



**ONTARIO
SOCCER**
EST. 1901

2024-2025 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

SECTION 8 - COMPETITIONS

PROCEDURE 1.0 - SANCTIONING OF COMPETITIONS

- 1.1 When an organization is applying for sanctioning of a competition, the Organization acting as Host must provide the information required on the appropriate application form, in accordance with the Procedures for Tournaments, Festivals, Cup Competitions, and Exhibition Games.
- 1.2 A Club must apply to its Governing Organization, as stipulated in the Operational Procedures for Team Travel, for permission for one of its Registered Teams to participate in a sanctioned tournament, festival, cup competition, or exhibition game. The Club must provide the information required on the appropriate application form, in accordance with the Published Rules for Team Travel.
- 1.3 Notwithstanding Operational Procedure 1.2 above, a Club's team may play in a municipality sponsored competition which is not a sanctioned competition, subject to the approval of its District Association. However, Ontario Soccer Insurance program shall not be in effect for any of the participants.
- 1.4 Each competition may only be classified under one type of competition status, competition classification, competition playing season, and competition gender and must specify which age division(s) the competition will include.
- 1.5 An indoor team, futsal team and outdoor team can enter any indoor, futsal or outdoor tournament providing that the team was actively registered on the first day of the competition and is allowable by the tournament host.
- 1.6 In the case(s) where there is a maximum age limit, a participating team's age classification shall not exceed the competition's age classification.
- 1.7 In the case(s) where there is a minimum age limit, a participating team's age classification shall not fall short of the competition's age classification.
- 1.8 Youth competitions are not permitted to offer cash prizes.

PROCEDURE 2.0 - TOURNAMENT DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 A Tournament shall consist of a series of games:
 - a) Involving Under-13 or older aged teams
 - b) Played within no more than seven (7) consecutive days or over no more than three (3) weekends during a playing season
 - c) Between a minimum of 4 teams.
- 2.2 A Tournament Host must be one of the following:
 - a) Ontario Soccer
 - b) A District Association
 - c) An Affiliated Club
 - d) An Affiliated League
 - e) An Unaffiliated Organization (in accordance with these Operational Procedures).
- 2.3 A Tournament Host may host more than one class of tournament at the same time. A Team is eligible to participate in only one of those tournaments.
- 2.4 Events hosted in a District Association, in accordance with the Grassroots Standards Guide, will limit the number of events that a given organization can host for grassroots soccer. A District Association may limit the number of tournaments a Tournament Host may host in that District in each playing season.



- 2.5 The Ontario Cup “Tournament Rounds” shall be exempt from 2.3 and 2.4 above.
- 2.6 A tournament may be played under the rules of any of the following types of soccer: (See Game Types Operational Procedures)
- i. 11v11 Soccer played under the Laws Of The Game
 - ii. Small-sided soccer played under Ontario Soccer’s Playing Rules of small-sided soccer
 - iii. Futsal played under the FIFA Futsal Laws Of The Game
 - iv. Beach soccer subject to the tournament rules and FIFA Beach Laws Of The Game
 - v. Accessible soccer

PROCEDURE 3.0 - TOURNAMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

- 3.1 It is expected that tournament hosts are to provide adequate and appropriate competition to their participating teams. Subject to the tournament’s Competition Rules and host’s specification of eligibility, Under-13 and older aged teams may play in tournaments accordingly.

3.2 Professional Tournaments

Professional Tournaments are open to teams in Professional and Pro-Am Leagues.

3.3 Open Tournaments

Open Tournaments are open to teams in Professional and Pro-Am Leagues and to amateur teams.

3.4 Tournaments Hosted by Unaffiliated Organizations

Subject to Ontario Soccer approval, an Unaffiliated Organization may host a tournament.

- 3.4.1 Unaffiliated Organizations must complete a Tournament Application Form on Ontario Soccer’s Competition and Travel Management System (CTMS) and attach tournament rules at least 35 days prior to the event date.

- 3.4.2 Unaffiliated organizations must provide Short Term registration permits to the District in which the tournament will be hosted 45 days prior to the event start date.

- 3.4.3 Unaffiliated organizations must provide an insurance certificate indemnifying Ontario Soccer. For events that partnered with a Club, the insurance certificate must indemnify the host Club, host District and Ontario Soccer. This certificate needs to be attached within the Tournament Application Form.

Ontario Soccer reserves the right to deny any tournament application from an unaffiliated organization.

- 3.4.4 Upon District approval, Unaffiliated Organizations must complete a Tournament Application Form on Ontario Soccer’s Competition and Travel Management System (CTMS) and attach tournament rules at least 35 days prior to the event date.

Tournament rules acceptable to Ontario Soccer shall be submitted; and must include the following:

- Age divisions
- Team eligibility
- Number of games for each team
- Duration of games
- Number of Players dressed in each game for each team
- Substitution rules
- Match Official game fees
- Protest rules

- 3.4.5 The tournament may be open to registered and unregistered teams providing that:



1. All Players are currently registered with Ontario Soccer:
 - a) On an annual basis or
 - b) On a short term registration basis in accordance with Registration Operational Procedures or,
 - c) The Players are registered with teams from outside Ontario which have received written approval from their Governing Organization to participate in the tournament.
 - d) There is a certificate of Liability Insurance and Accident Insurance provided with the application
2. For Charitable/Commercial events, an insurance certificate indemnifying Ontario Soccer is required. For events that partnered with a Club, the insurance certificate must indemnify the host Club, host District and Ontario Soccer. This certificate needs to be attached within the Tournament Application Form.
 - a) Participants will be required to sign the Ontario Soccer Waiver and Release of Liability form. The tournament host must submit the physical forms to Ontario Soccer within 30 days following the event.
 - b) Charitable event criteria are met when the hosting organization is a charity and are raising funds for their organization. Charities will be required to provide their charitable organization number to Ontario Soccer. If the host organization is not a charity, the event will be categorized as a commercial event. Different fees apply for each category.

Organization Type	Required Fee
Commercial Event	\$500.00
Charitable Event	\$250.00
Affiliated College/University	\$100.00

3. The competition is part of an International/National/Provincial Multi-Sport Games or Special Event
- 3.4.6 Ontario Soccer reserves the right to deny any tournament application from an unaffiliated organization.

PROCEDURE 4.0 - APPROVAL OF TOURNAMENTS

- 4.1 A TOURNAMENT APPLICATION FORM (TAF), must be used when applying for approval to hold a tournament. The TAF is available online.
- 4.2 Associations Involved In Granting Approval of Tournaments.
 - 4.2.1 The Tournament Host Organization requires the approval of the following Associations:

Tournament Level	TAF Submission	First Approval	Second Approval	Third Approval	Fourth Approval	Fifth Approval
International	90 days	District Host	District Tournament Location	Ontario Soccer	Canada Soccer	CONCACAF
North American	60 days	District Host	District Tournament Location	Ontario Soccer		
Inter Provincial	60 days	District Host	District Tournament Location	Ontario Soccer		
Inter District	21 days	District Host	District Tournament Location	Ontario Soccer		
District	21 days	District Host	District Tournament Location			



If a Tournament Host Organization submits its TAF after the above deadline, an Administration Fee may be applied and the tournament may not be approved.

NOTE: In most cases, the District Association of the Tournament Host Organization will be the same District Association as the District in which the tournament is being played. Therefore, the second approval will only be required if the Tournament Host Organization is playing all or part of the tournament in a District other than the one with which it is affiliated.

4.2.2 Approval Fees and Penalties

	Required Fee	Tournament Approval Submission Timeline		
		89 - 30 days before tournament	29 - 10 days before tournament	Less than 10 days before tournament
International TAF	\$125			
TAF Fee with Penalty	No Penalty	\$150	\$175	\$400
North American / Inter Provincial TAF	\$25	59 – 30 days before tournament	29 – 10 days before tournament	Less than 10 days before tournament
TAF Fee with Penalty	No Penalty	\$35	\$50	\$150

- 4.2.3** Notwithstanding 4.2.1 an Ontario Soccer governed League, District Association, Professional Club which is affiliated as an Associate Member of Ontario Soccer and an Ontario Soccer-Registered Club hosting a tournament does not require District Association approval but will require the approval of Ontario Soccer.
- 4.2.4** All tournaments hosted by an Unaffiliated Organization will require the approval of Ontario Soccer and the District Association in which the tournament is played. An Unaffiliated Organization may only host an Inter-Provincial, Inter-District or District Tournament.

PROCEDURE 5.0 - TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS OF HOSTS

- 5.1** The Tournament Host shall require any tournament event organizers/marketers to indemnify the host Club, host District and Ontario Soccer by including them all as named insureds on the organizer/marketer's insurance policy and providing a certificate from the organizer/marketer's insurer, evidencing that information, to the sanctioned host.
- 5.2** The Tournament Host shall indicate on the TAF only one Tournament Classification and will indicate one or more Age Classifications.
- 5.3** The Tournament Host for an International Class Tournament shall pay a "Tournament Host Fee," and submit its tournament rules to Ontario Soccer for approval. Ontario Soccer shall pay a fee, and submit such rules to Canada Soccer for its approval.
- 5.4** The Tournament Host for a North American Class Tournament shall pay a "Tournament Host Fee," and submit its tournament rules to Ontario Soccer for approval.
- 5.5** The Tournament Host for an Inter-Provincial shall pay a "Tournament Host Fee," and submit its tournament rules to Ontario Soccer for approval.
- 5.6** The Tournament Host for an Inter-District Tournament shall submit its tournament rules to the District Association(s) required to approve the tournament, otherwise the tournament will be governed by Ontario Soccer's tournament rules.
- 5.7** The Tournament Host must indicate on the TAF that it will comply with all of Ontario Soccer Rules, Policies, and Procedures governing tournaments.
- 5.8** Tournament rules acceptable to Ontario Soccer shall be submitted; and must include the



following:

- a) Age divisions
- b) Team eligibility
- c) Number of games for each team
- d) Duration of games
- e) Number of Players dressed in each game for each team
- f) Substitution rules
- g) Protest rules
- h) Match Official Fees

5.9 Minimum Requirements in Tournament Rules

Team Eligibility Criteria:

- a) All teams must be registered with their Provincial, State, or National Association.
- b) Each team must include with tournament application written proof of team travel permission authorized by its governing Association.
- c) In North American and International Class Tournaments, all teams from outside Ontario must supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the Tournament Host no later than seven days prior to the tournament.
- d) Teams may only use Players who are registered with them, except as otherwise stipulated.
- e) All Youth team regardless of the competition must have a minimum of one registered Team Official on the bench at all times. If a team does not have a registered Team Official on the bench prior to the game or at any time during the game, the game will be abandoned and result awarded to the opposition.

Duration of Games

- a) The following competitions shall not exceed the permitted time limit per day:
 - i. Under-13 and Under-14 not to exceed 150 minutes per day
 - ii. Under-15 and older not to exceed 180 minutes per day
- b) There must be a minimum of one hour between each game played by any team.

Number of Players Dressed In a Game

Teams may only dress and play up to a maximum of twenty (20) Players in each game of the tournament.

- 5.10 The Tournament Host must obtain approval, in accordance with Operational Procedure 4.0
- 5.11 Tournament rules may permit youth teams and senior teams to include additional Players from another youth team from any Club (including its own), subject to the requirements of Operational Procedure 21 (Reference 7.7.1 for more details).
- 5.12 The Tournament Host shall provide team sheets which shall be completed by each team prior to each game, and which must be submitted to the referee prior to the kickoff. The competing teams must be identified on an individual team sheet their Full Team Name.
- 5.13 Except where specified, the Tournament Host shall collect team sheets and misconduct reports from Match Officials immediately after each game and such shall be forwarded by the Tournament Host to its District Association, or in the case of a Senior Provincial League, Senior Regional League, (if governed by Ontario Soccer) Senior District Competitive League, Youth Provincial League, Youth Regional League, (if governed by Ontario Soccer) Youth District Competitive League, to Ontario Soccer, no later than 72 hours after the last day of the tournament.
- 5.14 A Match Official pre-assault report must be filed with the League, District, tournament host and Ontario Soccer no more than 24 hours after assault occurred. In all cases of Match Official assault, the Tournament Host shall have the responsibility for overseeing that the Match Official assault report has been completed.



- 5.15** Within 30 days of the final day of the tournament, all tournament Reports must be submitted to the District Association. Note: Professional Clubs must submit reports to Ontario Soccer.
- 5.16** Failure to follow 5.12, 5.13 and 5.14 shall result in the following penalties at any time:
- First offence, \$1000.00 fine;
 - Second offence, \$1000.00 fine plus disqualification from hosting a tournament in the following season.
- 5.17** The tournament report shall include:
- a) A list of participating teams, identified by Team Name and Team Registration Number;
 - b) A list of teams failing to show up, identified by Team Name and Team Registration Number;
 - c) A list of teams which failed to play all their games, identified by Team Name and Team Registration Number;
 - d) A summary report of serious injuries;
 - e) Discipline summary report;
 - f) The tournament schedule and results of each game;
 - g) Any other relevant comments.
- 5.18** Failure to comply with the terms of Operational Procedures 5.1 to 5.10, will result in the tournament application (TAF) not being approved by the appropriate Governing Organization(s) in accordance with Operational Procedure 5.3 above. Failure to comply with terms of Operational Procedures 5.11 to 5.17 will render the Tournament Host subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, non-sanction of hosting any tournament in the following year, with the exception of Match Official Assaults, where the Tournament Host shall have the responsibility for overseeing that the Match Official report has been completed and submitted in the timeframe required.

PROCEDURE 6.0 - TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS OF HOST DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

- 6.1**
- a) The District Association approving a tournament shall appoint, or delegate the appointment of, a discipline committee to act at the tournament.
 - b) For a tournament hosted by a Provincial League, Regional League (if governed by Ontario Soccer) District Competitive League, Ontario Soccer shall appoint, or delegate the appointment of, a discipline committee to act at the tournament.
- 6.2**
- a) The District Association approving a tournament shall appoint, or delegate the appointment of, Match Officials.
 - b) For a tournament hosted by a Provincial League, Regional League (if governed by Ontario Soccer) District Competitive League, Ontario Soccer shall appoint, or delegate the appointment of, Match Officials.
- 6.3** In the event that any games in a tournament will be played outside of the Host District Association boundaries, the Host District Association must obtain permission from the District Association where the tournament games will be played.

PROCEDURE 7.0 - TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR TEAM PARTICIPATION

- 7.1** An Under-13 or older aged team may only participate in a tournament which has been sanctioned in accordance with Ontario Soccer rules by the Governing Organization to which the Host Organization is affiliated.
- 7.2** The team must comply with all of the competition rules in the tournament for which it has received approval to play.



- 7.3 When applying to take part in a tournament, each team shall identify itself by providing "Full Team Identification" as defined in Ontario Soccer's Operational Procedures and must attach to the tournament application form written proof of permission from its Association to participate, in accordance with the following:

Ontario teams – District Association approval if tournament is played out-of-District;
 Other Canadian teams – Provincial Association approval;
 U.S.A. teams – State Association approval;
 Other teams – National Association approval.

Failure to comply will disqualify the team from participating in the tournament.

NOTE: This rule must be included in the written information sent by the Tournament Host to all participating teams.

- 7.4 In International Class Tournaments and North American Class Tournaments, all teams shall supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the Tournament Host not later than seven days prior to the first day of the tournament.

Failure to comply will disqualify the team from participating in the tournament.

NOTE: This rule must be included in the written information sent by the Tournament Host to all participating teams.

- 7.5 Each Player must provide proof of registration or that Player will not be allowed to play in that tournament.

- 7.6 A team entered in the Ontario Cup will not be:

- a) Eligible to enter any tournament;
- b) Given permission to participate in any tournament; or
- c) Given permission to travel to any tournament;

which conflict(s) with the Ontario Cup age division schedule.

- 7.7 Subject to the rules of the tournament, a team shall only use Players registered on it, with the exception of the following:

- 7.7.1 Club's Youth Team and a Club's Senior Team may use up to an additional three registered Players from another team from any Club as guest Players, each Player must meet the age eligibility requirements of the tournament.

- 7.8 Notwithstanding Competitions Operational Procedure 1.4, in a tournament:

- a) A competitive youth team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which competitive senior teams are eligible
- b) A recreational youth team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which recreational senior teams are eligible
- c) An indoor youth team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which indoor senior teams are eligible
- d) A futsal youth team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which futsal senior teams are eligible
- e) A competitive girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which competitive boys' teams are eligible
- f) A recreational girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which recreational boys' teams are eligible
- g) An indoor girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which indoor boys' teams are eligible



- h) A futsal girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which futsal boys' teams are eligible
- i) A competitive mixed team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which competitive boys' teams are eligible
- j) A recreational mixed team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which recreational boys' teams are eligible
- k) An indoor mixed team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which indoor boys' teams are eligible
- l) A futsal mixed team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which futsal boys' teams are eligible
- m) A competitive girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which competitive mixed teams are eligible
- n) A recreational girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which recreational mixed teams are eligible
- o) An indoor girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which indoor mixed teams are eligible; and
- p) A futsal girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which futsal mixed teams are eligible providing that the published Tournament Rules of the Tournament Host Organization permit it and subject to the approval of the District Association to which the team's Club is affiliated.

PROCEDURE 8.0 –TEAM TRAVEL TO TOURNAMENTS AND EXHIBITION GAMES (U13 AND OLDER)

- 8.1 Any travel outside a team's District, except for a scheduled League game, League playoff game, or cup game, shall be considered Team Travel.
- 8.2 An APPLICATION TO TRAVEL FORM (ATF), must be used when applying for approval to travel.
- 8.3 Approval for Team Travel for Under-13 and older aged teams shall be based on approval from the following Associations:

	Travel To	First	Second	Third
a)	Another District	District		
b)	Another Province	District	Ontario Soccer	
c)	The U.S.A.	District	Ontario Soccer	
d)	Another Country	District	Ontario Soccer	Canada Soccer
e)	Outside Canada by an Ontario Registered Club	Ontario Soccer	Canada Soccer (if team is travelling outside CAN/USA)	

- 8.4 A Provincial League, Regional League and (if governed by Ontario Soccer) District Competitive League, District Association will obtain the ATF from Ontario Soccer. A Club and other Leagues will obtain the ATF from their District Associations.
- 8.5 The ATF must be completed and returned to the District Association no later than:
 - a) 7 days before travelling to another District, Province or the U.S.A.
 - b) 21 days before travelling to another country outside of Canada or the U.S.A.

If the ATF is submitted after the above deadline, an Administration Fee may apply and there is no guarantee that the team travel will be approved.

Travel Permit Approval Submission Timeline			
International ATF	21 days	20 – 7 days before travel	Less than 7 days before travel
ATF Fee with Penalty	\$150	\$175	\$250



- 8.6** The ATF for a Club team requires the authorization of a Club authorized individual.
- 8.7** Teams travelling to the following shall pay the applicable fee to Ontario Soccer and must include with the ATF:

Another District:

- Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS
- Team Roster Report (OSCAR) (for team registration verification purposes only)

In all instances below, there must be proof of Sport Specific Travel Insurance.

Another Province:

- Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS
- Team Roster Report (OSCAR) (for team registration verification purposes only)
- A copy of the sanctioning document for the approved competition
- A copy of the Competition Rules for the competition

The U.S.A:

- Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS
- Team Roster Report (OSCAR) (for team registration verification purposes only)
- A copy of the sanctioning document for the approved competition
- A copy of the Competition Rules for the competition
- A copy of the team's travel insurance (either as a team, or individual names, insurance providers and policy numbers)

Another Country:

- Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS
- Team Roster Report (OSCAR) (for team registration verification purposes only)
- A copy of the sanctioning document for the approved competition
- A copy of the Competition Rules for the competition
- A copy of the team's travel insurance (either as a team, or individual names, insurance providers and policy numbers)
- A copy of the Canada Soccer Travel Application Form (only for travel outside of Canada and the USA)

PROCEDURE 9.0 - FESTIVAL DEFINITIONS

- 9.1** A Festival shall consist of a series of games played under the following format:
- a) Played on one day;
 - b) Played without the recording of scores and standings;
 - c) Which prohibits trophies or awards with the exception of participation mementos
 - d) Under-6 teams will play 3v3 with no goalkeeper
 - e) Under-7 or Under-8 teams will play 4v4 with no goalkeeper or 5v5 with a goalkeeper
 - f) Under-9 and/or Under-10 teams will play 7v7 with a goalkeeper;
 - g) Under-11 and/or Under-12 teams will play 9v9 with a goalkeeper.
- 9.2** A Festival Host must be one of the following:
- a) Ontario Soccer
 - b) A District Association
 - c) An Affiliated Club



d) An Affiliated League

- 9.3** A festival will consist of small-sided soccer played under Ontario Soccer's [Grassroots Standards](#).
- 9.4** A Selected Charity Festival is an event hosted in Ontario, by Ontario Soccer, a District Association, affiliated Club, or an affiliated League for any aged teams. The objective is to provide an opportunity for affiliated Club teams to experience a charitable event.

In order to be classified as a Selected Charity Festival, the event must be designated as such by Ontario Soccer. Selection criteria will be determined by Ontario Soccer and only legitimate charitable events will be considered.

PROCEDURE 10.0 - FESTIVAL CLASSIFICATIONS

10.1 Festivals

The following classes of festivals are open to Under-6, Under-7, Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 teams only. Under-12 and younger age groups are not eligible to participate in any tournaments.

Season	Jurisdiction	Classification	Age Group Eligibility
Outdoor	Inter-District	Development	Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 Club Teams
Outdoor	District	Development	Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 Club Teams
Outdoor	District	Recreational	Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 Club Teams
Outdoor	Club	Recreational	Under-6, Under-7, Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 Club Teams
Indoor	Inter-District	Development	Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 Club Teams
Indoor	District	Development	Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 Club Teams
Indoor	District	Recreational	Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 Club Teams
Indoor	Club	Recreational	Under-6, Under-7, Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 Club Teams

10.2 Notwithstanding Operational Procedure 10.1 above, with the permission of its District Association, a team may be given permission to travel to:

- a) A District Festival hosted in a neighbouring District; and
- b) A Club Festival hosted by a neighbouring Club.

10.3 Notwithstanding Operational Procedure 10.1 above, the Host Organization may permit:

- An Under 12 team from another Province of FIFA member organization
 - An Under-10 or Under-11 team from another Province or State which borders the Host Organization's District;
- to enter its Inter-District Festival.

NOTE: Team Travel procedures are subject to Procedure 8.0 - Approval for Team Travel.



PROCEDURE 11.0 - APPROVAL OF FESTIVALS

- 11.1 A FESTIVAL APPLICATION FORM (FAF) must be used when applying to host a festival.
- 11.2 The Festival Host Organization requires the approval of the District Association which the Festival Host Organization is affiliated with, as well as the District Association in which the Festival is being played, if different than the Festival Host Organization's affiliated District Association.
- 11.3 The FAF must be completed and returned to the Festival Hosts Organization's District Association by no later than 15 days before the first day of the Festival.
- Note: If the FAF is submitted after the above deadline, there is no guarantee that the Festival will be approved.
- 11.4 The Festival Host shall indicate on the FAF only one Festival Classification and will indicate one or more Age Classifications.
- 11.5 The Festival Host must indicate in writing on the FAF that it will comply with all of Ontario Soccer Rules, Policies, and Procedures governing festivals.
- 11.6 Failure to comply with the terms of Section 11.0 will result in the festival application (FAF) not being approved by the appropriate Governing Organization(s) in accordance with Operational Procedure 11.2 above.

PROCEDURE 12.0 - FESTIVAL RULES

- 12.1 Festivals played in Ontario will be played based on Ontario Soccer's [Game Organization Guide](#) and/or [Festival Guide](#) document.
- 12.2 Festivals may be played at the Inter-District and District levels by teams subject to the Ontario Soccer Grassroots Standards.
- 12.3 Squad Eligibility:
- All squads must be registered with their Provincial Association or, in the case of squads from the USA, with the State Association.
 - When applying to take part in a festival, each squad must attach to the festival application form (FAF) written proof of "Permission To Travel" duly authorized by its governing Association, when the squad is travelling from its District Association.
 - In Inter-District Class Festivals, all squads from outside Ontario must supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the Festival Host not later than seven days prior to the festival.
 - A squad may only use Players who are registered with its Club, except as otherwise stipulated.
- 12.4 **Laws of the Game**
- All games shall be small-sided soccer played under Ontario Soccer's Grassroots Small Sided Soccer Rules.
- 12.5 The content within Ontario Soccer's Game Organization Guide document shall apply in any instance of conflicting information with regards to all areas of Festivals organization.

PROCEDURE 13.0 - FESTIVAL REQUIREMENTS OF HOSTS

- 13.1 The Festival Host must obtain approval, in accordance with **Operational Procedure 11.0**.



- 13.2** The Festival Host must advise all participants about the "*Festival Requirements for Squad Participation*", as stipulated in **Operational Procedure 15.0**.
- 13.3** The Festival Host shall provide team sheets which shall be completed by each squad prior to each game, and which must be submitted prior to the kickoff. The competing squads must be identified on the team sheet by Team Name and Team Registration Number.
- 13.4** Within 30 days of the final day of the festival:
- a) The Festival Host of an Inter-District Festival or a District Festival must submit a festival report to its District Association
 - b) The Festival Host must collect team sheets and misconduct reports from Match Officials immediately after each game and such shall be forwarded by the Host to its District Association, no later than 72 hours after the last day of the tournament.
- 13.5** Failure to do so shall result in the following penalties at any time:
- First offence, \$1000.00 fine;
Second offence, \$1000.00 fine plus disqualification from hosting a festival in the following season.
- 13.6** The festival report shall include:
- a) A list of participating Clubs/Squads;
 - b) A list of Clubs/Squads failing to show up;
 - c) A list of Clubs/Squads which failed to play all their games;
 - d) A summary report of serious injuries;
 - e) Discipline summary report;
 - f) The festival schedule;
 - g) Any other relevant comments.
- 13.7** Failure to comply with the terms of Operational Procedure 14.0 will render the Festival Host subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, non-sanction of hosting any festival in the following year.

PROCEDURE 14.0 - FESTIVAL REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

- 14.1** The District Association approving a festival shall appoint, or delegate the appointment of, a discipline committee to act at the festival.
- 14.2** The District Association approving a festival shall appoint, or delegate the appointment of, Game Leaders or Small Sided Match Officials. Notwithstanding this Operational Procedure, a Game Leader may not be appointed to a festival game involving Under-6 teams.
- 14.3** Appointed Game Leaders or Small Sided Match Officials must be registered with Ontario Soccer.
- 14.4** In the event that any games in a Festival will be played outside of the Host District Association boundaries, the Host District Association must obtain permission from the District Association where the festival games will be played.

PROCEDURE 15.0 - FESTIVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SQUAD PARTICIPATION

- 15.1** An Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 or Under-12 squad may only participate in a festival which has been sanctioned in accordance with Ontario Soccer rules by a District Association.
- 15.2** The squad must comply with all of the competition rules in the festival for which it has received approval to play.



- 15.3** When applying to take part in a festival, each squad shall identify itself by providing its Club name, age and gender classification; and if the festival is played outside its District, must attach to the festival application form (FAF) written proof of permission from its Association to participate, in accordance with the following:

Ontario squads - District Association approval if festival is played out-of-District;

Other Canadian squads from Border Provinces - Provincial Association approval;

U.S.A. squads from Border States - State Association approval;

Failure to comply will disqualify the squad from participating in the festival.

NOTE: This rule must be included in the written information sent by the Festival Host to all participating teams.

- 15.4** In Inter-District Festivals, all squads from Border Provinces or Border States shall supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the Festival Host not later than seven days prior to the first day of the festival.

Failure to comply will disqualify the squad from participating in the festival.

NOTE: This rule must be included in the written information sent by the Festival Host to all participating squads.

- 15.5** A squad shall only use Players who are registered with its Club and each Player must provide the appropriate registration document or that Player will not be allowed to play in that festival.

PROCEDURE 16.0 –SQUAD TRAVEL TO FESTIVALS AND EXHIBITION GAMES (U9 TO U12)

- 16.1** Any travel outside a squad's District, except for a scheduled League game, shall be considered Squad Travel.
- 16.2** An APPLICATION TO TRAVEL FORM (ATF), must be used when applying for approval to travel.
- 16.3** Squad Travel shall be recommended as per the Ontario Soccer Grassroots Standards. Notwithstanding this Operational Procedure, a District Association may approve squad travel beyond the above time travel when there is no suitable competition within the time allotted for squad travel.
- 16.4** Under-7 and younger aged age groups participate in Club focused development programs; which involve no travel beyond their Club.
- 16.5** Notwithstanding Operational Procedure 16.3 above, Grassroots Players may be given permission to travel to a limited number of Memorable Events per year which will be based in accordance with Ontario Soccer's Grassroots Standards.
- 16.6** Approval to travel is required from the following Associations:

	<u>Travel To</u>	<u>Approval By</u>	<u>Second Approval</u>
a)	Another District	District Association	
b)	A Border Province	District Association	Ontario Soccer
c)	A Border State in USA	District Association	Ontario Soccer

- 16.7** The ATF must be completed and returned to the District Association no later than 7 days before travelling to another District, Border Province or to a Border State in the U.S.A.

If the ATF is submitted after the above deadline, there is no guarantee that the squad travel will be approved.



16.8 The ATF for a Club squad requires the authorization of its Club.

PROCEDURE 17.0 - EXHIBITION GAMES

- 17.1** An exhibition game is a game arranged between two teams of registered Players with a registered Match Official, which is not a scheduled League game, play-off game, cup game, tournament game or festival game. Exhibition games have no stats, standings or set schedule of games. An exhibition game may also include one team of registered Players playing against:
- a) A College team, providing that Ontario Soccer has an adequate written agreement with the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association regarding the liability pertaining to the College team's participants;
 - b) A University team, providing that Ontario Soccer has an adequate written agreement with the Ontario University Athletics regarding the liability pertaining to the University team's participants; and
- 17.2** Eligibility to Play in Exhibition Games
- a) An Under-7 or younger age group is not eligible to participate in an exhibition game.
 - b) An Under-13 or older aged team is eligible to participate in an exhibition game subject to Operational Procedure 18.0 - Approval of Exhibition Games.
 - c) An Under 8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11 and Under-12 Player is eligible to play in an exhibition game providing that
 - The Player has not already played in a League game, festival or another exhibition during that week
 - The Player will not exceed the maximum 20 competition days permitted during one season as a result of that game
 - The exhibition game meets all of the criteria in the Ontario Soccer Grassroots Standards.
- 17.3** An Exhibition Game Host must be one of the following:
- a) Ontario Soccer
 - b) A District Association
 - c) An Affiliated Club
 - d) An Affiliated League
- 17.4** Notwithstanding Competitions Operational Procedure 1.6, in an exhibition game:
- a) A competitive team may play against a recreational team
 - b) A youth team may play against a senior team
 - c) A senior amateur team may play against a professional team
 - d) A female team may play against a male team or a mixed team
 - e) A mixed team may play against a male team
- 17.5** Each Player must provide the appropriate registration document or that Player will not be allowed to play in the exhibition game.
- 17.5.1** The Exhibition Game Rules may permit Under-13 and older aged teams to include Players registered with other Clubs.
- 17.6** The Exhibition Game Host shall collect Ontario Soccer Exhibition Game team sheets that include Team Name and (if applicable) Team Registration Number for each team and misconduct reports from the Match Official immediately after each game and shall forward such to its District Association, or to Ontario Soccer for games approved by Ontario Soccer, no later than 48 hours after the game.
- 17.7** Ontario Soccer, or District Association, approving an Exhibition Game shall appoint, or delegate the appointment of, Match Officials.
- 17.8** Exhibition games involving foreign professional teams shall comply with the Rules and Regulations of Canada Soccer.



PROCEDURE 18.0 - APPROVAL OF EXHIBITION GAMES

- 18.1** An *Application to Host Exhibition Game* (AHEG) form must be used when applying for approval to play an exhibition game. Each team must provide "*Full Team Identification*" as defined in Ontario Soccer's published rules.
- 18.2** The Application to Host Exhibition Game (AHEG) form will be submitted online through Ontario Soccer forms website.
- 18.3** Approval for an exhibition game to be played in Ontario is required from the following Associations:

Game Involving	Submission Timeline	Required Fee	Late submission penalty	First	Second	Third
Ontario Club teams				District Association		
Other Canadian team (Out of Province)	10 Days	\$25	\$50	District Association	Ontario Soccer	
Team from outside Canada	21 Days	\$125	\$150	District Association	Ontario Soccer	Canada Soccer
Ontario College or University team to play an Ontario Club Team				District Association	Ontario Soccer	

- 18.4** With the exception of the above-mentioned teams, each participating team shall supply the exhibition Game Host with written proof of permission from its Association to participate in the exhibition game, in accordance with the following:
- Ontario Teams – District Association approval
 - Other Canadian Teams – Provincial Association approval
 - USA Teams – State Association approval
 - Other Teams – National Association approval
- 18.5** Teams from outside of Canada must supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the exhibition game host prior to participating in an exhibition game.
- 18.6** A team entered in the Ontario Cup will not be eligible to play in any exhibition game, given permission to host any exhibition game, or given permission to travel to any exhibition game which conflicts with the Ontario Cup schedule.
- 18.7** **Blanket Permission to Play Exhibition Games**
- Ontario Soccer may grant blanket written permission to any League governed by Ontario Soccer to authorize exhibition games which only involve teams belonging to that affiliated League.
 - A District Association may grant blanket written permission to any Club affiliated to the District to authorize exhibition games which only involve teams within the Club.
- 18.8** The AHEG must be completed and returned to the District Association no later than:
- 72 hours before an exhibition game involving 2 Ontario teams.
 - 10 days before an exhibition game involving a team from another province or from the U.S.A.
 - 21 days before an exhibition game involving a team from outside Canada or the U.S.A.

If the AHEG is submitted after the above deadline, an Administration Fee may apply and the exhibition game may not be approved.



PROCEDURE 19.0 - CUP COMPETITIONS

- 19.1 A Cup Competition shall be organized and run by one of the following:
- Ontario Soccer;
 - A District Association;
 - An affiliated League for its Member Clubs;
 - An affiliated Club.
- 19.2 A Player shall not play for more than one team in any one Cup Competition.
- 19.3 Athletes selected to Provincial XCEL Teams and Canada Games Teams may not participate in Club events, training or competition during the following time frames:
- 48 hours prior to authorized preparation camps/weekends and competitions
 - During authorized preparation camps/weekends and competitions
 - 24 hours after authorized preparation camps/weekends and competitions
- Club teams with 3 or more Players represented in a single a Provincial Xcel Team are eligible to have their games rescheduled if it conflicts with the schedule of Provincial XCEL or Canada Games Teams events resulting in the Players in question not being available to play for their Club teams

PROCEDURE 20.0 - ONTARIO CUP

- 20.1 The Ontario Soccer Centre in Vaughan shall be the permanent site of the Ontario Cup Finals. A District Association may submit a bid to host the Ontario Cup Finals as an alternate site to The Ontario Soccer Centre.
- 20.2 When the Ontario Cup uses the Tournament Format, the team that emerges from the game or tournament round(s) of the competition from Greater North Soccer Association shall be allowed to enter the last sixteen teams still competing in the Ontario Cup in that age group.
- 20.3 When a division of the Ontario Cup is based on the "single-game knockout" format with no tournament rounds, Senior Provincial League teams will enter the competition in the following rounds for that division:
- Eight spots in the third round of the Ontario Cup shall be allotted for teams in the Senior Elite Provincial Women's League;
 - Sixteen spots in the second round of the Ontario Cup shall be allotted for teams in the Senior Elite Provincial Men's League;

PROCEDURE 21.0 - PLAYING FOR A TEAM TO WHICH A PLAYER IS NOT REGISTERED

- 21.1 A Player registered on an Under-13 or older aged team may play for a team to which they are not registered only under one of the following conditions:
- They play with a "**TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT**" (TEP): (Currently registered with a Club affiliated to Ontario Soccer or Canada Soccer.)
 - plays up in a League game for a higher level Club Team of a Club other than one with which they are registered,
 - plays as a guest Player in a tournament (subject to tournament rules) or exhibition game (subject to the agreement of both teams) with a Club other than one with which they are registered
 - They play with a "**SHORT TERM REGISTRATION PERMIT**"; (not affiliated to Ontario Soccer or Canada Soccer)
 - plays as a guest Player in a tournament (subject to tournament rules) or exhibition game (subject to the agreement of both teams)



3. They play as a **CALL UP** Player with permission of their Club, for another Club Team within the same Club to which they are registered, subject to the following:
 - a. plays up in a League game or a cup game for a higher level Club Team
 - b. plays as a guest Player in a tournament (subject to tournament rules) or exhibition game (subject to the agreement of both teams) with a Club Team within the same Club;

NOTE: A League or District Association, or the competition rules, may impose limitations on such movement within a Club, provided that the limitations are applied consistently);

4. Their Club permits them to play for another team within the same Local League in which they are registered to play;
 5. A Senior League may permit Player movement both upwards (i.e., to a higher level team) and downwards (i.e., to a lower level team) between senior teams of the same Club and such movement shall be subject to that League's published rules;
 6. They play for a Canada Soccer, Ontario Soccer, District Association, or League All-Star Team;
 7. Their Club permits them to play for a Professional Team (i.e., a higher level Club team) with which their Club has a "Player Movement Form Agreement - Amateur and Professional";
 8. A youth Player registered with a Club that operates youth teams is permitted by their Club to play for a higher level Club Team in a Club that operates senior teams, subject to a "Player Movement Form Agreement - Senior Amateur and Youth Amateur" between the two Clubs; or
 9. With the permission of the District Association, a youth Player registered with a Club that operates youth teams is permitted by their Club to play for a higher level Club Team in another Club that operates youth teams, subject to a "**Player Movement Form Agreement - Youth to Youth**" between the two Clubs.
- 21.2** In all cases in which a Player is playing for an outdoor competitive team or an indoor team under one of the conditions in Operational Procedure 22.1 above, the Player must possess an "Ontario Soccer REGISTRANT BOOK" or "Ontario Soccer Identification Card" and have such document available for presentation at the game in which he/she is playing. Failure to present the "Ontario Soccer REGISTRANT BOOK" or "Ontario Soccer Identification Card" shall render the Player ineligible to play in that game.
- 21.3** A higher level team shall be defined as a team which meets any of the following criteria:
- a) Registered in a higher team age classification;
 - b) Registered in a higher Player classification (recreational/development);
 - c) Registered in a higher team classification (Club team/District team/Regional team);
 - d) Playing in a higher League level; or
 - e) Playing in a higher division of the same League

For further clarification, see Procedure 21.4 below.

Notwithstanding Clause 21.3, a Player who has been suspended for one or more games in League play shall not be permitted to "play up" as per Section 12, Procedure 9.5.3

- 21.4** The hierarchy of age classifications, Player classifications, team classifications, and League levels shall be as follows:



Team's Age Classification	Player Classification	Team Classification	League Levels
Open Age	Professional	Competitive	National League
Under-21	Senior Amateur	Recreational	Provincial League
Under-20	Youth Amateur		Regional League
Under-19			District Competitive League
Under-18			District Recreational League
Under-17			Local League
Under-16			
Under-15			
Under-14			
Under-13			

NOTES:

The above levels are in descending order from the top.

The hierarchy of "division levels" shall be determined by each League.

- 21.5** If a Player is registered as both a competitive Player and a recreational Player, they may only play up to a higher level team, from the competitive team registration.
- 21.6** Procedures for "playing up" to, or playing as a Trial Player for Grassroots Player (Under-12 or younger aged group) is in Section 6.0 Game Types.
- 21.7** A Tournament Team, either "competitive" or "recreational", does not fall within the hierarchy of League divisions. Therefore, a Player registered to a Tournament Team may not "play up".

PROCEDURE 22.0 - TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT (TEP)


- 22.1** Any Under-13 and older Player registered with Ontario Soccer or another Provincial Association affiliated to Canada Soccer is eligible to obtain a ["TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT"](#), which shall entitle the Player, subject to Operational Procedure 21.0, to play for a registered Club Team of a Club other than the one with which they are registered in a game of any registered League or sanctioned competition.
- 22.2** A Player registered on a Club Team shall be allowed a Temporary Eligibility Permit to play on a District Association's team in a Provincial League or Regional League providing that they are a resident of the District.
- 22.3** A "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT" being used to play for an amateur team must be validated by the District Association with which the team, from which they are playing up, is registered. A District Association may not delegate to any other organization or individual the function of validating such document. A District Association may not validate a "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT" unless all sections of the form have been properly completed. The validation of a "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT" being used to play for a professional team is subject to League Procedures.



- 22.4** A Player using a "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT" in order to be eligible to play for an outdoor competitive team or an indoor team must also possess an "Ontario Soccer REGISTRANT BOOK", "Identification Card", or "Digital Identification" available for presentation at the game. Failure to present the "Ontario Soccer REGISTRANT BOOK", "Identification Card", or "Digital Identification" shall render the Player ineligible to play in that game.
- 22.5** A "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT" is not valid for amateur cup competitions.
- 22.6** A Player shall be entitled to three "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMITS" to play for an amateur team during each playing season. An outdoor playing season and an indoor playing season shall be considered as different playing seasons. The maximum number of "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMITS" to play for a professional team is subject to League Procedures.
- 22.7** The District Association with which the team, from which they are playing up, is registered shall be responsible for maintaining a record of the number of "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMITS" assigned to the Player when playing for an amateur team.
- 22.8** In a tournament, a "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT" must be used by any Player playing for a Club Team, other than one with which they are registered, subject to the following conditions:
- a) The tournament rules permit guest Players;
 - b) The number of guest Players does not exceed the tournament rules or Ontario Soccer Published Rules on Competitions, Operational Procedure 8.0.
 - c) If the tournament is classified as permitting competitive teams only, the Player has an "Ontario Soccer REGISTRANT BOOK", or " Identification Card", or "Digital Identification" available for presentation at each game in which they play;
 - d) The "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT" entitles the Player to play in all of the games in the tournament; and
 - e) The District Association has stipulated for which tournament the "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMIT" is valid.
- 22.9** A League or a District Association or the competition rules may impose limitations on the use of "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMITS," provided that the limitations are applied consistently.
- 22.10** The policies governing "TEMPORARY ELIGIBILITY PERMITS" for play on a professional team are outlined in League Operational Procedure.



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