. The ball shall be in play immediately when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area. If the ball is not kicked directly into play, beyond the penalty area, the kick shall be retaken. (2009)
- When a player is taking a free kick outside the player's own penalty area, all of the opposing players shall be at least five metres (16 ft) from the ball, until it is in play, unless they are standing on their own goal line, between the goal posts. The ball shall be in play when it is kicked and moves. (2009)
- If a player of the opposing team encroaches into the penalty area, or within five metres (16 ft) of the ball, as the case may be, before a free kick is taken, the referee shall delay the taking of the kick, until the playing law is complied with. (2009)

- The ball must be stationary when a free kick is taken, and the kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.
- Any free kick awarded to the defending team, within its own **penalty** area, may be taken from any point within the **penalty** area.
- Any free kick awarded to the attacking team within its opponent's penalty area, which is not a penalty shot, shall be taken from the penalty-area line nearest to where the offence occurred and at least one metre (3 ft) from the goal line.

Infringements/Sanctions:

- If the kicker, after taking the free kick, plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, a free kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the spot where the infringement occurred, subject to the above guidelines.

Law 14 - PENALTY KICK

- A penalty kick is a free kick taken from the penalty spot on the playing field. At the moment of the kick, all players, with the exception of the goalkeeper and the player taking the kick, should be inside the playing field, outside the penalty area, behind the ball and at least five metres (16 ft) from the ball.
- The goalkeeper should take his/her position on his goal line and between the goalposts, and may not move forward off the line until the ball is kicked.
- The player taking the kick must kick the ball forward; (s)he shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.
- The ball shall be deemed in play directly after it has been touched and moves. A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.
- When a penalty kick is being taken during the normal course of play, or when time has been extended at half-time or full time to allow a penalty kick to be taken or retaken, a goal shall not be nullified if, before passing between the posts and under the crossbar, the ball touches either or both of the goalposts, or the crossbar, or the goalkeeper, or any combination of these, providing that no other infringement has occurred.

Infringements/Sanctions

- For any infringement by the defending team, the kick will be repeated, if the kick did not result in a goal.

- For any infringement by the attacking team, if a goal is scored it will be disallowed and the kick retaken.
- For any infringement by the player taking the penalty kick after the ball is in play, a player of the opposing team shall be awarded an indirect free kick from the penalty spot.
- For an infringement by a member of both teams, the kick shall be retaken.
- For an infringement by the player taking the penalty kick, committed after the ball is in play, a player of the opposing team shall take an indirect free kick, subject to the conditions described in Law 13.

Law 15 - THROW-IN

When the whole of the ball completely crosses over the touch line, play will be restarted with a throw-in by a player of the opposing team to that of the player who last touched it.

- The throw must be taken within one metre of the point where the ball crossed the line.
- The throw must be taken using proper procedures, meaning that at the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower must:
 - face the field of play
 - have part of both feet either on the touch line and/or on the surface outside the touch line.
 - use both hands
 - deliver the ball from behind and over the head
- The player taking the throw shall not touch the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player.
- The players of the opposing team shall be no less than two metres away from the point at which the throw-in is being taken.
- The ball is in play as soon as it enters the field of play
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

Infringements/Sanctions

- a) If the thrower plays the ball a second time before it has been touched by another player, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the conditions of Law 13.
- b) If the throw-in is directly handled by the goalkeeper on the same team as the thrower, an indirect free kick will be awarded, subject to the conditions of Law 13.

- c) If an attempted throw-in does not enter the field of play, the throw will be retaken.
- d) If an opponent unfairly impedes or distracts the thrower, that player will be cautioned for unsporting behavior.
- e) For any infringements made by the thrower during the taking of the throw, the throw-in will be given to the opposing team.

Law 16 - GOAL KICK

- When the whole of the ball passes over the goal-line, excluding that portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground and having last been played by one of the attacking team, it shall be kicked by a player of the defending team.
- The ball shall be placed at any point within the penalty
- If the ball is not kicked beyond the penalty area, directly into play, the kick shall be retaken. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has touched or been played by another player.
- Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the goal-kick shall remain outside the penalty-area and at least five metres (16 ft) from the ball until the ball has been kicked out of the penalty-area. (2009)
- A goal may not be scored from a goal kick.

Infringements/Sanctions

- If the player taking a goal-kick plays the ball a second time after it has passed beyond the penalty-area, but before it has touched or been played by another player, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the conditions of Law 13.

Law 17 - CORNER KICK

- When the whole of the ball passes over the goal line excluding that portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground having last been played by one of the defending team, a member of the attacking team shall take a corner-kick.
- For the corner kick, the whole of the ball shall be placed on, or within, the corner arc. For facilities without corner arcs, the ball shall be placed on the spot where the touchline meets the goal line.
- Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the corner-kick shall not approach within five metres (16 ft) of the ball until it is in play, (kicked

and moves) nor shall the kicker play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. (2009)

- A goal shall not be scored directly from a corner-kick.

Infringements/Sanctions

- If the player who takes the kick plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, the referee shall award an indirect free-kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the conditions described in Law 13.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE TAKING OF KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

In the event that penalty kicks have to be taken to determine the winner of a match the following conditions shall apply:

- 1) All dressed players (excluding any who were dismissed) shall be “eligible players” to take part in the kicks.
- 2) When a team finishes the match with a greater number of players than its opposing team, that team shall reduce its numbers to equate with that of its opposing team.
- 3) Before the start of "kicks from the penalty mark", the referee shall ensure that only an equal number of players from each team remain within the centre circle and they shall take the kicks.
- 4) The referee shall choose the goal at which all of the kicks shall be taken.
- 5) The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
- 6) The referee shall keep a record of the kicks being taken.
- 7) Subject to the conditions below, both teams shall take 5 kicks, which will be alternately taken by the teams.
- 8) If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks shall be taken.
- 9) If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, kicks continue to be taken in the same order until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.
- 10) Each kick is taken by a different player and all *eligible players* must take a kick before a player can take a second kick.
- 11) An eligible player may change places with the goalkeeper at any time when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.
- 12) Only the eligible players and match officials are permitted to remain on the field of play when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.
- 13) All *eligible players* except the two goalkeepers and the player taking the kick must remain at centre-line.

7 RULES OF THE GAME – LADIES 7-A-SIDE

The FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply to Ladies 7-A-Side provincial championships with the following modifications.

7.1 Eligibility

- 4.6.3 The Provincial Championship is for players who have reached their 30th birthday before January 1st of the year of play.
- 4.6.4 Players registered with senior A or senior B teams are not eligible to play in the Provincial Championship.

7.2 Law 1 - Field of Play

- 4.6.3 Dimensions: The field of play shall be no less than half of a minimum regulation sized field.
- 4.6.4 Markings: Markings and dimensions shall be in proportion to the size of the field compared to a regulation sized field.
 - I. The centre circle shall have a radius of 6 yards
 - II. The penalty mark is 10 yards from the goal line.
 - III. Goals: 6 yards wide and 6 feet high if possible.

7.3 Law 3 - The Number of Players

- 4.6.3 Players: No more than 7 players, one of whom shall be a goalkeeper, per team on field.
- 4.6.4 Substitution: There shall be unlimited substitution at any stoppage in play at the discretion of the referee.

7.4 Law 7 - The Duration of the Match

- 4.6.3 Periods of Play: The game is divided into two halves, each of thirty minutes in duration. There shall be a five-minute break for half time.

7.5 Law 8 - The Start and Restart of play

- 4.6.3 Opponents shall be 6 yards from the ball.

7.6 Law 11 – Offside

- 4.6.3 There is no offside rule in 7-A-Side soccer.

7.7 Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

- 4.6.3 Slide tackles are not allowed. Referee shall interpret them as dangerous play.

APPENDIX B – Variations for Ladies 7-A-Side Play

- A League may play following the indoor rules as described above with the exception of the following 'crease rule'. This crease rule states that except for the defending goalkeeper, no player or part of a player (e.g. leg) may

enter into the goal area (cross over the lines) while the ball is in play. The principle of “verticality” applies.

- Any League has the authority to not apply or apply this crease rule in League competitions.
- This crease rule shall not apply in any Provincial Championships

8 SNS REPRESENTATIVE ROLE – PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

8.1 GENERAL DUTIES

Soccer Nova Scotia shall appoint a Soccer Nova Scotia (SNS) representative to act on Soccer Nova Scotia's behalf at each provincial competition. The SNS representative shall:

- Be available at all times of play to act as the authority for Soccer Nova Scotia where required
- Convene and chair a pre-tournament meeting prior to the start of the competition.
- Record whether the meeting is attended by all team representative (the coach and/or manager from each competing team) a referee's representative, and the host organizing committee representative.
- Convene and chair any hearings necessary to handle any discipline or protests arising at the competition.
- Make decisions where required on any items not covered in the Rules. In this regard, a meeting of all team representatives, acting as a Rules Committee, may also be convened, but the SNS Representative shall have the final authority.
- Submit a completed championship report form, together with the SNS copy of any discipline report forms to the SNS office at the completion of the competition.
- Be neither a player nor a referee participating at the event, if at all possible.

8.2 DISCIPLINE HEARINGS

A Discipline Hearing Committee shall have no fewer than three members, one of whom shall act as Chairman.

One of the Committee members shall act as a Recording Secretary, or a non-voting Recording Secretary (not a Committee member) shall be appointed to be present for the whole hearing.

An accused may be accompanied by legal counsel only with the permission of SNS.

The accused, or his/her accredited representative, shall be present, or the hearing shall not proceed.

8.3 DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

The Chairperson shall read the report and state the charge.

If present, the person(s) who wrote the report(s) shall be given the opportunity to amplify or qualify the report.

The accused, and the person(s) who wrote the report(s), shall have the opportunity to call witnesses to the incident.

The Chairperson and any Discipline Hearing Committee member may question the accused or any witness.

The person(s) who wrote the report, and the accused, shall be allowed to make final summations before withdrawing.

The Discipline Hearing Committee shall consider the report and any further evidence provided, and shall decide on the case, in accordance with the SNS Discipline and Appeals procedures.

The accused shall be notified in writing of the result of the hearing.

9 SNS REPRESENTATIVE ROLE – NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each Province/Territory participating in a National/Regional Competition must appoint a person to act as its Provincial/Territorial Rep.

A Provincial/Territorial Rep cannot be a member of the team staff, a player, or immediate family of a player. Where a Provincial/Territorial Association is unable to appoint a suitable representative, they must contact the CSA Competitions Manager immediately.

A Provincial/Territorial Rep must stay at the host hotel.

Each Provincial/Territorial Rep must arrive at the Competition with, or on the same day as, the first team and depart with or after their last team. Failure to comply will result in a fine. See Breach of Rules.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep must be approved by the Provincial/Territorial Association Board and have their CIPC Clearance.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep must be present at all CSA mandated meetings.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep, together with a team representative, must attend the pre-competition meeting.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep must attend all discipline hearings involving a player or staff member with one of his/her teams.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep is responsible to the CSA Rep for the communication of all matters relating to the team.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep has responsibility for the conduct/supervision of the teams and team officials of his/her Provincial/Territorial Association and must ensure that all players and team officials adhere to their Code of Conduct.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep must bring a copy of the Provincial Code of Conduct, signed by all players and team staff, to the Competition.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep must participate on a Competition Discipline Committee when appointed by the CSA Rep.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep must attend all official functions of the competition.

The Provincial/Territorial Rep of the team involved must report all incidents of property damage to the CSA Rep and to the Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee.

10 CODE OF CONDUCT AT NATIONALS

10.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Soccer Nova Scotia Code of Conduct is to set out and explain to all members and participants what is expected of them while representing Soccer Nova Scotia and the Province of Nova Scotia. The Code of Conduct applies to all team members including the Athletes, Coaches and Managers.

Individual clubs may choose to develop their own codes of conduct for their teams, providing they are not in conflict with the Soccer Nova Scotia Code of Conduct.

The CSA also has a detailed Code of Conduct that must be adhered to by all members and participants of Nationals, and where contradictions exist between this policy and the CSA Policy, the CSA Policy shall take precedence.

10.2 STANDARD OF CONDUCT

1) Respect for Others

Soccer Nova Scotia is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect.

It does not allow discriminatory practices.

Disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist remarks or actions are not appropriate behaviour for any team representing Nova Scotia.

2) Ceremonies and Official Functions

All team members (with at least two adult team officials) are expected to attend Opening/Closing Ceremonies, Medal Ceremonies and all other official CSA functions, and to be punctual to these events. Anyone not in attendance may face disciplinary action, at the discretion of the CSA Representative or the Competitions Committee.

3) Costs of Loss or Damage

Every team member is personally responsible for covering costs due to the loss or damage of items under the control of the team member; equipment, hotels, rental vehicles, etc.

4) Dress

Appropriate dress is essential while representing Soccer Nova Scotia and the Province of Nova Scotia. Dress codes will be at the discretion of the province's standards.

5) Curfew

Every team member will be required to adhere to curfews set by the CSA and/or SNS representative. A curfew of 11:00 p.m. is required for all youth teams; however, an earlier curfew for younger youth teams may be set. Senior teams must observe a curfew of 1:30 a.m.

6) Alcohol and Tobacco

No youth athlete shall drink alcohol or use tobacco products.

7) Illegal Substances

No team member shall use illegal drugs. Random testing will occur at the competition.

Evidence of illegal drug use will result in the player's immediate suspension and (s)he will be sent home. Soccer Nova Scotia Discipline and Appeals Committee will deal with all suspensions.

8) General

All members of teams representing Soccer Nova Scotia are expected to behave in a proper and sportsmanlike manner at all times and **in** all circumstances.

Coaches and/or managers are required to review this Code of Conduct with all team members.

Coaches and/or managers are required to notify the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative as soon as possible of any violations of this Code of Conduct.

9) Discipline Process

The Soccer Nova Scotia Discipline Process is outlined in the Discipline and Appeals section of the SNS Policies and Procedures (Blue Book).

11 CALL-UP POLICY FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Please refer to the CSA's Call-Up Policy that must be adhered to by all members and participants of Nationals.