



SANCTIONING AND DISCIPLINARY POLICY 2024 FOOTBALL CANADA EVENTS

Last updated: May 24, 2024

1. GENERAL

Only the highest standard of sportsmanship and conduct, both on and off the field, are expected of all those participating in or are connected in any way with the Football Canada Event. Those who do not live up to the Football Canada Code of Conduct will be disciplined in accordance with this policy.

In particular, but not limited to, the following conduct shall not be tolerated:

- Personal Misconduct of any kind; including harassment and abusive behavior on or off the field;
- Vandalism of any kind; and
- Drugs and Alcohol use or possession contrary to declared rules and regulations.

2. CONSEQUENCES

2.1 Anyone* who contravenes the Football Canada Code of Conduct will face any combination of the following consequences:

- Suspension from play ranging from one game to the remainder of the Championship
- Being sent home as quickly as possible at own expense; and/or
- Suspended from participation in future Football Canada events or other events sanctioned by Football Canada and/or its membership.

2.2 Teams could also face disciplinary action for misconduct - this is not solely or necessarily a matter of individual behaviour.

3. DISCIPLINARY JURISDICTION

3.1 Provincial Representatives (Team Staff) will be responsible for the conduct of their teams during the tournament and for ensuring that any disciplinary action is complied with. They may make representations to the Football Canada Event Governing Committee during deliberations affecting their teams or their players.

3.2 The Football Canada Event Governing Committee (FCE GC) will oversee the specific Football Canada Event, lead all meetings for the event, and handle all disciplinary items and game appeals or protests at the event. They have the authority to decide to disqualify an individual or team for conduct not conducive to the event of which they are governing.

3.2.1 Each Football Canada Event will have its own Football Canada Event Governing Committee that will be made up of:

- One (1) Football Canada Staff Member
- One (1) Referee in Chief
- One (1) 3rd Party (Host Committee Member, non-participating Provincial Association member, member of Football Canada's Board of Directors)
 - 3rd Party will be selected in advance by Football Canada
 - 3rd Party is preferred to be on-site, but not required

3.2.2 The Football Canada Event Governing Committee will select one member to act as chairperson.

3.3 Provincial Associations may take additional disciplinary action as deemed appropriate. Provincial Associations must abide by the decisions of the FCE GC but they may appeal the decisions of the FCE GC to the Football Canada Board of Directors.

The **Football Canada Board of Directors** is the body of final and their decision on all disciplinary matters is final.

4. REPORTING

4.1 Game-Related Incidents

- Game Officials shall submit a written report of the incident to the Referee-in-Chief immediately after the game.
- The Chair of the FCE GC will decide if any additional reports are required and if the FCE GC will convene.
- Any decisions not to request written reports or to convene a meeting must be recorded by the Chairperson and submitted to the Organizing Committee for the record. This record must include the known details of the incident and explain the rationale for the action taken.
- The FCE GC may also request additional reports from the field convener and/or any person acting in some official capacity for the tournament who witnessed the events e.g. volunteer, or tournament committee member.
- The Football Canada staff on site is responsible for soliciting all the reports referred to above and seeing that they are submitted to the proper individual.

4.2 Non-Game-Related Incidents

Any actions by participants not covered by game rules but which are contrary to the code of conduct of the tournament as described above will be treated as follows:

1. Any player, coach, game official, volunteer, committee member or other participant of the tournament may submit a verbal report of any incident to a member of the FCE GC at any time during the tournament, preferably immediately after the incident.
2. The FCE GC member will immediately notify the Chairperson of the FCE GC who will decide whether the Committee should convene. These decisions will be reported to the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee verbally or in writing prior to the end of the tournament.

3. If the Chairperson of the FCE GC decides to convene a meeting, the person(s) who made the initial report will be asked to attend the meeting, to give the details and/or to provide a written report, including names of the person(s) involved and witnesses to the event, within a prescribed time.
-

5. GAME RELATED PROTESTS

All protests shall be handled by the Governing Committee using the following format:

- 5.1 The Governing Committee must be notified in writing of a player or game protest. All protests must be accompanied by a \$200.00 CASH fee, refundable only if the protest is upheld.
 - 5.2 The Governing Committee shall review the written protest and the events surrounding it and shall render a decision based on the procedures of this manual. The decision is final with no appeal.
-

6. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- 6.1 If the Governing Committee finds that a player is ineligible to participate in the event, based on the eligibility requirements in this technical information package, prior to a game being played:
 - 6.1.1 The player is suspended immediately from any further play in the event and is to be sent home immediately at the team's expense.
 - 6.1.2 The Head Coach is suspended immediately from any further participation in the event for that year and dismissed from the Tournament to be sent home at the team's expense.
 - 6.1.3 The team is fined \$1,000.00.
- 6.2 If it is found that a player is ineligible to participate in the event, based on the eligibility requirements in the technical information package, and games have already been played:

6.2.1 The player is suspended immediately from any further play in event and is to be sent home immediately at the team's expense.

6.2.2 The Head Coach is suspended immediately from any further participation in the event for that year and dismissed from the Tournament to be sent home at the team's expense.

6.2.3 The team is fined \$1,000.00.

6.2.4 The team loses any games won, by a score of x (final score of the opponent) - 0.

7. FOOTBALL CANADA EVENTS GOVERNING COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

7.1 The FCE GC will review all reports and call upon witnesses as necessary to determine a course of action based on the disciplinary guidelines below. The Provincial Representative(s) must attend the meeting to speak on behalf of the individual(s).

7.2 A verbal and/or written report will be given to the Provincial Representative as soon as possible after the decision is taken. The decision must be rendered in a timely fashion so as not to disrupt competition.

7.3 If the decision involves suspension from all or part of any further games in the tournament, the decision becomes effective as soon as the Provincial Representative affected is notified of the decision in writing.

7.4 If the FCE GC feels severe action is required (i.e. suspension from future Football Canada sanctioned events, provincial suspensions or legal prosecution) it will recommend such action to the Football Canada Competitions Committee.

7.5 The Chair of the FCE GC must submit a written report of all disciplinary deliberations and decisions to the Organizing Committee within one week of the tournament's closing, such report to be included in the Organizing Committee's final report on the tournament.

8. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AFTER A FOOTBALL CANADA EVENT

Any disciplinary action recommended by the FCE GC, or by any other source, to the FCE GC will be treated as follows:

1. The National Office Disciplinary will send the recommendations and related reports to each team and/or individual involved within thirty (30) days of the Football Canada event through their provincial association.
2. Team and/or individual rebuttals are to be forwarded through his or her Provincial Association and must reach the National Office within thirty (30) days.
3. The FCE Governing Committee members will receive all the information available after the time limit has expired in order to render a decision. The CCFFC GC may take any other steps necessary to gather information essential to rendering a fair judgment in the matter.
4. The National Office will inform the Provincial Association, in writing, within seven (7) days of the FCE GC decision of the appropriate disciplinary action. A copy of the decision of the FCE GC will be sent to the Football Canada Board of Directors as well as the team managers and individuals involved.
5. Written notification of intent to appeal a discipline decision by the FCE GC must be made by the Provincial Association to the Football Canada Board of Directors. The National Office must receive it within thirty (30) days of the Provincial Association's receipt of the written forfeiture decision by the FCE GC.
6. A formal written appeal must be submitted to the Football Canada Board of Directors, through the National Office, within ninety (90) days of the Provincial Association's receipt of the written forfeiture decision by the FCE GC.
7. Following receipt of a formal appeal, the appeal will be considered at the next meeting of the Board of Directors. A copy of the final decision of the Board of Directors must be sent to the Provincial Associations concerned within thirty (30) days of the decision, and copies sent to the FCE GC.

8. If a Provincial Association assesses disciplinary action in addition to the FCE GC decision, they should exchange this information with the National Office.
-

9. CONDUCT OF HEARINGS

- 9.1 Hearings on any matter will not be conducted unless the proper procedures and documents have been completed.
- 9.2 Persons attending the hearings will include:
- The Provincial Representative
 - The Team Representative (if the Provincial Representative requests their presence)
 - The Referee-In-Chief (and the game officials if so requested by the Referee-In-Chief or the hearing committee)
 - Any witnesses or other persons called by the hearing committee
 - If a discipline or eligibility matter is involved, any person concerned
- 9.3 The FCE GC chairperson has the right to have anyone removed from the hearing if their actions do not contribute to a fair and orderly conduct of the hearing.
- 9.4 The meeting will be conducted in the following manner:
- Introductions;
 - A review of the hearing process and the hearing committee's role/authority;
 - The reason for the particular hearing i.e. the reason for the protest etc.;
 - Representation by the protesting province;
 - Rebuttal by the defending province;
 - Account of facts from officials;
 - Final words from each party;
 - Final questions from the hearing committee;
 - Parties are dismissed after method of communicating the decision is arranged;
 - The Committee will meet in camera;
 - Provincial Representatives and the Referee-In-Chief will be informed of the decision.