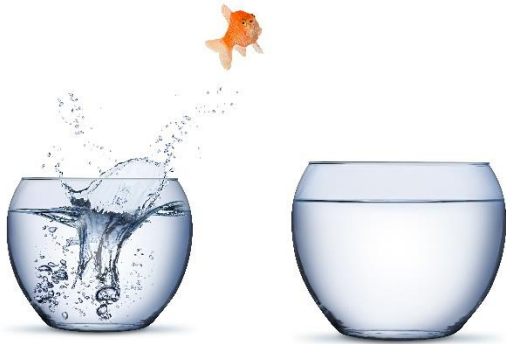




Eight Year Review

December 2022

Evolution of the OPDL



OSA AGM 2011
OPDL concept is born

2012-13
Program design, business planning, initial licence awards

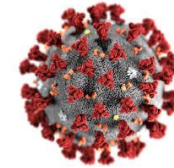
2014
Program launch



2014-2019
Program scale out and design amendments



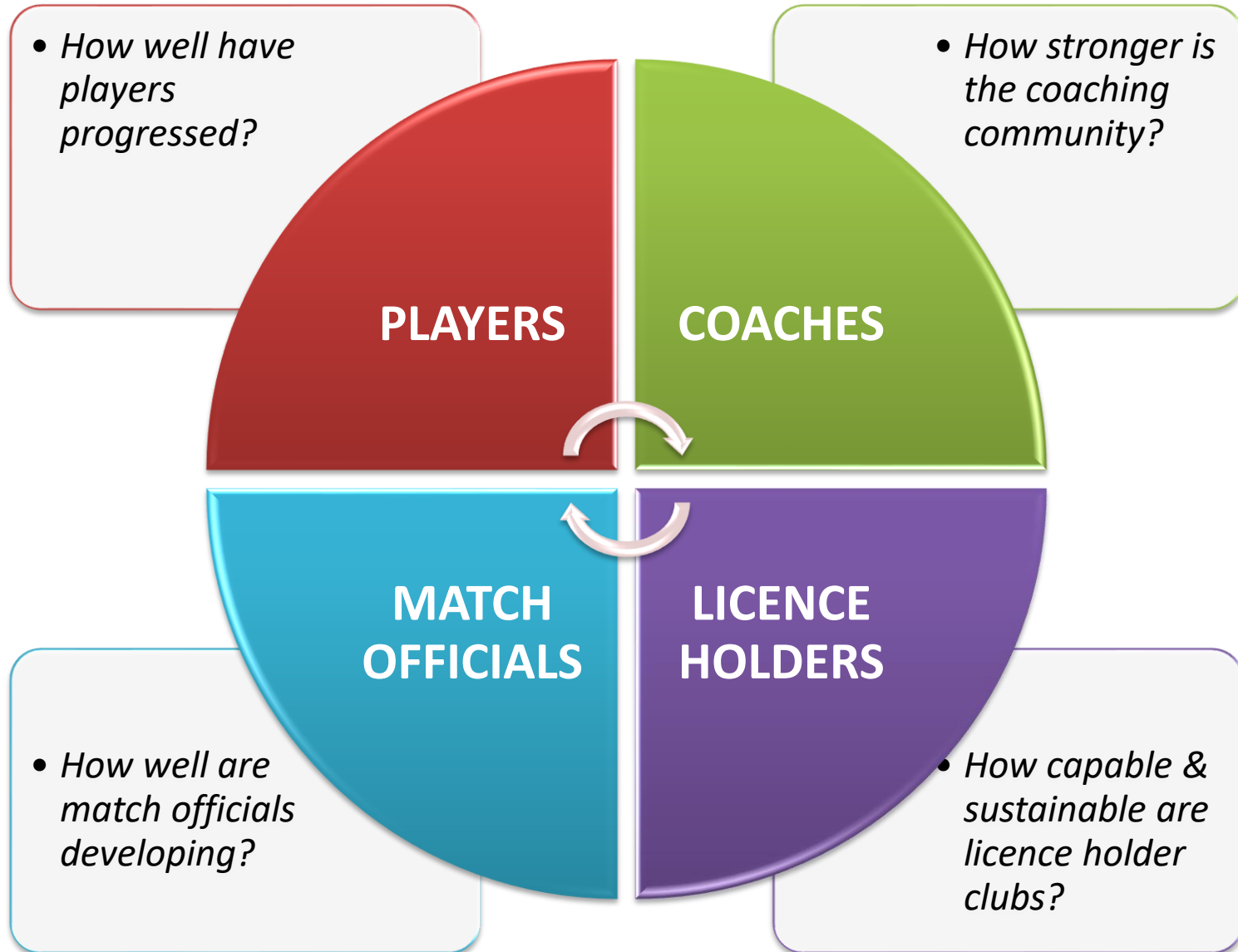
2020-21
Pandemic disruption



2022
8 year program review



The OPDL has been assessed based on its four core stakeholder groups



PLAYERS



74.2%-92.7% of Ontario Soccer provincial program since 2015



60% of Canada's national team made up of Ontario players in 2020 (from 51% in 2016)



29.6% of League1 Ontario players from OPDL in 2022 (436 players)



80% of TFC Academy players coming from OPDL in 2018/19 (from 37% in 2016/17)



11% of Ontario players in CPL from OPDL (6 players)

OPDL players are achieving higher level soccer opportunities

PLAYERS



Player volume has scaled out from 727 (2014 to 4654 (2022)

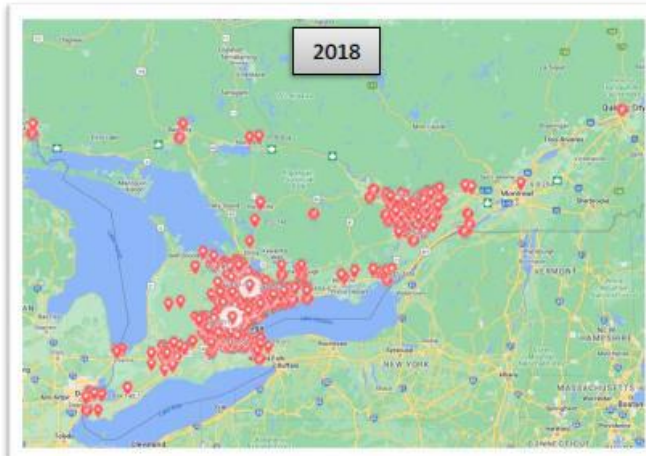
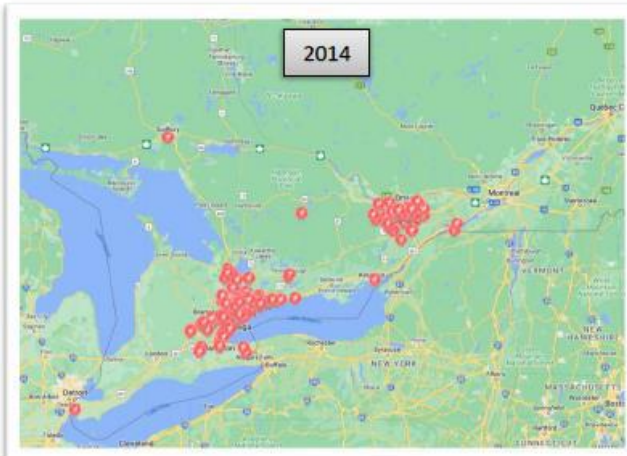


Player retention has improved from 70.2% (2014/15) to 74.6% (2018/19)



Geographical coverage is improving (but there is still work to be done)

The OPDL player base is becoming more robust and established



OPDL Player Distribution (2014 vs 2018)

(Source: Ontario Soccer Player Data Files, 2014-2022)

PLAYERS



76.9% of former OPDL players aged 16 or older continue to play elsewhere



Most play in Ontario Soccer affiliated regional leagues (24.7%) or in competitive college/university (21.2%)



17.6% leave to pursue pro, semi-pro or pro-am soccer opportunities

Most players who leave the OPDL continue to play in some way



Most leave the OPDL due to issues relating to cost, coach or enjoyment

COACHES

OPDL coaches are becoming more diversely qualified, younger and more gender diverse



Over half (56.6%) of all OPDL coaches have taken further coaching qualifications in the past two years



58.5% of OPDL coaches now hold a CSA C-Licence



37.7% of OPDL coaches now hold a CSA Youth Licence



Average age of OPDL coaches has dropped from 47yrs 5mths (2014) to 44yrs 5mths (2021)



Female coach representation in the OPDL has tripled from 12.8% (2014) to 38.6% (2021).

COACHES

OPDL licence holders are sourcing more coaches from within their club, but could invest more in their development



54.6% of OPDL coaches are sourced from within their licence holder club



Coach education budgets at OPDL licence holders has dropped by 9.1% from 2014-2021



OPDL coaches rates the coach education they received at their licence holder club at 67.2%



Coach quality in the OPDL is rated at 60.5% for players aged 16 and older, and 68.4% for players aged 15 and younger.

MATCH OFFICIALS

OPDL match officials are more numerous, younger and more advanced in levels



OPDL match official volume has expanded from 355 (2015) to 560 (2021)



OPDL match official average level has improved from 6.97 (2016) to 7.06 (2021)



Average age of an OPDL match official has dropped from 38yrs 10mths (2015) to 38yrs 6mths (2021)



Female representation in OPDL match officials has dropped from 9.5% (2015) to 8.8% (2021)

MATCH OFFICIALS

The OPDL is not competitive in terms of attracting match officials and is still reliant on a core group of experienced officials



Game load per match official in the OPDL has increased from 6.1 (2015) to 7.3 (2021)



24.6% of OPDL match officials from 2015 still officiate the program in 2021



The number of match officials taking 20 OPDL games or more in a year has more than doubled from 16 (2016) to 37 (2021)



Retained OPDL match officials (2015-21) are on average older and hold higher levels



OPDL match officials rate their development in the OPDL at 52.3%



53.6% of OPDL match officials cite game fees as the biggest hindrance to them taking OPDL games

LICENCE HOLDERS

Licence holder clubs understand the importance of their OPDL licence, and its impact on their club



Licence holder clubs are in 80% agreement that holding an OPDL licence has bettered their club



Licence holder clubs are in 74.2% agreement that the OPDL has helped them develop top players



Licence holder clubs are in 81.4% agreement that being associated with the OPDL has strengthened their own brand



Licence holder clubs are in 77.2% agreement with the OPDL's technical standards



Licence holder clubs are in 70% agreement that the OPDL has been effective in helping them develop top coaches

LICENCE HOLDERS

OPDL licences impact return rates for OPDL players, but do not impact overall club registrations



75.7% of OPDL players aged 16 or older say the OPDL is quite or an extremely important reason why they are at the club



Overall player registrations at OPDL licence holders (2016 entry and earlier) have dropped by 19.9%, lower than the Ontario Soccer average of 18.4%




76% of OPDL parents say they would move their child to another club if their club no longer held an OPDL licence

OUTLOOK

- ✓ The OPDL is unquestionably providing heightened opportunity for Ontario's top player, coach and match official talent
- ✓ The OPDL remains a substantial investment for players and their parents
 - These costs are not out of place when compared to similar levels of programming in other sports
- ✓ The OPDL brand is very strong and entrenched in Ontario Soccer
- ✓ The OPDL has challenges with respect to scalability and associated capacity

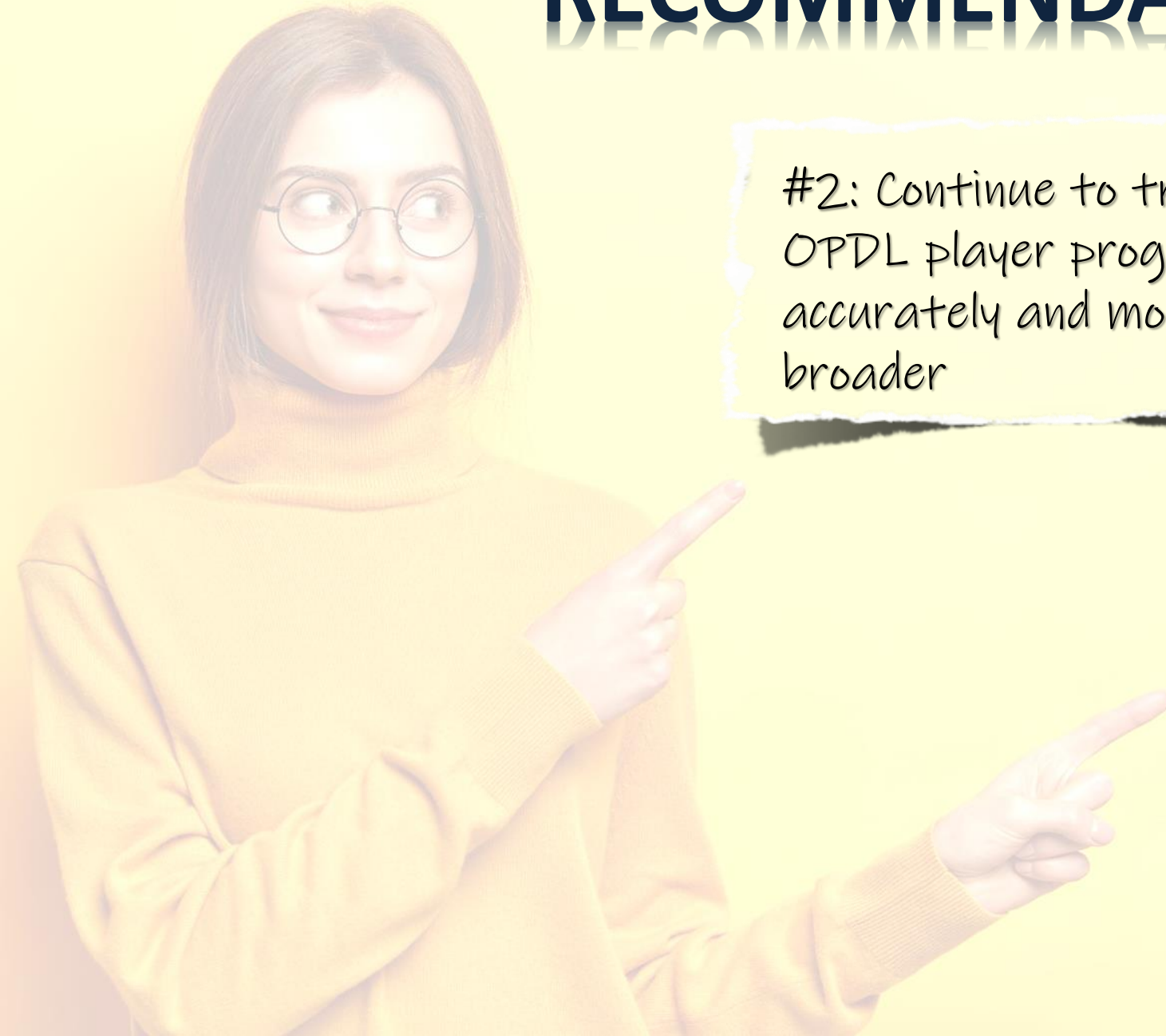
RECOMMENDATIONS

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing round glasses and a yellow turtleneck sweater, is pointing her right hand towards the text box. She has a slight smile and is looking towards the right side of the frame.

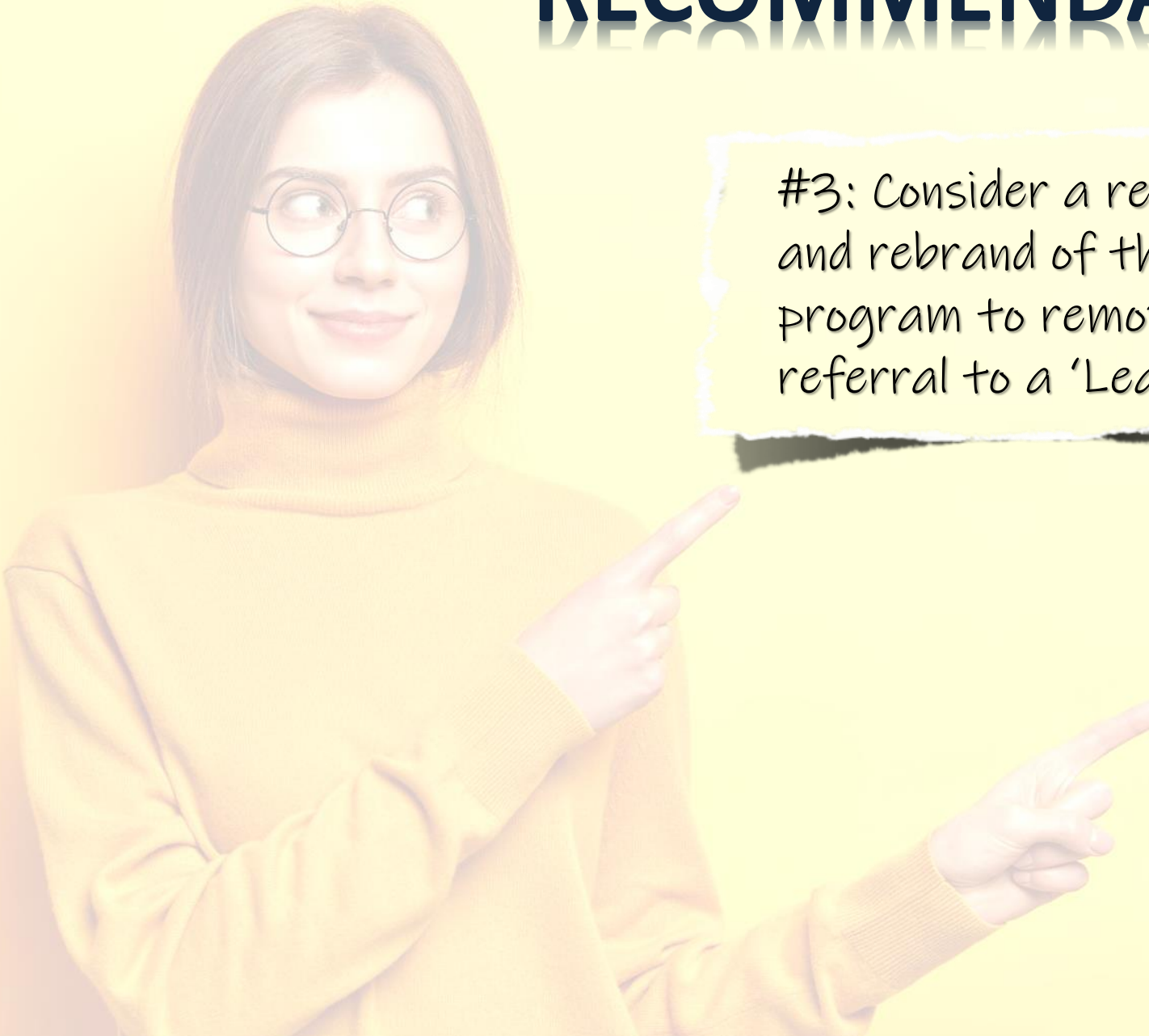
#1: Retain the OPDL as the core channel for advanced youth player development in Ontario

RECOMMENDATIONS

#2: Continue to track
OPDL player progression
accurately and more
broader




RECOMMENDATIONS

A woman with long brown hair, wearing round glasses and a yellow turtleneck sweater, is pointing her right hand towards the text box. Her left hand is also pointing towards the text box. The background is a soft, yellowish glow.


#3: Consider a rename and rebrand of the program to remove referral to a 'League'

RECOMMENDATIONS

A woman with long brown hair, wearing round glasses and a yellow turtleneck sweater, is pointing her right index finger towards the text in the speech bubble. Her left hand is also pointing towards the right. The background is a soft, yellowish gradient.

#4: Be judicious with respect to further expansion of licence holder volume

RECOMMENDATIONS

A woman with long brown hair, wearing round glasses and a yellow turtleneck sweater, is pointing her right hand towards the text box. She has a slight smile and is looking towards the right. The background is a soft, warm yellow gradient.

#5: Maintain strong partnership with Canada Soccer in advanced player development

RECOMMENDATIONS

A woman with long brown hair, wearing round glasses and a yellow turtleneck sweater, is pointing her right hand towards the text in a white torn-paper box. Her left hand is also pointing towards the text. The background is a soft, yellowish glow.

#6: Drive and support strong Board and technical leadership in licence holder clubs

RECOMMENDATIONS

#7: Invest in collective in-house OPDL coach education and development



RECOMMENDATIONS

#8: Improve the competitiveness of the OPDL vis-à-vis other leagues with respect to match officiating





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