

14 – DISCIPLINE

14.1 GENERAL

14.1.1 The Discipline and Appeals Committee is a Standing Committee of Soccer Nova Scotia whose mandate includes, but is not limited to:

- a)** appointing committees to hear:
 - i)** discipline cases that are the exclusive jurisdiction of the Discipline and Appeals Committee
 - ii)** appeal of discipline decisions of hearing committees appointed by the Discipline and Appeals Committee
 - iii)** appeals of discipline decisions of the committees of Districts, leagues and other competitions;
 - iv)** appeals of decisions of the Referee Judiciary Committee pursuant to Section 7.8
 - v)** appeals of the decisions of Board of districts, clubs, leagues, referee associations or other governing bodies.
 - vi)** Appeals involving exemptions to Soccer Nova scotia Policies and Procedures.
- b)** Providing direction to all Soccer Nova Scotia sanctioned competition discipline committees, district discipline committees and the referee judiciary committee.

14.1.2 All players, coaches, team officials, clubs, Districts and Leagues (including their officers and staff) are subject to discipline pursuant to this section.

14.1.3 Every Club is responsible for the action of its players, officials and spectators.

14.1.4 Every Club and league is required to take every precaution to prevent players, officials, and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone present at competitions.

14.1.5 Districts and leagues shall ensure that their disciplinary Rules, Regulations, Policies and Procedures are consistent with this policy.

14.1.6 In this section:

- a)** “Competition” means each of a tournament, an exhibition game, a winter league season, a summer league season, league playoffs and a Provincial championship tournament;
- b)** “Complainant” means the person or organization that files a discipline complaint;
- c)** “Discipline Hearing Committee” means a committee appointed by the Discipline and Appeals Committee or a District or League pursuant to this section to hear a discipline complaint;
- d)** “Respondent” means the person or organization that is the subject of a discipline complaint
- e)** “Standard Penalties” means the penalties for players, coaches or managers for the various offences as set out at the end of this section

14.2 JURISDICTION OF DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

14.2.1 The Discipline and Appeals Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear complaints in the following circumstances:

- a) Misconduct towards any game official by any person involving deliberate contact, physical contact, attempted physical contact or threatening behavior;
- b) Misconduct involving violent conduct or serious foul play requiring a discipline hearing when the reportable incident also includes a charge under paragraph (a);
- c) Misconduct for which the standard penalties require a hearing before the Discipline and Appeals Committee;
- d) Misconduct by any person arising from participation in National or Regional Competitions;
- e) Misconduct by any District, Referee Association, Provincial or Inter-District League, or their officers and officials.
- f) Misconduct arising from any international event (in or out of Canada) where participation is given prior approval by Soccer Nova Scotia;
- g) Any other matter directly related to Soccer Nova Scotia that Soccer Nova Scotia, in its sole discretion, deems should be dealt with by Discipline and Appeals Committee;

14.2.2 The Discipline and Appeals committee may delegate any portion of its jurisdiction to a District or League.

14.2.3 The Discipline and Appeals Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear appeals as provided in section 15.1

14.3 DISTRICT OR LEAGUE JURISDICTION

14.3.1 The Discipline Committee of Districts, Leagues or tournaments shall have jurisdiction to deal with misconduct by any of their clubs, players, coaches or team officials, except for the circumstances set out in section 14.2.1

14.3.2 The disposition of all discipline proceedings must be reported to Soccer Nova Scotia.

14.4 MISCONDUCT - DEFINED

14.4.1 Misconduct is:

- a) An act described in the Standard Penalties
- b) Intentionally or recklessly disregarding the Bylaws or Policies or Procedures of Soccer Nova Scotia or a District or League;
- c) Committing any act, making any verbal or written statement or being responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any other matter which is unsportsmanlike, insulting or likely to bring the game into disrepute;
- d) Committing a criminal offence or a breach of human rights;
- e) Assisting or permitting any act described above.

14.5 FILING OF COMPLAINT

14.5.1 A Complaint of Misconduct may be made:

- a) For misconduct that occurs within a game, by a game official filing a Misconduct Report citing misconduct and the accompanying game sheet(s) with Soccer Nova Scotia, the League, the District and/or other competitions. For misconduct resulting

in a discipline hearing, the report shall be regarded as the report to the Discipline Hearing Committee. The game official may but is not required to attend at any discipline hearing unless the Discipline Hearing Committee deems it necessary. The decision of a game official pursuant to Law V, "Laws of the Games", is final.

- b) For all other acts of misconduct, by filing a written complaint of misconduct with Soccer Nova Scotia and the President of the District or League concerned, within seven (7) days of the alleged occurrence. The written complaint shall contain a statement of the alleged facts and the relevant bylaw or policy allegedly breached. Each complaint shall be accompanied by a \$275.00 fee payable to Soccer Nova Scotia in the form of a certified cheque or money order. In the event the complaint is upheld, the fee is refundable.

14.5.2 The acts described in the Standard Penalties that do not require a discipline hearing shall result in the immediate implementation of the penalty, with notice to the player, coach or manager. There shall be no appeal of a game official's decision to issue a card, except where it is alleged that the penalty is against the wrong player, and only if the issue is raised with the game official at the conclusion of the game.

14.5.3 Soccer Nova Scotia, the league, the District, and / or other competitions, as the case may be, shall refer all complaints of misconduct requiring a discipline hearing to the Discipline Committee having jurisdiction.

14.5.4 Any misconduct that pursuant to the Standard Penalties requires a discipline hearing shall result in the immediate suspension from applicable soccer activities (as described in 'Extent of Affected Activities') of the person(s) involved until such discipline hearing proceeding takes place. Immediate notice of such suspension shall be given to the Respondent by Soccer Nova Scotia, the league, the District and/or other competitions, as the case may be.

14.5.5 Where a person has been charged in Criminal Court with offences of moral turpitude involving youth, the person shall be suspended from all soccer activity until the case has been concluded in the Criminal Court. Immediate notice of such suspension shall be given to the person by Soccer Nova Scotia. Soccer Nova Scotia may decide if further proceedings are warranted pursuant to its Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures.

14.6 DISCIPLINE HEARINGS

14.6.1 Upon receiving a complaint, the Discipline Committee having jurisdiction shall promptly:

- a) Appoint a Discipline Hearing Committee having no less than three members, one of whom shall act as Chair and one of whom shall act as Recording Secretary. A non-voting Recording Secretary (not one of the Committee) may be appointed and shall be present for the whole discipline hearing.
- b) Schedule a date for the hearing of the complaint at a location within the district where the complaint arose, or such other location as determined by the Discipline Committee.
- c) Provide written notice of the hearing and a copy of the complaint to the Respondent and to the Complainant. Written notice delivered to the club on which a player is registered shall be deemed 'due notice' to the player. A copy of such notice shall also be sent to the governing body if the Respondent is one of their registered players or is acting as an official representative.

- 14.6.2** The Discipline Committee or the Discipline Hearing Committee may adjourn a discipline hearing on such terms as are reasonable.
- 14.6.3** In the event the Respondent does not attend the discipline hearing, the Discipline Hearing Committee may proceed with the hearing in his/her absence or may suspend the Respondent pending a further hearing.
- 14.6.4** In the event of a suspension for failing to attend a hearing, the Respondent may have a hearing by filing a written request to the Discipline Committee having jurisdiction together with a \$275 fee payable to Soccer Nova Scotia in the form of a certified cheque or money order

14.7 TIMELINES AND NOTICES

- a) The Respondent shall be given at least ten (10) working days' notice of a discipline hearing.
- b) The Complainant or Respondent may request the postponement of a discipline hearing by writing the Discipline Committee having jurisdiction at least five (5) working days prior to the date of the discipline hearing. The Committee may grant or refuse the request, at its discretion.
- c) In cases where a Respondent stands suspended pending a discipline hearing, or for any adjourned discipline hearing, the date for the discipline hearing shall be set within fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of the misconduct report (or previous discipline hearing).
- d) The Discipline Committee or Discipline Hearing Committee may extend or abridge the time for any notice, date or decision in this section.

14.8 DISCIPLINE HEARING PROCEDURE

- Both the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to be present at the hearing.
- b) The parties may be accompanied by legal counsel only with the permission of the Discipline Committee having jurisdiction or the Discipline Hearing Committee. Subject to the foregoing, a governing body may be represented at the hearing by any member of its Executive.
 - c) The discipline hearing shall proceed as follows:
 - i) The Chair of the Discipline Hearing Committee shall read the report and state the complaint;
 - ii) The Complainant, if present, may amplify or qualify the complaint and call witnesses;
 - iii) The Respondent may make submissions on the report, testify on his/her own behalf and call witnesses.
 - iv) The Respondent and Complainant may ask questions of the other and their witnesses;
 - v) Any Discipline Hearing Committee member may question the parties or any witness;
 - vi) The Complainant and the Respondent may make final summations before withdrawing;
 - vii) The Discipline Hearing Committee shall consider the report and any further evidence provided, and shall either decide the case at the hearing or adjourn to provide a written decision;
 - viii) The parties and affected club or competition shall be notified of the result in writing.

- ix) All decisions are to be rendered by the Discipline Hearing Committee within fifteen (15) days of the discipline hearing unless an extension is granted. The failure of a Discipline Hearing Committee to render a decision within the time provided will not invalidate the proceedings.

14.9 PUNISHMENT

14.9.1 On misconduct being proven, a Discipline Hearing Committee shall, if applicable, order the punishment prescribed by the Standard Penalties, and otherwise have the power to order a suspension, and/ or fine, and/or any punishment that it deems just.

14.9.2 A Discipline Hearing Committee shall set timelines for the payment of any costs, fines or bonds, and may set further terms of punishment for non-compliance.

14.10 EXTENT OF AFFECTED ACTIVITIES

14.10.1 Unless otherwise decided by a Discipline Hearing Committee, or specified in the Standard Penalties, all suspensions resulting from player-related incidents shall be from playing in all soccer competitions within the jurisdiction of Soccer Nova Scotia.

14.10.2 Unless otherwise decided by a Discipline Hearing Committee, or specified in the Standard Penalties, all suspensions resulting from coach-related or team official-related incidents shall be from coaching/team officiating in all soccer competitions within the jurisdiction of Soccer Nova Scotia.

14.10.3 Unless otherwise decided by a Discipline Hearing Committee, or specified in the Standard Penalties, all suspensions resulting from referee-related incidents shall be from refereeing in all soccer competitions within the jurisdiction of Soccer Nova Scotia.

14.10.4 A Discipline Hearing Committee may suspend any player, coach or team official from any or all soccer competition related activities within the jurisdiction of Soccer Nova Scotia. The Referee Judiciary Committee will be advised if the person suspended is also a referee.

14.11 SERVING OF PENALTIES

14.11.1 Offences falling under sections, 1.1 to 1.10 of the Standard Penalties must be served in the competition in which the misconduct occurred.

14.11.2 All suspensions referring to a number of games will be served in consecutive games played by the player's team, or as specified by the Discipline Hearing Committee.

14.11.3 All suspensions referring to a period of time (days, weeks, months, years) will be served from the time of the offence, or as specified by the Discipline Hearing Committee

14.11.4 Offences falling under sections, 1.11, 1.12, 1.14, 1.15, 2.4 and 2.5 of the Standard Penalties which occur in the final game of a tournament, or in an exhibition game, shall be referred to the League in which the player's registered team normally competes, and the League shall deal with any such misconduct as if it occurred in that League.

14.11.5 Where a player receives cards or other suspensions for misconduct while playing on a team other than his/her registered team, such cards or suspensions apply to his/her registered team division, and she/he cannot play for any other team in any

other competition until any suspensions resulting from such cards or actions has been served with his/her registered team.

14.11.6 All red cards shall be reported to Soccer Nova Scotia within 48 hours by the administrator of a sanctioned tournament.