

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please be advised that the divisions for the National Club Championships will be:

- Under 15
- Under 17
- Senior Open

IMPORTANT RULES

FOR TEAMS IN DIVISIONS LEADING TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Please be advised of the following Canada Soccer Regulations for National Competitions. **Please note that some rules have changed this year so please read carefully:**

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Teams must meet the minimum **Canada Soccer Club Licensing Program** requirement for that competition year in order to be eligible to participate in the National Championships.

To be eligible to participate in the National Championships a team must have a minimum of 17 registered players who are eligible to participate in the Provincial Qualifying Competition leading to a National Championship (Ontario Cup). Failure to meet this minimum standard will result in sanctions to the Club which may include disqualification at the discretion of the Canada Soccer Competitions Committee.

Teams must be able to field a minimum of fifteen (15) players to participate in a National Competition. Failure to meet this minimum standard will be subject to sanction.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

9.1 Only players registered with a Provincial/Territorial Soccer Organization (PTSO) shall be eligible to compete in a National Championship. All players must be eligible to participate in their PTSO Qualifying Competition (Ontario Cup in Ontario) leading into the National Championships.

For Senior National Championships, at least 12 players must be either:

- A Canadian citizen; or
- A Permanent Resident (as defined by the Government of Canada); or
- A Protected Person (as defined by the Government of Canada)

For all competitions, regardless of age category, any player that transfers from another country into Canada must obtain an International Transfer Certificate prior to registering and playing soccer in Canada.



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9.3 The deadline for registration with the PTSO shall be at least 35 days before the completion of the PTSO's declared qualifying competition for the 2026 National Championships, unless an earlier date is stipulated by the PTSO. **The deadline for registration with the Club in the Ontario Cup is July 31, and the deadline for transfers is on or before July 31 of the current season.**

9.6 All registered players must have been assigned to the qualified team at least 21 days before the completion of the PTSO's declared qualifying competition for the 2026 National Championships. **Ontario Cup Competition Rules state that all registered players must be assigned to the team by August 15.**

9.7 A team may not register players after qualifying for the National Championships.

9.8 Any player registered as a professional player will only be eligible to play in an amateur competition after they are reinstated as an amateur player with their PTSO. A player must be reinstated as an amateur at least 35 days before the completion of the PTSO's declared qualifying competition for the 2026 National Championships.

9.8.1 The reinstated amateur player must be assigned to the qualified team at least 21 days before the completion of the PTSO's declared qualifying competition for the 2026 National Championships

9.9 An amateur player who is registered and is listed on a match sheet with a professional, semi-professional, or Premier Soccer Leagues Canada team after **June 12** in the current year shall not be eligible to play in any National Championships

9.13 A player who is registered to an amateur club that has an amateur team participating in a Pro/Am League (including Premier Soccer Leagues Canada) and who has been called up to play a **maximum** of three matches with said amateur team, shall be deemed eligible to participate in the National Championships.

10.1 Each Club must have Team Official(s) identified as the same gender as the gender of the division in which the Club competes, be it men's soccer (including any boys' youth divisions) or women's soccer (including any girls' youth divisions). One such Team Official must be present within the technical area for every match (the role cannot be filled by a player) and must remain with the Club for every day of the competition.

10.1.1 For adult National Championships, each Club must have at least one such Team Official included in the Team Delegation List;

10.1.2 For youth National Championships, each Club must have at least **two** such Team Officials included in the Team Delegation List.

10.3 All accredited Team Officials must have completed proper Background Screening within the last 12 months, as approved by the PTSO, including at minimum: a Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) or Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC); Respect in Sport Activity Leader program; NCCP Making Head Way in Sport module; and NCCP Rule of Two module.

Ontario Soccer does not have a Transfer Deadline, however, please be aware that any player transferred after July 31, in accordance with Rule 9.3 above will not be eligible for the National Club Championships. Canada Soccer views players that are de-registered and then re-registered to another team as being transferred and therefore, players re-registered after July 31 will also not be eligible for National Championships.



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CALL-UPS FOR NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

In preparation for the National Club Championships there is some very important information you need to know regarding call-ups. While you may be used to Ontario Soccer's policies on call-ups for the Ontario Cup, Canada Soccer's policies on call-ups for Nationals are far stricter. In an effort to avoid any disappointment come September/October, we have outlined some key policies below that should help you to make the appropriate arrangements before it is too late:

- A team may only call up a maximum of **three** players to replace players already registered with the team who are unable to take part in the National Championships
- Call-ups must not increase the roster above the number of registered players as of 21 days prior to the Ontario Cup Final (i.e. a call-up must replace a registered player of the team)
 - For example:
 - If a team has only registered 17 players as of July 31, it cannot call up players to increase the roster above 17.
- Call-ups are still bound by the registration deadline – in order for the players to be eligible as call-ups, they must be registered to your club 21 days prior to the Ontario Cup Final.

To summarize, make sure you register to your team the players you want to bring to Nationals. Canada Soccer does not bend on the above policies so make sure you get your registrations in order prior to the deadline. While there are several other call-up policies for Nationals, the above policies are the important ones with regards to registration.



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