



# Long Term Officials Development

## The Support Structure

### Frequently Asked Questions

March 1, 2017

# The Support Structure

**What is the availability of support for me at the Club and District level?**

We aim to provide every tool and resource we can to Clubs and District Associations. It will be up to the individual match official to request support from the Club/District, when they require it.

If an official feels that a Club or District Association is not complying with LTOD, or supporting Match Officials development, there is a reporting process that will be available in the near future. This may require Ontario Soccer to meet with leaders in that community to further educate them, and offer support where required.

**How can we get the message regarding the importance of LTOD across to Club and District Presidents/leaders as they are the decision makers?**

Regional Long Term Officials Development sessions are being held across the Province (<http://www.ontariosoccer.net/referee/long-term-official-development>). We will meet with anyone that requests more information. It is very important that all levels of the Ontario Soccer community are familiar with the Long Term Officials Development concept and its program specifications.

**How can we avoid outlying (non-GTA) districts being left out of the LTOD initiative?**

We recognize the geographic restrictions of this province. We are giving the same opportunity for education online and we aim to accredit and develop more qualified instructors, assessors and leaders across the province in order to deliver the program face to face.

Every official will have the same opportunity to fulfill their personal aspirations under Long Term Officials Development programming.

**How can I help in my area to bring LTOD to life?**

If you wish to help in any way, we ask you to reach out to a Regional Champion or your District Referee Coordinator. The more resources and help we have at the grassroots level, the more successful LTOD will be. The contact list is available here <http://www.ontariosoccer.net/referee/long-term-official-development>

**How can we better handle the abuse and harassment of**

The Match Officials Development Committee has recognized these problems as barriers to retention and the



Play. Inspire. Unite.



**Match Officials? The discipline process needs to be addressed.**

perception of the lack of organizational support. We have been working closely with Discipline leaders in the province, and as of the start of the 2017 outdoor season, referee assaults will be handled differently from before:

1. The match official will notify Club/District Association/league/Ontario Soccer of the referee assault within 48 hours with a new short form Assault report (to be provided by Ontario Soccer).
2. The match official will forward the completed assault report to a mentor/DRC/discipline review person for review prior to final submission.
3. The mentor/DRC/Discipline review person will advise the official on any edits/changes. This is to assist in assault cases not being thrown out or, or disregarded due to incomplete reports.
4. The final detailed report must be submitted within 7 days of the offence.

Discipline panel members will be required to take an online Laws of the Game education session so that when they are making decisions, they are basing them on their knowledge of the current Laws of the Game.

We are also working with coaches and parents on the Laws of the Game, that the understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Match Officials are more recognized and respected.

The 'expectation of perfection' from coaches and parents needs to be addressed – the belief that as a match official is getting paid, they should be perfect and make no errors. Match Officials develop their skills every game, as do players and coaches.

**How can assessments be used as a consistent and supportive feedback mechanism with clear and concise messages for the match official on how to improve?**

Canada Soccer is currently reviewing the assessment process and plans to re-accredit all Assessors in the fall of 2017 or early 2018.

Assessments are important for Match Officials - development areas need to be provided. This is not an opportunity to 'belittle' an official, but rather to help them




learn; show them where they need to improve, and direct them to the resources to do so.



Play. Inspire. Unite.



**ONTARIO SOCCER**  
7601 Martin Grove Road, Vaughan ON L4L 9E4  
905.264.9390 • ontariosoccer.net

Proud Member of 

Play.  
Inspire.  
Unite.



**ONTARIO  
SOCCER®**

— EST. 1901 —