



AUGUST 2023

PLAYING REGULATIONS – MEN’S SOCCER

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1. COMPETITION

1.1. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

The U SPORTS Men’s Soccer Championship shall have a total of eleven (11) games taking place over four (4) days. There will be eight (8) teams in a quarterfinal knockout format that includes a 3<sup>rd</sup> place game and a consolation 5<sup>th</sup> place game (if time allows), but no 7<sup>th</sup> place game.

1.2. CHAMPIONSHIP BERTH STRUCTURE

The Berth Structure is the makeup of the teams that qualify to the National Championship tournament and will include at minimum, a Host and Conference Champions.

1.3. TEAMS

The participating teams for the **2023** Championship will be as follows:

- AUS Champion
- OUA Champion
- RSEQ Champion
- CW Champion
- **Host (Cape Breton University)**
- **One (1) assigned berth to CW (*must be conference medalist*)**
- One (1) assigned berth to RSEQ (*must be a conference medalist*)
- One (1) assigned berth to OUA (*must be a conference medalist*)

1.4. SEEDING AND DRAW

1.4.1. SEEDING PRINCIPLES

The Men’s Soccer seeding principles are as follows:

1. Results of conference playoffs must be respected
2. Conference champions must be seeded in the top 4 spots
3. Conference match ups will be avoided in the 1<sup>st</sup> round for the top 2 qualifiers from each conference
4. Where possible, teams from one conference will not play the same teams as the other team from that conference (ex: CW 1 plays RSEQ 2, so CW 2 would not play RSEQ 1)



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1.4.2. DRAW

The draw is defined as how a team is scheduled into the National Championship tournament.

1 vs 8  
4 vs 5  
2 vs 7  
3 vs 6

The U SPORTS Office shall follow the criteria and procedures below in establishing the Championship draw.

1.4.2.1. DRAW CRITERIA

After the current year's U SPORTS Championship, the 4 Conference Champions will be assigned a seeding order of #1 through #4 based on the final Top Ten of the season. The highest ranked conference champion will be seeded #1, followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ranked conference champion etc. Games A through D will each have a Sport Conference champion in the game. After placing the top 4 conferences in Games A to D, the next highest ranked conference runner-up would be put into the 5<sup>th</sup> seed. If the conference champion from their conference is seeded #1 or #4 then they would be put into the 6<sup>th</sup> position to be on the opposite side of the draw as their sport conference champion. The next highest ranked team in the Top Ten would be seeded 5<sup>th</sup>, and again, if their conference champion is ranked #1 or #4, they would move to the #7 seed.

The host and the 3 assigned berths are to be put on opposite sides of the draw as the team ranked as the #1 team from each Sport Conference. Exception: The #1 seed will not play the host institution in the first game...the host would be put against the #4 seed if on that side of the draw.) Therefore, each team ranked as the #1 team from each Sport Conference would be paired against a different Sport Conference's Runner-Up (2<sup>nd</sup> Place) team or the Host.

1.4.2.2. DRAW PROCEDURES

1. Immediately following the completion of the Sport Conference championships, the U SPORTS office will release the final seeding and schedule.
2. The championship schedule is to be reviewed by the STSC prior to the release and once approved the schedule will be final.



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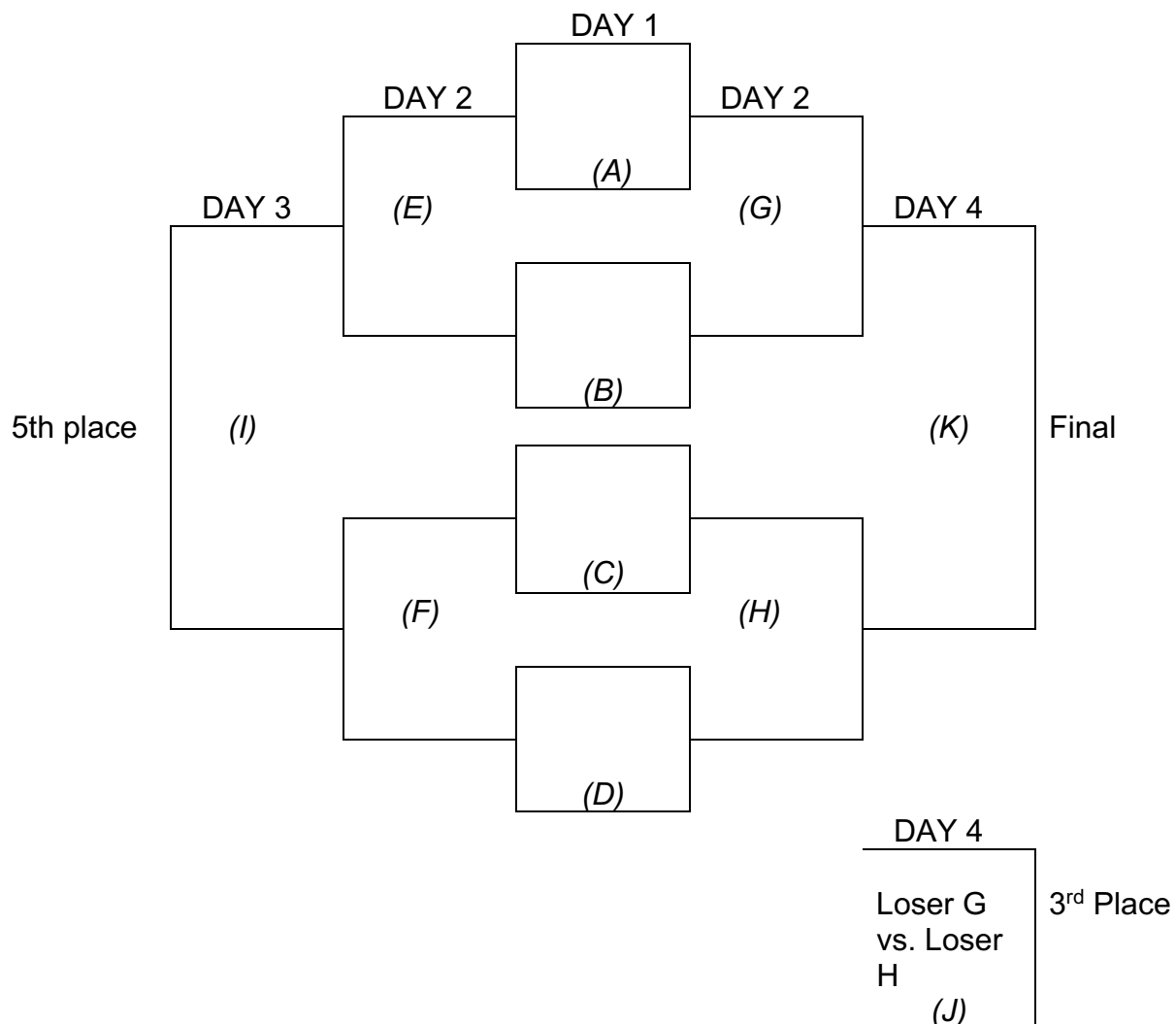
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3. There shall be no appeal of decisions regarding seeding/draw.
4. Any member institution that releases this information prior to the embargo established by the U SPORTS office will be fined \$500.00.

1.5. FORMAT

The Format of a National Championship will depend on the sport and will encompass a wide range of aspects including:

1. Style of the Championship (single elimination, pool play, etc.)
2. Number of participating Teams
3. Number of days the Championship will take place





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Note 1: To ensure the integrity of the draw, the structure of the brackets must be maintained (i.e. Game A and Game B must always stay together and Game C and Game D must always stay together) so that common rest times are protected. Game A and Game B can however be moved to the bottom side of the draw, allowing Game C and Game D to move to the top side of the draw.

Note 2: Without affecting the integrity of the draw, games in the upper half of the draw can be switched to accommodate travel and time zone adjustment (i.e. Canada West teams traveling east). If the teams playing are not impacted by the time zone change then there can be no switching of game times.

**1.6. SCHEDULES OR ORDER OF EVENTS**

The final schedule is at the discretion of the Host Committee working in consultation with the U SPORTS Office.

**1.7. GAME TIMES**

U SPORTS Office and the Host Organizing Committee are to determine game start times based on facility availability and broadcast/television requirements. In all situations, a minimum of 20 minutes shall be allowed between games from the end of the preceding game to the beginning of the next game. No games can be held earlier than 11:00am, while the final should be held no later than 2:00pm so teams can potentially depart on Sunday evening.

Each game will be played with 2 x 45-minute halves, and a fifteen (15) minute half time.

**1.8. PRACTICE TIMES / WARM-UPS**

A minimum of 45 minutes must be provided, per team, at the competition venue starting at least one day prior to the start of the championship. Consideration will be given to teams traveling as it relates to time zones. All of the declared eligible players are allowed to warm-up.

Teams in the three (3) last games on Day 1 will be permitted to warm-up without balls in the end zone or track area of the field of play (this is done to ensure teams have adequate warm up should games prior move into overtime).

**1.9. OVERTIME, TIMEOUTS & TIE-BREAKING**

All games must be played to a positive result. If a game is tied at the end of regulation time the following will apply.



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1. All Quarter-final, Semi-final and Gold Medal Games:

At the end of regulation time two (2) 15-minutes halves will be played. If the score is still tied at the end of extra time, the winner shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. A team official may accompany each team to the center circle for the taking of such kicks.

2. Consolation Semi-finals, Consolation Final and Bronze Medal Games:

If the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the winner shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. A team official may accompany each team to the center circle for the taking of such kicks.

1.10. SCORING AND STANDARDS (N/A)

1.11. RECORDS AND STATISTICS

The Sport Conference Commissioner/Convener/Statistician will provide the Host Committee with a current card status for all Sport Conference and playoff games for all participating players. Participating coaches must produce a good legible copy of their last game sheet to determine if any athletes have received a red card in that game.

1.11.1. PLAY-OFFS / U SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.11.1.1. All suspensions resulting from Conference playoffs (yellow card accumulation, red cards or coach/staff ejections) for teams participating in the U SPORTS Championship are applied & enforced at the U SPORTS Championship. If a coach were ejected in their last game prior to the U SPORTS Championship, then they would be suspended for the first game of the U SPORTS Championship. **In the event that a suspension is being served during the Championship, it is the responsibility of the participating institution to inform the Host.**

1.11.1.2. All yellow cards are erased at the end of the conference season including playoffs, with the exception of red card suspensions, which are carried forward to the U SPORTS Championship.

1.11.1.3. The accumulation of two yellow cards in one game at the U SPORTS Championship will result in being ejected from that game and an automatic minimum one game suspension. All red cards issued during the games of the U SPORTS Championship shall result in a minimum one game suspension.



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Further suspensions will apply if warranted by the Championship Management Committee.

1.11.1.4. The accumulation of three yellow cards in the games of the U SPORTS Championship (excluding yellow cards that lead to a red card) will result in a one game suspension. The player receiving the three yellow cards will be required to serve the one game suspension in their next regularly scheduled game in their Sport Conference. The U SPORTS Delegate is to notify the Conference at the end of the Championship of any suspensions owing.

1.11.1.5. All red cards issued in the games of the Championship shall result in a minimum one game suspension. Further suspensions will apply if warranted, as deemed appropriate by the Championship Management Committee. A player or coach receiving a red card in the final game or from any resulting outstanding suspension will be required to serve the game suspensions in their next regular season league game in their Sport Conference.

## **2. CHAMPIONSHIP ROSTER**

2.1. Each championship team can declare up to twenty-two (22) players from their most recently submitted U SPORTS Eligibility Form. Teams may dress any eighteen (18) of these players. No changes/additions can be made to this list once submitted.

2.2. The Host Organizing Committee will supply a form to each Head Coach for each game, with a list of the already declared twenty-two (22) players.

### **2.3. GAME DAY ROSTERS**

2.3.1. Coaches must identify their eighteen (18) players and declare their starters to the Host Organizing Committee 60 minutes prior to start of game.

2.3.2. In the event a player is injured prior to kick-off, the player can be replaced by a substitute and the injured player is still eligible to play in the match.

2.3.3. The Host Organizing Committee will complete the game sheet for both teams at the end of warm-up OR no less than 10 minutes prior to the start of the game (whichever comes first). The Head coach must sign off on the final game sheet.

## **3. TEAM BENCH**

A team can have a maximum of 25 team members in the team bench area including athletes, coaches and support staff.



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Note: Any team member above the 25 is considered a spectator and will sit in the stands.

3.1. TEAM DESIGNATION

3.1.1. The identification of home and away teams will be based on the championship seeding. The higher seeded team is the home team, and the home team will have the choice of colors.

3.1.2. The higher seeded team will also have the choice of bench.

3.2. INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY(N/A)

3.3. INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES (N/A)

3.4. INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS (N/A)

3.5. TEAM ENTRIES (N/A)

3.6. TEAM RANKINGS (N/A)

4. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY

4.1. BALL

**There is currently no official U SPORTS Soccer Game Ball.**

4.2. RECORDING OF GAMES

4.2.1. GAME FILM

4.2.1.1. FIRST ROUND OPPONENT

**Pre-Championship: First round opponents must exchange downloadable recordings (mp4 file or comparable) of their final two (2) matches prior to the U SPORTS National Championship. The recording must be uploaded to the identified U SPORTS shared folder no later than Monday at 12:00 pm EST. Teams will have access to their opponent’s game film for downloading once both teams have completed the uploading process.**

4.2.1.2. HOST REQUIREMENT

The Host must record all games at the U SPORTS National Championship and provide the recordings to each participating team and the officials at the conclusion of each match and no later than 90 minutes after the final whistle.



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4.3. UNIFORMS

Teams must travel to the Championship with two sets of jerseys: one light set and one dark set.

Goalkeeper and player jerseys must be shown at the pre-championship technical meeting.

4.3.1. U SPORTS LOGO

U SPORTS reserve the right to require participants in a U SPORTS Championship to wear a U SPORTS logo on their uniforms. These logos will be provided to each team in advance of the championship. The logo must be placed on the top, right chest area of each uniform.

4.3.2. CORPORATE LOGOS

**Should any team have a corporate logo on their jersey, they must send a photo to the U SPORTS Office (Director of Sport) prior to the conclusion of their conference playoffs for approval by the CEO. Teams who do not provide this will not be approved to wear corporate logos on their uniforms and must remove / cover prior to competition.**

4.3.3. NUMBERING

Player uniforms, including the goalkeeper's must be numbered. Numbers must be on the front and back of tops, while shorts must also be numbered. Numbers must be in contrasting color to the uniform color (easily distinguishable from the predominant background color and pattern).

Suggested size requirements:

- Back of jersey - at least eight inches (20.32 cm) in height
- Front of jersey – at least four inches (10.16 cm) in height

A player cannot wear the same number as another player on the same team.

4.4. SHORTS, SOCKS, BRACES, EQUIPMENT & DRESS CODE

1. Coaches shall mutually agree, at the Technical meeting, on the color of socks, shorts and jerseys to be worn by each team throughout the championship. Each team shall have two different sets of socks and shorts, one light and one dark. Short tights are allowed under the uniform.





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2. Players shall be allowed to wear tights in adverse weather.

Undergarments/spandex:

- Light jersey – any undergarments must be white.
- Dark jersey – any undergarments must be black or the same colour as the uniform.

3. Goalkeepers must wear jerseys, shorts and socks that distinguish them from the other players and opposing goalie on the field
4. Players are allowed to wear knee braces as long as they have proper padding. A knee brace sleeve can be worn regardless of colour.
5. Players are allowed to wear ankle braces, over socks, regardless of color.
6. It is mandatory for all players to wear shin guards for safety reasons.

- 4.5. HEAD GEAR AND HELMETS (N/A)
- 4.6. CAPTAINS IDENTIFICATION (N/A)
- 4.7. DEPTH CHARTS (N/A)
- 4.8. SPOTTER PHONES (N/A)

4.9. FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 4.9.1. Wherever possible, the U SPORTS Championship shall be played on grass.
- 4.9.2. Where possible, football goal posts should be completely removed so as not to be visible in the vicinity of the field of play, or at the very least, they be removed if they interfere with the field of play.
- 4.9.3. Music can only be played before the games and a half time for all games at the Championship.
- 4.9.4. Five (5) balls will be used at the Championship, with one (1) ball in play and four (4) balls being placed around the field. In addition, 6 ball people will be used to assist with keeping the ball in play, 2 per sideline and 1 behind each net.

5. RULES

Competition shall be governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game with the following modifications:



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Substitution: A maximum of six (6) substitutions per 90 minutes of regular time, and unlimited substitutions at half time, within the eighteen (18) named players for the soccer championship (substituted players can re-enter the game). Either goalkeeper may play in the outfield. No substitution will be allowed for a player ordered from the field by the referee for misconduct.

**In the event of extra time, teams are permitted unlimited substitutions prior to and at the halfway point of the extra time period.**

Note: Host Committee must provide substitution slips for all games at the U SPORTS Championship.

6. MEETINGS

6.1. TECHNICAL MEETING

A Technical meeting will be held in person prior to the first game at a U SPORTS National Championship. Time of the meeting is at the discretion of the Host Organizing Committee.

The Head Coach from each participating team, an Officials Representative (ideally the head official or Referee Coach/Supervisor), the U SPORTS Delegate, and members of the Host Committee must attend this meeting.

The Chair of the Technical Meeting will be the U SPORTS delegate.

Note: A representative of the Official Broadcaster may be in attendance.

6.2. COACHES MEETING

An unofficial Coaches meeting may be organized and require a meeting room during the championship. Date and time of the meeting is at the discretion of the Host Organizing Committee working in consultation with the President of the Coaches Association.

Note: This is not an official U SPORTS Sport Technical Sub Committee (STSC) meeting and thus any decisions affecting U SPORTS Policy or Regulations must be sent to the STSC. This is the responsibility of the President of the Coaches Association or their designate.

7. COMMERCIAL

7.1. MEDIA CONFERENCE



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The date and time for a U SPORTS National Championship media conference is determined by U SPORTS and the Host Organizing Committee.

**8. OFFICIALS**

**8.1. FUNDED OFFICIALS**

U SPORTS will cover the cost of travel for thirteen (13) officials.

**8.2. OFFICIALS ASSIGNMENT**

Canada Soccer will be responsible for the selection of officials to the U SPORTS National Championship.

**8.3. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICIALS**

1. National Referee
2. Must have officiated at least one (1) U SPORTS game during the season
3. Grade 1 Assistant Referee

**8.4. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. To pay and provide accommodation (double occupancy or single occupancy during a Pandemic), meals (per diem), local ground transportation and game fees for the 13 funded officials. Any changes in accommodations by an official(s), resulting in additional costs, will be the responsibility of the individual(s) involved (example: a request of an official to stay on longer than required).
2. To provide, at their cost, local ground transportation for the Referee Coaches/Assignors/Evaluators to and from the championship venues, as required.
3. To arrange for accommodation for any Referee Coaches/Assignors/Evaluators at the same hotel as the other officials. The host will make arrangements directly with Canada Soccer.
4. Per diems for game officials will be covered by the Championship Host Committee at the following approved U SPORTS rates: \$55.00 per day per official [(B)\$10.00, (L)\$20.00 and (D)\$25.00] unless complimentary meals are provided.



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5. To provide a tournament accreditation pass to the assigned Referee Coaches/Assignors/Evaluators allowing them access to the venue and competition court. There should be designated seats provided to the Referee Coaches at either the scorer’s table or at a raised media table close to or directly behind the scorer’s table.

**8.4.1. GAME DAY REQUIREMENTS**

- 8.4.1.1. Dressing room and shower facilities at the competition site.
- 8.4.1.2. Towels for after game showers.
- 8.4.1.3. Refreshments for half time and post-game (water, Gatorade, fruit, cereal bars, etc.). These items can be left of their dressing room.
- 8.4.1.4. A separate room, with a large monitor, for post-game feedback for the referees and the Referee Coaches.

**8.5. NSO RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. To cover the cost of accommodation, meals, and transportation for the Referee coaches/assignors/evaluators.
2. To provide to the Championship Host Committee an invoice for the total amount of fees and per diems in advance of the championship (should include per diems for a minimum of 5 days). The invoice should be sent to the Championship Host Committee 30 days in advance of the championship.

**8.6. FEES**

Referee: \$80.00 each/game  
Assistant Referee: \$40.00 each/game  
4<sup>th</sup> Official: \$40.00 each/game

**8.7. SELECTION PROCESS**

Canada Soccer shall submit to the U SPORTS Office the appointments no later than 30 days prior to the championship.

**8.8. ON-SITE OFFICIALS ASSIGNMENT**

- 8.8.1. The (lead) Referee Coach(es) Assignor(s) / Evaluator(s) will attend the pre-championship Technical meeting. Only technical issues relating to officiating will be



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discussed. Opinions on the quality of officiating and individuals will not be discussed at this meeting. There will be no other meetings between coaches and Referee Coaches once the championship begins.

8.8.2. All games will be assigned according to ability as determined by the Referee Coaches.

**9. SEASON AND CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS**

*\*Please refer to policy 60.20 for more details re standard championship awards.*

**9.1. ALL-CANADIANS**

9.1.1. Selected by the Awards Selection Committee

9.1.2. Eleven (11) first team and eleven (11) second team.

9.1.3. Each Sport Conference will submit seven (7) nominations to the U SPORTS Office in the provided nomination template 2 weeks prior to the Championship

9.1.4. Each Sport Conference’s MVP will automatically be awarded a First Team All-Canadian.

9.1.5. To win the national award, the athlete must have been named to the All-Star team in their Sport Conference, if such a team is named.

**9.2. OUTSTANDING PLAYER OF THE YEAR (JOE JOHNSON MEMORIAL TROPHY)**

9.2.1. The All-Canadian who received the most votes.

9.2.2. To win the national award the athlete must have won the player of the year award in their sport conference, if such an award exists.

**9.3. ROOKIE OF THE YEAR (LOU BILEK AWARD) & ALL-ROOKIE TEAM)**

9.3.1. Selected by the Awards Selection Committee

9.3.2. Each Sport Conference submits one nomination for Rookie of the Year with supporting information to the U SPORTS Office, along with their Top 3 Rookies as per conference voting.

9.3.3. Student-Athletes must be in their first year of U SPORTS eligibility and be 21 years of age or under as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of that current year.



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9.3.4. To win the national award the athlete must have won the rookie of the year award in their sport conference, if such an award exists.

9.3.5. The All-Rookie Team will be made up of the Top 3 Rookies from each conference for a total of 12 athletes.

**9.4. STUDENT-ATHLETE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

9.4.1. Selected by the Award Selection Committee, following the same timelines as the All-Canadian selection process

9.4.2. Each Sport Conference must include with their nomination a bio outlining the three areas listed above.

9.4.3. A student-athlete may only win the award once.

9.4.4. To win the national award the athlete must have won the same award in their sport conference, if such an award exists.

9.4.5. Recipient who best exhibits outstanding achievements in three (3) areas: soccer, academics, and community involvement.

**9.5. COACH OF THE YEAR**

9.5.1. Selected by the Award Selection Committee.

9.5.2. Each Sport Conference submits one nomination with supporting information to the U SPORTS Office.

9.5.3. To win the national award the coach must have won the coach of the year award in their sport conference, if such an award exists.

**9.6. CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY (SAM DAVIDSON MEMORIAL TROPHY) & U SPORTS PENNANT**

Presented to the U SPORTS Championship Team.

**9.7. CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS**

Presented to the top 3 teams in the U SPORTS Championship (gold, silver, bronze).

**9.8. CHAMPIONSHIP MVP**



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9.8.1. Selected by a 3-person committee established by the Host. Best efforts should be made to include non-participating coaches attending the Championship.

9.8.2. Selection based on the student-athletes’ performance at the U SPORTS Championship

9.8.3. Must be a member of the Tournament All-Star Team.

**9.9. CHAMPIONSHIP ALL STAR TEAM**

9.9.1. Selected by a 3-person committee established by the Host. Best efforts should be made to include non-participating coaches attending the Championship.

9.9.2. Selection based on the student-athletes’ performance at the U SPORTS Championship

**9.10. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYERS OF THE GAME**

9.10.1. One player from each team will be picked as the player of the game.

9.10.2. A designated committee or the Head Coaches of the participating teams will select the Player of the game for the opposing team.

**9.11. FAIR PLAY AWARD (R.W. PUGH)**

9.11.1. Presented annually to the team at the U SPORTS Championship with the best discipline record.

9.11.2. Selected by members of the Coaches Association in conjunction with the Host Organizing Committee.

**10. COMMITTEES**

**10.1. AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The Award Selection Committee is to be chaired by the Coaches Association President. The Committee will be made up of the four (4) Sport Technical Sub Committee coach representatives.

This committee will select the recipients of the following awards:

- All-Canadians (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team)
- Outstanding Player of the Year
- Rookie of the Year and All-Rookie Team



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- Student-Athlete Community Service Award
- Coach of the Year

Note: If a Coach of the Year Nominee is part of the Award Selection Committee they will not have a vote in that category.

## **10.2. CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **10.2.1 Role of the Committee**

The Management Committee shall rule on all matters necessary for the championship to proceed and will, in addition, act as the Protest Committee during the U SPORTS National Championship. The Management Committee shall apply U SPORTS Rules. The Management Committee may not, nor may any member, make an exception to any U SPORTS Rule or to a sanction imposed by U SPORTS. The Management Committee has no jurisdiction to consider or interpret U SPORTS Eligibility Regulations.

### **10.2.2 Composition of the Management Committee shall be:**

1. Championship Convener
2. U SPORTS Delegate;
3. Head Official (or designate from officials’ group);
4. President of the Coaches Association, or designate.

A quorum shall require all four members, or their replacement.

### **10.2.3 Disciplinary Action**

If a member of the Management Committee was involved, directly or indirectly, in a decision or an interpretation of a U SPORTS Rule that is being appealed/protested to the Management Committee that member shall be excused from the Management Committee. In this event, the remaining members of the Management Committee have the authority to appoint as a replacement for the excused member an individual who is independent, unbiased and uninvolved in the matter in dispute. The decision regarding whether a member of the Management Committee should be excused and replaced lies solely with the Management Committee.

Notwithstanding the procedures described in U SPORTS policy 90.70.4.1.1 , the U SPORTS Championship Management Committee shall have the authority to take interim on-the-spot measures to address minor code of conduct issues (inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct that is not criminal in nature) that arise at U SPORTS Championships, in a timely fashion and communicated with U SPORTS immediately. The record of the incident, including the interim measures taken to





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address it shall be copied to the Athletic Director(s) of the affected school(s), and the U SPORTS office and Discipline Committee.

It is the expectation of U SPORTS that persons representing Member institutions, and/or U SPORTS, at U SPORTS Championships will behave responsibly, and with propriety, and in accordance with the laws of the land.

10.3. JURY OF APPEAL (N/A)

10.4. DELEGATES (N/A)

11. APPENDICES (N/A)