



# Operational Rules

## Ontario Player Development League (OPDL)

Operational Rules for OPDL License Holders

April, 2019

A single line in the left-hand margin indicates new changes to the document

## Table of Contents

Section I – Organization	5
1. The Ontario Player Development League	5
2. Technical Oversight	5
3. OPDL Discipline	5
Jurisdiction	5
Reporting and Review of Discipline	5
Request for Discipline Hearing	6
General Discipline Rules	6
Fines and Penalties	7
Appeals	7
Section II – License Holders Commitments	8
4. OPDL Teams	8
5. License Agreement	8
6. License Performance Review	8
7. Completion of OPDL Season	8
Section III – Competition Structure	9
8. Game Format	9
9. Competition Season	9
10. OPDL Conferences	9
11. Competition Schedule	9
12. Games hosted by License Holders at Home Venues	11
13. ID Weekends	11
14. Competition Format	11
15. Playoffs	12
16. OPDL Charity Shield	12
17. OPDL Cup	12
18. Game Day Regulations	13
Section IV – Player Eligibility and Team Rosters	14
19. Player Commitment Letter	14
20. Player Registration	14
21. Player Roster	15
Full-Time Players (FT)	16
Developmental Player (DP)	16
Playing Up Permit (PuP)	18

22.	Ineligible Players	18
23.	New Players to the Country	18
24.	Player Transfer Policy	19
25.	Player Residency	19
26.	Player Recruitment and Solicitation	20
27.	Player Scouting & Communications	20
Section V – Team and Match Officials		21
28.	Team Officials	21
29.	Team Officials Minimum Qualifications and Requirements	21
30.	Team Officials Registration	22
31.	OPDL Coach Development Plan	23
32.	Match Officials	23
Section VI – Technical Program Structure		24
33.	OPDL Technical Program	24
34.	Conduct	24
35.	Player Trials	24
36.	Under/Over Age Players	24
37.	Player Prioritization	24
38.	Training	25
39.	Matches other than OPDL Regular Matches	25
40.	Exhibition Games	25
	Exhibition Games involving organizations other than OPDL License Holders	26
	Exhibition Games involving OPDL Teams	26
41.	Other Matches	26
APPENDIX A – OPDL CODES OF CONDUCT		27
	General	27
	Team Official Conduct	27
	Player Conduct	27
	Fan/Spectator Conduct	27
APPENDIX B – Fines		28
	A.1 Fines	28
	TYPE 1	30
	1.1 Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with less than 7 days' notice (Forfeiture)	30

1.2 Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with more than 7 days' notice (Forfeiture)	30
1.3 Improper Player Recruitment and Solicitation	30
1.4 Use of an Ineligible Player	30
1.5 Failure to Field a Team of at Least 14 active Players in a Scheduled OPDL Match:	30
1.6 Inappropriate Behaviour by Team Officials or Player in Violation of OPDL Code of Conduct	31
1.7 Late Arrival to a Scheduled OPDL Match Delaying Kick-off	31
1.8 Less than 2 Qualified Team Officials on the Bench	31
1.9 Game Abandoned Due to Actions of Players/Team Officials/Spectators of a Team	32
2.0 Inappropriate Social Media Content	32
TYPE 2	33
2.1 Failure to Provide Official OPDL Game Sheet	33
2.2 More than 5 Team Officials on Bench	33
2.3 OPDL Standards Non-Compliance	33
2.4 Technical Director on Bench/Game Sheet without OPDL Approval	34
2.5 Failure to Provide Official OPDL Substitution Forms	34
2.6 Substitute Player or Team Official Entering the Field of Play during an Altercation	34
2.7 Failure to Provide Official OPDL Medical/Consent Forms	35
TYPE 3	36
3.1 Failure to Provide League Management with Hosting Information by Deadline	36
3.2 Failure to Comply with Registration Deadlines	36
3.3 Late Payment of League Fees	36
3.4 Leaving Garbage at Venue upon Departure	36
3.5 Incomplete Game Sheet	36
3.6 Handwriting Names on Game Sheets	37
3.7 Missing Player or Team Official Books/Cards	37
3.8 Request to change scheduled OPDL game with less than 7 days' notice	37
3.9 Failure to Participate in Scheduled OPDL Meetings	37
3.10 Improper Uniform/Uniform Issues	37
Non-Compliance Notification and Payment Method	38
APPENDIX C – Game Day Regulations	39
APPENDIX D – Hosting Regulations	39
APPENDIX E – Trial Guidelines	39
APPENDIX F – Medical Guidelines & Forms	39
APPENDIX G – Technical Manual	39

APPENDIX H – Performance Management Guide	39
APPENDIX I – Festival Guide	39
APPENDIX J – OPDL Brand Guidelines/Marks and Logo Use	40
APPENDIX K – OPDL Sponsorship Guidelines	41
OPDL Sponsors	41
Exclusive Sponsors/Categories	41
Match Day Sponsor Rights	41
Team Sponsors	42
Use of Ontario Soccer Marks	42
Subject to Change	42
APPENDIX L – OPDL Social Media Guidelines	43

## Section I – Organization

### 1. The Ontario Player Development League

- a) The Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) is a high performance youth training and competition program conducted and administered by Ontario Soccer.

### 2. Technical Oversight

- a) Ontario Soccer shall provide independent technical oversight of the OPDL, and the technical leadership for the program shall come from Ontario Soccer.
- b) OPDL License Holders shall discuss technical matters related to the program through a regular License Holder forum.

### 3. OPDL Discipline

- a) The OPDL Discipline Committee shall be appointed by the Ontario Soccer CEO.

#### Jurisdiction

- a) The OPDL Discipline Committee shall be responsible for handling all cases of reported misconduct for Players, Administrators or Clubs, as per Section 12.0 Discipline in Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures, in OPDL, except for:
  - i. Match official assault
  - ii. Acts of moral turpitude
- b) It is the responsibility of each License Holder to ensure that its Players and Team Officials are aware of the OPDL Discipline rules and of the discipline systems used by OPDL.

#### Reporting and Review of Discipline

- a) Within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of an OPDL Match, the Match Official shall submit the following items to RefCentre:
  - i. Match Results
  - ii. Misconduct report for each incident of misconduct by a player, team official, administrator, or match official
  - iii. Special Incident Reports
- b) Unless otherwise indicated by the OPDL Discipline Committee, hearings shall take place on the next available date, and at least one (1) week after the date of the misconduct being reported.
- c) At the discretion of the OPDL Discipline Committee, the accused, or any other party called, may attend a Hearing remotely via a communications technology that is duly approved by the OPDL Discipline Committee. Where permission to attend a Hearing via such a communication technology is not expressly approved by the OPDL Discipline Committee, attendance in person is assumed to be required by all parties involved.

## Request for Discipline Hearing

- a) An accused Player, Coach or other Team Official subject to Discipline by Review has the right to request a Discipline Hearing, with the exception of those misconducts listed in Table 2, items 1.7.5 to 1.7.10 located in (and in accordance with) Discipline Procedure 9.0 of Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures.
- b) Such a request, and subsequent hearing, must adhere to the following procedures:
  - i. The Request for a Hearing must be forwarded in writing, by email to [appealcasemanager@ontariosoccer.net](mailto:appealcasemanager@ontariosoccer.net) and received by 5pm on the Monday following the game in which the alleged misconduct occurred.
  - ii. A \$250.00 Fee must accompany the Request for a Hearing.
  - iii. The discipline hearing shall be conducted by an OPDL Discipline Hearing Panel.
  - iv. Hearings shall take place as needed with appropriate notice given to all involved.

## General Discipline Rules

- a) Cautions shall be recorded in the OPDL League Management System. The accumulation of cautions shall only apply to OPDL competitions.
- b) Suspensions are levied by the OPDL Discipline Hearing/Review Panel
- c) On misconduct being proved to its satisfaction, the OPDL Discipline Committee shall have the power to order the offender:
  - i. To be suspended from all or any specific soccer activity for a stated period of time, in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules;
  - ii. To be suspended for a specific number of games in the OPDL competitions; and
  - iii. To be fined (with or without suspension) for Organizations and Team Officials.
- d) An OPDL Discipline Hearing Panel may only suspend an accused from all soccer related activity when a finding of guilty is rendered for one or more of the Ontario Soccer Misconduct Types listed in Discipline Procedure 9.5.1 of Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures.
- e) In the case of "suspensions for a stated period of time":
  - i. The "beginning date" of a suspension shall be determined by the OPDL Discipline Panel and will commence within an appropriate timeline following the Discipline Hearing in which the coach, player, team official was found guilty.
  - ii. It is the responsibility of the player/team official's Club to check with the OPDL, through the OPDL League Management System, to find out what the suspension is (i.e. the "beginning date" and "expiry date")
- f) In the case of "suspensions for a specific number of games":
  - i. A player suspended for a specified number of games shall serve such suspension in the OPDL competitions (i.e. shall be suspended from a specific number of OPDL

games) until the player's team has concluded its participation in that year's OPDL competition

- ii. After a team has concluded its participation in that year's OPDL competition, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be served in the following season of OPDL
  - iii. If the player is not selected for or does not participate in the OPDL the following year, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be served in his/her new team's league, league cup and league playoff games
  - iv. OPDL will communicate the specific matches from which the player is suspended to the Club, in writing, via email.
- g) A listing of all suspensions resulting from misconduct in OPDL competition shall be posted on E2E and the OPDL website and can be accessed by the Team/Club. Notice of any suspension will always be e-mailed to the designated team contact (i.e. Head Coach, Team Manager, etc...)

### **Fines and Penalties**

- a) In the event a team, including team officials, License Holders or its representatives contravenes OPDL rules and regulations, the OPDL Discipline Committee, has the authority to levy fine(s) against the offending License Holder, in compliance with Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures or with the Fines set out in "Appendix B"
- b) If a License Holder representative is required to attend a discipline hearing for one of its players, coaches or administrators but fails to attend the hearing, either in person or remotely by a method of telecommunication approved in that instance by the OPDL Discipline Committee, the License Holder will be fined for non-attendance in compliance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules.
- c) Fine for OPDL Non-Compliance are listed on "Appendix B"

### **Appeals**

- a) Appeals shall be submitted to Ontario Soccer's Discipline & Appeals Committee via [appealcasemanager@ontariosoccer.net](mailto:appealcasemanager@ontariosoccer.net) within 14 days of receiving the decision along with the Rights to Appeal information. Appeals will be reviewed in accordance with Ontario Soccer's Operational Procedures Section 13- Appeals.



## Section II – License Holders Commitments

### 4. OPDL Teams

- a) OPDL License Holders shall field both a female and male team in each age category governed by their Licensing Agreement, unless dispensation is given by Ontario Soccer.
- b) OPDL License Holders can submit an application for “early entrance” into older age groups other than those currently governed by their Licensing Agreement for the following season.
- c) Application must be submitted following completing of the OPDL Annual Performance Review.
- d) Applications for early entrance will be only considered upon assessment that License Holder far exceeds the necessary OPDL standards and delivers these standards uniformly across all age groups under consideration.

### 5. License Agreement

- a) Participation in the OPDL is contingent on the signing and submission of an OPDL License Agreement by a binding authority of the OPDL License Holder

### 6. License Performance Review

- a) In order to maintain the high standards of technical, organisational and facilities excellence the OPDL demands, all OPDL License Holders shall be subject to ongoing and annual evaluation and review. Central to this process is the hosting of an annual License Performance Review with each OPDL License Holder.
- b) License Performance Reviews shall be held annually as directed by Ontario Soccer.
- c) OPDL License Holders shall attend these reviews and provide all information requested in advance as well as at the meeting.
- d) License Performance Reviews shall assess the License Holders' adherence to and compliance with their obligations as outlined in Appendix B of the OPDL License Agreement.
- e) License Performance Reviews shall be an opportunity for OPDL License Holders to bring forth issues to the OPDL and present feedback for the continuous improvement of the OPDL's operations and effectiveness.

### 7. Completion of OPDL Season

- a) All OPDL teams shall participate in all matches scheduled by OPDL. Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary measures as outlined on “Appendix B”.

## Section III – Competition Structure

### 8. Game Format

- a) OPDL teams shall play 11-a-side.
- b) Matches shall employ a size 5 ball.
- c) Field dimensions shall be as per FIFA regulations.
- d) Goal sizes shall be as per FIFA regulations.
- e) Laws of the Game as approved by IFAB shall be employed except in the instances noted in this Operations Rules, Game Day Regulations and in the Technical Manual.

### 9. Competition Season

- a) The OPDL competition season runs from May until October.
- b) OPDL competition season has scheduled breaks and a two week mid-season rest break.
  - i. Dates for scheduled breaks and the mid-season rest break will be published annually by Ontario Soccer.
- c) Unless otherwise approved by OPDL, games played in the months of May, October and November shall be on an artificial surface.
- d) Matches from June to September can be played on grass, although use of OPDL-approved turf fields during this time is permitted.

### 10. OPDL Conferences

- a) The OPDL may operate through regional conferences established annually by Ontario Soccer.
- b) The OPDL shall be solely responsible for assigning OPDL License Holders to each conference.
- c) Assignment of License Holders to conferences shall be reviewed annually by the OPDL.
- d) Any changes to conference assignment and /or structure will be communicated in writing to all OPDL License Holders by February 15<sup>th</sup> of the year that such changes will take effect.

### 11. Competition Schedule

- a) The development of the OPDL's Competition Schedule, including match dates, times and match official assignment, shall be the responsibility of the OPDL.
- b) Unless otherwise approved by OPDL, the standard kick-off times for OPDL Games shall be:
  - i. Weekend: 9:00, 11:15, 13:30, 15:45, 18:00
  - ii. Week days: 19:00, 21:00

- c) Unless otherwise approved by OPDL, if extensive travel by teams is required, kick-off times shall be 13:30 and 15:45
- d) The Competition Schedule for the forthcoming season shall be issued by the OPDL no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of the season, pending availability of field information.
- e) The OPDL is responsible for the assignment and payment of all match officials assigned to OPDL games.
- f) The OPDL is responsible for the appointment and payment of medical support services at all OPDL games.
- g) The OPDL is responsible for the payment of OPDL Coordinators, who will act as the OPDL's liaison and onsite event manager on game day.
  - i. The OPDL License Holder is required to appoint a suitable individual to serve as OPDL Coordinator on each of its assigned host dates by deadline set in the OPDL Hosting Guidelines.
- h) Changes to the Competition Schedule, including postponement, may only be granted in exceptional circumstances at the sole discretion of the OPDL.
- i) The OPDL will be responsible for scheduling specific game times and order of play for all games.
- j) Competition Schedule for OPDL includes "Home Venues", "ID Weekends" or "OPDL on Campus" as follows:
  - i. U13 Age Group: 6 ID Weekends and 14 Home Venues (Home or Away Games)
  - ii. U14 Age Group: 6 ID Weekends and 14 Home Venues (Home or Away Games)
  - iii. U15 Age Group: 4 ID Weekends and 16 Home Venues (Home or Away Games)
  - iv. U17 Age Group: ID Weekends or OPDL on Campus and Home Venues (Home or Away Games)
- k) Request for Game Change
  - i. A request must be submitted, in writing, to the OPDL at least 7 days prior to the game and is subject to the approval of the OPDL.
    - i. Both License Holders directly involved on the game will be given 48 hours to provide feedback before final decision is made by the OPDL.
  - ii. Any costs associated with rescheduling games shall be covered by the License Holder submitting request, unless exempted by the hosting organization.
  - iii. Requests submitted less than 7 days from game day can result in additional fines as per "Appendix B" save for changes resulting from Force Majeure events.
  - iv. Requests submitted, or completed, less than 3 days from game day will not be accepted, save changes resulting from Force Majeure events such as inclement weather or field conditions

## 12. Games hosted by License Holders at Home Venues

- a) Each License Holder is required to host its home games as per the OPDL Published Schedule.
- b) Home games must be hosted at approved OPDL Competition Hosting Facilities.
- c) Home games shall be hosted on days approved by OPDL.
- d) The host License Holder is responsible for the securing of venue permits or permission for venue use such that the venue is secured for OPDL use on designated competition dates.
- e) The host License Holder is responsible for all costs related to venue provision, including any ancillary costs such as floodlighting or change room rental.
- f) OPDL License Holders must follow and adhere to the OPDL Hosting Regulations and Game Day Regulations when hosting home games.

## 13. ID Weekends

- a) Games played at ID Weekends will be used as opportunities to scout and evaluate OPDL Players.
- b) ID Weekend games shall be assigned, permitted/booked and paid for by the OPDL.
- c) ID Weekend games are scheduled regularly as published by OPDL and played at two or more venues simultaneously.
- d) The OPDL shall be responsible for the provision and payment of technical evaluation personnel at ID Weekends.

## 14. Competition Format

- a) No score or standings will be recorded for the U13 Age Group.
- b) For U14 age group and older:
  - i. Teams will receive three points for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss
  - ii. At the end of the OPDL season, the team with most points in the league across all conferences in each gender will be declared the "OPDL League Champions" in each age group.
- c) If two or more teams are equal on points, standings will be determined as follows:
  - i. Greatest goal difference
  - ii. Greatest number of goals scored
  - iii. Greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the teams concerned
  - iv. Goal difference resulting from the matches between the teams concerned
  - v. Greater number of goals scored in all matches between the teams concerned
  - vi. Drawing of lots by the OPDL

## 15. Playoffs

- a) Playoffs may be scheduled for age groups operating with three or more conferences.
- b) For U14 age group, a playoff game will be played between the League Champions (team with greatest number of points) and the 4<sup>th</sup> best conference winner, and between the winners of the remaining two conferences.
- c) Playoff winners advance to the OPDL Charity Shield
- d) Playoff game shall be hosted by top seeded team, as determined by item "14.c"
- e) If the score is tied after conclusion of the playoff game. Kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- f) Playoff game shall be scheduled on a date assigned by OPDL.

## 16. OPDL Charity Shield

- a) "OPDL Charity Shield" will be a final game for both genders in the U14 Age Group and older, hosted by OPDL.
- b) For the U14 age group, the "OPDL Charity Shield" will be played between the winners of the playoff matches.
- g) For the U15 age group, the "OPDL Charity Shield" will be played between the top team of each conference.
- h) For the U17 age group, the "OPDL Charity Shield" will be played between the League Champion and the OPDL Cup Champion.
  - i. In the event that the same team has claimed the League Championship and won the OPDL Cup, the runner-up of the League shall advance to the "OPDL Charity Shield"
- i) If the score is tied after conclusion of the "Charity Shield" match. Kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- j) Schedule for the "OPDL Charity Shield" will be determined annually by OPDL.

## 17. OPDL Cup

- a) The "OPDL Cup" will take place annually for U15 and U17 male and female teams.
- b) Cup dates and format will be published annually before the start of the OPDL Competition Season
- c) Teams will be seeded based on conference and previous year league standings.
- d) According to the previous year league standings, teams can automatically get a bye to advance to further rounds as required to establish brackets.
- e) The winner of each match will advance to the next round.
  - i. If the score is tied after conclusion of the match. Kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- f) The winner of the final match will be declared "OPDL Cup Champion".
- g) Unless approved by OPDL, once a player has participated in an OPDL Cup game at either their respective age group, or while under Playing-Up Permit to an older age group, that player shall be "Cup Tied" and no longer be eligible to compete in the OPDL Cup for any other team, whether with the same or a different OPDL Licence Holder.

## **18. Game Day Regulations**

- a) All OPDL games, shall be conducted in accordance with OPDL Game Day Regulations.

## Section IV – Player Eligibility and Team Rosters

### 19. Player Commitment Letter

- a) Prior to the registration deadline outlined in this document, all OPDL players must be issued a Player Commitment Letter by their OPDL License Holder, which must be fully completed signed by all required parties.
- b) A Player Commitment Letter may not be altered, amended or added to in any way by any of the signing parties.
- c) Completion and signing of a Player Commitment Letter duly binds a player to an OPDL License Holder for the forthcoming OPDL season before roster submission deadline.
- d) The revoking of a Player Commitment may only be permitted with the expressed written permission of the OPDL.
- e) Players declared not in good standing by a License Holder shall not be registered for another License Holder.

### 20. Player Registration

- a) All registration shall be completed in accordance with “Ontario Soccer Operational Procedure – Section 5.0 Registration”.

#### **REGISTRATIONS ON SPORTSENGINE (OSCAR)**

- b) Information & Support for the SportsEngine Member Management Registration System (MMRS) can be found [here](#).

#### **REGISTERING TEAMS & PLAYERS ON [www.theopdl.com](http://www.theopdl.com)**

- a) OPDL Team Activation
  - a. *Once teams have been added to the OPDL website License Holder’s officials can activate a team account for each team member under the club module.*
    - i. *Go to Visit [www.theopdl.com](http://www.theopdl.com)*
    - ii. *Make sure that you are logged out*
    - iii. *Click on the “My Team” menu and on the left a set of links will appear. Click on the one that says “activate”.*
    - iv. *Enter the activation code provided by Ontario Soccer*
  - b. *If the code has been entered correctly you will now be asked to complete a registration form. When asked for a password please select a password that is different to the above activation code*
    - i. *If you are the first person from your team to go through this process you will now be asked to enter the team’s uniforms. You will be asked to enter 3 uniforms. If your team only has 2 uniforms then please leave the 3rd one empty*

ii. *You have now activated your account however if you are representing more than one OPDL team then you will have to repeat this process for each team*

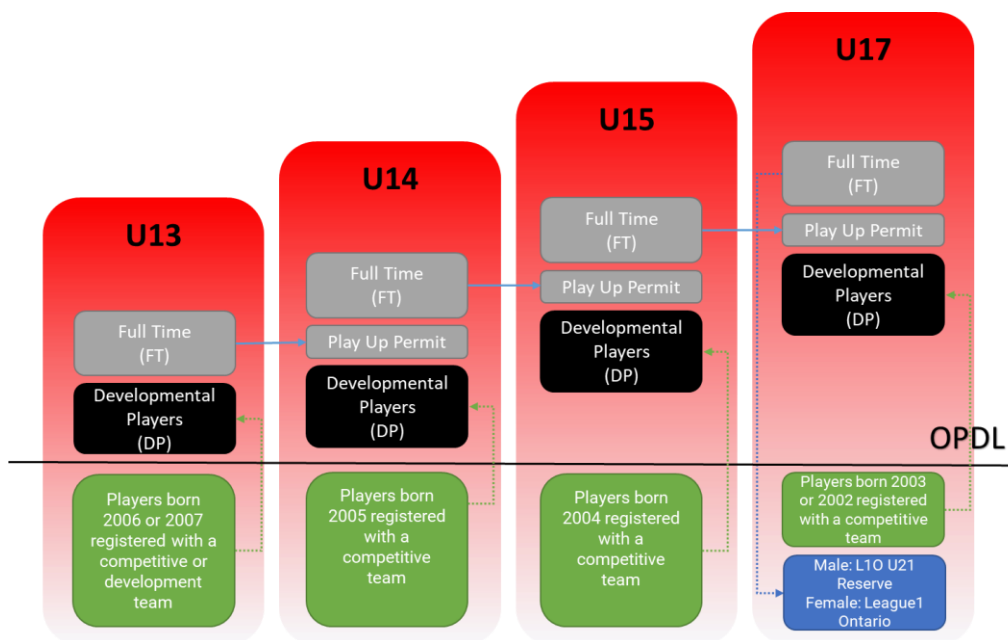
b) OPDL Player Registration

- a. *A Team Official will have to complete the following steps to prepare teams for the new season. You will notice a set of new tools in the "My Team" section once you are logged in.*
  - b. *Select the tool called 'Squad' and enter your roster.*
  - c. *Next go to the tool called shirt numbers and enter every player's shirt number.*
- c) Following completion of registration, roster shall be submitted online through the OPDL League Management System.
- d) Deadline to submit rosters to OPDL shall be:
- a. February 1<sup>st</sup> – At least 14 full time players registered. (No replacements until end of the season)
  - b. April 30<sup>th</sup> – Developmental Players registered (No replacements shall be permitted until the OPDL mid-season break)
  - c. No deadline to submit additional full-time players. Full-time Roster amendments after April 30<sup>th</sup> must be submitted via the [OPDL Roster Adjustment Request Form](#)
  - d. Requests for adjustments will be reviewed by OPDL within three business days.
- e) Players who are submitted on a roster but have signed a Player Commitment Letter with another OPDL License Holder will be deemed ineligible for registration for any other OPDL License Holder than the one the Player Commitment Letter has been signed with, without the expressed written permission of the OPDL.

## 21. Player Roster

- a) Players shall be placed in accordance with their eligibility for each of the rosters outlined below.





### Full-Time Players (FT)

- OPDL License Holders shall submit a list of Full Time players for each age group gender permitted under its License Agreement, with a minimum of fourteen (14) and a maximum of twenty (20) registered players.
- Full Time players are considered committed to the OPDL License Holders until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- Failure to submit any player(s) to [theopdl.com](http://theopdl.com) shall result in their ineligibility to play in OPDL matches.
- Player and team officials' information must be updated and kept current.
- Once the season has started, an OPDL License Holder shall not release any players until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year, except in cases governed by this document or after conclusion of the OPDL competition season, with written permission of the existing OPDL License Holder to attend trials at any other organization.

### Developmental Player (DP)

- A Developmental Player (DP) is registered with the License Holder or organization covered by a "OPDL Player Movement Agreement"
- Developmental Player trains regularly with the OPDL team, but plays regularly with a regional/competitive team with License Holder or organization covered by a "OPDL Player Movement Agreement"
- The following players are eligible for Development Roster (DP):
  - U17: Players born 2003 or 2002 registered with a competitive team
  - U15: Players born 2004 registered with a competitive team
  - U14: Players born 2005 registered with a competitive team

- iv. U13: Players born 2006 or 2007 registered with a competitive or development team
  - i. Developmental Players born 2007 must have a "[OPDL Player Evaluation Form](#)" approved before being placed in the Developmental Roster.
- d) A Developmental Player demonstrates high potential for the future, but not yet ready for OPDL.
  - i. Eg. individual benefits more from playing 60 minutes with a "regional/competitive" team every week, rather than playing 30 minutes or less with the OPDL team
- e) A Developmental Player is restricted to participation at a maximum of 10 (ten) OPDL games per season.
  - i. Participation is considered when a player is listed on game sheet and rostered for an OPDL game.
- f) Developmental players are not eligible to participate in OPDL Cup, Playoff or Charity Shield matches
- g) Developmental players are not eligible to participate in OPDL games under a Playing Up Permit (PuP)
- h) Developmental Players can only change status to full-time once per season and cannot return to Developmental Player status
- i) Evaluation of player status is assessed in consultation with Ontario Soccer Regional Manager
- j) There is no limit of developmental players per team
- k) Deadline to register Developmental Players is April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Amendments to the list of Developmental Players may be made during the OPDL break.
  - i. If no amendments are made during the break, list will remain the same as issued earlier in the year.
- l) No further amendments to be made until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- m) Developmental Players are selected to play at discretion of License Holder's Technical Director or Head Coach, accordingly with team player's needs.
- n) Developmental Players are required to sign an OPDL Commitment Letter with their OPDL License Holder.
- o) Developmental Players may be charged contributory team or assessment fees for OPDL participation at the discretion of the OPDL License Holder.
- p) Developmental Players are bound by all OPDL Policies and Procedures for all games, training and associated activities.

### **Playing Up Permit (PuP)**

- a) A maximum of 4 "Playing Up Permits" can be issued for an OPDL game via theopdl.com
- b) The following players are eligible for a "Playing Up Permit":
  - v. U17: Full Time Players from the U15 OPDL Team
  - vi. U15: Full Time Players from the U14 OPDL Team
  - vii. U14: Full Time Players from the U13 OPDL Team
- c) "Playing Up Permits" are issued to players at discretion of License Holder's Technical Director, accordingly with player's developmental stage and needs and in accordance following:
  - i. Within 48 hrs, all OPDL players shall be limited to play a maximum of:
    1. 135 minutes for U17
    2. 120 minutes for U15
    3. 115 minutes for U14
    4. 115 minutes for U13
- d) Players under a "Playing Up Permit" may be charged contributory team or assessment fees for OPDL participation at the discretion of the OPDL License Holder.
- e) Players under a "Playing Up Permit" are bound by all OPDL Policies and Procedures for all games, training and associated activities.

### **22. Ineligible Players**

- a) OPDL Players registered by the License Holder, but not eligible to play, due to reasons including without limitation, waiting for an International transfer certificate (ITC), serving a league suspension, not age-eligible, not cleared by OPDL Medical Staff, not listed in the Game Sheet or subject to other applicable sanctions, shall be considered to be an ineligible player.
- b) Any team using players not properly registered or cleared of sanctions by the OPDL will be subject to disciplinary action under "Operations Rules - Appendix B"

### **23. New Players to the Country**

- a) For a player who comes to Canada on or after the player is ten (10) years of age, the player must request and receive an international travel certificate (ITC) before being eligible to play in the OPDL.

## 24. Player Transfer Policy

- a) OPDL Players shall not move between License Holders during the OPDL season (training and competition) without the written permission of the OPDL.
- b) OPDL Player transfers shall only be considered and authorized by the OPDL in exceptional circumstances that are in the best interest of a player's ongoing development.
- c) In instances where a mid-season transfer of a player is approved:
  - i. Fees paid by the player to the License Holder are refundable to the player on a pro-rated basis based on the number of weeks completed in the full season to date (January 1st to December 31st). No further levy or financial penalty may be charged to the departing player.
  - ii. Fees due from the player to the OPDL License Holder he/she is moving to are similarly to be charged on a pro-rated basis based on the number of weeks completed in the full season to date (January 1st to December 31st). Fees charged must be the same as those charged to other players on the team.
  - iii. Players with outstanding debt at the time of the transfer shall be reported to OPDL.
- d) No player may be transferred more than once in any given season.
- e) Temporary Eligibility Permits [TEP] may be approved by OPDL, under the premise that a player is attending an event, deemed developmentally appropriate, with another OPDL team other than their own. TEP can only be granted between OPDL teams.

## 25. Player Residency

- a) No residency rules applies to the OPDL or activities of OPDL teams within OPDL License Holders.
- b) No OPDL License Holder has exclusive 'residency rights' and/or exclusive access rights to players residing in any geographical zones, districts, regions or municipalities.
- c) In principle and where possible, players should play for OPDL License Holders located closest to them. In the event that a player is travelling a long distance to participate with an OPDL License Holder, the player must be able to commit to and maintain the weekly training schedule outlined by his/her OPDL team.
- d) OPDL License Holders shall make every effort to select players for OPDL rosters based on playing ability ahead of residency or length-of-tenure criteria. License Holders shall not unreasonably grant preference to local resident players, nor shall they aggressively recruit talent from surrounding regions at the expense of local playing talent.
- e) The imposition of fee loading, extra levies or other such financial penalties by OPDL License Holders to players for any reasons, including, but not limited to their geographical residence, shall not be permitted.
- f) In areas where there are few OPDL License Holders commensurate to player volume, OPDL License Holders shall select players based on playing ability as a priority.

## 26. Player Recruitment and Solicitation

- a) Recruitment refers to the practice of deliberate and proactive persuasion or enticement of an active player by an individual or individuals associated with another team or License Holder, intended to convince the player to join their team or License Holder and leave their current team or License Holder.
- b) Active recruitment or solicitation of existing OPDL players shall be prohibited at any time. All OPDL License Holders shall be responsible for the conduct of their staff, players and parents in this regard.
- c) Any attempt to contact, entice or recruit players, coaches or staff from an OPDL License Holder at any time shall not be permitted.
- d) OPDL License Holders shall be prohibited from using fee discounting measures as a means of indirect solicitation or recruitment of certain players to their program at any time.

## 27. Player Scouting & Communications

All personnel associated with OPDL License Holders, including parents, shall comply with the following with regard to the identification of and communication with potential players within and outside of the OPDL.

- a) Current OPDL players:
  - i. No contact with (including any attempts to recruit, entice or persuade) players from other OPDL License Holders shall be made at any time.
  - ii. Contact with players from other OPDL License Holders shall be permitted at the initiation of the player's parents/guardians only.
- b) Non-OPDL Players:
  - i. Players playing outside the OPDL may be scouted/observed in their current environment and may be contacted directly through their parents/legal guardian, or coach/official on their non-OPDL team.
  - ii. The Technical Director or Head Coach of the player's existing organization must be notified by the OPDL License Holder that they are approaching the player with a view to inviting them to join their OPDL program.

## Section V – Team and Match Officials

### 28. Team Officials

- a) There shall be no more than five (5) team officials appointed to an OPDL team:
  - i. Head Coach
  - ii. Assistant Coach
  - iii. Goalkeeper Coach
  - iv. Athletic Therapist
  - v. Team Manager
- b) For a female U13 team, the head coach or the assistant coach must be female and present on the bench.
- c) All team officials must have evidence of clear Canadian Police Information Check (CPIC) certification that is no more than three years old by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- d) All team officials must have valid Respect in Soccer certification.
- e) Head Coaches shall have a valid standard First Aid with CPR & AED
- f) Head Coaches shall not be assigned to the same team his/her child plays for.
- g) Head Coaches shall not be a Technical Director for an OPDL License Holder.

### 29. Team Officials Minimum Qualifications and Requirements

- a) Minimum qualifications are required for Team Officials assigned to OPDL Teams in accordance with age group and respective position.
- b) Head Coach
  - i. Head Coach must be a paid (either full or part-time) coach with License Holder
    1. U13 - OPDL Head Coaches must hold a minimum qualification of a National B Part I License and complete the OPDL Coach Development Program on an annual basis.
    2. U14, U15, and U17 OPDL Head Coaches must hold a minimum qualification of a National B Part II License, a USSF B License or a UEFA B License.
  - ii. Canada Soccer Youth License will be accepted as qualification for Head Coach, effective 2020.
  - iii. All Head Coaches must have a valid “Making Headway” certification.
  - iv. All Head Coaches must have a valid “Making Ethical Decisions” certification.
- c) Assistant Coach

- i. Assistant Coaches must hold a minimum of a certified CSA C License Certificate or Ontario Soccer Pre-B License.
- d) Goalkeeper Coach
  - i. Goalkeeper Coaches must hold a minimum of an Ontario Soccer Goalkeeper Coach Certificate or equivalent.
- e) Athletic Therapist
  - i. License Holder must have a paid individual or organization that is responsible for the injury prevention and treatment of all OPDL players. The individual or organization must be a qualified, licensed healthcare provider with any of the following qualifications:
    - 1.Primary Health Care Providers:
      - 1. Diagnosing Healthcare Providers
      - 2. Licensed Physician in the province of Ontario or CASM Doctor
      - 3. Licensed Chiropractor or Sport Chiropractic Specialist licensed in the Province of Ontario
    - 2.Non-diagnosing Healthcare Providers
      - 1. Registered Physiotherapist or Sport Physiotherapist licensed in the Province of Ontario
      - 2. Certified Athletic Therapist certified by the Canadian Athletic Therapy Association and a member of the Ontario Athletic Therapy Association
  - ii. License Holder must have an injury treatment protocol in place for training sessions or games to deal with injury management.
    - 1.This should involve appropriately qualified first aid personnel on site, and a relationship and contact details available for a registered healthcare provider.

### 30. Team Officials Registration

- a) Coaches (Head or Assistant), Technical Directors/License Holder Head Coaches or other License Holder representatives shall also register online and submit the required information to the OPDL.
- b) Team Officials shall be identified in the OPDL League Management System by February 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of the OPDL season.
- c) As of **September 1<sup>st</sup> 2019**, unless approved by OPDL, current OPDL Team Officials shall not register with another OPDL Licence Holder as an OPDL team official within the same season or for the following immediate season in the same:
  - i. Age group and gender; or
  - ii. Immediate older age group and gender

### 31. OPDL Coach Development Plan

- a) OPDL License Holders can submit an “OPDL Coach Development Plan” for individuals that have not yet obtained the “Certified” status of their respective national license.
- b) Coach Development Plan must be submitted by the License Holder Technical Director and must include:
  - i. Timeline for certification to be obtained
    - a. Certification must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
  - ii. Most recent coach assessment completed
    - a. Either by Technical Director or by an assessor at a certification course (Eg. C License Assessment)
  - iii. Letter of recommendation from Technical Director to complete certification
  - iv. Date and location of the next course/assessment candidate intends to attend
- c) Upon completion, the Individual Coach Development Plan shall be submitted via this portal: [OPDL Coach Certification Plan Submission Form](#)
- d) Without valid certification or an approved individual coach development plan, coaches are not eligible to coach in the OPDL.
- e) Coaches failing to complete plan as submitted must complete certification process before being readmitted into OPDL and no longer qualify for an OPDL Development Plan for the same certification level.

### 32. Match Officials

- a) Match officials for each match are assigned by Ontario Soccer in accordance with Ontario Soccer Member Policies Section 10.0 – Match Officials.
- b) A minimum of one match official and two assistant match officials will be assigned to each match.



## Section VI – Technical Program Structure

### 33. OPDL Technical Program

- a) OPDL Technical Programming implemented by License Holders must comply with the OPDL [Technical Manual](#) and [OPDL Technical Standards](#).

### 34. Conduct

- a) Each OPDL License Holder shall be responsible for the conduct of its players, team officials, members and spectators attending any OPDL match and shall abide by the OPDL Codes of Conduct (Appendix A).

### 35. Player Trials

- a) OPDL License Holder shall follow the OPDL Trial Guidelines.

### 36. Under/Over Age Players

- a) Players are allowed to play “up” or “down” for an OPDL team, on the basis that such a move enhances their ability to develop (technically, physically, mentally and socially) without undue risk of injury, undue stress, or other harm.
  - i. Decisions on players “playing up” or “playing down” shall be evaluated by the OPDL License Holder Technical Director.
  - ii. The decision for a player to “play up” or “play down” must originate from a qualified technical assessment from both the OPDL License Holder’s team Head Coach and its Technical Director and must be approved by the OPDL.
  - iii. Technical Assessment shall include the OPDL Player Evaluation Form. ([available here](#))
- b) The request to play up/down must be submitted via [online form available here](#).
- c) Players whom have not approved to play “up” or “down”, via an Ontario Soccer approved “Player Movement Evaluation” are deemed ineligible to participate in OPDL matches.

### 37. Player Prioritization

- a) OPDL players shall not participate on any other soccer programming with the exception of participation in Ontario Soccer Talent Development Centres, Provincial projects/programs, National Team programs or official trial or development opportunities, as deemed appropriate by the OPDL.
- b) OPDL players shall not participate in Ontario Cup, Indoor or Outdoor.
  - a. Participation of OPDL players at Ontario Futsal Cup is permitted and encouraged.
- c) OPDL players shall forego participation in extra-curricular school soccer activity.

### **38. Training**

- a) The minimum volume of training (excluding games & sport science related training) required to be provided to OPDL players at License Holders during the calendar year (January-December) shall be 198 hours (4.5 hours/week).
- b) The maximum volume of training (excluding games & sport science related training) allowed to be provided to OPDL players at License Holders during the calendar year (January-December) shall be:
  - i. 330 hours (7.5 hours/week) for U15 Age Group and older
  - ii. 264 hours (6 hours/week) for U13 and U14 Age Group
- c) The minimum/maximum volume of training is based on a 44-week periodized annual program.

### **39. Matches other than OPDL Regular Matches**

- a) The OPDL shall schedule OPDL regular matches in which any player may participate in a given season.
- b) In addition to OPDL regular matches the following special events are part of the OPDL Competition Schedule:
  - i. OPDL Charity Shield and playoffs
  - ii. OPDL Cup

### **40. Exhibition Games**

- a) License Holders may schedule exhibition games at their discretion.
- b) Exhibition games can be scheduled during the following periods:
  - i. From January 1<sup>st</sup>, to the Wednesday before the first OPDL Match of the year
  - ii. On Wednesdays or Thursdays before long weekends
  - iii. From six weeks after the last OPDL match played, until December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- c) All OPDL players must be registered to the License Holder for the current year in order to play.
- d) No exhibition games shall be scheduled during the mid-season OPDL Break
- e) License Holder shall maintain records of all exhibition games. Records shall include:
  - i. Game Sheets with Ontario Soccer numbers of all players, team officials and match officials
  - ii. Copies of ATFs and Application to host (if necessary)
- f) Appointments of Match Officials is responsibility of the License Holder.

**Exhibition Games involving organizations other than OPDL License Holders**

- a) For exhibition games involving organizations other than OPDL License Holders, the OPDL shall be advised of the nature of the matches in advance.
  - i. OPDL License Holders must seek district approval to host or travel to exhibition matches.

**Exhibition Games involving OPDL Teams**

- a) Blanket permission to play exhibition games is granted for exhibition games between OPDL teams.
- b) No application to host is required.
- c) Application to Travel (ATF) is still required when necessary. (Out-of-District)

**41. Other Matches**

- a) Participation of OPDL players on any other matches, including out-of-province, international competition or showcase tournaments can be approved by the OPDL unless:
  - i. the OPDL believes the training-to-game ratio during in-season of OPDL play shall be compromised; or
  - ii. the OPDL determines the match/tournament identified does not compliment the broader development program for OPDL players

## APPENDIX A – OPDL CODES OF CONDUCT

### General

The OPDL endeavours to provide a unique and challenging program that strives to provide the best possible environment for elite player development. To that end, the OPDL enforces a strict Code of Conduct for the behaviour that all individuals involved in or around the OPDL are expected to follow.

### Team Official Conduct

- ✓ Be respectful of the match official and your opponents
- ✓ Refrain from using foul or abusive language
- ✓ Limit the amount of coaching done from the sidelines to only when necessary
- ✓ Keep your players and fans under control
- ✓ Remember that the score of the game is secondary to the opportunity for your players to demonstrate and improve their game
- ✓ Present a professional example to your players before, during and after competitions
- ✓ Coaches must adhere to any rules set out by Ontario Soccer and OPDL and associated policies and guidelines.
- ✓ All coaching/team officials must demonstrate responsible behavior in all training environments.
- ✓ The use of tobacco, consumption or possession of alcohol and illegal substances is not supported and may not be consumed while performing official License Holder/organization duties in the presence of minors.
- ✓ All OPDL Coaches agree to sign an OPDL Code of Conduct agreement.

### Player Conduct

- ✓ Be respectful of the match official and your opponents
- ✓ Refrain from using foul or abusive language
- ✓ Remember that you are here to provide a strong performance, and that the result of the match is secondary to its benefit as a development tool.
- ✓ All players must demonstrate responsible behavior within all training environments.
- ✓ All OPDL players must agree to sign an OPDL Code of Conduct agreement (included in the Player Commitment Letter)

### Fan/Spectator Conduct

- ✓ Be respectful of the match official and the teams on the field
- ✓ Refrain from using foul or abusive language
- ✓ Keep comments positive.
- ✓ Refrain from coaching from the sidelines
- ✓ Remember that you are here to support your child, not win a game where achieving a result is not the primary objective.
- ✓ Keep in mind that your attendance at OPDL events is a privilege, not a right, and that the organization will be held responsible for the behaviour of its fans

## APPENDIX B – Fines

### A.1 Fines

TYPE	CODE	DESCRIPTION OF INFRACTION	1 <sup>ST</sup> OFFENCE	2 <sup>ND</sup> + SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES
Type 1	1.1	Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with less than 7 days' notice (Forfeiture)	\$2,500 Fine + Costs Incurred by Host	\$2,500 Fine + Immediate License Review
	1.2	Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with more than 7 days' notice(Forfeiture)	\$2,000 Fine	\$2,000 Fine + Immediate License Review
	1.3	Improper Player Recruitment & Solicitation	\$2,000 Fine	\$2,000 Fine + Immediate License Review
	1.4	Use of an Ineligible Player	Forfeit Match + \$500 Fine	Forfeit Match + \$2,000 Fine
	1.5	Failure to Field a Team of minimum 14 Active Players in a Scheduled OPDL Match	\$500 Fine	\$2,000 Fine + Immediate License Review
	1.6	Inappropriate Behaviour by Team Officials or Players in Violation of OPDL Code of Conduct	\$500 Fine	\$2,000 Fine + Immediate License Review
	1.7	Late Arrival to a Scheduled OPDL Match Delaying Kick-off	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine + Immediate License Review
	1.8	Less Than 2 Qualified Team Officials on the Bench	\$250 Fine	\$500 Fine + Immediate License Review
	1.9	Game Abandoned Due to Actions of Players/Team officials/Spectators of a Team	Forfeit Match + \$250 Fine	\$500 Fine + Immediate License Review
	1.10	Inappropriate use of Social Media	\$500 Fine	\$500 Fine + Immediate License Review
Type 2	2.1	Failure to Provide Official OPDL Game Sheet	\$250 Fine	\$450 Fine
	2.2	More than 5 Team Officials on Bench	\$250 Fine	\$450 Fine
	2.3	OPDL Standards Non-Compliance	\$250 Fine	\$450 Fine
	2.4	Technical Director on Bench/Game Sheet without OPDL Approval	\$250 Fine	\$450 Fine
	2.5	Failure to Provide Official OPDL Substitution Forms	\$250 Fine	\$450 Fine
	2.6	Substitute Player or Team official Entering the Field of Play During an Altercation	\$250 Fine	\$450 Fine
	2.7	Failure to Provide Official OPDL Medical/Consent Forms	\$250 Fine	\$450 Fine

	2.8	Failure to have Licence Holder representation at Provincial Screening Competition	\$250 Fine	\$450 Fine
<b>Type 3</b>	3.1	Failure to Provide League Management with Hosting Information by deadline	\$100 Fine per day late	N/A
	3.2	Failure to Comply with Registration Deadlines	\$100 Fine per day late	N/A
	3.3	Late Payment of League Fees	\$100 Fine per day late	N/A
	3.4	Leaving Garbage at Venue upon Departure	\$100	\$250
	3.5	Incomplete Game Sheet	\$100	\$250
	3.6	Handwriting Names on Game Sheets	\$100	\$250
	3.7	Missing Player or Team Official Books/Cards	\$100	\$250
	3.8	Request to change scheduled OPDL game with less than 7 days' notice	\$100 Fine	\$250 Fine
	3.9	Failure to Participate in Scheduled OPDL Meetings	\$100 Fine	\$250 Fine
	3.10	Improper Uniform/Uniform Issues	\$100 Fine	\$250 Fine
	3.11	Player/Goalkeeper Rubrics not submitted by stipulated deadline	\$25 Fine per rubric not submitted	\$50 Fine per rubric not submitted

## **TYPE 1**

### **1.1 Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with less than 7 days' notice (Forfeiture)**

All OPDL teams shall participate in all matches for which they are scheduled during the course of an OPDL season.

- a) Failure to field a team is defined as not fielding a minimum of 7 players for a scheduled match.
- b) In addition to the Fine, the offending team will be responsible for reimbursement of any and all costs associated with the No-Show (i.e. Match Official costs, match supervisor costs, match official assignor costs, Match Official assessor costs, opponent's direct costs, medical staff ,facility etc...) as determined and communicated to them by OPDL.
- c) OPDL Matches are defined as OPDL Regular Matches, U14/U15/U17 Charity Shield, OPDL Showcases, and OPDL Cup.

Teams failing to field a team for a scheduled OPDL match will incur a fine.

### **1.2 Failure to Field a Team of 7 players for a Scheduled OPDL Match with more than 7 days' notice (Forfeiture)**

All OPDL teams shall participate in all matches for which they are scheduled during the course of an OPDL season.

- d) Failure to field a team is defined as not fielding a minimum of 7 players for a scheduled match.
- e) OPDL Matches are defined as OPDL Regular Matches, U14/U15/U17 Charity Shield, OPDL Showcases, and OPDL Cup.

### **1.3 Improper Player Recruitment and Solicitation**

Any team engaging in improper recruitment of a player in violation of "Player Recruitment and Solicitation" will be subject to disciplinary action and incur a fine.

### **1.4 Use of an Ineligible Player**

Any team using players in a scheduled OPDL match not properly registered or cleared by OPDL will be required to forfeit their match.

- a) An ineligible player can be define as per "Item 22 – Ineligible Player"

Teams using an ineligible player will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

### **1.5 Failure to Field a Team of at Least 14 active Players in a Scheduled OPDL Match:**

As a requirement of OPDL, teams must field a minimum of 14 active players in a scheduled OPDL match. All players must be properly registered. While the minimum number of players to play a scheduled match is 7 players without forfeiting the match, OPDL standards require a minimum of 14 active players as a part of operation rules.

Players not participating in a match due to injury are permitted to sit on the team bench, provided they are properly listed on the game sheet and have their registration/card. Injured players DO NOT count as "active players".

Teams failing to field a team of at least 14 active players in a scheduled OPDL match will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

### **1.6 Inappropriate Behaviour by Team Officials or Player in Violation of OPDL Code of Conduct**

All players and team officials are to exemplify appropriate behaviour in and around the field of play, in accordance to the OPDL Code of Conduct signed by all players and team officials prior to the start of each season.

- a) Inappropriate behaviour is defined as any act that violates the OPDL Code of Conduct.
- b) In and around the field of play includes: change rooms, washrooms, parking lot, and the field of play itself.

Demonstration of inappropriate behaviour by any player or team official will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

### **1.7 Late Arrival to a Scheduled OPDL Match Delaying Kick-off**

All teams are required to attend scheduled OPDL matches in time to ensure all documentation is correctly submitted, and on time to the OPDL Venue Coordinator.

- a) Late arrival is defined as any team failing to arrive in sufficient time to provide the OPDL Venue Coordinator with player registration books and game sheets (minimum 25 minutes before kick-off).

Teams arriving late to a scheduled OPDL match will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

### **1.8 Less than 2 Qualified Team Officials on the Bench**

All teams are required to have a minimum of 2 qualified team officials on the bench during a scheduled OPDL match.

- a) A qualified team official is defined as any team official that fulfills the "Team Officials Minimum Qualifications".
- b) A replacement for either head coach and/or assistant coach must be an Ontario Soccer registrant and an active coach within the club (i.e. current coach in age-group above, etc.), and must meet minimum team official qualifications.
- c) Shall the head coach of a team not be present for a scheduled match, a qualified team official with equal or greater qualification in accordance to the minimum qualifications for team officials of that age group shall act as the head coach.
- d) An assistant coach of a team that does not meet the minimum qualification standards for a head coach of the team's age group cannot act as head coach during a scheduled match.
- e) Team officials must follow OPDL Dress Code as a part of their qualification.

Any team failing to comply will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.



### **1.9 Game Abandoned Due to Actions of Players/Team Officials/Spectators of a Team**

All players, team officials, and spectators must adhere to the OPDL Code of Conduct. Abandoned games are determined by match officials.

- a) In addition to the Fine, the offending team will be responsible for reimbursement of any and all costs associated with the match (i.e. Match Official costs, match supervisor costs, match official assignor costs, Match Official assessor costs, opponent's direct costs, medical staff ,facility etc...) as determined and communicated to them by OPDL.

Any team responsible for the abandonment of a game will be subject to disciplinary action and shall incur a fine.

### **2.0 Inappropriate Social Media Content**

While Ontario Soccer encourages all OPDL members to partake in social media for the promotion, enjoyment, and camaraderie and documentation of the program, players and team officials must be aware of content being posted and prioritize professionalism and care especially if they identify themselves with the OPDL (as stated in "*OPDL Social Media Guidelines*"). Social media sites are public for those that have opted for a public profile therefore anyone may access an individual's posts, photos, and content. Social media sites include but are not limited to:

- i. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Vine, blogs, websites, etc.

Inappropriate social media content includes:

- a) Overtly negative content regarding OPDL and Ontario Soccer, including negativity towards another team, player, team official, and/or match official.
- b) Posting photos, videos, text or other online content without the consent of individuals especially those players who are underage.

Any team failing to comply with the social media guidelines and standards will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

## **TYPE 2**

### **2.1 Failure to Provide Official OPDL Game Sheet**

Official OPDL game sheet, generated by the OPDL League Management (E2E) must be provided by each team to the OPDL Representative no less than twenty-five (25) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time and shall include signatures all team officials who will be on the bench. Penalties will be applied if an unofficial game sheet is provided, as well as if the game sheet is not provided in the allotted time ("*1.7 late Arrival to a Scheduled OPDL Match*").

### **2.2 More than 5 Team Officials on Bench**

There shall be no more than five (5) team officials on the bench for any OPDL match. All team officials on the bench must follow OPDL dress code. The following team officials are permitted on the bench as per "*28. Team Officials*" in the OPDL Operation Rules:

- i. Head Coach
- ii. Assistant Coach
- iii. Goalkeeper Coach
- iv. Athletic Therapist
- v. Team Manager

Any team failing to comply and possessing more than five (5) team officials on the bench will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

### **2.3 OPDL Standards Non-Compliance**

All License Holders are required to comply with the OPDL Standards outlined in the following documents. Disciplinary action will be taken for any infractions relevant to these documents:

- a) Ontario Soccer Governing Documents
- b) OPDL Entry Criteria
- c) OPDL Technical Manual
- d) OPDL Operations Rules
- e) OPDL Game Day Regulations
- f) OPDL Code of Conduct
- g) OPDL Sponsorship Guidelines
- h) OPDL Brand Guidelines
- i) OPDL Performance Management Guide

Failure to comply with the established standards, unless given specific dispensation by the OPDL, will result in discipline. All identified non-compliance will be submitted in writing to the License Holder.

The License Holder will be expected to complete a Corrective Action Report within 14 (fourteen) days of receipt of the formal Non-compliance report.

#### **2.4 Technical Director on Bench/Game Sheet without OPDL Approval**

The License Holder's Technical Director is **not** permitted on the bench and/or game sheet when the head coach and assistant coaches are present. In the event that a head coach or assistant coach cannot be present, the Technical Director can replace either individual on the bench and/or game sheet as a qualified team official (given they possess the correct team official minimum qualifications for that age-group).

- a) Teams must remember to not exceed 5 team officials on a bench and to meet minimum requirements of 2 qualified team officials on a bench
- b) The Technical Director can only replace head coaches and/or assistant coaches if they will be absent. The Technical Director shall not be signed off on game sheets as the goalkeeper coach or team manager. The Technical Director shall be listed as either Head Coach or Assistant Coach, depending on the role they are fulfilling during the match.
- c) Any Technical Director required to replace a Head Coach or Assistant Coach for a scheduled OPDL match, must duly request permission & receive approval from Ontario Soccer, prior to occupying an Head Coach or Assistant Coach role.
  - a. Permission is not required in instances where a Technical Director is completing a Coach Gameday Assessment. The Technical Director completing the assessment shall not be listed or sign the gamesheet in these cases, and shall work with the Venue Coordinator/Field Manager to establish the best position for carrying out the assessment.

Any teams who fail to comply and have their Technical Director on the bench and/or game sheet when they are not replacing a team official's absence will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

#### **2.5 Failure to Provide Official OPDL Substitution Forms**

All teams are responsible for providing substitution forms on game day. Substitution forms are to ensure a fluid process and tracking of substitutions during game time between OPDL Venue Coordinators and teams. All fields on the substitution form must be filled out, and filled out correctly as follows:

- a) Date, team, venue, player leaving, player entering, gender (circled), age Group (circled)
- b) Must be written in pen
- c) Must be legible
- d) Must be signed by team official after the final whistle

#### **2.6 Substitute Player or Team Official Entering the Field of Play during an Altercation**

Players and team officials must adhere to the OPDL Code of Conduct as signed at the beginning of the season. Any substitute player or team official entering the field of play without consent from a match official (i.e. during an injury, etc.) or by the OPDL Venue Coordinator (i.e. during a substitution, etc.) are considered to be in violation of the OPDL Code of Conduct, disruptive to the game, and

displaying unsportsmanlike conduct. Altercations on field are to be handled by match officials therefore substitute players and team officials shall not intervene.

- a) An altercation is defined as any argument or disagreement on the field of play between players, and/or match officials.
- b) Team officials entering the field in altercation with a player and/or a match official also violate the OPDL Code of Conduct.

Exceptions will be made in extreme situations as deemed by the OPDL. Any team in violation will incur a fine.

### **2.7 Failure to Provide Official OPDL Medical/Consent Forms**

To ensure the proper care and safety of all OPDL players, teams must have physical copies of medical forms present at all scheduled OPDL matches as mandated by OPDL Medical Guidelines. In the event that a player becomes injured on game day and requires assistance from a SIRC personnel, physical copies of the forms must be present as a SIRC personnel may request from a team manager access to a player's form before initiating treatment.

Players' medical/consent forms must be correctly and completely filled out, including the signature of a Parent/Guardian for full consent. Failing to provide this documentation on game day can result in a player being left untreated.

Teams missing medical/consent forms for any player will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

### **2.8 Failure to have Licence Holder representation at Provincial Screening Centre**

In order to preserve the efficacy of the Provincial Screening Centre process, Licence Holders shall be represented at each Provincial Screening Centre event, by the Head Coach of the relevant OPDL team. This is to ensure appropriate feedback can be provided as part of the player selection process, by the individual who has worked most with the player. In the event that the appropriate Head Coach cannot attend the Provincial Screening Centre, a suitable substitute may be appointed by the Licence Holder, provided that permission is granted by OPDL.

## **TYPE 3**

### **3.1 Failure to Provide League Management with Hosting Information by Deadline**

Licensees will be required to provide League Management with hosting information, including appointment of OPDL Coordinator and Venue details by the deadline date established annually by League Management. License Holders failing to do so in the correct time frame will incur a fine.

### **3.2 Failure to Comply with Registration Deadlines**

OPDL License Holders shall adhere to the registration deadline as indicated in the OPDL Operations Rules.

OPDL License Holders shall submit a roster of players for each age group gender permitted under its License Agreement in accordance with the OPDL Operations Rules. License Holders failing to comply with registration deadlines are subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

### **3.3 Late Payment of League Fees**

All License Holders are required to pay their annual league fees in full within 30 days of receipt of invoice from Ontario Soccer. Fines will accumulate for every day the fees are overdue past the NET30 deadline.

### **3.4 Leaving Garbage at Venue upon Departure**

All teams are required to keep change rooms, on-field benches and surrounding areas clear of any garbage (i.e. water bottles, tape, wrappers, etc.). In the event that a change room or bench is untidy prior to a team taking to the field of play, the OPDL Venue Coordinator shall be notified. Any team that have left garbage on departure in change rooms, on-field benches and surrounding areas will be subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

### **3.5 Incomplete Game Sheet**

All teams must fully complete game sheets with no missing fields. Game sheets must be handed in correctly filled, and **TYPED** to OPDL Venue Coordinators twenty-five (25) minutes prior to kick-off. The following fields are required to consider a game sheet(s) complete:

- a) Game Information
  - i. Game Field Location
  - ii. Game Date
  - iii. Scheduled Kick Off Time
- b) Team Information
  - i. Team Name
  - ii. Team Number
  - iii. Team Colours (shirt/shorts/socks)
  - iv. District Association
- c) Players' Full Name
- d) Player Jersey Number

- e) Ontario Soccer Registrant Numbers (Players and Team Officials)
- f) Goalkeeper's , Starting Line-up and Injured checked off and indicated
- g) Team Official names
  - i. Coach Name
  - ii. Assistant Coach Name
  - iii. Manager Name
  - iv. Fitness Coach Name
  - v. Goalkeeper Coach Name

All four (4) game sheets handed to the OPDL Venue Coordinator on game day must be identical. In the event that they are not, this will be considered an incomplete game sheet. Teams submitting incomplete game sheets will incur a fine.

### **3.6 Handwriting Names on Game Sheets**

Player names, team official names, and their Ontario Soccer registrant numbers are to be **typed** on game sheets. Any team submitting a game sheet with handwritten names will incur a fine.

### **3.7 Missing Player or Team Official Books/Cards**

Player or Team Officials books/cards must be physically present (i.e., no photocopies, no pictures on cellphones, etc.) on game day to confirm identification and ensure eligibility. Books/cards must be handed in on time (25 minutes before scheduled kick off), and will be checked by OPDL Venue Coordinators. Any books/cards not physically handed to the OPDL Venue Coordinator before the allotted time (25 minutes before scheduled kick-off), but are given to the Coordinator prior to kick-off will still be eligible to play if they are on the roster, however the License Holder can incur a fine.

### **3.8 Request to change scheduled OPDL game with less than 7 days' notice**

All requests to change an OPDL game must be received by OPDL no later than 7 days before the scheduled date for the game. Request must be received in writing from a License Holder representative and with full details and rationale for change.

### **3.9 Failure to Participate in Scheduled OPDL Meetings**

All License Holders are required to have a minimum of one (1) or maximum of three (3) representative(s) attend all scheduled OPDL meetings via in person or on conference call (Ottawa only). License Holders failing to participate in scheduled OPDL meetings are subject to disciplinary action and will incur a fine.

### **3.10 Improper Uniform/Uniform Issues**

Teams are notified via OPDL League Management (E2E) and prior to their scheduled match which uniform they shall dress in (i.e., home or away kit). In regards to improper uniform/uniform issues, the following are finable:

- a) Teams failing to adhere to their scheduled uniform for that match as per uniform colours provided by License Holders
- b) Teams not complying with uniform standards to participate in OPDL (i.e., no OPDL patch on left sleeve, etc.)

- c) Teams altering or changing uniforms without notifying the OPDL. In the event that a team has a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) kit (i.e., long sleeve/cold weather kit), they must notify the OPDL minimum one 7 days prior to their scheduled game to ensure this information is communicated properly to all participants of that scheduled match.

### **3.11 Failure to complete Player/Goalkeeper Rubrics by stipulated deadline**

Each season, OPDL player shall have access to a mid-season and an end-of-season rubric detailing their progress and abilities across the different criteria stipulated by OPDL. These rubrics serve to facilitate conversation during the mandatory meeting between the Head Coach, the player, and the Parent/Guardian. Each rubric shall be complimented by the aforementioned meeting and is pivotal in providing players and families with information on progress and areas for development

## **Non-Compliance Notification and Payment Method**

- a) License Holders will be notified of non-compliance within a week following the report of the incident to Ontario Soccer.
  - a. Within **7** days of receiving the notice of non-compliance, License Holders can submit a “Request to Rectify”, whereby the License Holder wishes to contest infractions and fines outlined in the notice.
  - b. Within **14** days of receiving the notice of non-compliance or having a “Request to Rectify” denied, License Holders shall submit a corrective action plan. Plan should indicate actions that will be taken to mitigate future infractions of this type.
- b) Invoice for fines will be issued twice a year. First at the mid-season OPDL Break, and later after conclusion of the competition season.
- c) Failure to pay fines by the stipulated time given will result in immediate revocation of a license to participate in OPDL.

**APPENDIX C – [Game Day Regulations](#)**

**APPENDIX D – [Hosting Regulations](#)**

**APPENDIX E – [Trial Guidelines](#)**

**APPENDIX F – [Medical Guidelines & Forms](#)**

**APPENDIX G – [Technical Manual](#)**

**APPENDIX H – [Performance Management Guide](#)**

**APPENDIX I – [Festival Guide](#)**



## **APPENDIX J – OPDL Brand Guidelines/Marks and Logo Use**

- a) The OPDL's (or any future named league's) marks and logos may not be altered in any way, specifically around colours, proportions, font, and any other manner without the expressed written consent from Ontario Soccer. The 'OPDL Brand at a Glance' document shall be the primary brand compliance document for the new OPDL marks.
- b) Ontario Soccer may change or update these marks and logos at any time and will provide adequate notice for OPDL member groups to update their materials.
- c) License Holders are encouraged to use the OPDL member logo on their website and official correspondence but may not alter the marks and incorporate them directly into that of the License Holder. A License Holder: OPDL mark lock-up will be provided to all License Holders to ensure proper use of the OPDL mark in tandem with the License Holder mark.
- d) An OPDL patch will be provided prior to the start of the season and must be worn on the left sleeve of game jerseys for all players (including bench players) and coaching/management personnel. A License Holder may choose to adhere patches in the same manner to their practice jerseys but this is not required.

## APPENDIX K – OPDL Sponsorship Guidelines

- a) Ontario Soccer recognizes the License Holder’s right to enter into sponsorship contracts, endorsements and business relationships subject to the conditions set out below. The License Holder hereby:
- i. Consents to Ontario Soccer using, reproducing and distributing without charge, on a worldwide basis, in any format or media (including, but not limited to, photo, video, etc.) the License Holder’s name, logo or other identifiable attribute which can be linked to the License Holder (collectively referred to as “License Holder’s Attributes”) to promote the OPDL and the OPDL website, media guide, media kit, sponsorship, licensing, advertising, public relations, social media and marketing programs (collectively referred to as the “Marketing Programs”).
  - ii. Undertakes not to enter into any contract or sponsorship venture related to OPDL without first obtaining Ontario Soccer’s written approval. Ontario Soccer may not grant its approval if the proposed contract or venture conflicts, in the sole opinion of Ontario Soccer, with 1) contracts that are, or may be, entered into by Ontario Soccer as part of the OPDL Marketing Programs, or 2) with branding standards of the program. This consent will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
  - iii. Warrants that the License Holder has not granted and will not grant to any person or entity an exclusive license to use the License Holder’s Attributes, which would conflict with this Agreement and/or with the License Holder’s participation in the OPDL Marketing Programs.
  - iv. Releases and saves harmless Ontario Soccer from any and all claims that the License Holder may have against Ontario Soccer, now or in the future, arising from the use by Ontario Soccer of promotional material utilizing the License Holder’s attributes.

### OPDL Sponsors

Ontario Soccer reserves the right to enter into agreements with program-wide sponsors. As an extension of those partnerships, Ontario Soccer may make offers and introductions to OPDL members to join in the partnership. Such partnerships may have mutual benefits and returns to both Ontario Soccer and OPDL License Holders, which may vary from partnership to partnership.

License Holders may choose to opt into these partnerships. It is agreed and understood that Program Sponsors may be competitors to one or more of the sponsors of the OPDL License Holders.

### Exclusive Sponsors/Categories

Ontario Soccer may enter into exclusive sponsorships with companies and would require that no competing sponsor representation be prominently featured on match days.

### Match Day Sponsor Rights

The License Holder owns and controls all other match venue signage for OPDL match days. The placement of Program Sponsor signage cannot be modified.

## **Team Sponsors**

License Holders may source and secure sponsors for their OPDL program as they see fit, first obtaining Ontario Soccer's written approval, before retaining the royalties, revenues and benefits such sponsorship agreements offer.

License Holders may not accept sponsorship from tobacco, drug or alcohol companies. Any organization that promotes discriminatory practices, illegal activities or gambling, or contradicts OPDL's objectives to promote sport, health, community-building, fitness and personal well-being, is similarly excluded from sponsorship consideration for OPDL License Holders.

License Holders may sell the front or back of their team jersey to team sponsors. Logos may be no more than 7" high x 10 1/2" wide and shall not interfere with the player number, if placed on the back. Again, all sponsors must be pre-approved by Ontario Soccer.

The left sleeve of all game jerseys are reserved for the OPDL patch. The right sleeve patch may be sold by the License Holder to a sponsor. The size must be 4" in diameter or smaller and must be approved by Ontario Soccer.

License Holders may bring with them a team banner bearing sponsors' logos that can be no larger than (4'x8') for display behind the team bench. No signage bearing the marks of a partner that is in conflict with an exclusive OPDL partner may be displayed.

## **Use of Ontario Soccer Marks**

License Holders are permitted to use the marks and branding of Ontario Soccer subject to written approval and in accordance with the "OPDL Brand Guidelines/Marks and Logo Usage" document, to further the promotion and awareness of their OPDL club. All artwork requests can be sent to Khanh Be, Ontario Soccer Marketing Manager, at [kbe@ontariosoccer.net](mailto:kbe@ontariosoccer.net).

## **Subject to Change**

Terms and conditions of the sponsorship guidelines are subject to change without notice, from time to time in the sole discretion of Ontario Soccer. Ontario Soccer will notify all OPDL License Holders of amendments to these terms and conditions by distributing updates through program e-mail communications.

## APPENDIX L – OPDL Social Media Guidelines

The OPDL promotes open and respectful communication on all platforms.

The use of social media, defined by active engagement on user-generated platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Vine, blogs, websites, etc., by OPDL players, team officials, parents and License Holders staff are fully supported. The following guidelines aim to provide guidance to the OPDL to ensure the safety and enjoyment to all involved.

It is important to remember that social media sites are public, meaning all OPDL participants who opt to have a public profile must be prepared to have their posts, photos, videos and opinions seen by anyone and everyone. Use common sense, and if you identify yourself on social media as an OPDL participants first and foremost, prioritize professionalism and care.

With all of these things considered, Ontario Soccer encourages all OPDL members to partake in social media for the promotion, enjoyment, camaraderie and documentation of the program.

- a) As OPDL players are underage, extreme care should be taken when it comes to posting text, photos or other online content:
  - i. Always ask for verbal permission when posting photo or video content of subjects depicted before posting online
  - ii. In cases where the photo or video content is intended for commercial or promotional use, it is strongly recommended that written permission be sourced
- b) Sensitive information/personal details must not be shared publicly
  - i. Be aware that if your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. profiles can be viewed publicly, they are then accessible by underage participants. Being cognizant of the type of content you share online is crucial in putting forth a professional image overall.
- c) Overtly negative content regarding OPDL, Ontario Soccer and other License Holders will not be tolerated and will be reported and can be subjected to Ontario Soccer disciplinary measures
- d) Be aware that you may be photographed or filmed without your knowledge at any time. If possible, venues should go to the extent of posting signage reminding participants of this.

Please remember that OPDL participants are **personally responsible** for the content that is published online in the form of user-generated media.



**ONTARIO  
SOCCER®**

— EST. 1901 —