



Operational Rules

Ontario Player Development League (OPDL)

Operational Rules for OPDL Licence Holders

March 2026

A single line in the left-hand margin indicates new changes to the document

Table of Contents

Section I – Organization	4
1) The Ontario Player Development League	4
2) Technical Oversight	4
3) OPDL Discipline	4
Jurisdiction	4
Reporting and Review of Discipline	4
Request for Discipline Hearing	5
General Discipline Rules	5
Fines and Penalties	6
Appeals	7
Section II – Licence Holders Commitments	8
4) OPDL Teams	8
5) Licence Agreement	8
6) Licence Performance Review	8
7) Completion of OPDL Season	8
Section III – Competition Structure	9
8) Game Format	9
9) Competition Season	9
10) OPDL Competition Structure	9
11) Competition Schedule	10
12) Under 13 Age Group-Specific Items	11
13) Games hosted by Licence Holders at Home Venues	12
14) ID Weekends	12
15) Competition Format	13
16) OPDL Gary Miller Charity Shield	13
17) OPDL Cup	14
18) Player Development Program National Competition	14
19) Game Day Regulations	15
Section IV – Player Eligibility and Team Rosters	15
20) Player Commitment Letter	15
21) Player Registration	16
22) Player Roster	16
Full-Time Players (FT)	16
23) Developmental Player (DP).	17

Playing Up Permit (PuP)	18
24) Misused Player	19
25) New Players to the Country	19
26) Player Transfer Policy	20
27) Player Residency	20
28) Player Recruitment and Solicitation	21
29) Player Scouting & Communications	21
Section V – Team and Match Officials	22
30) Team Officials Minimum Qualifications and Requirements	22
31) Team Officials Registration	23
32) Team Officials	24
33) Match Officials	25
Section VI – Technical Program Structure	25
34) Conduct	25
35) Player Trials	25
36) Under/Over Age Players	26
37) Player Prioritization	26
38) Training	26
39) Matches other than OPDL Regular Matches	27
40) Exhibition Matches	27
38.1 Exhibition matches involving clubs other than OPDL Licence Holders	28
38.2 Exhibition match involving OPDL Teams	28
41) Other Matches	28
42) Team Etiquette (Pre-match)	28
Section VII – Special Consideration Requests	29
APPENDIX A – CODES OF CONDUCT	31
APPENDIX B – Fines	32
TYPE 1	35
TYPE 2	38
TYPE 3	41
Non-Compliance Notification and Payment Method	44
APPENDIX C – Game Day Regulations (inclusive of Hosting Regulations)	45
APPENDIX D – Trial Guidelines	45
APPENDIX E – Medical Guidelines & Forms	45
APPENDIX F – Technical Manual	45

APPENDIX G – Performance Management Guide	45
APPENDIX H – Festival Guide	45
APPENDIX J – OPDL Brand Guidelines/Marks and Logo Use	46
APPENDIX K – OPDL Sponsorship Guidelines	47
OPDL Sponsors	47
Exclusive Sponsors/Categories	47
Match Day Sponsor Rights	47
Team Sponsors	48
Use of Ontario Soccer Marks	48
Subject to Change	48
APPENDIX L – OPDL Social Media Guidelines	49

Section I – Organization

1) The Ontario Player Development League

- a) The Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) is a high performance youth training and competition program conducted and administered by Ontario Soccer.

2) Technical Oversight

- a) Ontario Soccer shall provide independent technical oversight of the OPDL, and the technical leadership for the program shall come from Ontario Soccer.
- b) OPDL Licence Holders shall discuss technical matters related to the program through a targeted Focus Groups, comprised of select OPDL Licence Holder representatives, as required.

3) OPDL Discipline

- a) The OPDL Discipline Panel shall be appointed by Ontario Soccer.

Jurisdiction

- a) Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for handling all cases of reported misconduct for Players, Team Officials, Administrators, Clubs, or Match Officials, as per Section 12.0 Discipline in Ontario Soccer’s Operational Procedures.
 - i. To manage the administration of discipline and offer a deterrent to support behavioural management, a fee shall be levied to each OPDL team for yellow and red card accumulation. The table applied will be as follows:

Yellow Cards		Red Cards	
Total Cards	Administrative Fee	Total Cards	Administrative Fee
12	\$50	5	\$100
20	\$100	8	\$200
30	\$200	10	\$500

- b) It is the responsibility of each Licence Holder to ensure that its Players and Team Officials are aware of the OPDL Discipline rules and of the discipline systems used by OPDL.
- c) Cautions received in OPDL Exhibitions Series Matches or matches with TFC, NDC, and CPL etc. will not count towards caution accumulation in the OPDL League, Cup, or Playoff play. However, red cards will carry over into OPDL League, Cup and Playoff Play.
- d) Suspended Team Officials cannot participate in any sanctioned OPDL matches until their suspension has been served in full

Reporting and Review of Discipline

- a) Within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of an OPDL Match, the Match Official shall submit the following items to RefCentre:
 - i. Match Results

- ii. Misconduct report for each incident of misconduct by a player, team official, administrator, or match official
 - iii. Special Incident Reports
- b) Unless otherwise indicated by Ontario Soccer, hearings shall take place on the next available date, and at least one (1) week after the date of the misconduct being reported.
 - c) At the discretion of Ontario Soccer, the accused, or any other party called, may attend a Hearing remotely via a communications technology that is duly approved by Ontario Soccer. Where permission to attend a Hearing via such a communication technology is not expressly approved by Ontario Soccer, attendance in person is assumed to be required by all parties involved.
 - d) Misconduct and/or Special Incident Reports will be made available to Clubs, upon written request, directly to the OPDL

Request for Discipline Hearing

- a) An accused Player, Coach or other Team Official subject to Discipline by Review has the right to request a Discipline Hearing, with the exception of those misconducts listed in Table 2, items 1.7.5 to 1.7.10 located in (and in accordance with) Discipline Procedure 12.0 of Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures.
- b) Such a request, and subsequent hearing, must adhere to the following procedures:
 - i. The Request for a Hearing must be forwarded in writing, by email to opdlcasemanager@ontariosoccer.net and received no later than 72 hours following the match in which the alleged misconduct occurred.
 - ii. A \$250.00 Fee must accompany the Request for a Hearing.

General Discipline Rules

- a) Cautions shall be recorded in the OPDL League Management System. The accumulation of cautions shall only apply to OPDL competitions – inclusive of the OPDL Cup, Trillium Cup, and Gary Miller Charity Shield, unless otherwise stated by OPDL.
- b) Suspensions are levied by the OPDL Discipline Hearing/Review Panel as per the 'Standard Penalties for Misconduct Tables' in Section 9.16 of Ontario Soccer's Operational Procedures
- c) In the case of "suspensions for a stated period of time":
 - i. The "beginning date" of a suspension shall be determined by the OPDL Discipline Panel and will commence within an appropriate timeline following the Discipline Hearing in which the coach, player, team official was found guilty.
- d) In the case of "suspensions for a specific number of matches":
 - i. A player suspended for a specified number of matches shall serve such suspension in the OPDL competitions (i.e. shall be suspended from a specific number of OPDL matches) until the player's team has concluded its participation in that year's OPDL competition

- ii. After a team has concluded its participation in that year's OPDL competition, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be served in the following season of the OPDL
 - iii. If the player is not selected for or does not participate in the OPDL the following year, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be served in his/her new team's league, league cup and league playoff games
 - iv. OPDL will communicate the specific matches from which the player is suspended to the Club, in writing, via email.
- e) A listing of all suspensions (resulting from misconduct in OPDL competition) shall be posted on the OPDL League Management website and can be accessed by the Team/Club. Notice of any suspension will always be e-mailed to the designated team contact (i.e. Head Coach, Team Manager, etc...)
- f) A player who has been suspended for one or more games in league play shall not be permitted to "play up":
- i. For a higher level club team within his/her own Club, or
 - ii. With a Temporary Eligibility Permit (TEP) for a higher-level club team of a club other than one with which he/she is registered.

In a league game for any other team until after the scheduled date of the final game covered by his/her suspension (such date to be indicated on the notice of suspension).

- g) If the suspension is a result of the offender:
- i. Having played up for a higher level club team within his/her own Club, or
 - ii. Having played up with a Temporary Eligibility Permit (TEP) for a higher level club team of a club other than one with which he/she is registered

Then in such instances, the misconduct report will be transferred to, and the suspension administered by, the league with which the offender's regular team is registered.

Fines and Penalties

- a) In the event a team, including team officials, Licence Holders or its representatives contravenes OPDL rules and regulations, the OPDL Discipline Panel, has the authority to levy the greater of fine(s) against the offending Licence Holder, in compliance with Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures or with the Fines set out in "Appendix B"
- b) If a Licence Holder representative is required to attend a discipline hearing for one of its players, coaches or administrators but fails to attend the hearing, either in person or remotely by a method of telecommunication approved in that instance by the OPDL Discipline Committee, the Licence Holder will be fined for non-attendance in compliance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules.
- c) Fines for OPDL Non-Compliance are listed on "Appendix B"

- d) OPDL reserves the right to conduct Immediate License Review for any OPDL Licence Holder where necessary based on contravention of OPDL Operational Rules and or any other governing documents.

Appeals

- a) Appeals shall be submitted to Ontario Soccer's Discipline & Appeals Committee via appealcasemanager@ontariosoccer.net within 14 days of receiving the decision along with the Rights to Appeal information. Appeals will be reviewed in accordance with Ontario Soccer's Operational Procedures Section 13- Appeals.

Section II – Licence Holders Commitments

4) OPDL Teams

- a) OPDL Licence Holders shall field both a female and male team in each age category governed by their Licence Agreement, unless dispensation is given by Ontario Soccer.

5) Licence Agreement

- a) Participation in the OPDL is contingent on the signing and submission of an OPDL Licensing Agreement by a binding authority of the OPDL Licence Holder

6) Licence Performance Review

- a) In order to maintain the high standards of technical, organisational and facilities excellence the OPDL demands, all OPDL Licence Holders shall be subject to ongoing and annual evaluation and review. Central to this process is the hosting of an annual Licence Performance Review with each OPDL Licence Holder.
- b) Licence Performance Reviews shall be held annually as directed by Ontario Soccer.
- c) OPDL Licence Holders shall attend these reviews and provide all information requested in advance as well as at the meeting.
- d) Licence Performance Reviews shall assess the Licence Holders' adherence to and compliance with their obligations as outlined in Appendix B of the OPDL Licence Agreement.
- e) Licence Performance Reviews shall be an opportunity for OPDL Licence Holders to bring forth issues to the OPDL and present feedback for the continuous improvement of the OPDL's operations and effectiveness.
- f) Ontario Soccer reserves the right to enter into agreement with third-party service providers to execute, in part or in full, the annually conducted licence performance review

7) Completion of OPDL Season

- a) All OPDL teams shall participate in all matches scheduled by OPDL. Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary measures as outlined on "Appendix B".

Section III – Competition Structure

8) Game Format

- a) OPDL teams shall play 11-a-side at the U14 – U17 age groups
- b) U13 teams shall play 9-a-side
 - a. Field Orientation: Purpose-built 9-a-side field, or, Full-size 11-a-side field with a box-to-box playing format.
 - b. Net Type: 9-a-side nets (portable/fixed preferred; transportable permitted). Minimum goal size: 6ft. (1.83m) x 18ft. (5.49m) and Maximum 7ft. (2.13m) x 21.5ft. (6.55m)
 - c. Must comply with [Ontario Soccer Field Orientation Guidelines](#)
- c) Matches shall employ a size 5 ball.
- d) Field dimensions shall be as per FIFA regulations.
- e) Goal sizes shall be as per FIFA regulations.
- f) Laws of the Game as approved by IFAB shall be employed except in the instances noted in this Operations Rules, Game Day Regulations and in the Technical Manual.

9) Competition Season

- a) The OPDL competition season generally operates from May to October. Each age group may operate under a modified schedule, annually published by Ontario Soccer.
- b) OPDL competition season has scheduled breaks and a two-week mid-season rest break.
 - Dates for scheduled breaks and the mid-season rest break will be published annually by Ontario Soccer.
- c) OPDL Teams must have a scheduled four-week recovery break, immediately following the last activity of the annual calendar. It is recommended that teams take off the month of December and the required weeks prior or afterward to meet the 4-week minimum.
- d) Unless otherwise approved by OPDL, games played in the months of May, October and November shall be on an artificial surface.
- e) Matches from June 1st through October 1st can be played on grass, although use of OPDL-approved turf fields during this time is strongly encouraged.

10) OPDL Competition Structure

- a) The OPDL may operate through regional conferences, or another method, as established and communicated annually by Ontario Soccer.
- b) The OPDL shall be solely responsible for assigning OPDL Licence Holders within the prescribed competition structure.
- c) Assignment of Licence Holders shall be reviewed annually by the OPDL.

- d) Any changes to assignment and /or structure will be communicated in writing to all OPDL Licence Holders one week prior to such changes taking effect.

11) Competition Schedule

- a) The development of the OPDL's Competition Schedule, including match dates, times and match official assignment, shall be the responsibility of the OPDL.
- b) Unless otherwise approved by OPDL, the standard kick-off times for OPDL Games shall be:
 - i. Weekend: 9:00, 11:15, 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15
 - i. U13, U15, & U17 will play on Saturdays
 - ii. U14 & U16 will play on Sundays
 - ii. Week days: 19:00, 21:00
- c) Unless otherwise approved by OPDL, if extensive travel by teams is required, kick-off times shall be 13:30 and 15:45 for weekend matches.
- d) The Competition Schedule for the upcoming season shall be issued by the OPDL a minimum of one month prior to the season kick-off, pending availability of field information.
- e) The OPDL is responsible for the assignment to and compensation of all match officials assigned to OPDL games.
- f) The OPDL is responsible for the appointment to and compensation of medical support services at all OPDL games.
- g) The OPDL is responsible for the payment of OPDL Venue Coordinators for ID Weekends, who will act as the OPDL's liaison and onsite event manager on game day.
 - i. The OPDL Licence Holder is required to appoint a suitable individual to serve as OPDL Venue Coordinator on each of its assigned host dates by the deadline set in the OPDL Hosting Guidelines.
- h) Changes to the Competition Schedule, including postponement, may only be granted in exceptional circumstances at the sole discretion of the OPDL.
 - i. Ontario Soccer, to substantiate requests, reserves the right to request supporting evidence to determine an 'exceptional circumstance'
 - ii. The Rescheduling Timelines and Regulations, as set in the OPDL Game Day Regulations, will be used where applicable
- i) The OPDL will be responsible for scheduling specific game times and order of play for all games.
- j) The OPDL is responsible for scheduling matches for any Exhibition Series that service organizations that are outcomes of the Talented Player Pathway
 - i. OPDL Licence Holders are required to compete in these matches, whether hosting or travelling, as assigned, or be subject to Type 1 non-compliance

- k) Competition Schedule for OPDL includes “Home Venues”, “ID Weekends” or “OPDL on Campus” as follows:
- i. U13 Age Group: Up to 6 ID Weekends and up to 14 Home or Away Games
 - ii. U14 Age Group: Up to 6 ID Weekends and up to 14 Home or Away Games
 - iii. U15 Age Group: Up to 4 ID Weekends and up to 16 Home or Away Games
 - iv. U16 Age Group : Up to 4 ID Weekends and up to 16 Home or Away Games
 - v. U17 Age Group: Up to 2 ID Weekends or similar event and up to 18 Home or Away Games
- l) Request for Game Change
- A request must be submitted, in writing, to the OPDL at least 14 days prior to the game and is subject to the approval of the OPDL All requests must be filed through the OPDL [Reschedule Form](#).
 - All requests shall only be deemed completed once agreed upon by both Licence Holders involved, as well as the OPDL.
 - Requests impacting only one team will be reviewed on a case by case basis where the final decision is made by the OPDL.
- i. Any costs associated with rescheduling games shall be covered by the Licence Holder submitting request, unless exempted by the hosting organization.
 - ii. Requests submitted less than 14 days from game day may result in additional fines as per “Appendix B”
 - iii. Requests submitted, or completed, less than 7 days from game day will not be accepted, save changes resulting from Force Majeure events such as inclement weather or exceptional field conditions

12) Under 13 Age Group-Specific Items

- a) Minimum Player Pool Size: 24 players (larger pool encouraged and accepted)
- b) Training Model: Entire player pool must train together under OPDL standards, regardless of gameday destination (OPDL, IModel, District)
- c) OPDL Game Day Roster: Maximum 18 players (Min. 12 players. Recommended 14 players)
 - i) Selected from overall player pool
- d) Player movement between gameday destinations (OPDL, IModel, District) is to be guided by development benchmarks between groups
- e) Minimum Match Target: 24 registered players must play at least 6 matches within the OPDL
- f) Minimum Playing Time Per Game: 20 minutes (minimum)

- g) Player-Up Permits: Maximum 4 per game. Maximum 3 per season per player
- h) U12 (2014 born) Fast Tracking: Required for U12 players to participate in U13 OPDL

13) Games hosted by Licence Holders at Home Venues

- a) Each Licence Holder is required to host its home games as per the OPDL Published Schedule.
- b) Home games must be hosted at approved OPDL Competition Hosting Facilities.
- c) Home games shall be hosted on days approved by OPDL.
- d) The host Licence Holder is responsible for the securing of venue permits or permission for venue use such that the venue is secured for OPDL use on designated competition dates.
- e) The host Licence Holder is responsible for all costs related to venue provision, including any ancillary costs such as floodlighting or change room rental.
- f) OPDL Licence Holders must follow and adhere to the OPDL Hosting Regulations and Game Day Regulations when hosting home games.
- g) The host Licence Holder is responsible for recording of the match and providing the video through the League Sharing process within 72 hours.
- h) With an approved OPDL Special Consideration Request, visiting teams can record their matches if that specific team has a Video Analysis/Analytics Package. Through the OPDL Special Consideration Request JotForm, Club Officials can submit a request for this by mentioning the game number, team, and providing proof of an analytics package subscription provided by their recording camera manufacturer. Cannot be submitted by any team officials, only Club Officials on behalf of the team.
 - i. All approved recordings must take place on the same side (Technical Bench Area) as the Home team that is recording.

14) ID Weekends

- a) Games played at ID Weekends will be used as opportunities to scout and evaluate OPDL Players.
- b) ID Weekend games shall be assigned, permitted/booked and paid for by the OPDL.
- c) ID Weekend games are scheduled regularly as published by OPDL and played at two or more venues simultaneously.
- d) The OPDL shall be responsible for the provision and payment of technical evaluation personnel at ID Weekends.
- e) The designated home team is responsible for video capture of the match.
 - i. Ontario Soccer will provide the stand, power, and securing weights for VEO Cameras for the designated home team to record at the Woodbridge Sports Dome. All games

played at the Zanchin Automotive Soccer Centre Stadium and indoor field will be recorded by Ontario Soccer.

- ii. If teams do not have cameras available, they must coordinate with the opposition to ensure the match is recorded and uploaded to the League Exchange
 - i. Where the above is not possible, in extreme circumstances, Ontario Soccer will have limited VEO cameras available to sign-out to execute match recordings.

15) Competition Format

- a) No scores or standings will be published for the U13 Age Group.
- b) For U14, U15, U16, & U17 age group:
 - i. Teams will receive three points for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss.
 - ii. At the OPDL Mid-Season Break, regional conferences will be re-organized into 'Premier' and 'Trillium' conferences based on team's current standings.
 - i. For the U14, U15, U16 and U17 age groups for both genders the Premier Conference shall consist of a minimum of 10 teams populated equally from each regional conference. The remaining teams shall compete in the Trillium Conference.
 - iii. At the end of the OPDL season, the team with most points within the 'Premier' conference in each gender will be declared the "OPDL League Champion".
 - iv. Standings across both the Premier & Trillium Conferences will be used for seeding in the following season's OPDL Cup Competition
- c) If two or more teams are equal on points, standings will be determined as follows:
 - i. Greatest goal difference
 - ii. Greatest number of goals scored
 - iii. Greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the teams concerned
 - iv. Goal difference resulting from the matches between the teams concerned
 - v. Greater number of goals scored in all matches between the teams concerned
 - vi. Drawing of lots by the OPDL

16) OPDL Gary Miller Charity Shield

- a) "OPDL Gary Miller Charity Shield" will serve as a play-off competition for both genders in the U14 Age Group and older, hosted by OPDL.
- b) For the U14 age group, the "OPDL Gary Miller Charity Shield" will be played between the top 4 teams in the Premier Division, as defined by League Standings, in a single game knockout

Semi-Final (to be hosted by higher seed Licence Holder) and Finals (hosted by Ontario Soccer).

- c) For the U15, U16, and U17 age groups, the “OPDL Gary Miller Charity Shield” will be played between the top 3 teams of the Premier Division and OPDL Cup Winner, as defined by League Standings, in a single game knockout Semi-Final (to be hosted by higher seed Licence Holder) and Finals (hosted by Ontario Soccer).
 - i. Where the OPDL Cup Winner is the same as one of the Top 3 Teams in the Premier Division, the spot shall be allocated to the OPDL Cup Finalist
 - ii. Where the OPDL Cup Finalist is the same as one of the Top 3 Teams in the Premier Division, the spot shall be allocated to the 4th placed team of the Premier Division
- d) If the score is tied after conclusion of the “Charity Shield” match. Kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- e) Schedule for the “OPDL Charity Shield” will be determined annually by OPDL.
- f) Any match that requires a Licence Holder to travel over 300km in one direction will be scheduled at a centralized location at the discretion of the OPDL.

17) OPDL Cup

- a) The “OPDL Cup” will take place annually for U15, U16, and U17 male and female teams.
- b) Cup dates and format will be published annually before the start of the OPDL Competition Season
- c) Teams will either be drawn randomly or seeded based on conference and previous year league standings as determined annually by the OPDL
 - i. According to the previous year league standings, teams can (where applicable) automatically get a bye to advance to further rounds as required to establish brackets.
 - ii. Teams participating in PDP Nationals will not be eligible to participate in OPDL Cup Competition
- d) The winner of each match will advance.
 - i. If the score is tied after conclusion of the match, penalty kicks shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- e) The winner of the final match will be declared “OPDL Cup Champion”.
- f) Unless approved by OPDL, once a player has participated in an OPDL Cup game at either their respective age group, or while under Playing-Up Permit to an older age group, that player shall be “Cup Tied” and no longer be eligible to compete in the OPDL Cup for any other team, whether with the same or a different OPDL Licence Holder.

18) Player Development Program National Competition

- a) This event will be held annually by Canada Soccer for all province’s that operate approved Player Development Programs such as the OPDL for the Under-15 and Under-17 Age Groups

- b) The 1st and 2nd placed teams of the Premier Division at the Under-14 age groups, for male & female OPDL competitions shall qualify for the event in the subsequent calendar year as Ontario's Under-15 representatives.
- c) The 1st and 2nd placed teams of the Premier Division at the Under-16 age groups, for male & female OPDL competitions shall qualify for the event in the subsequent calendar year as Ontario's Under-17 representatives.
- d) Competition details, and associated logistic information, shall be released and communicated annually by both Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer

19) Game Day Regulations

- a) All OPDL games, shall be conducted in accordance with [OPDL Game Day Regulations](#)
- b) Notwithstanding any non-compliance or disciplinary outcomes, Ontario Soccer reserves the right, at its sole discretion and in response to any incident, to require a Club to implement and fund appropriate security measures for future OPDL matches, including for the remainder of the season, if deemed necessary. The scope and nature of such security measures will be prescribed by Ontario Soccer based on the circumstances of the incident and the operational needs required to ensure a safe match environment

Section IV – Player Eligibility and Team Rosters

20) Player Commitment Letter

- a) Prior to the registration deadline outlined in the Key Dates & Deadlines document published annually, all OPDL players must be issued a Player Commitment Letter by their OPDL Licence Holder, which must be completed and signed by all required parties.
- b) A Player Commitment Letter may not be altered, amended or added to in any way by any of the signing parties.
- c) All Player Commitment Letters must be completed through the [Player Commitment Letter](#) Jotform and signed by both parties to be considered valid.
- d) Completion and signing of a Player Commitment Letter duly binds a player to an OPDL Licence Holder for the upcoming OPDL season.
- e) A Player that has signed an OPDL Player Commitment Letter for an upcoming season is not eligible to trial or attend Open Sessions with another OPDL Licence Holder and or an Ontario Premier League Team.
- f) The revoking of a Player Commitment Letter may only be permitted with the expressed written permission of the OPDL.
- g) Existing OPDL players must receive their individual feedback prior to being invited to re-sign a new Player Commitment Letter for the coming season.

- h) Players declared not in good standing by Ontario Soccer shall not be registered by another club.
 - i. Players can be declared not in good standing if they are in breach of any Ontario Soccer published rules, inclusive of those rules specific to the OPDL

21) Player Registration

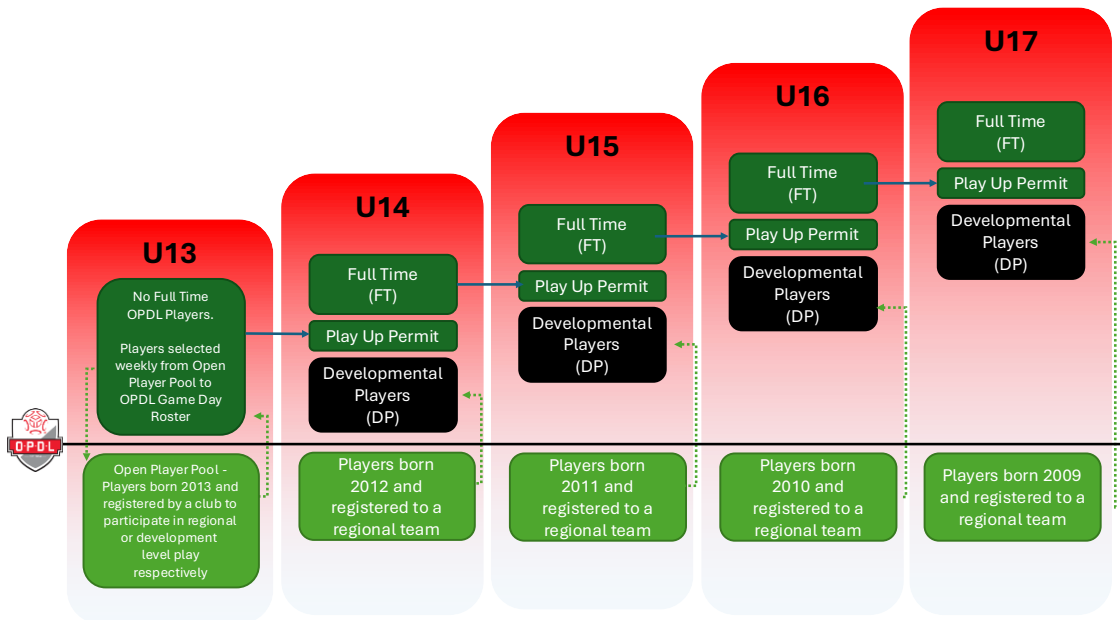
- a) All registration shall be completed in accordance with "Ontario Soccer Operational Procedure – Section 5.0 Registration".

REGISTRATION Process

- a) OPDL Licence Holders must register all players and team officials in PowerUP and through the League Management System (theopdl.com) by the posted deadline.
 - i. This requirement includes all players listed in a U13 Player Pool

22) Player Roster

- a) Players shall be placed on each of the rosters outlined below in accordance with their eligibility.



Full-Time Players (FT)

- a) OPDL Licence Holders shall submit a list of Full-Time players for the U14-U17 age group gender permitted under its Licence Agreement, with a minimum of fourteen (14) and a maximum of twenty (20) registered players.

- b) For the U13 Age Group (2013 born) there shall be no Full-Time players and only a team placement in the OPDL is assigned. This aligns with the player pool requirement of the Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards.
 - a. Minimum Player Pool Size: 24 Players (larger pools encouraged and accepted)
- c) Full Time players are considered committed to the OPDL Licence Holder until the conclusion of the OPDL Season as defined in the Player Commitment Letter.
- d) Failure to submit any player(s) to theopdl.com shall result in their ineligibility to play in OPDL matches.
- e) Player and team officials' information must be updated and kept current in theopdl.com.
- f) Once the season has started, an OPDL Licence Holder shall not release any players from their player commitment letter, except in cases governed by this document or after conclusion of the OPDL competition season.
- g) Full-time OPDL players cannot be asked to not attend any game of the OPDL season.

23) Developmental Player (DP).

- a) A Developmental Player (DP) is registered with the Licence Holder or organization covered by a "OPDL Player Movement Agreement"
- b) Developmental Player trains regularly with the OPDL team, but plays regularly with a regional team with the Licence Holder or another club covered by an "[OPDL Player Movement Agreement](#)"
- c) The following players are eligible for placement on a Development Roster (DP):
 - i. U17: Players born 2009 registered with a U17 regional team
 - ii. U16: Players born 2010 registered with a U16 regional team
 - iii. U15: Players born 2011 registered with a U15 regional team
 - iv. U14: Players born 2012 registered with a U14 regional team
 - Where regional competition is not available at any age group, a request for Special Consideration must be made to the OPDL for approval
- d) A Development Player demonstrates high potential for the future, but is not yet ready to fully commit to the requirements of the OPDL.
 - i. E.g. individual benefits more from playing 60 minutes with a "regional/competitive" team every week, rather than playing 30 minutes or less with the OPDL team
- e) A Developmental Player is restricted to participation at a maximum of six (6) OPDL games per season.
 - i. Participation is considered when a player is listed on the Game Day Roster on the MySoccer App for an OPDL game.

- ii. Teams that only have 1 full time Goalkeeper registered may have 1 Development Player Goalkeeper that can play for a pre-determined number of games at the discretion of the OPDL.
- f) Development players are not eligible to participate in OPDL Cup, Playoff, Trillium Cup or Gary Miller Charity Shield matches
- g) Developmental players are not eligible to participate in OPDL games under a Playing Up Permit (PuP)
- h) Developmental Players can only change status to full-time once per season and cannot return to Developmental Player status
- i) Evaluation of player status is assessed in consultation with Ontario Soccer Technical Staff
- j) There is no limit to the number of developmental players per team
 - i. Maximum of four (4) Developmental Players per Game Day Roster
 - ii. Where more than twenty (20) development players are rostered within the League Management System, an administration fee shall be applied in accordance with "Appendix B".
- k) Deadline to register Developmental Players will be published annually by Ontario Soccer.
- l) Developmental Players are selected to play at the discretion of the Licence Holder's Technical Director or Head Coach, accordingly with team player's needs.
- m) Developmental Players are required to sign an OPDL Commitment Letter with their OPDL Licence Holder.
- n) Developmental Players may be charged contributory team or assessment fees for OPDL participation at the discretion of the OPDL Licence Holder.
- o) Developmental Players are bound by all OPDL Policies and Procedures for all games, training and associated activities.

Playing Up Permit (PuP)

- b) A maximum of four (4) "Playing Up Permits" can be issued for an OPDL game via the OPDL League Management System
- c) The following players are eligible for a "Playing Up Permit":
 - i. U17: Full Time Players from the U16 OPDL Team
 - ii. U16: Full Time Players from the U15 OPDL Team
 - iii. U15: Full Time Players from the U14 OPDL Team
 - iv. U14: Players from the entire U13 Player Pool

Players approved to play-down or play-up with an OPDL team on a full-time basis require Special Consideration approval from the OPDL in order to receive a "Playing Up Permit".

- d) "Playing Up Permits" are issued to players at the discretion of Licence Holder's Technical Director, accordingly with player's developmental stage and needs and in accordance following:
- i. Within 48 hrs, all OPDL players shall be limited to play a maximum of:
 1. 135 minutes for U17
 2. 135 minutes for U16
 3. 120 minutes for U15
 4. 115 minutes for U14
 5. 115 minutes for U13
 - ii. At the sole discretion of the OPDL, players deemed to have exceeded playing time based on the limits mentioned above could be subject to non-compliance code 2.3
- e) Players under a "Playing Up Permit" may be charged contributory team or assessment fees for OPDL participation at the discretion of the OPDL Licence Holder.
- f) Players under a "Playing Up Permit" are bound by all OPDL Policies and Procedures for all games, training and associated activities.

24) Misused Player

- a) OPDL players can be deemed not eligible to play due to the following reasons including, without limitation: waiting for an International transfer certificate (ITC), serving a league suspension, not age-eligible, not cleared by OPDL Medical Staff, not listed on the Game Day Roster, exceeding substitution limits or subject to other applicable sanctions.
- b) Any team using players not properly registered or cleared of sanctions by the OPDL will be subject to disciplinary action under "Operations Rules - Appendix B"

25) New Players to the Country

- a) For a player who comes to Canada on or after the player is ten (10) years of age, the player must request and receive an [international travel certificate \(ITC\)](#) before being eligible to play in the OPDL.
- b) Per the [Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures](#) – Section 2 – Registration #13.8 International Transfers: In the event it is discovered that a Player, who was last registered in another country, has registered in Canada without an International Transfer Certificate:
 - a. The Player shall be declared an ineligible player
 - b. Any games in which the Player played shall be forfeited to the opposing team
 - c. The Player and the Club shall be subject to disciplinary action

26) Player Transfer Policy

- a) OPDL Players shall not move between Licence Holders during the OPDL season (training and competition) without the written permission of the OPDL.
 - i. Where a player is released, they will not be permitted to rejoin the Talented Pathway (OPDL or Ontario Premier League programs), in a Full-Time or Development Player capacity, for the remainder of the current season.
 - ii. All player releases or transfers must be executed through the appropriate [OPDL Player Release/Transfer Form](#) and signed off by all parties.
- b) OPDL Player transfers shall only be considered and authorized by the OPDL in exceptional circumstances that are in the best interest of a player's ongoing development.
- c) Deadline for mid-season transfers for the current season will be published annually by Ontario Soccer
- d) In instances where a mid-season transfer of a player is approved:
 - i. Fees paid by the player to the Licence Holder are refundable to the player on a pro-rated basis based on the number of weeks completed in the full season to date (January 1st to December 31st). No further levy or financial penalty may be charged to the departing player.
 - ii. Fees due from the player to the OPDL Licence Holder he/she is moving to are similarly to be charged on a pro-rated basis based on the number of weeks completed in the full season to date (January 1st to December 31st). Fees charged must be the same as those charged to other players on the team.
 - iii. Players with outstanding debt at the time of the transfer shall be reported to OPDL.
- e) No player may be transferred more than once in any given season.
- f) Temporary Eligibility Permits [TEP] may be approved by OPDL, under the premise that a player is attending an event, deemed developmentally appropriate, with another OPDL team other than their own. A TEP can only be granted between OPDL teams at the sole discretion of the OPDL.

27) Player Residency

- a) No residency rules apply to the OPDL or activities of OPDL teams within OPDL Licence Holders.
- b) No OPDL Licence Holder has exclusive 'residency rights' and/or exclusive access rights to players residing in any geographical zones, districts, regions or municipalities.
- c) In principle and where possible, players should play for OPDL Licence Holders located closest to them. In the event that a player is travelling a long distance to participate with an OPDL Licence Holder, the player must be able to commit to and maintain the weekly training schedule outlined by his/her OPDL team.

- d) OPDL Licence Holders shall make every effort to select players for OPDL rosters based on playing ability ahead of residency or length-of-tenure criteria. Licence Holders shall not unreasonably grant preference to local resident players, nor shall they aggressively recruit talent from surrounding regions at the expense of local playing talent.
- e) The imposition of fee loading, extra levies or other such financial penalties by OPDL Licence Holders to players for any reasons, including, but not limited to their geographical residence, shall not be permitted.
- f) In areas where there are few OPDL Licence Holders commensurate to player volume, OPDL Licence Holders shall select players based on playing ability as a priority.

28) Player Recruitment and Solicitation

- a) Recruitment refers to the practice of deliberate and proactive persuasion or enticement of an active player by an individual or individuals associated with another team or Licence Holder, intended to convince the player to join their team or Licence Holder and leave their current team or Licence Holder.
- b) Active recruitment or solicitation of existing OPDL players shall be prohibited at any time. All OPDL Licence Holders shall be responsible for the conduct of their staff, players and parents in this regard.
- c) Any attempt to contact, entice or recruit players, coaches or staff from an OPDL Licence Holder at any time shall not be permitted.
- d) OPDL Licence Holders shall be prohibited from using fee discounting measures as a means of indirect solicitation or recruitment of certain players to their program at any time.

29) Player Scouting & Communications

- a) All personnel associated with OPDL Licence Holders, including parents, shall comply with the following with regard to the identification of and communication with potential players within and outside of the OPDL.
- b) Current OPDL players:
 - i. No contact with (including any attempts to recruit, entice or persuade) players from other OPDL Licence Holders shall be made at any time.
 - ii. Contact with players from other OPDL Licence Holders shall be permitted at the initiation of the player's parents/guardians only.
- c) Non-OPDL Players:
 - i. Players playing outside the OPDL may be scouted/observed in their current environment and may be contacted directly through their parents/legal guardian, or coach/official on their non-OPDL team.
 - ii. The Technical Director or Head Coach of the player's existing organization must be notified by the OPDL Licence Holder that they are approaching the player with a view to inviting them to join their OPDL program.

Section V – Team and Match Officials

30) Team Officials Minimum Qualifications and Requirements

- a) Minimum qualifications are required for Team Officials assigned to OPDL Teams in accordance with the assigned age group and respective position.
 - i. Where a minimum requirement – found below – is not met or a foreign equivalent held for a Team Official, a Coach Development Plan must be submitted to Ontario Soccer for review and approval.
 - ii. Team Officials that are or were on a Coach Development Plan (CDP) in the previous season will not be automatically renewed for another CDP for a subsequent season and must re-apply for a CDP and have it approved by OPDL Management in order to coach in the OPDL.
 - Technical Directors or people holding positions alike, will be prohibited from being assigned as a Head Coach or Assistant Coach of a team that is affected by the non-renewal of a Coach CDP
 - Any coach that has recently joined a new club that had previously held a CDP is not exempt from this mandate and is also required to re-apply for a CDP.
 - iii. Team Officials who do not hold the required certification cannot be assigned without written approval and associated Action Plan from Ontario Soccer

- b) Head Coach
 - i. Head Coach must be a paid (either full or part-time) coach with Licence Holder
 1. All OPDL Head Coaches in the U14 – U17 age group must hold a minimum qualification of a valid Canadian National B Diploma/Licence or a Youth Licence.
 - a. The Canada Soccer Youth Licence will continue to be recognized as a minimum qualification, in place of the National B Licence, provided the diploma is still valid.
 2. All OPDL Head Coaches in the U13 age group must hold a minimum qualification of a valid Canada Soccer C Diploma/Licence + Learn to Train Theory (online modules)

- c) Assistant Coach
 - i. Assistant Coaches in the U14 – U17 age groups must hold a minimum qualification of a valid National C Diploma/Licence.
 - ii. Assistant Coaches in the U13 age group must hold a minimum qualification of a valid Grassroots Diploma + Learn to Train Theory (online modules)

d) Goalkeeper Coach

- i. Goalkeeper Coaches must hold a minimum of an Ontario Soccer Goalkeeper Coach Diploma or foreign equivalent.
 - Alternatively, Goalkeeper Coaches must hold a minimum qualification of an Ontario Soccer Goalkeeper Coach Certificate and a valid National C Diploma/Licence.

e) Athletic Therapist

- i. Licence Holder must have a paid individual or organization that is responsible for the injury prevention and treatment of all OPDL players. The individual or organization must be a qualified, Licenced healthcare provider with any of the following qualifications:
 - Primary Health Care Providers:
 1. Diagnosing Healthcare Providers
 2. Licenced Physician in the province of Ontario or CASM Doctor
 3. Licenced Chiropractor or Sport Chiropractic Specialist Licenced in the Province of Ontario
 - Non-diagnosing Healthcare Providers
 1. Registered Physiotherapist or Sport Physiotherapist Licenced in the Province of Ontario
 2. Certified Athletic Therapist certified by the Canadian Athletic Therapy Association and a member of the Ontario Athletic Therapy Association
- ii. Licence Holders must have an injury treatment protocol in place for training sessions or matches to deal with injury management.
 - This should involve appropriately qualified first aid personnel on site, and a relationship and contact details available for a registered healthcare provider as captured within an Emergency Action Plan for each venue.

31) Team Officials Registration

- a) Team officials that wish to be placed on an official team roster and will be in the technical area during match play must be mentioned in the Club Team Official Vetting List. This includes:
 - i. Head Coach
 - ii. Assistant Coach(es)
 - iii. Goalkeeper Coach
 - iv. Athletic Therapist

- v. Team Manager
- b) Coaches (Head or Assistant), Technical Directors/Licence Holder Head Coaches or other Licence Holder representatives shall also register online and submit the required information to the OPDL.
- c) As a part of Club Team Official Vetting, all Team Officials that will be rostered, allowing individuals to be in the technical area during an OPDL match, are required to have completed the [Safe Sport Roster](#), which includes the following:
 - i. Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders (Soccer)
 - ii. NCCP Make Ethical Decisions
 - iii. NCCP Emergency Action Plan
 - iv. NCCP Understanding the Rule of Two
 - v. NCCP Making Headway in Sport
 - vi. Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening
- d) All Team Managers that do not wish to be rostered and/or in the technical area on match days are still able to conduct all other team related managerial duties not associated with OPDL Game Day duties and procedures as per their respective club-based agreements and policies. All pre-match duties on the technical side of the field must be conducted by a Team Officials that is on the team roster.
- e) Team Officials shall be identified in the OPDL League Management System by the deadline annually published by Ontario Soccer
- f) Unless approved by OPDL, current OPDL Team Officials shall not register with another OPDL Licence Holder as an OPDL team official within the same season or for the following immediate season in the same:
 - i. Gender and Age; or
 - ii. Gender and immediate older age group

32) Team Officials

- a) There shall be no more than five (5) team officials appointed to an OPDL team:
 - i. Head Coach
 - ii. Assistant Coach
 - iii. Goalkeeper Coach
 - iv. Athletic Therapist
 - v. Team Manager

- b) For all female teams, the head coach or the assistant coach must be female and present on the bench.
- c) Head Coaches shall not be assigned to the same team their child or ward plays for.
- d) Head Coaches shall not be a Technical Director for an OPDL Licence Holder.
- e) Only team officials listed as Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Goalkeeper Coach may offer coaching during an OPDL Match. All other team officials, including Team Managers and/or Athletic Therapists are prohibited from offering coaching. Failure to adhere to this rule will be subject to non-compliance.
- f) 75% minimum attendance at OPDL Matches is required for all Head Coaches that are assigned to a team.

33) Match Officials

- a) Match officials for each match are assigned by Ontario Soccer in accordance with Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures Section 10.0 – Match Officials.
- b) A minimum of one match official and two assistant match officials will be assigned to each match.
 - i. Where a full crew cannot be sourced or if there is an injury to one of the three match officials, there should be one referee and one assistant referee. The assistant referee is to remain on the same side of the field for the duration of the match. In this circumstance, the assistant referee is to remain on the same side as the team benches.

Section VI – Technical Program Structure

34) Conduct

- a) Each OPDL Licence Holder shall be responsible for the conduct of its players, team officials, members and spectators attending any OPDL match and shall abide by the OPDL Codes of Conduct (Appendix A).

35) Player Trials

- a) OPDL Licence Holder shall follow the [OPDL Trial Guidelines](#).

36) Under/Over Age Players

- a) Players are allowed to play “up” or “down” for an OPDL team, on the basis that such a move enhances their ability to develop (technically, physically, mentally and socially) without undue risk of injury, undue stress, or other harm.
 - i. The decision for a player to “play up” or “play down” must originate from a qualified technical assessment from both the OPDL Licence Holder's team Head Coach and its Technical Director and must be approved by the OPDL.
 - ii. Technical Assessment shall include the OPDL Player Evaluation Form. ([available here](#))
 - iii. Teams may not be permitted to have more than 3 full-time play-up or play-down players on their roster for the season.
- b) The request to play up/down must be submitted via the respective [online form available here](#).
- c) Players whom have not approved to play “up” or “down”, via an Ontario Soccer approved “Player Movement Evaluation” are deemed ineligible to participate in OPDL matches.

37) Player Prioritization

- a) OPDL players shall not participate on any other soccer programming with the exception of participation in Ontario Soccer Talent Development Centres, Provincial Xcel programming, National Team programs or official trial or development opportunities, as deemed appropriate and approved by the OPDL.
- b) OPDL players shall not participate in the Soccer for Life stream or any of its competitions, including, but not limited to, Ontario Cup, Ontario Indoor Cup or any Indoor/Outdoor competitions.
 - a. Participation of OPDL players at Ontario Futsal Cup is permitted and encouraged.
- c) OPDL players must forego participation in school soccer activities.
 - a. Participation of OPDL players in other sports is permitted

38) Training

- a) The minimum volume of training (excluding matches & sport science related training) required to be provided to OPDL players at Licence Holders during the calendar year (January-December) shall be 198 hours (4.5 hours/week).
- b) The maximum volume of training (excluding matches & sport science related training) allowed to be provided to OPDL players at Licence Holders during the calendar year (January-December) shall be:
 - i. 330 hours (7.5 hours/week) for U15 Age Group and older
 - ii. 264 hours (6 hours/week) for U13 and U14 Age Group

- c) The minimum/maximum volume of training is based on a 44-week periodized annual program.

39) Matches other than OPDL Regular Matches

- a) The OPDL shall schedule OPDL regular matches in which any player may participate in a given season.
- b) In addition to OPDL regular matches the following special events are part of the OPDL Competition Schedule:
 - i. OPDL Gary Miller Charity Shield and playoffs
 - ii. OPDL Cup
 - iii. OPDL Trillium Cup
 - iv. Player Development Program Nationals
 - v. Talented Player Pathway Exhibition Series (i.e. Toronto FC, NDC Ontario, CPL, etc.)
 - vi. Futsal League Ontario – OPDL Divisions
 - vii. Pre-season OPDL-led events (Gatorade 5v5, U13 9v9 Festival, etc.)

40) Exhibition Matches

- a) Licence Holders may schedule exhibition matches at their discretion.
- b) Exhibition matches can be scheduled during the following periods:
 - i. From January 1st, to the Wednesday before the first OPDL Match of the year
 - ii. Outside the four (4) weeks blackout period between when the last OPDL match was played and December 31st.
 - i. Mandatory four (4) week break following the end of the competition season shall be consecutive
- c) All OPDL players must be registered to the Licence Holder for the current year in order to play.
- d) Licence Holder shall maintain records of all exhibition matches for discipline and insurance purposes. Records shall include:
 - i. Match Day Rosters with Ontario Soccer numbers of all players, team officials and match officials
 - ii. Copies of ATFs (where applicable) and Application to Host (AHEG)
- e) The OPDL Licence Holder must ensure that the Match Officials are registered with Ontario Soccer.
- f) Appointments and compensation of Match Officials is responsibility of the Licence Holder.

38.1 Exhibition matches involving clubs other than OPDL Licence Holders

- a) For exhibition matches involving organizations other than OPDL Licence Holders, the OPDL Licence Holder must obtain approval of all the following:
 - i. **Request for Exhibition match (Jotform) approved by OPDL.**
 - ii. Application to Host Exhibition Games (AHEG) through CTMS (approved by District), if OPDL Licence Holder is the host of the exhibition match;
 - iii. Application to Travel (ATF) through CTMS (approved by District), if the OPDL Licence Holder is traveling out of the District for the exhibition match.

38.2 Exhibition match involving OPDL Teams

- a) For Exhibition matches involving only OPDL Teams, NDC and / or TFC Teams, OPDL Licence Holders must obtain approval of all the following:
 - i. Request for Exhibition Match (Jotform) approved by OPDL
 - ii. Application to Host Exhibition Games (AHEG) through CTMS (approved by District)
- b) Application to Travel (ATF) is not required for exhibition matches between OPDL Teams, NDC and/ or TFC Teams even if travel out of District is required.

41) Other Matches

- a) Participation of OPDL players in any other matches, including University/College teams, out-of-province events, international competitions or showcase tournaments (as per the OPDL Pre-Approved Tournament Shortlist) may be approved by the OPDL unless:
 - i. the OPDL believes the training-to-match ratio during in-season of OPDL play shall be compromised; or
 - ii. the OPDL determines the match/tournament identified does not compliment the broader development program for OPDL players; or
 - iii. The match/tournament conflicts with any Provincial Xcel programming, inclusive of the Provincial Screening Competition, carried out by Ontario Soccer
 - iv. For the U13 Age Group, tournament play will not be permitted in-season. Permitted pre and/or post season
- c) All matches require District approval and, if required, Ontario Soccer approval through the CTMS system.

42) Team Etiquette (Pre-match)

- a) For the safety of all those present, no teams should be warming up on the sidelines or behind the goals while another Match is still in progress. Allotted warm-up time will be provided to all teams ahead of their OPDL Match.
- b) Athletes, Team Officials, and Match Officials are not permitted to change bottoms (shorts, pants, undergarments, etc.) on the sidelines at any point. This include pre, during, and post match.

- c) No music is to be played out loud by a team entering a facility or area of play where another match is still in progress.
 - a. Music played during a team warm-up must be clean and free of inappropriate language and/or profanity.

Section VII – Special Consideration Requests

Ontario Soccer's **Chief Technical Officer (CTO) or designate** reserves the right, acting on behalf of the OPDL and Ontario Soccer, to deviate from, amend, or grant exceptions to any published OPDL Operational Rule, governing document or standard, when deemed necessary to maintain program integrity, ensure fairness and consistency, address unique or unforeseen circumstances, and manage operational realities affecting the league, a Licence Holder, a team, or an individual participant.

Such deviations and program related decisions shall be made at the sole discretion of the CTO or designate and are non-precedent setting and not appealable.

All requests for deviation from existing Operational Rules or other OPDL published standards or rules must be submitted in the following way:

a) Submission of Special Consideration Requests

Submitted through the official [OPDL Special Consideration Request JotForm](#), with all required information, supporting rationale and documentation included.

All requests must clearly articulate the nature of the consideration being sought and provide sufficient reasoning to allow for a comprehensive review and/or approval.

b) Review and Recommendation

All Special Consideration Requests will be submitted through to the CTO. Where applicable, a designate from the OPDL Management Group or other Ontario Soccer staff will be engaged for a recommendation.

c) Final Decision and Communication

Final approval or denial of any Special Consideration Request will be issued by the CTO or designate.

All outcomes will be communicated in writing, are not precedent setting, and decisions are considered final, binding and not subject to appeal.

d) Revocation

Approved Special Consideration Requests are subject to revocation if information provided is deemed inaccurate, circumstances change from time of original submission, or if the request conflicts with new mandatory requirements

APPENDIX A – CODES OF CONDUCT

The OPDL and all its participants shall adhere to the codes of conduct found within [Ontario Soccer's Policies – Section 13 and Appendix B1](#).

APPENDIX B – Fines

TYPE	CODE	DESCRIPTION OF INFRACTION	1 ST OFFENCE	2 nd + SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES
	1.1	Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with less than 7 days' notice (Forfeiture)	\$2,500 Fine + Costs Incurred by Host	\$3,000 Fine +
	1.2	Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with more than 7 days' notice (Forfeiture)	\$2,000 Fine	\$2,000 Fine +
	1.3	Improper Player Recruitment & Solicitation	\$2,000 Fine	\$2,000 Fine +
	1.4	Misuse of player as per OPDL Operational Rules	Forfeit Match + \$2000 Fine	Forfeit Match + \$3,000 Fine
	1.5	Failure to Field a Team of minimum 14 Active Players in a Scheduled OPDL Match	\$500 Fine	\$2,000 Fine +
Type	1	Inappropriate Behaviour by Team Officials or Players in Violation of OPDL Code of Conduct	\$500 Fine	\$2,000 Fine +
	1.7	Late Arrival to a Scheduled OPDL Match Delaying Kick-off	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine +
	1.8	Less Than 2 Qualified Team Officials on the Bench	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine +
	1.9	Match Abandoned Due to Actions of Players/Team officials/Spectators of a Team	Forfeit Match + \$1500 Fine	\$2500 Fine +
	1.10	Inappropriate use of Social Media	\$500 Fine	\$500 Fine +
	1.11	Withdrawal of team from the OPDL competition after 1 st draft of schedule released	\$500 Fine	\$1000 Fine +
	1.12	Withdrawal of team from the OPDL competition after 2 nd draft of schedule released	\$1000 Fine	\$2000 Fine +
	1.13	Withdrawal of team from the OPDL competition after final schedule released	\$1500 Fine	\$3000 Fine +
	1.14	Misrepresentation of any information to the OPDL	\$1000 Fine	\$2000 Fine +

	2.1	Failure to Provide Official OPDL Game Day Roster	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine
	2.2	More than 5 Team Officials on Bench	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine
	2.3	OPDL Standards Non-Compliance	\$500 Fine	\$1000 Fine
	2.4	Technical Director on Bench/Game Day Roster without OPDL Approval	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine
	2.5	Failure to Provide Official OPDL Substitution Forms	\$25 Fine per missing item on form	\$250 Fine
Type 2	2.6	Substitute Player or Team official Entering the Field of Play Without Match Official Approval	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine
	2.7	Failure to Provide Official OPDL Medical/Consent Forms	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine
	2.8	Failure to have Licence Holder representation at Provincial Screening Competition	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine
	2.9	Misrepresentation of or Failure to Identify Top Performer on Substitution Sheet	\$100 Fine	\$250 Fine
	3.1	Failure to Provide League Management with Hosting Information by deadline	\$100 Fine per day late	N/A
	3.2	Failure to Comply with Registration Deadlines	\$100 Fine per day late	N/A
Type 3	3.3	Late Payment of League Fees	\$100 Fine per day per team late	N/A
	3.4	Leaving Garbage at Venue upon Departure	\$250	\$500
	3.5	Incomplete Game Sheet	\$25 Fine per missing field	\$250
	3.6	Handwriting Names on Game Sheets	\$100	\$250
	3.7	Missing Player or Team Official Digital ID	\$100	\$250

3.8	Request to change scheduled OPDL match with less than 14 days' notice	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine
3.9	Failure to Participate in Scheduled OPDL Meetings	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine
3.10	Improper Uniform/Uniform Issues	\$100 Fine	\$250 Fine
3.11	Player/Goalkeeper Assessments, technical or fitness, not submitted by annually communicated deadline	\$25 Fine per assessment not submitted	\$50 Fine per assessment not submitted
3.12	Player Profiles not completed by the annually communicated deadline	\$25 Fine per Player Profile not completed	\$50 Fine per Player Profile not completed
3.13	Video submitted by Team to the League Exchange platform late	\$100 per video not submitted as per deadline	\$250 per video not submitted as per deadline
3.14	Video not submitted by Team to the League Exchange platform	\$250 per video not submitted within 7 days of deadline	\$500 per video not submitted within 7 days of deadline
3.15	Failure to Complete Post-Game Form on the MySoccer App	\$100 per form not submitted as per deadline. \$100 per each day after the deadline.	\$100 per form not submitted as per deadline. \$100 per each day after the deadline.
3.16	Failure to Comply with Host and Venue Coordinator Responsibilities	\$25 per item not set up	\$250 per hosting day missing any items

TYPE 1

1.1 Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with less than 7 days' notice (Forfeiture)

All OPDL teams shall participate in all matches for which they are scheduled during the course of an OPDL season.

- a) Failure to field a team is defined as not fielding a minimum of 7 players for a scheduled match.
- b) In addition to the Fine, the offending team will be responsible for reimbursement of any and all costs associated with the No-Show (i.e. Match Official costs, match supervisor costs, match official assignor costs, Match Official assessor costs, opponent's direct costs, medical staff, facility, etc...) as determined and communicated to them by OPDL.
- c) OPDL Matches are defined as OPDL Regular Matches, U14/U15/U16/U17 Charity Shield, Trillium Cup, OPDL Showcases, and OPDL Cup.

Teams failing to field a team for a scheduled OPDL match will incur a fine.

1.2 Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with more than 7 days' notice (Forfeiture)

All OPDL teams shall participate in all matches for which they are scheduled during the course of an OPDL season.

- d) Failure to field a team is defined as not fielding a minimum of 7 players for a scheduled match.
- e) OPDL Matches are defined as OPDL Regular Matches, U14/U15/U16/U17 Charity Shield, Trillium Cup, OPDL Showcases, and OPDL Cup.

1.3 Improper Player Recruitment and Solicitation

Any team engaging in improper recruitment of a player in violation of "Player Recruitment and Solicitation" will be subject to disciplinary action and incur a fine.

1.4 Misuse of player as per OPDL Operational Rules

Any team using players in a scheduled OPDL match not properly registered or cleared by OPDL will be required to forfeit their match. A misused player can be defined as below:

- a. A player as outlined in "Item – Misused Player".
- b. A Development Player who exceeds their allotted matches played for a season and is rostered for a match.
- c. A player substituted during a match beyond the allotted amount of substitutions

A player on a Play-Up permit playing more than one year up Teams using a misused Players will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

1.5 Failure to Field a Team of at Least 14 active Players in a Scheduled OPDL Match

As a requirement of OPDL, teams must field a minimum of 14 active players in a scheduled OPDL match. All players must be properly registered. While the minimum number of players to play a

scheduled match is 7 players without forfeiting the match, OPDL standards require a minimum of 14 active players as a part of operation rules.

Players not participating in a match due to injury are permitted to sit on the team bench, provided they are properly listed on the Game Day Roster and have their Player ID. Injured players DO NOT count as “active players”.

Teams failing to field a team of at least 14 active players in a scheduled OPDL match will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

1.6 Inappropriate Behaviour by Team Officials or Player in Violation of OPDL Code of Conduct

All players and team officials are to exemplify appropriate behaviour in and around the field of play, in accordance with the OPDL Code of Conduct signed by all players and team officials prior to the start of each season.

- a) Inappropriate behaviour is defined as any act that violates the OPDL Code of Conduct.
- b) In and around the field of play includes: change rooms, washrooms, parking lot, and the field of play itself.

Demonstration of inappropriate behaviour by any player or team official will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

1.7 Late Arrival to a Scheduled OPDL Match Delaying Kick-off

All teams are required to attend scheduled OPDL matches in time to ensure all documentation is correctly submitted, and on time to the OPDL Venue Coordinator.

- a) Late arrival is defined as any team failing to arrive in sufficient time to provide the OPDL Venue Coordinator with Player IDs and published Game Day Roster and Line-ups on the MySoccer App (minimum 25 minutes before kick-off).

Teams arriving late to a scheduled OPDL match will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

1.8 Less than 2 Qualified Team Officials on the Bench

All teams are required to have a minimum of 2 qualified team officials on the bench during a scheduled OPDL match.

- a) A qualified team official is defined as any team official that fulfills the “Team Officials Minimum Qualifications”.
- b) A replacement for either head coach and/or assistant coach must be an Ontario Soccer registrant and an active coach within the club (i.e. current coach in age-group above, etc.), and must meet minimum team official qualifications.
- c) Shall the head coach of a team not be present for a scheduled match, a qualified team official with equal or greater qualification in accordance with the minimum qualifications for team officials of that age group shall act as the head coach.
- d) An assistant coach of a team that does not meet the minimum qualification standards for a head coach of the team’s age group cannot act as head coach during a scheduled match.

- e) Team officials must follow OPDL Dress Code as a part of their qualification.
- f) Team officials must be on the Game Day Roster to be deemed in attendance

Any team failing to comply will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

1.9 Match Abandoned Due to Actions of Players/Team Officials/Spectators of a Team
All players, team officials, and spectators must adhere to the OPDL Code of Conduct. Abandoned matches are determined by match officials.

- a) In addition to the Fine, the offending team will be responsible for reimbursement of any and all costs associated with the match (i.e. Match Official costs, match supervisor costs, match official assignor costs, Match Official assessor costs, opponent's direct costs, medical staff, facility, etc...) as determined and communicated to them by OPDL.

Any team responsible for the abandonment of a match will be subject to disciplinary action and shall incur a fine.

1.10 Inappropriate Social Media Content

While Ontario Soccer encourages all OPDL members to partake in social media for the promotion, enjoyment, and camaraderie and documentation of the program, players and team officials must be aware of content being posted and prioritize professionalism and care especially if they identify themselves with the OPDL (as stated in "OPDL Social Media Guidelines"). Social media sites are public for those that have opted for a public profile therefore anyone may access an individual's posts, photos, and content. Social media sites include but are not limited to:

- Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, X.com, Tik Tok, LinkedIn, blogs, websites, etc.

- a) Inappropriate social media content is outlined in the Ontario Soccer [Policies](#) appendix J

Any Licence Holder or its team/s (or associated individual/s) failing to comply with the social media guidelines and standards will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

1.11 to 1.13 Withdrawal of an OPDL Team

The withdrawal of an OPDL Team after having previously confirmed this same group/s to Ontario Soccer has a direct impact on scheduling, budgets and administration of the program. With each stage of the scheduling process, the impact is greater and therefore carries increased penalties to support the increased administrative load to re-write schedules and other associated project/competition planning.

1.14 Misrepresenting information to the OPDL

The integrity of competition in the OPDL is built on the proper information being given to the OPDL leading into each and every season. Licence Holders submitting false information to Ontario Soccer and/or the OPDL will be charged with this infraction. This can include but is not limited to:

- a) Misrepresenting head coach relation to player on a team
- b) Misrepresenting player information
- c) Misrepresenting Coaching qualifications

TYPE 2

2.1 Failure to Provide Official OPDL Game Day Roster

Game Day Roster and Line-ups must be published on the MySoccer App by each team no less than twenty-five (25) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Penalties will be applied if the Game Day Roster and/or Line-ups are not provided in the allotted time ("1.7 late Arrival to a Scheduled OPDL Match").

2.2 More than 5 Team Officials on Bench

There shall be no more than five (5) team officials on the bench for any OPDL match. All team officials on the bench must follow OPDL dress code. The following team officials are permitted on the bench as per "28. Team Officials" in the OPDL Operation Rules:

- i. Head Coach
- ii. Assistant Coach
- iii. Goalkeeper Coach
- iv. Athletic Therapist
- v. Team Manager

Any team failing to comply and possessing more than five (5) team officials on the bench will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

2.3 OPDL Standards Non-Compliance

All Licence Holders are required to comply with the OPDL Standards outlined in the following documents. Disciplinary action will be taken for any infractions relevant to these documents:

- a) Ontario Soccer Governing Documents
- b) OPDL Entry Criteria
- c) OPDL Technical Manual
- d) OPDL Operational Rules
- e) OPDL Game Day Regulations
- f) OPDL Code of Conduct
- g) OPDL Sponsorship Guidelines
- h) OPDL Brand Guidelines
- i) OPDL Performance Management Guide

Failure to comply with the established standards, unless given specific dispensation by the OPDL, will result in discipline. All identified non-compliance will be submitted in writing to the Licence Holder.

The Licence Holder will be expected to complete a Corrective Action Report within 14 (fourteen) days of receipt of the formal Non-compliance report.

2.4 Technical Director on Bench/Game Day Roster without OPDL Approval

The Licence Holder's Technical Director is **not** permitted on the bench and/or Game Day Roster when the head coach and assistant coaches are present. In the event that a head coach or assistant coach cannot be present, the Technical Director can replace either individual on the bench and/or Game Day Roster as a qualified team official (given they possess the correct team official minimum qualifications for that age-group).

- a) Teams must not exceed 5 team officials on a bench and to meet minimum requirements of 2 qualified team officials on a bench
- b) The Technical Director can only replace head coaches and/or assistant coaches if they will be absent and with no viable alternate arrangement available. The Technical Director shall not be listed on the Game Day Roster as the goalkeeper coach or team manager. The Technical Director shall be listed as the Technical Director regardless of the role they are fulfilling during the match.
- c) Any Technical Director required to replace a Head Coach or Assistant Coach for a scheduled OPDL match, must duly request permission & receive approval from Ontario Soccer, prior to occupying a Head Coach or Assistant Coach role via [this Jotform](#).
 - i. Permission is not required in instances where a Technical Director is completing a Coach Gameday Assessment. The Technical Director completing the assessment shall not be listed on the Game Day Roster but will sign in with the Venue Coordinator/ Field Manager to identify that an assessment is being conducted. The Technical Director shall work with the Venue Coordinator/Field Manager to establish the best position for carrying out the assessment.
 - ii. Technical Directors filling in for coaches on OPDL match days will be subject to more scrutiny with respect to their behaviour and conduct. Receiving yellow or red cards during the course of the match, will result in a meeting being required before being permitted to cover matches in the future. During the meeting, next steps, inclusive of non-compliance and/or discipline shall be determined.

Any teams who fail to comply and have their Technical Director on the bench and/or Game Day Roster when they are not replacing a team official's absence will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

2.5 Failure to Provide Official OPDL Substitution Forms

All teams are responsible for providing substitution forms on match day. Substitution forms are to ensure a fluid process and tracking of substitutions during match time between OPDL Venue Coordinators and teams. All fields on the substitution form must be generated through theopdl.com and not handwritten:

- a) Date, team, venue, player leaving, player entering, gender, age Group
- b) Must be written in pen
- c) Must be legible
- d) Must be signed by team official after the final whistle

2.6 Substitute Player or Team Official Entering the Field of Play during an Altercation

Players and team officials must adhere to the OPDL Code of Conduct as signed at the beginning of the season. Any substitute player or team official entering the field of play without consent from a match official (i.e. during an injury, etc.) or by the OPDL Venue Coordinator (i.e. during a substitution, etc.) are considered to be in violation of the OPDL Code of Conduct, disruptive to the match, and displaying unsportsmanlike conduct. Altercations on field are to be handled by match officials therefore substitute players and team officials shall not intervene.

- a) An altercation is defined as any argument or disagreement on the field of play between players, and/or match officials.
- b) Team officials entering the field in altercation with a player and/or a match official also violate the OPDL Code of Conduct.

Exceptions will be made in extreme situations as deemed by the OPDL. Any team in violation will incur a fine.

2.7 Failure to Submit Official Digital OPDL Medical/Consent Forms

To ensure the proper care and safety of all OPDL players, teams must ensure all players have submitted their digital OPDL Medical Consent Forms as mandated by OPDL Medical Guidelines. In the event that a player becomes injured on match day and requires assistance from a RTPSC personnel, digital copies through Jot Form must be accessible before initiating treatment beyond first responder care.

Players' medical/consent forms must be correctly, completely filled out, and submitted on Jot Form.

Teams missing medical/consent forms for any player will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

2.8 Failure to have Licence Holder representation at Provincial Screening Centre

In order to preserve the efficacy of the Provincial Screening Centre process, Licence Holders shall be represented at each Provincial Screening Centre event, by the Head Coach of the relevant OPDL team. This is to ensure appropriate feedback can be provided as part of the player selection process, by the individual who has worked most with the player. In the event that the appropriate Head Coach cannot attend the Provincial Screening Centre, a suitable substitute may be appointed by the Licence Holder, provided that permission is granted by OPDL.

2.9 Misrepresentation of or Failure to Identify Top Performer/s

OPDL substitution sheets contain 3 boxes to nominate the best 3 players on the opposing team for each OPDL match. This allows players to be recognized at the OPDL level for their performance during a match and serves as key layer of data from the OPDL to support player identification for Provincial Xcel programming. While all 3 spots do not need to be filled in, teams must fill in at least one of the three top performers they felt most deserved it. Failing to identify the top performers can be defined either as not filling out any numbers, or filling out a number that is not one of the players on the field

TYPE 3

3.1 Failure to Provide League Management with Hosting Information by Deadline

Licence Holders will be required to provide League Management with hosting information, including appointment of OPDL Coordinator and Venue details by the deadline date established annually by League Management. Licence Holders failing to do so in the correct time frame will incur a fine.

3.2 Failure to Comply with Registration Deadlines

OPDL Licence Holders shall adhere to the registration deadline as indicated in the OPDL Operations Rules.

OPDL Licence Holders shall submit a roster of players for each age group gender permitted under its Licence Agreement in accordance with the OPDL Operations Rules. Licence Holders failing to comply with registration deadlines are subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

3.3 Late Payment of League Fees

All Licence Holders are required to pay their annual league fees in full within 30 days of receipt of invoice from Ontario Soccer. Fines will accumulate for every day the fees are overdue past the NET30 deadline.

3.4 Leaving Garbage at Venue upon Departure

All teams are required to keep change rooms, on-field benches and surrounding areas clear of any garbage (i.e. water bottles, tape, wrappers, etc.). In the event that a change room or bench is untidy prior to a team taking to the field of play, the OPDL Venue Coordinator shall be notified. Any team that have left garbage on departure in change rooms, on-field benches and surrounding areas will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

3.5 Incomplete Game Day Roster

All teams must fully complete and publish their Game Day Roster with no missing team officials or players (including injured players, development players and play up permits players). Game Day Rosters and Line-ups must be published twenty-five (25) minutes prior to kick-off. The following fields are required to consider a Game Day Roster(s) complete:

- a) Match Information
- b) Team Information
 - i. Inclusive of initials below full roster
- c) Players' Full Name
- d) Player Jersey Number
- e) Ontario Soccer Registrant Numbers (Players and Team Officials)
- f) Goalkeeper's, Starting Line-up and Injured checked off and indicated
- g) All Team Official names & titles

In the event that they are not published with all completed information, this will be considered an incomplete Game Day Roster. Teams submitting incomplete Game Day Rosters will incur a fine.

3.6 Handwriting Names on Game Sheets (if used in extenuating circumstances)

Player names, team official names, and their Ontario Soccer registrant numbers are to be **typed** on game sheets. Any team submitting a game sheet with handwritten names, Ontario Soccer Registrant Numbers, Date of Births, or Player numbers - except for play up permits - will incur a fine.

3.7 Missing Player or Team Official Identification

Player or Team Officials Player ID must be physically present as defined by Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures on match day to confirm identification and ensure eligibility. Player ID must be handed in on time (25 minutes before scheduled kick off) and will be checked by OPDL Venue Coordinators. Any Player ID not physically handed to the OPDL Venue Coordinator before the allotted time (25 minutes before scheduled kick-off) but are given to the Coordinator prior to kick-off will still be eligible to play if they are on the roster, however the Licence Holder may incur a fine.

3.8 Request to change scheduled OPDL match with less than 14 days' notice

All requests to change an OPDL match must be received by OPDL no later than 14 days before the scheduled date for the match. Request must be received in writing via the attached form [here](#) from a Licence Holder representative and with full details and rationale for change.

3.9 Failure to Participate in Scheduled OPDL Meetings

All Licence Holders are required to have a minimum of one (1) or maximum of three (3) representative(s) attend all scheduled OPDL meetings via in person or on conference call (Ottawa only). Licence Holders failing to participate in scheduled OPDL meetings are subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

3.10 Improper Uniform/Uniform Issues

Teams are notified via OPDL League Management (E2E) and prior to their scheduled match which uniform they shall dress in (i.e., home or away kit). In regards to improper uniform/uniform issues, the following are finable:

- a) Teams failing to adhere to their scheduled uniform for that match as per uniform colours provided by Licence Holders
- b) Teams not complying with uniform standards to participate in OPDL (i.e., no OPDL patch on left sleeve, etc.)
- c) Teams altering or changing uniforms without notifying the OPDL. In the event that a team has a third (3rd) kit (i.e., long sleeve/cold weather kit), they must notify the OPDL minimum one 7 days prior to their scheduled match to ensure this information is communicated properly to all participants of that scheduled match.

3.11 Failure to complete Player/Goalkeeper Rubrics by stipulated deadline

Each season, OPDL players shall have access to a mid-season and an end-of-season rubric detailing their progress and abilities across the different criteria stipulated by OPDL. These rubrics serve to facilitate conversation during the mandatory meeting between the Head Coach, the player, and the Parent/Guardian. Each rubric shall be complimented by the aforementioned meeting and is pivotal in providing players and families with information on progress and areas for development

3.12 Failure to complete Player Profiles by stipulated deadline

Provincial Xcel programming relies on the accurate and complete information populated in the Performance Management System. Not providing accurate detail or absence information has a direct impact on the player identification process for further opportunities and, as a key outcome of the program, is a mandatory deliverable by all Licence Holders.

3.13 Failure to Upload Match Footage to HUDL League Exchange within 72 hours of the end of the match

As part of the OPDLs video sharing, teams must upload all home matches to the HUDL league exchange within 72 hours of the match being finished. This allows teams to properly prepare for each other leading up to matches, as well as assess their previous match performance. The 72-hour turnaround is key to help teams and players learn and develop from previous performances from match to match.

3.14 Failure to Upload OPDL Match Footage

While it is important to player development to have video available within 72 hours of the match, it is also important to make sure that the video is uploaded in general. Not having video from away matches and future opponents takes away a tool for player development for an entire team. Video of all home matches must be uploaded to the HUDL league exchange by the home team within 7 days of the match.

3.15 Failure to Complete Post-Game Form on the MySoccer App

As part of the OPDL's Competition management, the Venue Coordinator completes and submits the Post-Game Form on the MySoccer App and include the substitution forms and MO/AT/OS Scout/TD sign in sheet by the end of match day. This process facilitates the proper upkeep of league standings, scores, discipline etc. It is important to ensure match reports are submitted even if it is after the deadline.

3.16 Failure to Comply Host and Venue Coordinator Responsibilities

As part of the OPDL's commitment to maintain high game-day standards, each license holder is responsible for ensuring that the required game day equipment is properly set up for every home match. Failure to meet the standards as outlined in the OPDL Game Day Regulations Section 5: Host and Venue Coordinator Responsibilities may result in non-compliance.

Non-Compliance Notification and Payment Method

- a) Licence Holders will be notified of non-compliance within a reasonable period following the report of the incident to Ontario Soccer.
 - a. Within 7 days of receiving the notice of non-compliance, Licence Holders can submit a "Request for Reconsideration", whereby the Licence Holder wishes to contest infractions and fines outlined in the notice.
 - b. Within 14 days of receiving the notice of non-compliance or having a "Request for Reconsideration" denied, Licence Holders shall submit a corrective action plan. Plan should indicate actions that will be taken to mitigate future infractions of this type.
- b) Invoice for fines will be issued twice a year. First at the mid-season point, and later after conclusion of the competition season.
- c) Failure to pay fines by the stipulated time given will result in immediate revocation of a Licence to participate in OPDL.

APPENDIX C – [Game Day Regulations \(inclusive of Hosting Regulations\)](#)

APPENDIX D – [Trial Guidelines](#)

APPENDIX E – [Medical Guidelines & Forms](#)

APPENDIX F – [Technical Manual](#)

APPENDIX G – [Performance Management Guide](#)

APPENDIX H – [Festival Guide](#)

APPENDIX J – OPDL Brand Guidelines/Marks and Logo Use

- a) The OPDL's (or any future named league's) marks and logos may not be altered in any way, specifically around colours, proportions, font, and any other manner without the expressed written consent from Ontario Soccer. The 'OPDL Brand at a Glance' document shall be the primary brand compliance document for the new OPDL marks.
- b) Ontario Soccer may change or update these marks and logos at any time and will provide adequate notice for OPDL member groups to update their materials.
- c) Licence Holders are encouraged to use the OPDL member logo on their website and official correspondence but may not alter the marks and incorporate them directly into that of the Licence Holder. A Licence Holder: OPDL mark lock-up will be provided to all Licence Holders to ensure proper use of the OPDL mark in tandem with the Licence Holder mark.
- d) An OPDL patch will be provided for both the home & away jersey prior to the start of the season and must be worn on the left sleeve of the designated match jerseys for all players (including bench players). A Licence Holder may choose to adhere patches in the same manner to their practice jerseys or for team official personnel, but this is not required.
- e) Where an OPDL Licence Holder seeks to partner with a third-party entity (such as, but not limited to, a foreign professional club), any rebranding of the Licence Holder's logo marks must receive prior Ontario Soccer approval and include reference to their immediate geographic location. This requirement refers to official documents, website, social media and participant uniforms.

APPENDIX K – OPDL Sponsorship Guidelines

- a) Ontario Soccer recognizes the Licence Holder’s right to enter into sponsorship contracts, endorsements and business relationships subject to the conditions set out below. The Licence Holder hereby:
- i. Consents to Ontario Soccer using, reproducing and distributing without charge, on a worldwide basis, in any format or media (including, but not limited to, photo, video, etc.) the Licence Holder’s name, logo or other identifiable attribute which can be linked to the Licence Holder (collectively referred to as “Licence Holder’s Attributes”) to promote the OPDL and the OPDL website, media guide, media kit, sponsorship, licensing, advertising, public relations, social media and marketing programs (collectively referred to as the “Marketing Programs”).
 - ii. Undertakes not to enter into any contract or sponsorship venture related to OPDL without first obtaining Ontario Soccer’s written approval. Ontario Soccer may not grant its approval if the proposed contract or venture conflicts, in the sole opinion of Ontario Soccer, with 1) contracts that are, or may be, entered into by Ontario Soccer as part of the OPDL Marketing Programs, or 2) with branding standards of the program. This consent will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
 - iii. Warrants that the Licence Holder has not granted and will not grant to any person or entity an exclusive Licence to use the Licence Holder’s Attributes, which would conflict with this Agreement and/or with the Licence Holder’s participation in the OPDL Marketing Programs.
 - iv. Releases and saves harmless Ontario Soccer from any and all claims that the Licence Holder may have against Ontario Soccer, now or in the future, arising from the use by Ontario Soccer of promotional material utilizing the Licence Holder’s attributes.

OPDL Sponsors

Ontario Soccer reserves the right to enter into agreements with program-wide sponsors. As an extension of those partnerships, Ontario Soccer may make offers and introductions to OPDL members to join in the partnership. Such partnerships may have mutual benefits and returns to both Ontario Soccer and OPDL Licence Holders, which may vary from partnership to partnership.

Licence Holders may choose to opt into these partnerships. It is agreed and understood that Program Sponsors may be competitors to one or more of the sponsors of the OPDL Licence Holders.

Exclusive Sponsors/Categories

Ontario Soccer may enter into exclusive sponsorships with companies and would require that no competing sponsor representation be prominently featured on match days.

Match Day Sponsor Rights

The Licence Holder owns and controls all other match venue signage for OPDL match days. The placement of Program Sponsor signage cannot be modified. All tents, banners, and other signage, as defined by Ontario Soccer - inclusive of partner branding - must be used as part of the field setup without exception.

Team Sponsors

Licence Holders may source and secure sponsors for their OPDL program as they see fit, first obtaining Ontario Soccer's written approval, before retaining the royalties, revenues and benefits such sponsorship agreements offer.

Licence Holders may not accept sponsorship from tobacco, drug or alcohol companies. Any organization that promotes discriminatory practices, illegal activities or gambling, or contradicts OPDL's objectives to promote sport, health, community-building, fitness and personal well-being, is similarly excluded from sponsorship consideration for OPDL Licence Holders.

Licence Holders may sell the front or back of their team jersey to team sponsors. Logos may be no more than 7" high x 10 1/2" wide and shall not interfere with the player number, if placed on the back. Again, all sponsors must be pre-approved by Ontario Soccer.

The left sleeve of all match jerseys are reserved for the OPDL patch. The OPDL patch, which may contain Ontario Soccer partner logos as well as that of the OPDL, must be used and placed on both Home & Away jerseys as defined by Ontario Soccer.

The right sleeve patch may be sold by the Licence Holder to a sponsor. The size must be 4" in diameter or smaller and must be approved by Ontario Soccer.

Licence Holders may bring with them a team banner bearing sponsors' logos that can be no larger than (4'x8') for display behind the team bench. No signage bearing the marks of a partner that is in conflict with an exclusive OPDL partner may be displayed.

Use of Ontario Soccer Marks

Licence Holders are permitted to use the marks and branding of Ontario Soccer subject to written approval and in accordance with the "OPDL Brand Guidelines/Marks and Logo Usage" document, to further the promotion and awareness of their OPDL club. All artwork requests can be sent to Robyn Gmeindl, Ontario Soccer Manager of Partnerships & Events, at rgmeindl@ontariosoccer.net.

Subject to Change

Terms and conditions of the sponsorship guidelines are subject to change without notice, from time to time in the sole discretion of Ontario Soccer. Ontario Soccer will notify all OPDL Licence Holders of amendments to these terms and conditions by distributing updates through program e-mail communications.

APPENDIX L – OPDL Social Media Guidelines

The OPDL promotes open and respectful communication on all platforms.

The use of social media, defined by active engagement on user-generated platforms such as X.com, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok, LinkedIn blogs, websites, etc., by OPDL players, team officials, parents and Licence Holders staff are fully supported. The following guidelines aim to provide guidance to the OPDL to ensure the safety and enjoyment to all involved.

It is important to remember that social media sites are public, meaning all OPDL participants who opt to have a public profile must be prepared to have their posts, photos, videos and opinions seen by anyone and everyone. Use common sense, and if you identify yourself on social media as an OPDL participants first and foremost, prioritize professionalism and care.

With all of these things considered, Ontario Soccer encourages all OPDL members to partake in social media for the promotion, enjoyment, camaraderie and documentation of the program.

- a) As OPDL players are underage, extreme care should be taken when it comes to posting text, photos or other online content:
 - i. Always ask for verbal permission when posting photo or video content of subjects depicted before posting online
 - ii. In cases where the photo or video content is intended for commercial or promotional use, it is strongly recommended that written permission be sourced
- b) Sensitive information/personal details must not be shared publicly
 - i. Be aware that if your Facebook, X.com, Instagram, etc. profiles can be viewed publicly, they are then accessible by underage participants. Being cognizant of the type of content you share online is crucial in putting forth a professional image overall.
- c) Overtly negative content regarding OPDL, Ontario Soccer and other Licence Holders will not be tolerated and will be reported and can be subjected to Ontario Soccer disciplinary measures
- d) Be aware that you may be photographed or filmed without your knowledge at any time. If possible, venues should go to the extent of posting signage reminding participants of this.

Please remember that OPDL participants are **personally responsible** for the content that is published online in the form of user-generated media.



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