

MASTERS PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES FOR MATCH OFFICIALS

- 1.0 All appointed Match Officials (Referee and Assistant Referees) must be registered with Ontario Soccer for the current year (April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027).
- 1.1 The Ontario Soccer Officiating Team is responsible for the appointment of Match Officials to **all games** in the Ontario Cup competition.
- 1.2 Up to, and including, the **Quarter-Finals** and under the supervision of the Ontario Soccer Officiating Team, the District Referee Coordinator (D.R.C.) of the home team's District Association shall assign the Referee and
- 1.3 The D.R.C. of the Host Organization's District Association shall assign the Referee and Assistant Referees to all games played in their District as part of the Tournament Rounds.
- 1.4 The Ontario Soccer Officiating Team shall assign the Referee and Assistant Referees to **all other games** (eg. Semi-Finals and Cup Finals).
The District Ontario Cup Coordinator (D.O.C.C.) shall be responsible for ensuring that the D.R.C. completes the appointments.
- 1.5 Seventy two hours prior to each round, the D.R.C. shall have all assignments completed and on RefCentre. The D.R.C. is accountable to the Ontario Soccer Officiating Team regarding the performance of the officials appointed (i.e. competence, standards, attendance, punctuality).
- 1.6 **With the exception of Semi-Final or Final Games, Match Officials must arrive a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the game.**
- 1.7 **For Semi-Final or Final Games, Match Officials must arrive a minimum of 1 hour prior to kick-off and report to the on-site Match Official Coordinator.**
- 1.8 In the event that the Referee does not appear at the game, the most senior (highest grade) Official on the appointed crew shall referee the game and another registered Match Official shall be recruited to replace them.
- 1.9 If an assistant referee does not appear at the game, another registered referee or "club assistant referee" shall be recruited to replace him/her. The game shall be played if there are no assistant referees available.
- 1.10 **In the event that a scheduled game cannot be played at the scheduled venue because of unplayable field conditions, the game shall be moved to an alternate venue provided that the field conditions are acceptable to the Referee and the game commences within 30 minutes of the originally scheduled kick-off time.**

2.0 **Game Fees and Expenses**

- 2.1 The Game Fees for all games up until the Semi-Finals and Finals shall be:

Division	Referee	Each Assistant Referee
Masters Over-35 Men	\$80.00	\$60.00
Masters Over-30 Women	\$80.00	\$60.00
Masters Over-50 Men	\$80.00	\$60.00
Masters Over-50 Women	\$80.00	\$60.00

- 2.2 Fourth Officials for Semi-Finals and Finals shall receive the same fee as each Assistant Referee.
- 2.3 For Semi-Finals and Finals only, a Match Official is entitled to a *travel allowance* of **60 cents per kilometre (return trip) for each kilometre after the first 50km**. When possible and practical, the Match Officials shall travel in one vehicle, in which case only the driver is entitled to the *travel allowance*, as per the Ontario Soccer Match Official Expense Policy.
- 2.4 For Semi-Finals and Finals, any Match Official traveling over 200 kilometres one way shall be entitled to an additional \$20.00 meal allowance.
- 2.5 Except in the cases of 2.7, 2.8, 2.9 and 2.10 below, the home team shall be responsible, prior to the game, for the payment of the game fees.
- 2.6 If for any reason the game is not started, each Match Official shall be paid, by the home team, one half the game fee.
- 2.7 In the event that the home team does not show for the game, the Match Officials must claim their game fees from Ontario Soccer.
- 2.8 Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for paying the game fees and any eligible expenses in the Semi-Finals and Finals.
- 2.9 If the home team is unable to provide a suitable venue by the required deadline, the away team shall become the home team and will provide a suitable venue. In such cases, the team originally scheduled as the home team will still be responsible for paying the full match official fees.



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3.0 **Duration of Game** Except for the Tournament Round games, the game

3.1 duration shall be:

Division	Regulation Time Two Periods Of	Overtime (See Rule 3.4)
All Masters Divisions	40 minutes	no overtime

3.2 The Referee shall be the sole judge of allowance of time lost through any cause and their decision is not subject to appeal or protest.

3.3 In the Tournament Rounds, if game(s) are rescheduled from Friday to Saturday, or from Saturday to Sunday because of unplayable field conditions, the games will be abbreviated in accordance with the competition rules.

3.4 Except in the Tournament Rounds (*not being used in 2026*), there must be a winner in all Masters Provincial Championship games. **If the teams are tied after regulation time, a winner shall be determined by penalties (penalty shoot-out), in accordance with the IFAB Laws of The Game.**

4.0 Player Eligibility

4.1 In the Finals, Ontario Soccer representatives shall check the Player ID of each player and shall prohibit ineligible players.

4.2 In all other games, it is the responsibility of each team's representative to check the Player ID of the players on the opposing team and to notify, prior to the game, the Referee of any eligibility problem(s). The Referee **SHALL** record any eligibility problem(s) on the teamsheet. In extenuating circumstances, when Player ID is not present at the start of the game, the ID may be checked at any time prior to the beginning of the second half; and in such cases, any eligibility problem(s) will be reported to the referee at half time who shall record it on the teamsheet.

4.3 If a player's eligibility is questioned by a team's representative, the Referee shall have such player write their jersey number, signature, and date of birth on the back of the Referee Report.

4.4 Each player shall sign their name on the front of the teamsheet beside their printed name.

4.5 No player shall be permitted to play in the game until they have signed their name on the teamsheet.

4.6 A Team shall be permitted to dress 20 players.

4.7 A player may not play in an Ontario Cup game with a Temporary Eligibility Permit or a Trial Permit. However, a player may "**play up**" to another team within the same Club provided that they have Player ID accompanied by the Team Roster Report for that player or a Team Roster Report with photos.

5.0 Pre-Game Administration

5.1 The Referee shall ensure that the teamsheet of each team has been fully completed in accordance with 5.2 below. The game **must not** commence until the teamsheet is complete and submitted to the Referee.

5.2 If the Ontario Cup teamsheet is not available, a substitute teamsheet may be used, providing it includes the following information:

- Category (Men, Women, Boys, Girls)
- Age Group
- Date of Game and Kick-Off Time
- Location (Name of Field and City/Town)
- The Home Team Name and Away Team Name
- The Team Name, District Association, and team colours of team completing

teamsheet
For each player: Jersey Number,
First Name, Last Name
Signature
Ontario Soccer Registrant Number

The name, signature and Ontario Soccer Registrant Number of the Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, and Assistant Manager. Please note that all team staff must sign the form.

5.3 There shall be a team bench or a technical area designated for each team. Except for a substitute player warming up, the team staff and the substitute players must remain in that area for the entire game.

5.4 Only the 20 players and 5 team staff listed on the teamsheet (complete with each person's signature) may sit on the team bench or the area designated for that team. All other persons must remain in the area designated for spectators.

5.5 **After the Referee checks the teamsheets for proper completion, a representative of each team may take a photograph of the teamsheets prior to the game. Paper copies of the teamsheets will not be provided to the teams at the field**

5.6 With the exception of the Tournament Round, Semi-Final Round, and Cup Finals, it is the responsibility of the home team to have the field properly lined and to provide nets and corner flags. The Referee shall ensure that this is done prior to starting the game.

5.7 In the event of a colour conflict, the visiting team shall wear its registered main colours.

5.8 It is recommended that the D.O.C.C. include the information about the registered main colours of both teams when advising the D.R.C. about the game details (time, date, location).

5.9 The D.R.C. must inform the Referee about which team is the "Home Team", which team is the "Away Team" and the registered colours of both.

5.10 When the jersey colour(s) of the visiting team (i.e. registered main colours) are similar to the home team, the home team shall use its alternate coloured jerseys.

5.11 A goalkeeper must wear colours which distinguishes them from other players and the Referee.

5.12 All players must wear shin guards which offer a reasonable degree of protection. Undergarments must match dark with dark and light with light colour—**exact colour match is not required in 2026**. All team members must wear the same colour undergarment.

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6.0 Rules of Play

6.1 All games shall be played in accordance with the Laws of The Game as observed by Ontario Soccer, unless otherwise stipulated.

6.2 Unlimited substitution is permitted in all divisions.

Substitution in all divisions may **ONLY** be made:

- * after a goal has been scored
- * at a goal kick
- * on possession throw-ins or on an opposing team's throw-in provided the opposing team is also making a substitution
- * at the beginning of the second half
- * for an injured player at the discretion of the Referee

6.3 With the exception of the Tournament Round, (*not being used in 2026*) all games must have a winner.

6.4 "Coaching from the sidelines" is only permitted if done from within the team's designated technical area. All team officials must be seated on the bench. Only one team official may stand and give instructions at a time.

7.0 Protests

7.1 The Referee must record in their report all complaints or protests by either team; and must indicate whether the complaint or protest was lodged before, during, or after the game.

7.2 In the event that a formal protest is lodged with Ontario Soccer, the Referee and/or the Assistant Referee(s) may be required to submit an additional written report; and may be required to attend an Ontario Soccer Protest Hearing.

8.0 Post-Game Administration

8.1 For all games, a Referee Report should be obtained from both teams and completed immediately following the game. The Referee Report should be attached to the completed signed teamsheets.

8.2 **With the exception of 8.4 below, the Referee must submit a scanned copy or clear photographs of the completed teamsheet for both teams directly on to RefCentre. After logging in to RefCentre, the Referee will be prompted to submit the game reports for the games they were assigned to including any misconduct reports. After the game report has been submitted, the Referee will be prompted to upload a copy of the game sheets (please note that only one document can be attached, so all game sheets must be saved as one document) Please note that the original copies of the match reports must be kept until the conclusion of the Ontario Cup competition for the year.**

8.3 **With the exception of 8.4 below, teamsheets, and misconduct reports must be submitted by the Referee to RefCentre within 24 hours after the conclusion of the game. Failure to do so shall result in the Referee being referred to the Ontario Cup Discipline Committee.**

8.4 In the Tournament Rounds, Semi-Final Round, and Cup Finals, the teamsheets and, misconduct reports must be completed **immediately after the game** and submitted to the Event Coordinator at the game.

8.5 **In the Tournament Rounds, Semi-Finals and Cup Finals, the Referee shall be required to attend the discipline hearing of any player dismissed during the game who requests a hearing. Such hearing shall take place within 30 minutes after it is requested and no later than one hour after the game.**

8.6 In the case of a Match Official assault, the discipline procedure shall be in accordance with the normal Ontario Soccer policies for such incidents.



2026 MASTERS PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP