



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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January 5, 2026

To: Ontario Soccer; District Membership and Associate Members
CC: Ontario Soccer; Board of Directors, Staff
From: Johnny Misley, CEO of Ontario Soccer and Alan O'Brien, Chair, Board of Directors

Subject: Ontario Soccer Celebrates 125 Years of the Beautiful Game in Ontario

Ontario Soccer proudly announces the launch of its **125th Anniversary celebrations of Soccer in Ontario**, marking a historic milestone since soccer's official founding on **May 18, 1901 at the Walker House in downtown Toronto**. For over a century, soccer has united communities, inspired generations, and grown into the most played sport in Canada.

Ontario Soccer is comprised of more than 500 Clubs and 16 District Associations servicing over 24,000 teams with 380,000 registered players, 70,000 coaches and managers, and 8,300 match officials, as well as countless volunteers, parents and supporters encompassing a direct, multi-cultural community of over 1,000,000 Ontarians.

This anniversary is about honoring the countless players, coaches, referees, volunteers, and supporters, who have built the foundation of soccer in Ontario and whose dedication has made the beautiful game a powerful force for inclusion, diversity, and community.

Celebratory Highlights for 2026

Ontario Soccer and its community will commemorate this historic occasion with a series of special events, activations, and storytelling initiatives throughout the year:

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- **125th Anniversary Gala**
A spectacular evening of celebration, bringing together Ontario Soccer leaders, legends, and supporters.
- **125th Heritage Logo Reveal**
A commemorative design symbolizing 125 years of soccer excellence throughout Ontario.
- **125th Anniversary Photo Collection Souvenir Book – “Moments in Time”**
A stunning retrospective photo book chronicling soccer’s evolution in Ontario from 2026 back to 1901, while governed by the provincial soccer association.
- **Commemorative 125th Merchandise Collection**
Including heritage jerseys, premium apparel, pins, scarves, and more.
- **125th Heritage Ball & Souvenir Gifts**
Limited-edition collectibles celebrating soccer’s rich history.

Special 125th Grassroots Events

In addition to these highlights, Ontario Soccer will roll out a **year-long celebration and activation strategy**, including:

- **Community Soccer Festivals** (integrated with [GeneratiON26 campaign](#))
- **Soccer Day in Ontario** – A province-wide celebration ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup
- **Social Media Campaign & Anniversary Spotlight Series**
- **Storytelling Initiatives** honoring generations of contributors
- **Special Video Features and E-Newsletter Series**
- **More surprises to come throughout 2026!**

Why This Matters

Soccer in Ontario is more than a sport—it’s a cultural movement that has embraced newcomers, united communities, and inspired dreams for 125 years. This anniversary is a tribute to the grassroots pioneers and the modern-day champions, who continue to make soccer **The Beautiful Game**.

For more information and updates on the 125th Anniversary celebrations, visit [OntarioSoccer.net](#) and follow us on social media using [#OntarioSoccer125](#).

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