

LONG TERM OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT

Development in the Club System

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



**ONTARIO
SOCCER.**
EST. 1901

Important to Remember

Research shows that the Performance of a Match Official impacts the development and experience of a player.

(Bar-Eli et al., 1995 p.77).



What is Long Term Officials Development?

Long Term Officials Development (LTOD) is creating the Pathway to Match Officiating Excellence:

- The players deserves the best product available
- Research shows that officiating is not considered an integral part of the game by Sport Leaders and decision makers
- Ontario recognised this need, and is now leading the country with an innovative and ground-breaking Match Officials Development program

Livingston and Forbes: Sport Officiating: Recruitment, Development, and Retention

Photo Credits: N. Pearson, M. Smith

Terminology

- When a 'team' or 'group' of referees and assistant referees are referred to, they are referred to as **Match Officials** as per FIFA guidelines
- When they are being referred to in their individual roles, we refer to them by that role:
 - **Referee**,
 - **Assistant Referee**,
 - **Fourth Official**
- The term 'linesman' is no longer used, it is now Assistant Referee



Match Officials



Referee



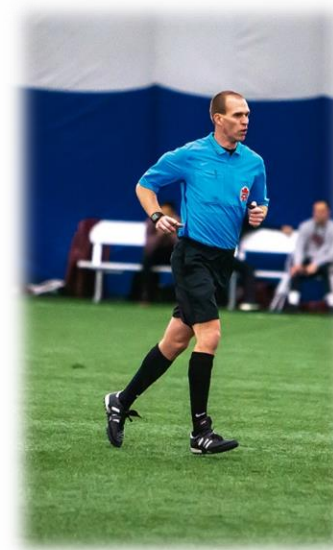
Asst. Referee



Fourth Official

Did you know?

- It takes the average Referee 12 years of training and commitment to reach the National list or higher. Often taking on the role of Assistant Referee in higher level games before being assigned as a Referee.
- The main reason for Match Officials to stay is because they just love the game (Ontario Soccer survey results 2012-2016)



Did you know?

- A Referee in a high level provincial, or professional game will run more than 13KM in the game
- There are over 385 split second decisions made in a 90 minute game. That is one decision every 23.3 seconds. Research shows these decisions are 98% correct (www.thestatszone.com)



Did you know?

- Referees Grade 7 and above are assessed based on competencies designated by FIFA, even at the District level
- 24% of our Match Officials are female



Research



Through our 3 years of research (2014-2017) we found the following:

- There is a lack of consistent strategies to retain, educate and develop Officials across all sports.
- Little or no understanding that Officials need opportunities to develop and train the same as the players
- Technical programming at the Club rarely includes Officials Development, yet the role has a large impact on the technical side of the game.
 - Minimal field time provided for Match Officials to train and practice
 - Minimal resources put towards consistent education opportunities
 - Minimal financial support for development Match Officials

Findings

“As a parent and/or coach, I want a referee in the middle that knows all the rules”

This creates an Expectation of Perfection in Performance – predominately at the Youth Levels of competition. This often leads to verbal abuse directed at the Youth Official:

2019 - Abuse and dissent from Parents and Coaches the #1 reason for new (1st to 2nd year) Match Officials leaving the game (39%)



**ONTARIO
SOCCER**

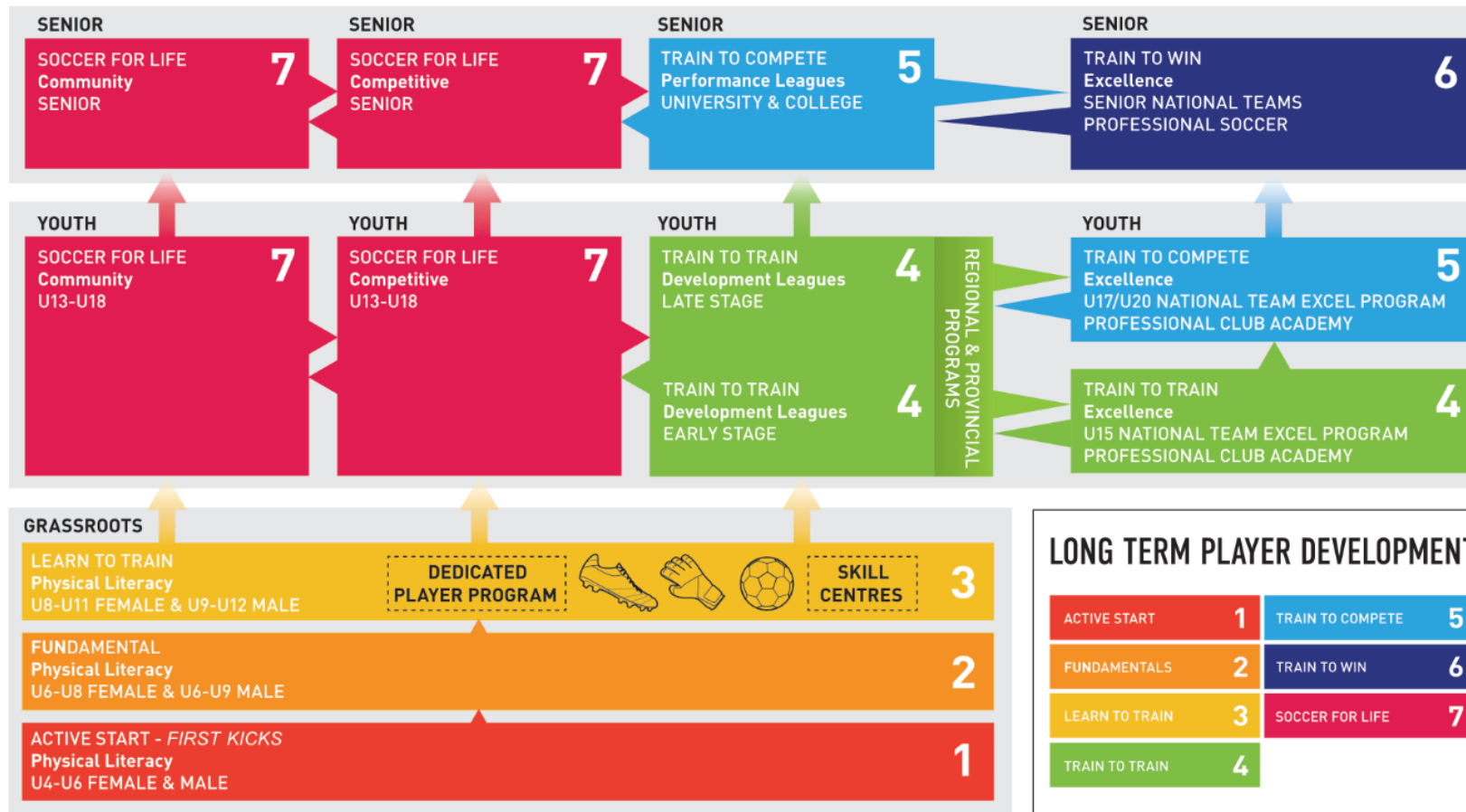
EST. 1901

The Development Pathway explained

How does Match Officials Development relate to Player Development and the Canada Soccer Player Pathway?



CANADA SOCCER PLAYER PATHWAY

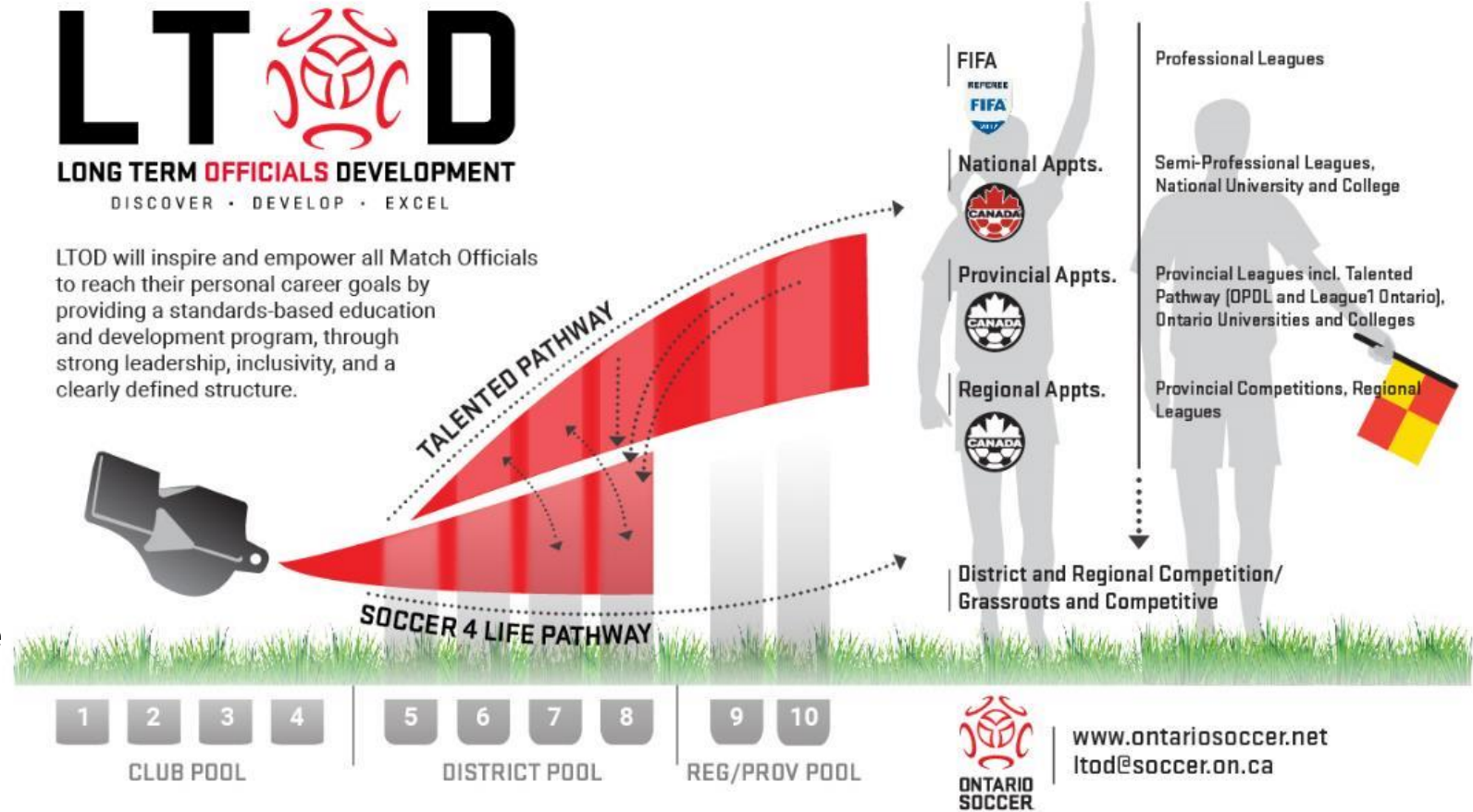


Long Term Officials Development

The Match Officials Development Pathway is similar to the Player Development Pathway

The majority of the new Match Officials, and Match Officials at the Club Level are Grades 1, 2 and 4.

Currently Grade 3 is 'unused' and will be utilized at a later date.



Player Pathway	Player Age	Referee Grade	Ref. Age Minimum	Level of Experience	Typical level of game officiated	Required to maintain Grade
Active Start/First Kicks	U4-U6	Game Leader	12 years	None required	U4 to U6	Complete Canada Soccer Game Leader online Program
FUNDAMENTAL Physical Literacy	U6-U8 Female U6-U9 Male	Grade 1	12 years	New Match Official	U10 and under as Referee	Complete Ontario Soccer Small Sided Match Official Accreditation
LEARN TO TRAIN Physical Literacy	U8-U11 Female U9-U12 Male	Grade 2 up to U10 Grade 4 after U10 (see below)	13 years	1 year experience as a Small Sided Official Small Sided Match Official who has completed the Assistant Referee Training	U11-U12 games as Assistant Referee U10 and under as Referee	1 year experience and complete annual exam
SOCCER FOR LIFE Community	U13-U18	Grade 4	14 years	New through the Entry Level Clinic, <u>OR</u> a Match Official of any age/experience that solely wishes to officiate at their local Club Can officiate 9v9 or 11v11 games.	If the official is under the age of 18, the age group being officiated must be 2 years younger than the Officials age. <u>This does not apply to the role of Assistant Referee.</u>	Pass annual exam

Note: Grade 3 is not applicable in 2020.

Player Pathway	Player Age	Referee Grade	Ref. Age Minimum	Level of Experience	Typical level of game officiated	Required to maintain Grade
SOCCER FOR LIFE Competitive	U13 to U18	Grade 6 U13 to U15 Grade 7 U14 to U18 (see below)	15 years	2 years experience on District/Competitive games.	If the official is under the age of 18, the age group being officiated must be 2 years younger than the Officials age. <u>This does not apply to the role of Assistant Referee.</u>	Pass exam with mark of 80% or higher, or they are relegated back to Grade 5
TRAIN TO TRAIN Development Leagues Early Stages	Youth	Grade 6 U13 to U15 Grade 7 U14 to U18 (see below)	16 years	2 years on 11v11 game at the District/Competitive level Must pass the required Fitness Test. Must complete an Assessment at or above competency.	If the official is under the age of 18, the age group being officiated must be 2 years younger than the Officials age. <u>This does not apply to the role of Assistant Referee.</u>	Pass exam with mark of 80% or higher, or they are relegated back to Grade 5 Fitness fail will relegate back to Grade 6
TRAIN TO TRAIN Development Leagues Late Stages	Youth	Grade 7	18 years	Minimum 3 years on 11v11 game at the District/Competitive level Must pass the required Fitness Test. Must complete an Assessment at or above competency.	District Competitive, Regional and Youth Provincial Leagues	Pass exam with mark of 80% or higher, or they are relegated back to Grade 5 or 6 Fitness fail will relegate back to Grade 6

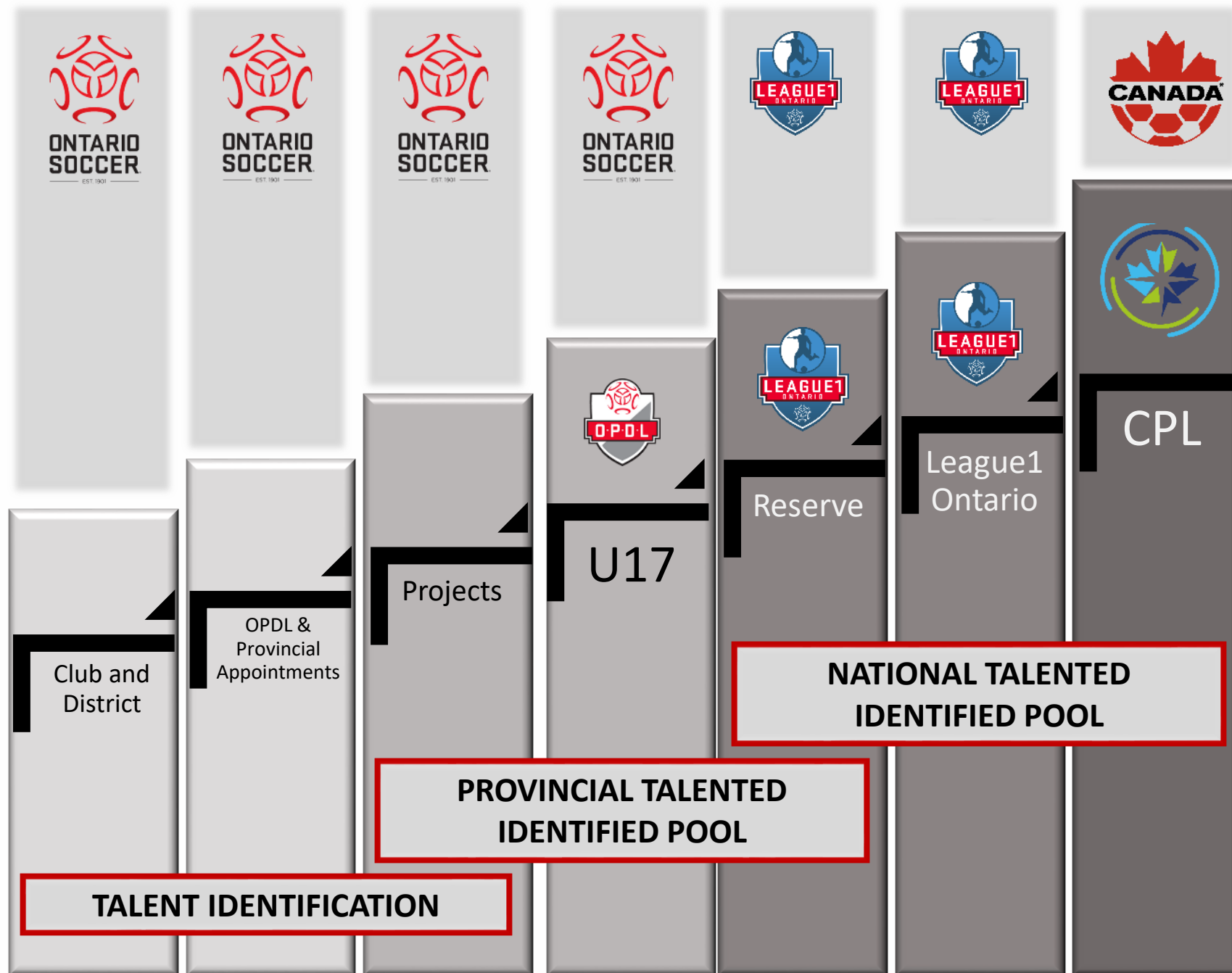
Player Pathway	Player Age	Referee Grade	Ref. Age Minimum	Level of Experience	Typical level of game officiated	Required to maintain Grade
SOCCER FOR LIFE Community Senior	Senior	Grade 7 and up	18 years	3 years on 11v11 game at the District/Competitive level Must pass the required Fitness Test. Must complete an Assessment at or above competency.	District and Regional All Ages	Pass exam with mark of 80% or higher, or they are relegated back to Grade 5 or 6 Fitness fail will relegate back to Grade 6
TRAIN TO TRAIN Excellence U15 National Team Excel Program Professional Club Academies	Youth	Grade 7	18 years	3 years on 11v11 game at the District/Competitive level Must pass the required Fitness Test. Must complete an Assessment at or above competency.	District and Regional All Ages	Pass exam with mark of 80% or higher, or they are relegated back to Grade 5 or 6 Fitness fail will relegate back to Grade 6
SOCCER FOR LIFE Competitive Senior	Senior	Grade 7 and up	18 years	3 years on 11v11 game at the District/Competitive level Must pass the required Fitness Test. Must complete an Assessment at or above competency.	District and Regional All Ages	Pass exam with mark of 80% or higher, or they are relegated back to Grade 5 or 6 Fitness fail will relegate back to Grade 6



Player Pathway	Player Age
TRAIN TO COMPETE Excellence U17/U20 National Team Excel Program Professional Club Academies	Senior
TRAIN TO COMPETE Performance Leagues University and College	Senior
TRAIN TO WIN Excellence Senior National Teams Professional Soccer	Adult

Referee Grade	Ref. Age Minimum	Level of Experience	Typical level of game officiated	Required to maintain Grade
Grade 8 and up	18 years	4 years on 11v11 game at the Regional/Competitive level Must pass the required Fitness Test. Must complete an Assessment at or above competency.	Regional and Provincial all ages Concentrating on High Performance leagues	Pass exam with mark of 80% or higher, or they are relegated back to Grade 5 or 6 Fitness fail will relegate back to Grade 6
Grade 8 and up	18 years	4 years on 11v11 game at the Regional/Competitive level Must pass the required Fitness Test. Must complete an Assessment at or above competency.	Regional and Provincial all ages Concentrating on High Performance leagues	Pass exam with mark of 80% or higher, or they are relegated back to Grade 5 or 6 Fitness fail will relegate back to Grade 6
Grade 10, National, FIFA	Typically 20 years and up	5+ years on 11v11 game at the Competitive level Must pass the required Fitness Test. Must complete an Assessment at or above competency.	Concentrating on High Performance leagues	Pass National exam with mark of 80% or higher Pass FIFA Fitness tests.

Match Officials Development Pathway



Hello, I am your Referee today . . .

If your child is playing, I am most likely of youth age

There will be decisions I get wrong

I am still learning

My decisions are not based on favoritism

Remember It's Just A Game



Thank you

If you have any questions, please contact Nicky Pearson,
npearson@ontariosoccer.net