

BRANTFORD CITY SOCCER CLUB
MEMBER OF BRANTFORD MINOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION
BRANTFORD, ONTARIO, CANADA
RULES OF OPERATION

A: MEETINGS: More information can be found on the club website. www.brantfordcitysoccer.ca

B: PLAYER REGULATIONS:

Any youth in the City of Brantford and neighbouring areas shall be eligible for playing membership, subject to the approval of the Club Directors.

All the registrations shall be made on a standardized form to be provided by the Club and all information called for by said form shall be furnished.

Completed registration forms and fees must be given to the Registrar before players compete in any game.

The fiscal year shall end on October 31 of each year, and all persons indebted to the Club must meet their obligations by that date or cease to be members in good standing.

The age groups applicable to all youth soccer played through the Province of Ontario shall be followed by the Club.

For all divisions a coach may protect their own child or the child of 1 assistant coach or a sponsor's child or 1 player that they wish to request.

C: GENERAL RULES:

COACHES

The duties of coaches will include: 1) training players in the art of soccer, sportsmanship, physical fitness, and ensuring each player is given equal opportunity to participate. This entails a minimum of half a game playing time each and every game and practice (excluding disciplinary circumstances).

2) To keep in good condition all soccer balls, goalie shirts, and equipment bestowed by the Club and to return all equipment to the Club when requested either on the date scheduled for equipment return or a date arranged with the office.

If a coach finds at the last minute that they cannot make any commitment (game/practice), it is said coach's responsibility to find their own substitute.

Coaches are to report in writing all injuries immediately to the Brantford City Soccer Club office at: bcsc@bellnet.ca.

A coach may not cancel any game in the house league schedule. In a case of an emergency, the coach will inform the office, who will inform the other coach, referee scheduler and statistician. The Referee Scheduler informs the referee if a game is cancelled.

The game sheet must be provided by the coaches, and be fully completed, to the referee before the start of the game.

ALL COACHES ARE REQUIRED TO HAND IN PLAYER RATINGS TO THE OFFICE NO LATER THEN 30 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE SEASON. PLEASE REMEMBER THESE RATINGS ARE VERY IMPORTANT AS WE USE THEM TO KEEP OUR HOUSE LEAGUE TEAMS EVENLY BALANCED.

REFEREES:

Referees must be thoroughly conversant with the rules of the game, and must be approved by the Club.

Referees shall oversee the game, monitoring time, tabulating scores, and recording goal scorers. They must sign and fully complete the bottom portion of the game sheet provided. If a referee cannot keep their appointment, the referee must notify the scheduler forty-eight (48) hours in advance. The scheduler will then find a replacement. The only exception to this is for Ontario Cup, C.S.A., Ontario Soccer and District Cup games.

Any action detrimental to the game shall be reported by the referee to the office within forty-eight (48) hours of the games conclusion.

The referee must sign and collect the properly completed game sheets and return them to the scheduler by the first of the following month.

Referees are requested to observe rules the rules stipulated under the team rules section of this document. In addition to the foregoing, referees will be subject to rules laid down in the Club's Constitution.

Where a referee fails to keep an appointment, unless there is extenuating circumstances, the referee shall be subject to a fine equal to the sum which would have been received had they refereed the game.

Where a referee is late for a game; i.e. not ready to start fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, unless there are extenuating circumstances, they will be subject to a fine of half their game fee.

D: TEAM RULES:

The maximum number of players on a team roster at any one time is to be decided by the Club Directors.

Players shall be enrolled onto teams by the Registrar and/or Club Directors only.

Requests to play with specific players or on specific teams will not necessarily be granted. Each player has been assigned a rating based on their skill level and the players are distributed evenly to the teams based on these ratings.

No player may be transferred from one team to another without the authorization of the House League/Mini Division Director.

Health Cards, Birth Certificates, Passports or other evidence acceptable to the Registrar shall be accepted as proof of age. The burden of proof of age shall rest with the player, if required.

All players shall wear regulation soccer equipment for all games. Shin Pads are MANDATORY for all divisions.

All players must wear numbered shirts for all games. No two (2) players on the same team shall wear the same number, nor shall any player change their shirt number during a game without the consent of the referee. Numbers shall be a minimum of six (6) inches in height and of a contrasting colour from the body of the shirt.

Each team shall have its own colour, and all teams shall be required to play in the registered colours, to the greatest extent possible, except the goaltender who shall wear a distinguishing sweater furnished by Brantford City Soccer Club. In the event of both teams using similar colours, the home team will change their colours. The home team is responsible for providing the game ball.

No team or members of a team shall approach prospective donors for trophies without the consent of the Club's Directors.

All games shall be following the laws of the game and in accordance with the rules of Ontario Soccer unless amended by the Club's by-laws.

Copies of schedules will be forwarded to all team coaches and the league scheduler. No further notification of games will be considered necessary by the Club Directors.

The duration of games as laid down by Ontario Soccer will be used. U9-11 two (2) thirty (30) minute halves; U12-13 & U14-16 two (2) forty (40) minutes halves; U17-21, two (2) forty-five (45) minute halves.

The Club Director's will decide the size of the ball to be used in Club play as per Ontario Soccer rules.

Substitutes are permitted according to the laws of the game provided in Ontario Soccer rules and Club rules. BCSC rules allow unlimited substitutions for house league games.

All games must start promptly, no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time. Referees must use their discretion in enforcing this rule and report any breach of these rules to the Referee Scheduler.

Teams must attend all games, regardless of weather, unless otherwise authorized.

Each team is to provide a linesman for all Club games and preliminary rounds of playoff competitions.

The Referee Scheduler will appoint linesmen and referees for all semi-final and final games if possible.

Any match will not be valid if there are fewer than seven (7) players on either of the teams to start the game. The team with seven (7) or more players will receive three (3) points for the game, with a recorded score of 1-0.

All games having to be abandoned before the start of the second half (sole judge shall be the referee) will be null and void and shall be played again by arrangement. Upon half time, the score will stand and the game will not be replayed.

Any team defaulting a game or leaving the field of play during a game will lose the points of said game, with such points being awarded to the opposing team. They may also be liable for further disciplinary measures as the Disciplinary Committee may deem fit. The default game score will be 1 – 0.

Any player given a red card and banished from the game by the referee will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Ontario Soccer Directive. The player will automatically miss their next scheduled house league game. Additional games may be missed after meeting with the Disciplinary Committee depending on why the red card was given.

In the event of a team intentionally playing an ineligible player, the games points shall be awarded to the opponent, with the score to be determined by the Club's Directors and the coach may be notified to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further action.

A cancelled game will be re-scheduled, by the administrator, if time permits, or if the game could make a difference in the final standings.

Any outside team playing in the BCSC is to submit its list of players prior to the start of the season and no changes are to be made without approval of the BCSC Directors.

All U9-U21 results to be governed by a mercy rule. If an eight (8) goal or more differential is achieved at any time the leading team will be declared the winner. At this point the game will be called.

If at any time the referee deems that game has got out of control the referee has the right to call the game. THE REFEREE'S DECISION IS FINAL AND WILL NOT BE CHANGED.

E: COMPETITION RULES:

If any team drops out of the league the games played by the team shall be declared null and void in the League standings.

Points shall be awarded based on the results of the game: with 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.

Should two or more teams finish with an equal total of points in the standings they will both be declared League Champions and be awarded any applicable medal/trophy. The following will be used to determine seeding in the standings for the playoff schedule:

- 1) Win/Loss/Tie Record of each tied team
- 2) Goal Differential (Goals For minus Goals Against)
- 3) Coin Toss

Playoffs will be decided on position of teams in the standings at the end of each season. The Club's Directors will decide on playoff requirements.

In the event of a tie at the end of a completed playoff game, the game will proceed straight to penalty shots and proceed as per Ontario Soccer rules. For all championship games on Finals Day, if the score is tied at the end of regulation time, overtime shall be two (2) five (5) minute halves. If the result is still tied after overtime, the game will be decided by penalty shots and proceed as per Ontario Soccer rules.

The referee shall choose the goal at which all the penalty kicks shall be taken.

Each team shall take five (5) penalty kicks; the kicks shall be taken alternately. If, after each team has taken five (5) penalty kicks, each has scored the same number of goals, the taking of penalty kicks shall continue in sudden death format, in the same order.

Each kick shall be taken by a different player, and not until all eligible players of any team have taken a kick may a player of the same team take a second kick.

The referees shall toss a coin, and the team captain who wins the toss shall take the first kick.

The team which scores the greater number of goals shall be declared the winner.

Only those players on the field at the end of the game or extra time shall be eligible to take part in the taking of the penalty kicks.

Other than the player taking the kick, and both goalkeepers, all coaches and players shall remain within the centre circle while the taking of penalty kicks is in progress.

In the event of circumstances making the above procedure impossible, ie: atmospheric conditions, with the sole judge being the referee, the extra time may be dispensed with and the game will go directly to penalty kicks.

F: MINI SOCCER:

MINI SOCCER WILL BE PLAYED IN THE FOLLOWING DIVISIONS: TINY TOTS, U5/6, U7/8 BOYS, U7/8 GIRLS, U9-11 BOYS, AND U9-11 GIRLS.

Coaches or assistant coaches along with their players are only allowed in the designated team area. **All spectators must sit on the opposite side of the fields to the players, and the coaches are responsible for making sure this happens. No one is to be behind the goal nets. There will be no parent/guardian permitted on the playing field for all divisions. The field is permitted for coaches, assistants and players. Tiny Tot & U5/6 coaches are permitted on playing field.**

Requests to play with specific players or on specific teams will not necessarily be granted but will be given consideration depending on the division the player falls under. Each player has been assigned a rating based on their skill level and the players are distributed evenly to the team based on these ratings.

No official standing will be kept for the Tiny Tots through to the U7/8 division. The mini soccer committee, being the Convenors of the divisions, will keep only unofficial standings to help the progression of players through the club.

Press reports will not contain a score. The coach of the home team will list the names of the team along with three (3) players from each team who were the "stars" of the match. Please see attached sheet in this package regarding reporting entries to the Expositor.

MINI RULES:

The game will be divided as follows:

Tiny Tots (U3/4): Each Tiny Tot session will be thirty (30) minutes in length and consist of a game. There will be no practices. The game will consist of two (2) twelve-and-a-half minute (12.5) halves and a half-time. Player substitutions will be done by the coach as needed throughout the game. One (1) coach per team may remain on the field at all times.

U 5/6: Each game will consist of two (2) twenty (20) minute halves and a five (5) minute half-time. Player substitutions will be every five (5) minutes throughout the game. Kick-ins are used. One (1) coach per team may remain on the field at all times.

U 7/8: Each game will consist of two (2) twenty (20) minute halves and a five (5) minute half-time. Player substitutions can be done on any team's kick-ins, goal kicks or goals.

U9-11: Each game will consist of two (2) thirty (30) minute halves and a five (5) minute break. Player substitutions will be done on any team's throw-ins, goal kicks or goals.

NOTE: The home team kicks off to start the game. There is no coin toss. Time will not stop during player changes at the scheduled intervals but will continue. Substituting will take place at the referee's discretion, or injuries accepted. Each player will participate in a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

There are five (5) players allowed on the field in the Tiny Tot program. There is no minimum number or players required to play a Tiny Tot game.

There are seven (7) (U5/6, U7/8), nine (9) (U9-11) players allowed on the field, one of which will be the goalie. In the U5 – U11 divisions, the minimum number of players a team can play with is five.

No off-side will apply in the mini divisions.

The normal throw-in rule will apply with one (1) re-throw-in allowed for the U9-11. There will be no throw-ins for the Tiny Tots–U8. Kick-ins will be used instead.

Refereeing – The club will provide neutral officials when possible. Otherwise, the two coaches will choose a third person to act as a referee. The referee will have complete charge of the game and the coaches, players and parents will abide by their decisions.

The Retreat Line will apply for the U5–U8 divisions. Please see the attached hand out for a definition and diagram of the Retreat Line Concept.

The ball will be considered “frozen” immediately when the referee, using their discretion, considers that it is “in the possession of” the keeper.

Any player may re-start play from a goal kick or otherwise in the six (6) yard area.

U3 – U11: A goal can be scored from anywhere on the playing field.

The goalkeeper can be changed at any time, in accordance with the division's normal substitution procedure.

The goalkeeper cannot pick the ball up outside the six (6) yard area, but may kick the ball into play.

Goal kicks may be taken from any point inside the six (6) yard area, but once positioned, must be taken from there.

On taking the goal kick, no opponent is to be closer to the six (6) yard area marking than ten (10) yards; but the opposing player may move as soon as the kick is taken. A defender may be within the ten (10) yard zone to receive the kick.

Penalty shots are to be taken from a spot directly in front of the midpoint of the goal, six (6) yards out.

HOUSE LEAGUE RULES

U12/13 & U14-16: Each game will consist of two (2) forty (40) minute halves with a five (5) minute half-time. Player substitutions can be done on throw-ins, goal kicks or goals.

U17-21 & Open Women: Each game will consist of two (2) forty-five (45) minute halves with a five (5) minute half-time. Player substitutions can be done on throw-ins, goal kicks or goals.

A minimum of 7 players must be on the field for the game to be officially played. If a team does not have the minimum of 7 players they will forfeit the game.

The BCSC Zero Tolerance Policy is in effect. Coaches, managers, team officials and parents shall not criticize the game official(s) at any time and shall encourage the same attitude amongst all the players, parents and supporters. Any person not abiding by this policy will be subject to discipline by the BCSC Disciplinary Committee.

The game sheet must be provided by each coach, and presented to the referee before the start of the game.

Any decision not differentiated in the above rules is to be governed by the BCSC Directors.

G: GAME PROTESTS:

In all games under the jurisdiction of the BCSC, in matters of judgment, the decision of the referee shall be final and no protests shall be entered.

In matters of law, the FIFA law, by-laws of the C.S.A., Ontario Soccer, District Association, and the Club's competition rules shall be adhered to.

Protests relating to matters of law must be noted on the game sheet and should be signed by the two (2) coaches and the referee at the end of the match.

The office must be notified within twenty-four (24) hours of the protest.

The Director's must call a special meeting of three (3) members of the Board of Director's within seventy-two (72) hours of the protest.

All parties involved will be advised by telephone twenty-four (24) hours prior to the special committee meeting.

Further appeals shall be submitted in accordance with Section 12 of the Ontario Soccer Constitution with appropriate deposits. The responsibility, in all aspects, shall remain with the person making the appeal.

H: NOTES:

ALL MATTERS NOT HEREIN PROVIDED FOR OR OF AN EMERGENT NATURE, SHALL BE DECIDED BY THE CLUB DIRECTOR'S IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ONTARIO SOCCER CONSTITUTION.