

## SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATIONS

### I. District Associations

Specified District Boundaries and Map can be found in the [District Boundaries Reference Document](#)

#### PROCEDURE 1.0 – DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1 Ontario Soccer will consider accepting into Active Membership, District Associations which have the following terms of reference:
- a) To affiliate with Ontario Soccer, and act as its branch association within a District boundary defined by the Board of Directors of this Association.
  - b) To promote, develop and govern the game of soccer, 11v11 Soccer, Small-Sided Soccer, Grassroots Soccer, Futsal, Beach Soccer and Accessible Soccer, in the District.
  - c) To provide play for all ages and both genders.
  - d) To administer Discipline and Appeals according to the standards of Ontario Soccer.
  - e) To implement clinics for coaches, referees, and administrators, according to the standards of Ontario Soccer.
  - f) To oversee player registration.
  - g) To appoint, or delegate the appointment of, referees for all games approved by the District Association.
  - h) To affiliate all leagues providing approved play within the District.
  - i) To approve, monitor and/or provide tournaments and festivals within the District.
  - j) To cooperate, collaborate and co-ordinate with its neighbouring District Associations to provide opportunities for competition and coaching development.

#### PROCEDURE 2.0 – REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP WITH ONTARIO SOCCER

- 2.1 A minimum of four active clubs shall be required to form a District Association.
- 2.2 A District Association shall ensure that league competition is available to all teams in its District.
- 2.3 A District Association must have a Constitution or By-Law which is in full compliance with the minimum requirements as defined in [Appendix A Model District Association Constitution](#).



## PROCEDURE 3.0 - MEMBERSHIP WITHIN A DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

- 3.1 Application for membership within a District Association shall be made annually and must include:
- The required membership fee, together with a copy of the applicant's constitution, a list of current Officers, the organization's screening and harassment policies and financial statements in the format prepared for the club's Annual General Meeting.
  - Notwithstanding Procedure 3.1 a), certain organizations shall be exempt from the requirement to submit an audited Financial Statement.
  - The application must include a signed agreement that the Member agrees to abide by the Governing Documents of Ontario Soccer and the District Association; and to abide by the decisions made by the District Association's Board of Directors elected to act on its behalf
- 3.2 Membership in the District Association shall be deemed to have been terminated if the Member fails to renew membership in accordance with this Procedure by a date specified by the District Association. Membership may only be reinstated, with approval of the District Association's Board of Directors, after all membership renewal criteria are met.

## PROCEDURE 4.0 - ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (LEAGUES AND OTHER) WITHIN A DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

- 4.1 Each District Competitive League, District Recreational League and any other Associate Member of the District Association shall annually submit its League By-Law or League Constitution to its District Association (which shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with Ontario Soccer minimum requirements) and shall submit any amendments within 60 days after the League's General Meeting at which the amendments were approved.
- 4.2 League organizations applying for membership within a District Association unless they are a Governmental organization are not permitted to have "Ontario" or "Provincial" in their organization name or its items, if any, as to not falsely represent the boundaries of operations of the organization.

## II. Leagues

### PROCEDURE 5.0 - LEAGUES

- 5.1 A League is a governing organization that:
- Shall affiliate with and is immediately subordinate to the governing organization which delegates it the right to operate;
  - Controls its teams, for league operation purposes only, in accordance with published rules;
  - Has at least one division with a minimum of four teams in each division; and
  - Operates under an executive to provide competition for teams entered in the League.
- 5.2 Unless otherwise specified in these rules, all policies and procedures apply equally to all types of leagues.



- 5.3 A League shall have a By-Law or Constitution which includes, but is not limited to, the following minimum requirements as referred to in [Appendix B Model League Constitution](#).

### III. Clubs

#### PROCEDURE 6.0 – CLUBS

- 6.1 A Club shall affiliate with a governing organization and be subject to the Published Rules of that organization.
- 6.2 A Club is a Not-for-Profit registered organization that organizes teams, registers all players, team officials and administrators of their organizations and has an elected Board of Directors.
- 6.3 A Club may not change headquarters from one District to another without the written consent of the two District Associations involved.
- 6.4 A Club must operate within the defined boundaries of their affiliated District Association unless they have obtained written permission from affected District Associations and the approval of Ontario Soccer.
- 6.5 Every Club operating teams at the Youth level and/or Grassroots soccer level shall register not less than four (4) Youth teams and/or a minimum of 4 Grassroots game day rosters.
- 6.6 All Clubs under the jurisdiction of Ontario Soccer shall place their players at the service of Ontario Soccer.
- 6.7 **Voting Rights**
- At all General Meetings of its District Association, each affiliated Club shall be entitled to voting rights based on team affiliation and player registration monies retained by that District Association or based on representation by player registration of the affiliated Club.
- 6.8 A club shall have a Constitution or By-Law which includes, but is not limited to, the following minimum requirements as outlined in [Appendix C Model Club Constitution](#)
- 6.9 **Club Head Coach**
- A person registered as a Technical Director or Club Head Coach with a Club may serve as a Team Official for any team within that Club. The Club Head Coach shall not be permitted to register as a Team Manager or as an Assistant Manager.
- 6.10 **District, Provincial or National Team Duty**
- Any Club team having three or more players selected for District, Provincial or National team duty may have those affected games postponed, provided that ten days' notice has been given by the team to Ontario Soccer and team's League. The team shall, immediately following the receipt of such notices, notify any and all affected opponents to that effect. (NOTE: District, Provincial or National team duty shall be construed to mean all player development camps, and games arranged by, or on behalf of, Provincial or National authorities.)
- 6.11 **Club Head Referee**
- All Ontario Soccer Clubs which operate Youth Local Leagues shall have a designated registered Club Head Referee.



## IV. Ontario Registered Academies

### PROCEDURE 7.0 – ONTARIO REGISTERED ACADEMIES (ORA)

#### 7.1 Ontario Registered Academies (ORA)

ORA is an Ontario Soccer designation of an academy (private) which is annually recognized by Ontario Soccer. All academies with ORA status maintain a technical and organizational standard and in turn, are entitled to several benefits within Ontario Soccer Structure.

- i. An Ontario Registered Academy shall affiliate with Ontario Soccer and be subject to the Published Rules of that organization.
- ii. An Ontario Registered Academy is a for-profit registered organization that organises teams, registers all players, team officials and administrators of their organizations.
- iii. An Ontario Registered Academy must operate with the defined boundaries of the District Association in which they reside unless they have obtained written permission and approval of Ontario Soccer.
- iv. Every Ontario Registered Academy operation teams at the Youth level or Grassroots soccer level shall register not less than four teams or four Grassroots game day rosters.
- v. All Ontario Registered Academy under the jurisdiction of Ontario Soccer shall place their players at the service of Ontario Soccer.

#### 7.2 Process for Obtaining ORA Status

- i. ORA Standards and all Operational details can be found on the Ontario Soccer website.
- ii. An ORA shall be eligible to annually apply to Ontario Soccer for Ontario Registered Academy status.
- iii. The application will be on a form to be provided by Ontario Soccer.
- iv. The application must be accompanied by the applicable application fee in accordance with Ontario Soccer's Schedule of Fees as approved by the Ontario Soccer Board
- v. Ontario Soccer Administrative Staff will review the application and other required documents and fee to ensure that the application is complete.
- vi. Ontario Soccer Technical Staff will conduct an audit of each new ORA applicant in order to ensure that there is total compliance with Ontario Soccer's requirements.
- vii. The application will be considered for approval by the Ontario Soccer Board and if the requirements are met, will approve the Academy as an ORA.
- viii. The ORA shall annually register all of its participants with Ontario Soccer.
- ix. The ORA shall be audited by a member of Ontario Soccer's technical staff to ensure compliance with Ontario Soccer requirements.
- x. If an ORA fails to meet Ontario Soccer's requirements as part of the annual audit, it shall have its Ontario Registered Academy status revoked by the Ontario Soccer Chief Executive Officer

#### 7.3 Registration of Ontario Registered Academy Participants

An Ontario Registered Academy shall register all of its participants (players and team officials) to Ontario Soccer on a form to be provided by Ontario Soccer which will include, but not be limited to, the following about each participant:

- i. Full Name
- ii. Date of Birth
- iii. Home Address
- iv. Telephone Number
- v. Email Address
- vi. NCCP Number for coaches
- vii. Waiver to be signed by player and player's parent



Registration benefits of Ontario Registered Academy participants are outlined on the ORA page of the Ontario Soccer website.

### **7.3.1 Registration Period**

An ORA shall register all of its participants in accordance with Ontario Soccer's Registration procedures Section 5.0.

### **7.3.2 Registration Fees**

An Ontario Registered Academy will be subject to player registration fees in accordance with Ontario Soccer's Schedule of Fees as approved by the Ontario Soccer Board.

### **7.3.3 Registration Classification**

All players registered to an ORA shall be classified as "competitive" registrants.

## **7.4 Discipline Procedures**

### **7.4.1 Administration of Discipline**

Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for discipline in accordance with Ontario Soccer's standard penalties for misconduct regarding:

- i. Match Official Assault by a player, team official or administrator of an ORA
- ii. Any misconduct occurring in a game involving two teams which are both operated by an ORA and involving an Ontario Soccer-registered match official
- iii. Any misconduct occurring in an Ontario Soccer sanctioned exhibition game involving an ORA team and a team from out-of-province.
- iv. Any misconduct occurring in a competition for which Ontario Soccer has given the ORA team permission to travel

The District Association shall be responsible for discipline in accordance with Ontario Soccer's standard penalties for misconduct regarding:

- i. Match between ORA Team and Club Team and approved by the District Association

### **7.4.2 Suspensions for Serious Misconduct**

Suspensions for Serious Misconduct will include:

- i. Offences of moral turpitude
- ii. Physical assault or attempted physical assault of a registered player by a Team Official or Administrator
- iii. Match Official Assault by a player, team official, administrator or another game official
- iv. Failure to attend, participate, or remain in, a discipline hearing when required to do so and thus preventing the Discipline Hearing Panel from rendering a decision

### **7.4.3 Reciprocal Recognition of Suspensions for Serious Misconduct between Ontario Soccer and Academies**

Any suspension of a player or team official which results from discipline classified as a "Suspension for Serious Misconduct" rendered by an ORA will be recognized and enforced by Ontario Soccer and all of its affiliated organizations.

Any suspension of a player or team official which results from discipline classified as a "Suspension for Serious Misconduct" rendered by Ontario Soccer will be recognized and enforced by each ORA.



#### 7.4.4 Player Identification

Players and team officials of an ORA team will be required to have Player Photo Identification approved by Ontario Soccer, when they participate in any game involving an Ontario Soccer-registered match official and when the team travels out of the province.

#### 7.5 Ontario Soccer Registered Academies Entitlements

Ontario Registered Academy entitlements are outlined on the [ORA page](#) of the Ontario Soccer website.

