

Provincial Xcel's Talented Player Identification Summary & FAQ

Updated February 9th, 2023

The Ontario Provincial Development League (OPDL) is the primary program in which potential Provincial Team Players are identified. There are however, alternative player identification options for those Ontario Soccer registered players who do not compete within the OPDL.

Provincial Team Player Eligibility:

- Primary method: Player identification within OPDL or League1 Ontario
- Alternative method: Player recommendation process for Talent on Location Day screening event (ToLD)

Provincial Team Player Identification Process:

As outlined above, a player identified via the OPDL or ToLD process can then be invited to continue their progress in the Provincial Team Player Identification Process via the following three steps:

1. Provincial Screening Competition (PSC)
2. Provincial Projects (PP) – Cancelled
3. Provincial Team (PT)

Provincial Screening Competition (PSC)

PSC events are conducted annually. This Provincial Xcel identification event will take place, as communicated annually, depending on the age group & gender of the players.

PSC's consist of players who are scouted and identified within the OPDL, League1 Ontario and players who are identified through Talent on Location Days (ToLD). Players identified within the PSC are invited to attend the Provincial Projects. PSC events are typically for players who are within the U13, U14, U15 and U16 male and female age groups.

Provincial Projects (PP)

PP events are typically conducted annually following the PSC events. They consist of the players identified within the PSC and are scheduled on weekends. It is during the PP weekends that the Provincial Staff identify the up to 22 players for U14, U15, U16 and U17 males and females into the Provincial Team. However, due to the global pandemic, the Provincial Projects is currently suspended. Players will be selected to the Provincial Team directly from the Provincial Screening Competition.

Provincial Team (PT)

PT events will involve the 22 players per age and gender that are conducted in the month of April. These events will consist of up to two pre-competition weekends and an inter-Provincial Competition conducted in the final weekend of April. At these events, Canada Soccer's National Team Staff will be in attendance to identify players for their National Excel Programs.

Player Recommendation Process for Talent on Location Days (ToLD)

ToLD events operate at the age groups which are in alignment with the Provincial Team age groups. All players from the Ontario Soccer membership are eligible to request an invitation to attend a ToLD event. The eligible ages are U13, U14, U15, or U16 via a recommendation process from an Ontario Soccer Member Organization's qualified coach. Players that are identified via ToLD are then invited to attend the upcoming PSC. Players will have their performance analyzed by Ontario Soccer's Preferred Performance Analysis Provider, MSA, to compare key performance indicators with players competing in the OPDL.

Specific details regarding the player recommendation process are located on the Ontario Soccer website. If a player is identified through the Player Recommendation Process and attends their PSC event, and are ultimately selected to the PT, they will automatically receive an invitation to attend the subsequent PSC event of the following cycle.

If they are detected at the current PSC, to be invited into the Provincial Xcel program, the PT player has until the next scheduled PSC event in the following year to provide evidence that they have registered with an Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) Licence Holder (Full-Time Player) or League1 Ontario Team (first team roster player). This requirement exists for several reasons such as:


- The OPDL is actively scouted on an annual basis which allows players to be tracked consistently
- OPDL Licence Holder staff engage with Provincial Xcel staff on an ongoing basis to support each tracking player's development
- The OPDL is a standard's based program which ensures Licence Holder organizations deliver their programs according to global best practices tailored for Ontario's soccer environment

It is recommended that players, who fall within this scenario, commit to an OPDL club team as early as possible to avoid not being able to obtain the necessary evidence prior to the first PP sessions typically held in January.

Players who live further than 100 kilometers of an OPDL Licence Holder (that operates a team within their age group) and/or a League1 Ontario Team, that are not selected to attend either the PSC or PP level, are eligible to request and invitation for the following seasons ToLD via the player recommendation process.



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If an Ontario Soccer membership player attends a ToLD and is not identified, they are eligible to request an invitation into a ToLD event the following season via a recommendation. For these players, there is not a requirement to provide evidence that they have registered with an OPDL Licence Holder or League1 Ontario Team in order to be eligible to be invited into the following season's ToLD.

Specific date and location details for the season ToLD, PSC, PP and PT will appear on the OPDL website once established.

Player Identification within OPDL or League1 Ontario:

Players competing within the OPDL or on a League 1 Ontario first team roster, are eligible for identification into the Provincial Screening Competition (PSC). A player who leaves the OPDL or League1 Ontario, will not be eligible to be included in future PSC, Provincial Projects (PP) or Provincial Team (PT) events. An exception only applies if the player leaves the OPDL Club or League1 Ontario Team due to a change in their place of residence which places them living in excess of 100 kilometers from an OPDL or a League1 Ontario Team within their playing age group.

Players not selected into either the PP or PT programs, and who live within the 100 kilometer distance of an OPDL Club Team within their age group and or a League1 Ontario Team, must be registered and compete on an OPDL Club Team (roster player) or League1 Ontario Team (first team roster player) in order to be scouted and identified to be eligible for a possible invite into subsequent PSC events. Players who live outside of the 100 kilometer distance criteria and are selected to the PT; provided that they still live outside of the 100 kilometer distance the following season, will be eligible to be invited into the PSC the following season.

Additional Player Eligibility Information

100 kilometers is determined as being the shortest driving distance (excluding toll roads) one way from the player's residence to the OPDL Licence Holder's Club House (or office) location and/or field training or game location(s).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If a player is identified via a ToLD Process and is selected to the final Provincial Team, do they have to join an OPDL or League1 Ontario team that season?

A: No. Ideally if the players has an OPDL or League1 team within 100 kilometers of their home address they should compete with that OPDL or League1 Ontario team for that season in order for OPDL scouts to monitor their development; however, they don't have to. Provincial Team players will be extended an invite to attend that upcoming season's PSC event. If they are again identified at the PSC event they will have to produce a commitment letter signed by both the Parent/Player and the OPDL or League1 Ontario Team prior to the first PP session (typically held in January). If a Player Commitment Letter is not produced, they will not be able to participate in the PP sessions.

Q: If a player is identified via a ToLD Process and is NOT selected to the final Provincial Team, do they have to join an OPDL or League1 team that season?

A: If the player lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, then yes, they must compete with that OPDL or League 1 team in order to be scouted, monitored and potentially identified for that season's upcoming PSC event. If the player does not live within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team then they can attempt to be recommended for that season's ToLD.

Q: If a player is identified via a ToLD Process and is NOT selected to the PSC, do they have to join an OPDL or League1 team that season?

A: If the player lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, then yes, they must compete with that OPDL or League1 team in order to be scouted, monitored and potentially identified for that season's upcoming PSC event. Once a player who lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, attends a ToLD event they cannot attend any future ToLD events. If the player does not live within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team then they can attempt to be recommended for the coming season's ToLD.

Q: If a player is identified via a ToLD Process and is NOT selected to the PP do they have to join an OPDL or League1 team that season?

A: If the player lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, then yes, they must compete with that OPDL or League1 team in order to be scouted to be possibly identified for that season's upcoming PSC event. Once a player who lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, attends a ToLD event they cannot attend any future ToLD events. If the player does not live within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team then they can attempt to be recommended for that season's ToLD.

Q: If a player is identified via a ToLD Process and is identified for the PSC but cannot attend the PSC event due to injury what are the player's options?

A: If the player wishes to pursue an opportunity to compete in the PP they will need to advise Ontario Soccer in writing prior to the scheduled PSC event of their injury with the support of a Medical Professionals note/report. It is the responsibility of the player to advise Ontario Soccer of their status as to when they can return to compete. If the player can return to compete by or before the scheduled March sessions (or PSC event) the player can then attend and compete. Their selection will be based upon their performance at the event and/or session(s) that they attend. If the player lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team then yes, they must compete with that OPDL or League1 team in order to be scouted to be possibly identified for that season's upcoming PSC event. Once a player who lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, attends a ToLD event they cannot attend any future ToLD events. If the player does not live within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team then they can attempt to be recommended for that season's ToLD.

Q: If a player is identified via a ToLD Process and is then identified at the PSC but cannot attend the PP event due to injury what are the player's options?


A: If the player wishes to pursue an opportunity to compete in the PP they will need to advise Ontario Soccer in writing prior to the scheduled PP event(s) of their injury with the support of a Medical Professionals note/report. It is the responsibility of the player to advise Ontario Soccer of their status as to when they can return to compete. If the player can return to compete by or before the scheduled March sessions (or PSC event) the player can then attend and compete. Their selection will be based upon their performance at the event and/or session(s) that they attend. If the player lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team they must compete with that OPDL or League1 team in order to be scouted, monitored and possibly identified for that season's upcoming PSC event. Once a player who lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, attends a ToLD event, they cannot attend any future ToLD events. If the player does not live within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, then they can attempt to be recommended for that seasons ToLD.

Q: Since ToLD is not operated in-person, if a player is invited to attend the PSC via the Player Recommendation Process, do they need to join an OPDL or League1 team for the following season to maintain their eligibility for the Provincial Xcel program?

A: If the player lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, then yes, they must compete with that OPDL or League1 team in order to be scouted, monitored and potentially identified for the following season's upcoming PSC event. Once a player who lives within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team, is invited to attend the PSC through the Player Recommendation Process, they cannot attend any future ToLD events. If the player does not live within 100 kilometers of an OPDL or League1 team then they can attempt to be recommended for the coming season's ToLD.



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Definitions:

- **OPDL** – Ontario Provincial Development League – operates for ages U13, U14, U15 and U-17 typically from May to October on an annual basis
- **ToLD** – Talent on Location Day – operates for ages U13, U14, U15 and U16 annually leading to the PSC
- **PSC** – Provincial Screening Competition – operates for ages U14, U15, U16 and U17 annually leading to the PP
- **PP** – Provincial Projects – operates for ages U14, U15, U16 and U17 annually leading to PT (currently suspended)
- **PT** – Provincial Team – operates for ages U14, U15, U16 and U17 annually

Dates for each of these events is communicated annually. For more information, please contact [Bryan Rosenfeld, Sr. Manager, Development & Provincial Xcel](#)

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