



Grassroots Diploma Hosting Guide

Updated: June 10th, 2025

Ontario Soccer's Grassroots Diploma Coach Education

The Ontario Soccer Grassroots Diploma has been designed to support the growth of coaches working across all ages and stages from the grassroots (U8-U13) through to competitive environments (U14+). The course's intent is to help bridge the learning outcomes between the Grassroots Coach Education courses and Canada Soccer's C Diploma.

Grassroots soccer, as defined by UEFA & FIFA, is all soccer that is non-professional and non-elite.

The course capacity will be limited to a maximum of 36 candidates per course.

Target Coach: The Grassroots Diploma is a requirement for U13 OPDL Assistant Coaches, Ontario Cup Head Coaches and I-Model Pilot Project Head Coaches but is open to all coaches looking to advance their careers and understanding of the game.

Host Benefit: By hosting the practical component for the course, we would like to offer our hosting partner early registration for their member coaches. The host partner will be granted up to a (15) fifteen-day window for their coaches to register for the course. Following this window of registration, the opportunity to attend the course will be opened to the greater public.

Responsibility of Ontario Soccer for the Grassroots Diploma

- Advertising of the course through Ontario Soccer communication channels
- Registration and verification of candidates for the course
- Assignment of Coach Developers
- Communication of the course logistics and operations with course candidates
- Organize and facilitate the online learning component of the course content through the Ontario Soccer Institute of Learning

Responsibility of Host Organization for the Grassroots Diploma

- Booking and rental of the field
- Provide an emergency action plan to Coach Developers for the specific venue
- Provide a minimum set of equipment to facilitate the course as follows:
 - 20x size 5 soccer balls appropriately inflated
 - 4 sets of 10 coloured bibs
 - 4 sets of 25 coloured cones or flat markers
 - 4 pop up goals (4ft)
 - 2x small-sided goals (minimum 7v7 dimensions)



- Provide a minimum of 12 players for each learning block
 - Block 1: 10:00 – 12:00pm;
 - Block 2: 12:45 – 2:45pm;
 - Block 3: 2:45 – 4:45pm
- Provide confirmation of field permit, equipment, players, and main points of contact information one month prior to hosting the in-person portion of the course.

Course Schedule

Delivery	Topic	Time
Online	Introduction & Module 1: Knowledge of the Game	90 min.
Online	Module 2: Role of the Coach & Module 3: Understanding the Player	90 min.
Online	Module 4: Soccer Fitness	90 min.
Online	Module 5: Fundamental Skill Development	90 min.
Online	Module 6: Planning and Design	90 min.
In-Person	Day 1: Application to practice environment	8 h.
In-Person	Day 2: Application to practice environment	8 h.

In-Person Schedule

Hours	Day 1	Day 2
8.00 – 8:15 am	Housekeeping and Introductions	
8:15 – 10:00am	Model Session	
10:00 – 12:00pm	Field Session 4 Student Coaches Delivering	Field Session 4 Student Coaches Delivering
12:00 – 12:45pm	Lunch	
12:45 – 4:45pm	Field Session 8 Student Coaches Delivering	Field Session 8 Student Coaches Delivering
4:45 – 5:00pm	Closing Remarks	

Player Participation

The host organization will be responsible for the recruitment, communication, and logistics associated with the participating players/teams (U12 – U17) for the in-person learning components of the Grassroots Diploma. We ask that teams arrive all wearing the same kit and, ideally, that the host ensures there is not a clash between the kit the players arrive in, and the bibs provided for the course. In the case of an emergency, we ask that the host organization also provides one contact person and their phone number in the event a parent is not present at the event.



Facility Requirements:

The on-field practical component of the course can be hosted at an indoor soccer facility, outdoor turf field, or high-quality grass field. The facility must provide candidates access to restrooms and is equipped with an AED on-site.

Candidate Requirements


- [Learn to Train](#) or [Soccer for Life](#) (Trained)
- [NCCP Make Ethical Decision \(MED\) Workshop + Online Evaluation](#)
- [Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders \(Soccer\)](#)
- [NCCP Making Head Way in Sport \(Soccer\)](#)
- [NCCP Emergency Action Plan](#)
- [NCCP Understanding the Rule of Two](#)

Reference Material

- [Grassroots Diploma](#)
- [Safe Sport Roster](#)



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