




**ONTARIO SOCCER**  
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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

**Bulletin #:** I2022-033  
**Date:** May 6, 2022  
**To:** Ontario Soccer; District Membership, Clubs and Associate Members  
**CC:** Ontario Soccer Board of Directors, Staff  
**From:** Bjorn Osieck, Director, Business Operations  
**Subject:** Milestone Premier Partnership between Ontario Soccer, Toronto FC and the Canadian Premier League announced

Ontario Soccer is delighted to share with our membership that we have achieved a major partnership milestone in our journey towards rebuilding our beautiful game.

Through extending our Founding Premier Partnership with Toronto FC (TFC), [originally launched in 2017](#), and by newly expanding our existing sport partnership with the Canadian Premier League (CPL) on behalf of its three Ontario-based member Clubs: Forge FC, York United FC and Atlético Ottawa to also elevate the CPL to Premier Partner status, our Talented Pathway in Ontario has received an unprecedented boost.

This announcement comes at a time of recent successes like the historic [Olympic Gold medal](#) for Canada Soccer's Women's National Team including 12 Ontario players and the qualification of Canada Soccer's Men's National Team for the [FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™](#), with a roster 80% comprised of players hailing from Ontario, as well as the [launch of League1 Canada](#), which originated in 2014 with League1 Ontario, as the only professional-amateur, standards-based league in the Province, which was [acquired by CSB from Ontario Soccer](#) in 2018.

As leaders of the professional game in Canada, MLS Pro-Club TFC and the CPL, Canada's top-tier men's domestic professional league, represented in Ontario by its member Clubs Forge FC, York United FC and Atlético Ottawa, will also become the co-presenting partners of the Ontario Player Development League (OPDL), which will [officially enter its eighth season this weekend](#), as games kick-off in venues across the Province on May 7th, 2022.

The OPDL is the province's premier youth high performance program owned and operated by Ontario Soccer, which was created to provide opportunities for the top players, coaches and match officials in the province to develop and advance to higher levels of the game.

The OPDL, which was [launched in 2014](#) at the U13 Level and has since grown to encompass 29 License Holders from Ottawa in the East to Windsor in the West, is the foundation of and an integral development component for Ontario Soccer's [Talented Pathway](#). The OPDL serves as the primary avenue within the Talented Pathway model for players to be detected into future Provincial Screening Competitions, which can then lead to [Provincial Xcel](#) opportunities, as well as serve as a launchpad for players to reach collegiate, and even professional levels. Currently developing 3,000+ players, the OPDL is available for U13, U14, U15 and U17 male and female players.

Both TFC and CPL are vital aspirational destinations along the Talented Pathway:


- TFC through its TFC Academy is a pinnacle Club soccer destination for aspiring professional male soccer players in our province.
- The CPL as Canada's top-tier men's domestic professional league, represented in Ontario by its member Clubs Forge FC, York United FC and Atlético Ottawa, provides important development opportunities for over 150 Canadian players, many of whom have come from Ontario.
- In addition, the League1 Ontario property, owned by Canadian Soccer Business, provides an essential launchpad for progression to the professional level for aspiring male and female soccer players in Ontario.

Through their commercial investment in Ontario Soccer marketing rights, as well as outstanding support in amplifying the brand appeal of the OPDL, which includes establishing an improved scouting reach across Ontario and working together to enhance shared events, TFC and CPL will both play a pivotal role in moving soccer development to the next level in Ontario.

Beyond the quintessential focus on expanded player development opportunities, the partners also plan to work hand-in-hand in leading the charge to expand efforts for coaching and match official education and development and sharing unprecedented knowledge resources and best practices with Ontario Soccer member groups, ensuring this partnership will elevate our game for all participants, both at the high performance and grassroots levels.



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Ontario Soccer applauds both TFC's and CPL's vision for the growth of soccer in Ontario and their unwavering commitment to give back to the grassroots community. We are most grateful for their support, which comes at the ideal time, as it perfectly aligns with the beginning of [Ontario Soccer's new Strategic planning cycle](#) adding tremendous purpose and opportunity to our efforts as we prepare for 2026.

If you have any further questions, please contact [Bjorn Osieck](#), Director Business Operations.

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