



# Athlete Scholarship Program

## Ontario Player Development League (OPDL)

Guidelines on the 2024 OPDL Athlete Scholarship Program

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

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## Section I – Introduction

The OPDL Athlete Scholarship Program is available to eligible full time players registered with an OPDL License Holders for the current year. The program provides concentrated funding to OPDL players with a demonstrated significant playing potential.

The Athlete Scholarship Program started in the inaugural year of the OPDL, 2014, where 32 grants of \$500 were given to OPDL players, who met the established criteria. In 2015, 64 grants of \$500 were given. In 2016, 102 grants of \$750 were given to OPDL players. From 2014 to 2023, over \$820,000 in grants have been made available to OPDL players. In 2024 the OPDL Athlete Scholarship Program will award up to a total of \$100,000 with grants ranging from \$500-\$1,500.

### Compliance to NCAA Eligibility Rules

Any athlete considering applying to an NCAA institution is strongly encouraged to contact the NCAA Eligibility Center prior to applying to the OPDL Athlete Scholarship Program.



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## Section II – Eligibility

All OPDL players applying for the Athlete Scholarship Program must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (previously known as a Landed Immigrant).
- Athlete must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario
- Athlete must have signed an OPDL Player Commitment Letter
- Athlete must be in good standing with the OPDL Licence Holder and Ontario Soccer
- Athlete must not be under a sanction that prohibits competition as per Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures

Players will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- a) Community Leadership
- b) Club Support
- c) Financial assessment, as verified by their OPDL Licence Holder
- d) Dedication to the sport of soccer and high performance training
- e) Technical development potential, as assessed by Technical Director
- f) Special Circumstances

### Community Leadership

Applicants with demonstrable commitment to community service and volunteerism will receive a maximum of **3** (three) points towards their application total.

Reference letters confirming length of service from each organization the applicant has volunteered for must be submitted along with the application.

### Club Support

Applicants who have already received financial support from their OPDL Licence Holders will receive a maximum of **3** (three) points towards their application total.



## Financial Assessment

The following table, made based on the Stats Can Income Cut-off Tables from 2016 to 2020, shall be used as a guide for assessing financial need:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	1 POINT AWARDED	3 POINTS AWARDED	5 POINTS AWARDED
2 PERSONS	\$33,433 or more	\$26,850 to \$33,432	\$26,849 or less
3 PERSONS	\$41,710 or more	\$33,434 to \$41,709	\$33,433 or less
4 PERSONS	\$47,495 or more	\$41,711 to \$47,494	\$41,710 or less
5 PERSONS	\$52,673 or more	\$47,496 to \$52,672	\$47,495 or less
6 PERSONS	\$57,852 or more	\$52,674 to \$57,851	\$52,673 or less
7 OR MORE PERSONS	\$67,600 or more	\$57,853 to \$67,599	\$57,852 or less

## Player Commitment

A brief summary, outlining the commitment exhibited by the player and family to soccer within the License Holder historically, or the OPDL environment to date, shall be included with the application.

Summary shall be limited to 150 words. Applicants will receive a maximum of **5** (five) points towards their application total.

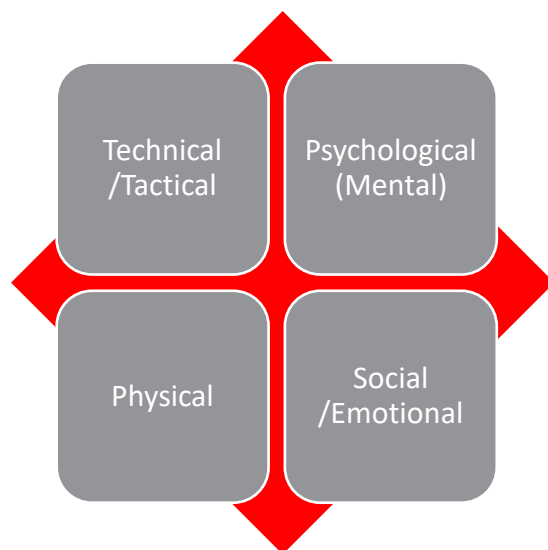
## Technical Assessment

A Technical Assessment must be completed by the License Holder's Technical Director, highlighting key attributes of the player across the four (4) corners of development that make them a talented player.

- The most recent player assessment, using the template in Scouting Systems Pro, submitted will be used as part of this assessment and a raw file version can be found below.
  - [OPDL Player Assessment Tool](#)

Applicants will receive a maximum of **5** (five) points towards their application total.





### **Special Circumstances**

In the event players and/or their families are experiencing special circumstances that require greater consideration, OPDL Licence Holders must include a letter detailing what is being experienced for review by the OPDL. Applicants may receive up to a maximum of **3** (three) points towards their application total.



## Section III - Application Information

Interested candidates shall contact their OPDL License Holder with necessary information to validate financial criteria.

License Holders shall appoint an Official to collect and review information provided by candidates, complete the application form, and act as a point of contact with Ontario Soccer.

Upon completion of the financial assessment by the designated License Holder Official, the Technical Assessment must be completed by the License Holder's Technical Director and submitted in the application form.

Applications are to be submitted by OPDL Licence Holders directly to Ontario Soccer via the online application form available online at <https://www.opdl.ca/athlete-scholarship-program>.

Application Form shall include:

- a) License Holder Information
- b) Player's Contact Information
- c) Parent/Guardian Information
- d) Family Information
- e) Financial Information  
*Must include 2023 Notice of Assessment; 2022 will be accepted with point deductions*
- f) Technical Information, as assessed by the License Holder's Technical Director
- g) Demonstrated commitment, as assessed by the License Holder Official

## Section IV - Application Dates & Deadlines

Only one application form per player shall be completed by the License Holder Official in accordance to the window deadlines outlined below:


Application window	
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024	Application opens
June 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Application closes
By End of OPDL Mid-Season Break	Successful Applicants and License Holders notified

All applications will be reviewed by Ontario Soccer during the assessment period and successful applicants and License Holders will be notified directly. A list of successful candidates from the License Holder will be shared with the License Holder's Official.

Applications must be submitted directly by OPDL Licence Holders. Applications submitted by parents/guardians will **not** be reviewed.



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