

**ONTARIO SOCCER**  
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# Long Term Officials Development

## Communication

### Frequently Asked Questions

March 1, 2017

## Communication

### **What literature and resources will be made available?**

As part of the rollout of the Long Term Officials Development program, information will be on the Ontario Soccer website under the Long Term Officials Development page (<http://www.ontariosoccer.net/referee/long-term-official-development>). These will be shared directly with your District Referee Coordinator, and will be shared with Clubs by the District Association.

### **When is Long Term Officials Development rolling out? And how?**

This is a 5 year program implementation.

Year 1 will be spent on the collection of data, meeting with officials and decision makers, determining the education requirements of each grade, creating a club contact database, and the baseline evaluations of all Development Support Team members (assessors, instructors, mentors, assignors etc.).

Year 2 will focus on the education of the leaders at the District and Club level (including assignors), training program for Club Head Referees and District Referee Coordinators, and we will be determining the education levels of all Match Officials by introducing a mandatory education baseline module.

Years 3 will be the start of building the online education and the introduction of the Provincial Scouting program. Year 4 & 5 activities will be further determined, as we move forward in the program, with a goal of Program Launch in late 2020/early 2021.

The Ontario Soccer Marketing and Communications Department has created a Communication Plan that includes close collaboration with District Associations and Clubs.

Once the program structure is finalized, we will have a simple progress document that clearly outlines what is needed to reduce any confusion. Material will be regularly updated on the Ontario Soccer Long Term Officials Development page, and District websites.

**More information on the education of parents and coaches. It would be interesting to hear how Ontario Soccer plans to work with these groups.**

We have started this process in 2016, and in 2017 we will be expanding by working with League1, OPDL, OUA and TFC Academy.

When the Regional Standards Based Leagues begin in 2018, we will create a plan to work with their coaches and players.

Some Clubs have already introduced education of parents and coaches to their programs. We will be collecting best practices from those Clubs and sharing the information with the other Clubs across the province. As an integral part of Long Term Officials Development, coach and parent education will become part of annual compliance requirements, and the District Associations will have to ensure that this training is occurring at the Club level.

**When was LTOD introduced, as several board members of my Club were surprised to hear that a Long Term Officials Development was even being implemented?**

Long Term Officials Development was introduced to the Ontario Soccer Board of Directors as recently as December 2016. It has only been officially communicated since January 5, 2017 - therefore we do not expect everyone to know about Long Term Officials Development at this time. That is why we are spending January to May travelling to Districts to deliver the LTOD presentations.

**How would/could we involve all different parties of soccer in the program and encourage them to participate?**

To help with the communication, we are hosting Long Term Officials Development Regional Sessions that we invite all Clubs and District Associations to attend. We are also available to come to your Club and talk to your leaders. It will also be part of the duties of the Regional Champions and DRCs to assist with this Club communication.

**What steps are being taken to ensure that the Eastern District Associations are receiving the same level of attention as the GTA?**

Our outreach includes areas outside of GTA. We understand that this is not a cookie cutter system, as each District Association and Club has their own unique circumstances.

OPDL franchises in the East will be approached in 2018 regarding the sharing of practical field time in the pre-season. We have Regional Champions in every area of the province, and the East has 2 at this time. Eastern

District DRCs are also very much involved with Long Term Officials Development.

**Have requirements of the Soccer For Life Pathway been fully rolled out yet?**

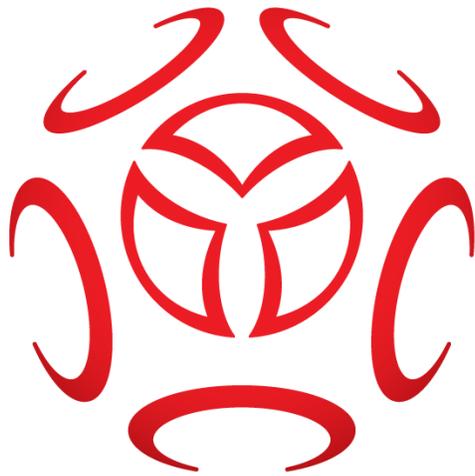
This is a 5 year plan, and we have to walk before we run. We want to ensure we can succeed at each step before we move forward. The Soccer For Life Pathway will be given the same opportunities and resources as the Talented Pathway.

The requirements, and commitment to education and fitness will be higher on the Talented Pathway than on the Soccer For Life pathway, but Match Officials will be equally supported at their chosen level.

The Long Term Officials Development resources are there for everyone to use. The differentiating factor is the decision of the Match Official on which pathway they choose. There will be equal investment by Ontario Soccer into each pathway.

**How can Match Officials deal with pressure from assignors to take games (under threat of not getting many future appointments)?**

The Club and District Assignors Training Program will help educate assignors and Club/District leaders on the importance of balanced assigning. Concurrently, the District Association and Clubs must have a reporting or auditing structure in place to ensure this balanced and fair assigning is occurring.



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