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ACTION BULLETIN

Bulletin #: A2023-10

Date: October 30, 2023

To: Ontario Soccer; District Membership and Associate Members

CC: Ontario Soccer; Board of Directors, Staff

From: Bjorn Osieck, Senior Director, Business

Subject: Newest Ontario Soccer Partnership Offers Academic Support to Student Athletes and a

Fundraising Opportunity for Member Organizations

Ontario Soccer has forged a partnership with Alberta-based Castle Rock Research Corp. to support student-athlete academic achievement, while creating a potentially lucrative fundraising opportunity for our member organizations. Ontario Soccer is dedicated to providing youth with a holistic approach to success, not only on the field of play, but also in the classroom. This collaboration aims to equip student-athletes with support to excel academically while pursuing their soccer dreams.

The Offer to Student-Athletes

Ontario Soccer, through its participating membership organizations, will offer interested student-athletes member-discounted access to Castle Rock's digital study guide platform, SOLARO, which is a complement to classroom learning and helps students sharpen their academic skills in all core subjects. This "member-only" offer at a substantial discount makes supportive learning more accessible to student-athletes and their families. Our student-athletes can access a one-year SOLARO subscription for \$50.00 (a significant discount off the \$200.00/ year retail price).

The Resource

SOLARO (Student-Oriented Learning, Assessment, & Reporting Online) is a digital platform that offers students in grades 3-12 academic lessons and hundreds of practice questions tailored to provincial grade-level standards in Mathematics, English language arts and Science. Whether your team is comprised of elementary students learning how to study and prioritize school or high schoolers facing tough exams, SOLARO is an incredible support.

SOLARO is compatible with phones, tablets and computers with online and offline access to help student-athletes balance competitions, training and travel demands with academic demands.



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Parents can also access SOLARO to provide targeted homework support, including refreshing their skills and accessing learning progress reports.

Financial Benefit to Ontario Soccer Member Clubs

Ontario Soccer has priced SOLARO to allow money to go back to our Member Clubs. For each student-athlete subscription purchase, your organization will earn \$10.00. With strong stakeholder participation, this fundraising stream may allow your Club to supplement and even move away from other more time-consuming and labour-intensive traditional fundraising efforts, while also supporting your student-athletes' educational success.

ACTION REQUIRED:

On November 1, please issue the attached message to your organization's participants. It explains the offer and invites families to visit the dedicated <u>Ontario Soccer</u> <u>webpage</u> or <u>www.solaro.ca/ontario-soccer</u>. There they can learn more about the resource and purchase the annual subscription for \$50 (retail \$200).

On this page, families will be prompted to do the following to ensure they receive the discounted purchase price and the money from each sale goes right to their Member Club.

- Select their Member Club name from the drop-down menu (alphabetical order);
- Enter the discount code OSSTUDY2023 at checkout.

Ontario Soccer continues to look for innovative and sustainable ways to support its members as we collectively work to strengthen the soccer community. We appreciate your interest and participation in this initiative for the benefit of our student-athletes' future success and the wellness of our game.

For more information, please contact Brendan Ford.

Visit the Ontario Soccer website for more information and Club resources.

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