

# Impact of the 2022 Match Official shortage

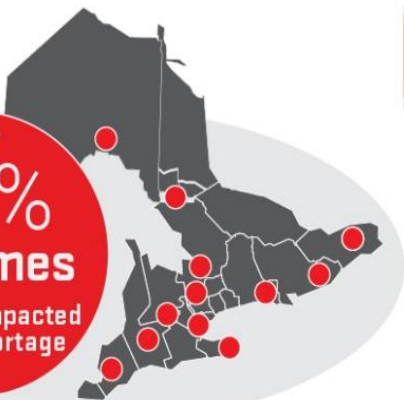


# URGENT: REFEREE SHORTAGE - IMPACT ON GAMES

IMPACT:

over  
50%  
of games

could be impacted  
by the shortage



CURRENT REFEREES  
REFLECT ONLY 40%

OF 2019 NUMBERS

3

TYPICAL NUMBER  
OF REFEREES ON  
11 v 11 GAME  
(2019)

VS.

1

TYPICAL NUMBER  
OF REFEREES ON  
11 v 11 GAME IN 2022  
(DUE TO SHORTAGE)

Soccer is making a comeback, and player numbers are soaring. Unfortunately, referees are not returning at the same pace.

Each year, for a number of reasons, a percentage of referees do not return to the game. The 2022 shortage is **NOT** reflective of typical loss.

The numbers are critically low and will have major consequences on the game.

Here's the great news: it's not too late! If you are a former referee, or interested in helping out - find a club, and join us! We'll support you every step of the way.

8,500

Registered Referees in 2019

REGISTERED REFEREES IN 2022

3,400

2200  
FEWER

NEW REFEREES  
THROUGH COURSES  
(vs. 2019)

170,000

MATCHES TO BE  
COVERED BY DISTRICT  
AND CLUB LEVEL  
REFEREES IN THE  
OUTDOOR SEASON



#1  
REASON  
FOR REFEREES  
RETURNING:

LOVE  
OF THE  
GAME



Answer the call.

Soccer needs  
referees.

Soccer needs YOU.



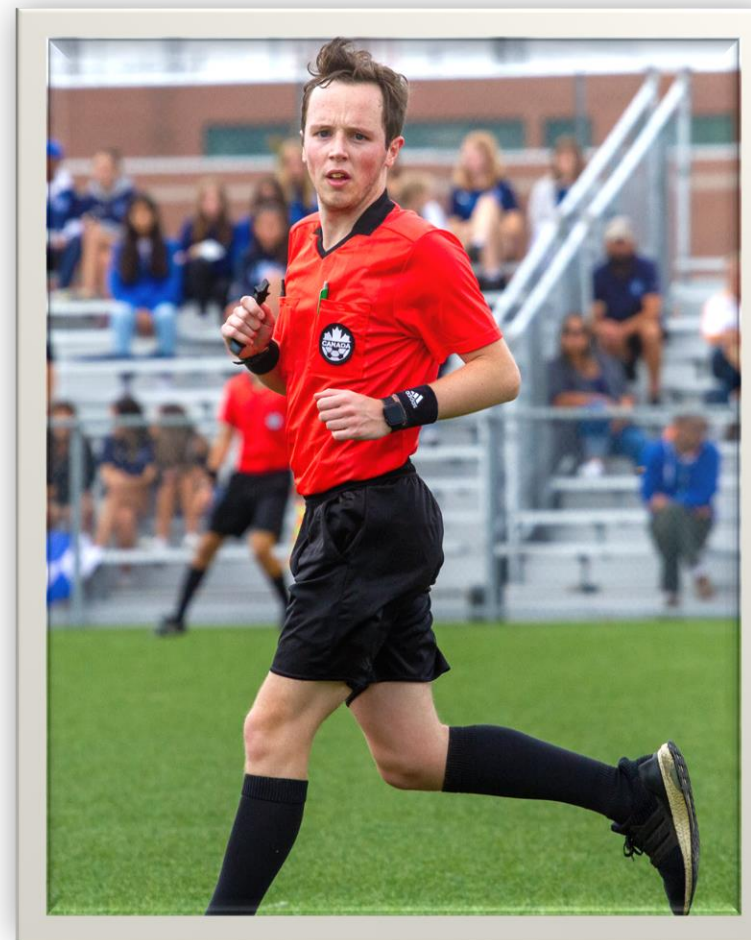
ONTARIO  
SOCCER  
EST. 1901

 [ontariosoccer.net/Recruitment](https://ontariosoccer.net/Recruitment)



# Expectations for 2022

- **The majority of games will be covered by 1 or 2 match officials**
  - Our goal is to reduce the number of games that would be cancelled due to not enough officials available to form a full crew of 3 officials (where typically required)
- **Ontario Soccer will promote a Zero Tolerance policy in relation to Match Official Abuse**
  - If officials are abused, not only can they abandon the game, they may not return and the next game may not have an official
- **Ontario Soccer will continue to work closely with Clubs, Leagues and Districts throughout the 2022 season**



# Expectations for 2022

- **Match Officials also have other commitments**
  - 91% are also players
  - School, work, family, other life commitments
  - Injuries and burnout
  - Vacation
- **More games equals more physical and mental requirements**
  - Your official could be on their 4th, 5th or 6th game of the week – ensuring your team/child gets to play. Please understand that they may be tired.
- **If a Match Official is late to kick-off, they may be rushing from another game – to ensure your game gets played**
- **If you notice others not respecting the official, step-in to address the behaviour. If it excessive, you can report that individual to your Club or District**



# Decisions on the Field of Play

**Games that have only one official assigned or a Referee and a 4<sup>th</sup> Official (with no Assistant Referee to support), could result in:**

- Offside calls being called by the Referee, due to no Assistant Referees
- Balls in and out of play being called from distance
- Certain angles not being the optimum viewing angle for calls

**The official you see may differ in experience and development from one game to the next.**





**We are asking for your support in creating the most positive experience on the field for the players, coaches and match officials in 2022.**

**Let's support them all and keep them coming back!**





For further enquiries, please email  
[Matchofficials@ontariosoccer.net](mailto:Matchofficials@ontariosoccer.net)

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**SOCCER X**



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