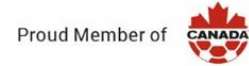




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INFORMATION BULLETIN

Bulletin #: I2023-30
Date: August 3, 2023
To: Ontario Soccer; District Membership, Associate Members
CC: Ontario Soccer; Board of Directors, Staff
From: Matt Ferreira, Director, Development
Subject: Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) Application Window

Ontario Soccer is providing an update on the application window and process for potential new licence holder entry into the Ontario Player Development League (OPDL).

Launched in 2014, Ontario Soccer created the OPDL with one clear goal: to create a holistic training and competition environment that best supports youth age player development. Since its launch, the program's mandate has grown to include the development of Coaches, Match Officials and Licence Holder Clubs. The OPDL is one of the country's first standards-based, youth development programs that combines top-level competition with strict high-performance training standards. Despite the reference to a league, the program's focus is about training and development as the OPDL operates as a development program advancing Players, Coaches and Match Officials to higher levels of our game.

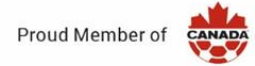
The application process to enter the OPDL was restructured in 2021 whereby Clubs must first apply to Canada Soccer for a [National Youth Club Licence](#), the highest level of Canada Soccer's Club Licensing program, prior to continuing the assessment with Ontario Soccer against OPDL specific criteria. This process involves interested Clubs undergoing a thorough review, inclusive of staff interviews, documentation submission and site visits, assessing organizations against a robust list of criteria to ensure programming is and can be sustainably delivered to the highest standards.

With the publication of the [OPDL Eight-year Review Report](#), Ontario Soccer has considered the recommendations in the development of targeted action plan for continued enhancement of the program. With the fourth recommendation, "*be judicious with respect to further expansion of licence holder volume,*" a thorough analysis of the most-recent trends in both census and registration data, as well as provincial player selections, was conducted. The findings, taking into consideration Ontario Soccer's continued pandemic recovery and current review of existing Licence Holders, do not support the expansion of the OPDL at this time.

Therefore, after consultation with Canada Soccer staff, Ontario Soccer's Technical Advisory Committee and with final approval from the Board of Directors, **Ontario Soccer has made the decision to announce a moratorium will be placed on the expansion of the OPDL for the current application cycle (2023-25).**



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The next application window for potential entry into the OPDL will open in 2025, through Canada Soccer's National Youth Club Licence, for assessment during 2026 and potential entry in the 2027 Outdoor Season. The necessary requirements, timelines and process for the submission of new applications to join the OPDL will be provided early in 2025 in order for the membership to have sufficient notice to better prepare. Until then, we encourage organizations interested in applying to review the resources available at ontariosoccer.net.

For more specific information on the OPDL, please visit opdl.ca.

If you have any further questions regarding the moratorium or the application process, please contact [Matt Ferreira, Director, Development](mailto:Matt.Ferreira@ontariosoccer.net).

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