



## Club Officials Code of Conduct

### Team Personnel

- The team personnel-athlete relationship is a privileged one and plays a critical role in the personal, sport, and athletic development of the athlete.
- Team personnel must recognize the power inherent in the position of team personnel and respect and promote the rights of all participants in sport. This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy), informed participation, and fair and reasonable treatment.
- Team personnel have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights. This section applies equally to the relationship between match officials and their coaches, instructors, accessors, and mentors.
- Team personnel must also:
  - Ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the involved athletes.
  - Prepare athletes systematically and progressively, using appropriate time frames and monitoring physical and psychological adjustments while refraining from using training methods or techniques that may harm athletes.
  - Avoid compromising the present and future health of athletes by communicating and cooperating with medical advice.
  - Provide athletes (and the parents/guardians of a minor) with the information necessary to be involved in decisions that affect the athlete.
  - Act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person.
  - Respect other team personnel.
  - Under no circumstances provide, promote, or condone the use of drugs (other than properly prescribed medications) or performance-enhancing substances and, in the case of minors, alcohol and/or tobacco.
  - Respect athletes playing with other teams.
  - Use inoffensive language, taking into account the audience being addressed.

### All Officials must

Conduct themselves with dignity both on and off the field of play, and by example seek to inspire the principles of fair play in others.

Not make any statement to the media (newspaper, television, radio, etc.) related to a game in which the referee has officiated, or to the performance of the players or other officials.

Be fair, equitable, considerate, independent, honest, and impartial in all dealings with others.



The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Club Officials should guide all referees, assessors, mentors, instructors, coaches and members of the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) and BC Soccer (BCSA) with regard to ethical behavior and professional conduct.

The code should be read in conjunction with the CSA and BCSA Rules and signed by Official.

*Integrity Specifically, Officials shall:*

- Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and carry out their duties to the best of their ability.
- Seek support/ guidance advice from peers, colleagues, mentors and / or assessors with regard to issues that may hamper their performance as an official.
- Avoid situations or engage in activities or behavior, which might oblige them or lead to them contravening the provisions of this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- Ensure that they and others accurately represent and reflect the body of knowledge and training of their profession.
- Honor all officiating commitments except in the case of serious illness or unexpected circumstances whereby their ability to perform their duties would be impaired and in such circumstances to notify, in a timely manner, the appropriate personnel or where appropriate to make alternative arrangements.
- Not exploit any relationship to further their own or others personal or professional interests including the soliciting of players.
- Act to stop or limit the activities of a colleague, assessor, instructor or Official that is clearly harmful or unethical and bring such actions to the attention of the association.

*Competence Specifically Officials shall:*

- Comply with the rules of the licensing system and develop the skills and knowledge required appropriate to the level they wish to officiate at.
- Engage in continuing professional development in terms of all aspects of refereeing, e.g. physical fitness; knowledge, application and interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- Accept the obligation to know, understand and to operate the provisions of this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- Recognize the limits of their competence and take care not to exceed these limits by officiating at games outside the parameters of their particular license.
- Participate in and contribute to the continuing development of refereeing.

- Refrain from officiating when their ability to carry out their duties in a professional and competent manner is impaired by physical, medical or other reason.
- Seek relevant, competent and professional assistance to reorganize and remedy any difficulty that prevents or inhibits their ability to carry out their duties in a professional and competent manner.

*Respect Specifically, Officials shall:*

- Treat all players, coaches and other officials as persons of innate worth and respect any difference based on age, gender, ethnicity, race, culture, religious belief or other difference.
- In the course of their duties safeguard the respect of players and coaches based on age, gender, ethnicity, race, culture, religious belief or other difference and deal with any infringements of these rights in the context of the Laws of the game or the rules of BC Soccer.
- Take the necessary preventative actions so as not to allow themselves to be compromised by events or situations where individuals respect or dignity could be undermined in the context of age, gender, disability etc.

*Responsibility Specifically, Officials shall:*

- Be aware of their responsibilities to the players and teams in the game at which they are officiating and to the League(s) to which they are assigned and to the Canadian Soccer Association and BC Soccer.
- Shall be responsible for their actions, and assure themselves, as far as possible, that they carry out their duties to the best of their ability.
- Shall carry out their duties in a responsible, professional and respectful manner.
- Behave in professional activities in such a way as not to undermine public confidence in their profession.
- Protect the reputation of the profession and the Canadian Soccer Association and BC Soccer by ensuring that all professional activities carried out conforms to the provisions of this Code of Ethics & Conduct.

Team personnel / Referee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date (DD / MM / YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_