



**ONTARIO  
SOCCER**  
EST. 1901

# **2026 – 2027 Operational Procedures**

## **Section 5 – Competitions**

## SECTION 5 – COMPETITIONS

### PROCEDURE 1.0 - Sanctioning Of Competitions

- 1.1 When an organization is applying for sanctioning of a competition, the Organization acting as Host must provide the information required on the appropriate application form, in accordance with the Procedures for Tournaments, Festivals, Cup Competitions, and Exhibition Games.
- 1.2 A Club must apply to its Governing Organization, as stipulated in the Operational Procedures for Team Travel, for permission for one (1) of its Registered Teams to participate in a sanctioned tournament, Festival, cup competition, or exhibition game. The Club must provide the information required on the appropriate application form.
- 1.3 A Club's team may play in a municipality sponsored competition which is not a sanctioned competition, subject to the approval of its District Association. However, Ontario Soccer Insurance program shall not be in effect for any of the participants.
- 1.4 Each competition may only be classified under one (1) type of competition status, competition classification, competition playing season, and competition gender and must specify which age division(s) the competition will include.
- 1.5 An indoor team, futsal team and outdoor team can enter any indoor, futsal or outdoor tournament providing that the team was actively registered on the first day of the competition and is allowable by the tournament host.
- 1.6 In the case(s) where there is a maximum age limit, a participating team's age classification shall not exceed the competition's age classification.
- 1.7 In the case(s) where there is a minimum age limit, a participating team's age classification shall not fall short of the competition's age classification.
- 1.8 Youth competitions are not permitted to offer cash prizes.

### PROCEDURE 2.0 - Tournament Definitions

- 2.1 A Tournament shall consist of a series of games between a minimum of four (4) teams:
  - a) Involving Under-14 or older aged teams
    - i. Under-12 and Under-13 can participate in tournaments considered Memorable Events in accordance with Canada Soccer's [Grassroots Standards](#).
  - b) Played within no more than seven (7) consecutive days or over no more than three (3) weekends during a playing season
- 2.2 A Tournament Host must be one (1) of the following:
  - a) Ontario Soccer
  - b) A District Association
  - c) An Affiliated Club
  - d) An Affiliated League
  - e) An Unaffiliated Organization (in accordance with these Operational Procedures).
  - 2.2.1 Hosting Requirements for Under-12 and Under-13 Tournaments
    - a) A District Association
    - b) An affiliated Club which holds a National Youth Club License and OPDL License.
    - c) An affiliated Club which holds a Member Association Level 2 License.



- 2.3** A Tournament Host may host more than one (1) class of tournament at the same time. A Team is eligible to participate in only one (1) of those tournaments.
- 2.4** Events hosted in a District Association, in accordance with the Grassroots Standards Guide, will limit the number of events that a given organization can host for grassroots soccer. A District Association may limit the number of tournaments a Tournament Host may host in that District in each playing season.
- 2.5** The Ontario Cup “Tournament Rounds” shall be exempt from the above.
- 2.6** A tournament may be played under the rules of any of the following types of soccer:
- a) 11v11 Soccer played under the Laws of The Game
  - b) Small-sided soccer played under Ontario Soccer's Playing Rules of small-sided soccer
  - c) Futsal played under the FIFA Futsal Laws of The Game
  - d) Beach soccer subject to the tournament rules and FIFA Beach Laws of The Game
  - e) Accessible soccer

### PROCEDURE 3.0 - Tournament Classifications

- 3.1** It is expected that tournament hosts are to provide adequate and appropriate competition to their participating Teams.
- 3.2 Professional Tournaments**  
Professional Tournaments are open to teams in Professional and Pro-Am Leagues.
- 3.3 Open Tournaments**  
Open Tournaments are open to teams in Professional and Pro-Am Leagues and to amateur teams.
- 3.4 Tournaments Hosted by Unaffiliated Organizations**  
Subject to Ontario Soccer approval, an Unaffiliated Organization may host a tournament.
- 3.4.1** Unaffiliated Organizations must complete a Tournament Application Form on Ontario Soccer's Competition and Travel Management System (CTMS) and attach tournament rules at least 35 days prior to the event date.
- 3.4.2** Unaffiliated organizations must provide Short-Term Registration Permits to the District in which the tournament will be hosted 45 days prior to the event start date.
- 3.4.3** Unaffiliated organizations must provide an insurance certificate indemnifying Ontario Soccer in the amount of \$10 million minimum. For events that partnered with a Club, the insurance certificate must indemnify the host Club, host District and Ontario Soccer. This certificate needs to be attached within the Tournament Application Form.
- Ontario Soccer reserves the right to deny any tournament application from an unaffiliated organization.
- 3.4.4** Upon District approval, Unaffiliated Organizations must complete a Tournament Application Form on Ontario Soccer's Competition and Travel Management System (CTMS) and attach tournament rules at least 35 days prior to the event date.
- Tournament rules acceptable to Ontario Soccer shall be submitted; and must include the following:
- Age divisions
  - Team eligibility
  - Number of games for each team
  - Duration of games



- Number of Players dressed in each game for each team
- Substitution rules
- Match Official game fees
- Protest rules

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

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

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

**3.4.6** The competition is part of an International/National/Provincial Multi-Sport Games or Special Event

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

**3.5** At the discretion of the District Association, Under-14 to Under-18 teams may be denied registration as a team to enter tournaments.

## PROCEDURE 4.0 - Approval Of Tournaments

**4.1** A TOURNAMENT APPLICATION FORM (TAF), must be used when applying for approval to hold a tournament. The TAF is available online here [Ontario Soccer Forms](#).

**4.2** The Tournament Host Organization requires the approval of the following Associations:



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Tournament Level	TAF Submission	1 <sup>st</sup> Approval	2 <sup>nd</sup> Approval	3 <sup>rd</sup> Approval	4 <sup>th</sup> Approval	5 <sup>th</sup> Approval
International	90 days	District Host	District Tournament Location	Ontario Soccer	Canada Soccer	Concacaf
North American	60 days	District Host	District Tournament Location	Ontario Soccer		
Inter Provincial	60 days	District Host	District Tournament Location	Ontario Soccer		
Inter District	21 days	District Host	District Tournament Location	Ontario Soccer		
District	21 days	District Host	District Tournament Location			

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

**NOTE:** In most cases, the District Association of the Tournament Host Organization will be the same District Association as the District in which the tournament is being played. Therefore, the second approval will only be required if the Tournament Host Organization is playing all or part of the tournament in a District other than the one (1) with which it is affiliated.

#### 4.2.1 Approval Fees and Penalties

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

**4.2.2** An Ontario Soccer governed League, District Association, Professional Club which is affiliated as an Associate Member of Ontario Soccer and an Ontario Soccer-Registered Club hosting a tournament does not require District Association approval but will require the approval of Ontario Soccer.

**4.2.3** All tournaments hosted by an Unaffiliated Organization will require the approval of Ontario Soccer and the District Association in which the tournament is played. An Unaffiliated Organization may only host an Inter-Provincial, Inter-District or District Tournament.

## PROCEDURE 5.0 - Tournament Requirements Of Hosts

- 5.1** The Tournament Host shall require any tournament event organizers/marketers to indemnify the host Club, host District and Ontario Soccer by including them all as named insureds on the organizer/marketers' insurance policy and providing a certificate from the organizer/marketers' insurer, evidencing that information, to the sanctioned host.
- 5.2** The Tournament Host shall indicate on the TAF only one (1) Tournament Classification and will indicate one (1) or more Age Classifications.
- 5.3** The Tournament Host for an International Class Tournament shall pay a "Tournament Host Fee," and submit its tournament rules to Ontario Soccer for approval. Ontario Soccer shall pay a fee and submit such rules to Canada Soccer for its approval.
- 5.4** The Tournament Host for a North American Class Tournament shall pay a "Tournament Host Fee," and submit its tournament rules to Ontario Soccer for approval.



- 5.5 The Tournament Host for an Inter-Provincial shall pay a "Tournament Host Fee," and submit its tournament rules to Ontario Soccer for approval.
- 5.6 The Tournament Host for an Inter-District Tournament shall submit its tournament rules to the District Association(s) required to approve the tournament, otherwise the tournament will be governed by Ontario Soccer's tournament rules.
- 5.7 The Tournament Host must indicate on the TAF that it will comply with all of Ontario Soccer Policies, and Procedures governing tournaments.
- 5.8 Tournament rules acceptable to Ontario Soccer shall be submitted; and must include the following:
- a) Age divisions
  - b) Team eligibility
  - c) Number of games for each team
  - d) Duration of games
  - e) Number of Players dressed in each game for each team
  - f) Substitution rules
  - g) Protest rules
  - h) Match Official Fees

#### 5.9 Minimum Requirements in Tournament Rules

##### Team Eligibility Criteria:

- a) All teams must be registered with their Provincial, State, or National Association.
- b) Each team must include with tournament application written proof of team travel permission authorized by its governing Association.
- c) In North American and International Class Tournaments, all teams from outside Ontario must supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the Tournament Host no later than seven (7) days prior to the tournament.
- d) Teams may only use Players who are registered with them, except as otherwise stipulated.
- e) All Youth team regardless of the competition must have a minimum of one (1) registered Team Official on the bench at all times. If a team does not have a registered Team Official on the bench prior to the game or at any time during the game, the game will be abandoned and result awarded to the opposition.

##### Duration of Games

- a) The following competitions shall not exceed the permitted time limit per day:
  - i. Under-12 and Under-13 not to exceed 120 minutes per day
  - ii. Under-14 not to exceed 150 minutes per day
  - iii. Under-15 and older not to exceed 180 minutes per day
- b) There must be a minimum of one (1) hour between each game played by any team.

##### Number of Players Dressed in a Game

Teams may only dress and play up to a maximum of twenty (20) Players in each game of the tournament unless tournaments (for Under-12 and Under-13) are subject to Canada Soccer [Grassroots Standards](#) at which maximum match day roster of eighteen (18) players in each game apply.

- 5.10 The Tournament Host must obtain approval.
- 5.11 Tournament rules may permit youth teams and senior teams to include additional Players from another youth team from any Club (including its own), subject to the requirements of Operational Procedures .
- 5.12 The Tournament Host shall provide team sheets which shall be completed by each team prior to each game,



and which must be submitted to the referee prior to the kickoff. The competing teams must be identified on an individual team sheet their Full Team Name.

- 5.13** Except where specified, the Tournament Host shall collect team sheets and misconduct reports from Match Officials immediately after each game and such shall be forwarded by the Tournament Host to its District Association, or in the case of a Senior Provincial League, Senior Regional League, (if governed by Ontario Soccer) Senior District Competitive League, Youth Provincial League, Youth Regional League, (if governed by Ontario Soccer) Youth District Competitive League, to Ontario Soccer, no later than 72 hours after the last day of the tournament.
- 5.14** A Match Official pre-assault report must be filed with the League, District, tournament host and Ontario Soccer no more than 24 hours after assault occurred. In all cases of Match Official assault, the Tournament Host shall have the responsibility for overseeing that the Match Official assault report has been completed.
- 5.15** Within 30 days of the final day of the tournament, all tournament Reports must be submitted to the District Association.
- NOTE:** *Professional Clubs must submit reports to Ontario Soccer.*
- 5.16** Failure to do so may result in the District Association applying sanctions.
- 5.17** The tournament report shall include:
- a) A list of participating teams, identified by Team Name and Team Registration Number;
  - b) A list of teams failing to show up, identified by Team Name and Team Registration Number;
  - c) A list of teams which failed to play all their games, identified by Team Name and Team Registration Number;
  - d) A summary report of serious injuries;
  - e) Discipline summary report;
  - f) The tournament schedule and results of each game;
  - g) Any other relevant comments.
- 5.18** Failure to comply with the terms of Operational Procedures will result in the tournament application (TAF) not being approved by the appropriate Governing Organization(s). Failure to comply with terms of Operational Procedures will render the Tournament Host subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, non-sanction of hosting any tournament in the following year, with the exception of Match Official Assaults, where the Tournament Host shall have the responsibility for overseeing that the Match Official report has been completed and submitted in the timeframe required.

## PROCEDURE 6.0 - Tournament Requirements Of Host District Associations

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



## PROCEDURE 7.0 - Tournament Requirements For Team Participation

- 7.1** An Under-14 or older aged team may only participate in a tournament which has been sanctioned in accordance with Ontario Soccer rules by the Governing Organization to which the Host Organization is affiliated.
- 7.1.1** Any Under-12 and Under-13 team seeking to enter a tournament must be registered under their local District Association league or Festival competition for their respective age group in that season.
- 7.2** The team must comply with all of the competition rules in the tournament for which it has received approval to play.
- 7.3** When applying to take part in a tournament, each team shall identify itself by providing "*Full Team Identification*" as defined in Ontario Soccer's Operational Procedures and must attach to the tournament application form written proof of permission from its Association to participate, in accordance with the following:
- a) Ontario teams – District Association approval if tournament is played out-of-District;
  - b) Other Canadian teams – Provincial Association approval;
  - c) U.S.A. teams – State Association approval;
  - d) Other teams – National Association approval.

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

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

- 7.4** In International Class Tournaments and North American Class Tournaments, all teams shall supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the Tournament Host not later than seven (7) days prior to the first day of the tournament.

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

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

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

- 7.6** A team entered in the Ontario Cup will not be:
- a) Eligible to enter any tournament;
  - b) Given permission to participate in any tournament; or
  - c) Given permission to travel to any tournament;



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

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

**7.7.1** Club's Youth Team and a Club's Senior Team may use up to an additional three (3) registered Players from another team from any Club as guest Players, each Player must meet the age eligibility requirements of the tournament.

**7.8** In a tournament:

- a) A competitive U17 or U18 youth team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which competitive senior teams are eligible.
- b) A recreational U17 or U18 youth team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which recreational senior teams are eligible.
- c) An indoor youth team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which indoor senior teams are eligible.
- d) A futsal youth team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which futsal senior teams are eligible.
- e) A competitive girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which competitive boys' teams are eligible.
- f) A recreational girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which recreational boys' teams are eligible.
- g) An indoor girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which indoor boys' teams are eligible.
- h) A futsal girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which futsal boys' teams are eligible.
- i) A competitive mixed team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which competitive boys' teams are eligible.
- j) A recreational mixed team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which recreational boys' teams are eligible.
- k) An indoor mixed team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which indoor boys' teams are eligible.
- l) A futsal mixed team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which futsal boys' teams are eligible.
- m) A competitive girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which competitive mixed teams are eligible.
- n) A recreational girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which recreational mixed teams are eligible.
- o) An indoor girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which indoor mixed teams are eligible; and
- p) A futsal girls' team will be eligible to enter, and play in, a tournament for which futsal mixed teams are eligible providing that the published Tournament Rules of the Tournament Host Organization permit it and subject to the approval of the District Association to which the team's Club is affiliated.

**PROCEDURE 8.0 – Team Travel To Tournaments & Exhibition Games (U12 And Older)**

**8.1** Any travel outside a team's District, except for a scheduled League game, League playoff game, or Cup game, shall be considered Team Travel.

**8.2** An APPLICATION TO TRAVEL FORM (ATF), must be used when applying for approval to travel.

**8.3** Approval for Team Travel for Under-14 and older aged teams shall be based on approval from the following Associations:

Travel To	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Another District	District		
Another Province	District	U12/U13 Ontario Soccer	



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The U.S.A.	District	U12/U13 Ontario Soccer	
Another Country	District	All ages: Ontario Soccer	Canada Soccer

**8.4** Under-12 and Under-13 Teams will require Ontario Soccer approval for travel to another province, the USA and/or internationally to comply with Canada Soccer Grassroot Standards.

**8.5** The ATF must be completed and returned to the District Association no later than:

- a) days before travelling to another District, Province, or the U.S.A.
- b) 21 days before travelling to another country outside of Canada or the U.S.A.

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

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

**8.6** The ATF for a Club team requires the authorization of a Club authorized individual.

**8.7** Teams travelling to the following shall pay the applicable fee to Ontario Soccer and must include with the ATF:

- a) Another District:
  - Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS
  - Team Roster Report (for team registration verification purposes only)
- b) Another Province:
  - Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS
  - Team Roster Report (for team registration verification purposes only)
  - A copy of the sanctioning document for the approved competition
  - A copy of the Competition Rules for the competition
  - A copy of the Sport Specific travel insurance is required
- c) The USA:
  - Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS
  - Team Roster Report (for team registration verification purposes only)
  - A copy of the sanctioning document for the approved competition
  - A copy of the Competition Rules for the competition
  - A copy of the Sport Specific travel insurance is required
- d) Another Country:
  - Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS
  - Team Roster Report (for team registration verification purposes only)
  - A copy of the sanctioning document for the approved competition
  - A copy of the Competition Rules for the competition
  - A copy of the Sport Specific travel insurance is required
  - A copy of the Canada Soccer Travel Application Form (only for travel outside of Canada and the USA)

**8.8** Team Travel to Exhibition Games with U.S. College/University. Requirements:

- Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS,
- Team Roster Report (for team registration verification purposes only),
- Written Invitation (on letterhead) from the College/University for the Team College/University Head Coach/Athletic Director,



- Date of Games,
- Location of Games,
- Schedule of competition,
- Competition Rules,
- Proof of Sport Specific Travel Insurance

## PROCEDURE 9.0 - Festival Definitions

- 9.1** A Festival shall consist of a series of games played under the following format as per Canada Soccer Grassroot Standards:
- Played on one (1) day;
  - Played without the recording of scores and standings;
  - Which prohibits trophies or awards with the exception of participation mementos
- 9.2** A Festival Host must be one (1) of the following:
- Ontario Soccer
  - A District Association
  - An Affiliated Club
  - An Affiliated League
- 9.3** A Festival will consist of small-sided soccer played under Canada Soccer's [Grassroots Standards](#).

## PROCEDURE 10.0 - Festival Classifications

### 10.1 Festivals

The following classes of Festivals are open to Under-6, Under-7, Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11, Under-12 and Under-13 teams only. Under-11 and younger age groups are not eligible to participate in any tournaments.

Season	Jurisdiction	Classification	Age Group Eligibility
Outdoor	Inter-District	Development	Under-8 to Under-13 Club Teams
Outdoor	District	Development	Under-8 to Under-13 Club Teams
Outdoor	District	Recreational	Under-8 to Under-13 Club Teams
Outdoor	Club	Recreational	Under-6 to Under-13 Club Teams
Indoor	Inter-District	Development	Under-9 to Under-13 Club Teams
Indoor	District	Development	Under-8 to Under-13 Club Teams
Indoor	District	Recreational	Under-8 to Under-13 Club Teams
Indoor	Club	Recreational	Under-6 to Under-13 Club Teams

- 10.2** With the permission of its District Association, a team may be given permission to travel to:
- A District Festival hosted in a neighbouring District; and
  - A Club Festival hosted by a neighbouring Club.
- 10.3** The Host Organization may permit the following to enter its Inter-District Festival:
- An Under-12 or Under-13 team from another Province or State of a FIFA member organization
  - An Under-10 or Under-11 team from another Province or State which borders the Host Organization's District

**NOTE:** Team Travel procedures are subject to Approval for Team Travel.



## PROCEDURE 11.0 - Approval Of Festivals

- 11.1 A "Festival Application Form" (FAF) must be used when applying to host a Festival.
- 11.2 The Festival Host Organization requires the approval of the District Association which the Festival Host Organization is affiliated with, as well as the District Association in which the Festival is being played, if different than the Festival Host Organization's affiliated District Association.
- 11.3 The FAF must be completed and returned to the Festival Hosts Organization's District Association by no later than 15 days before the first day of the Festival.
- NOTE:** *If the FAF is submitted after the above deadline, there is no guarantee that the Festival will be approved.*
- 11.4 The Festival Host shall indicate on the FAF only one (1) Festival Classification and will indicate one (1) or more Age Classifications.
- 11.5 The Festival Host must indicate in writing on the FAF that it will comply with all of Ontario Soccer Procedures governing Festivals.
- 11.6 Failure to comply will result in the Festival application (FAF) not being approved by the appropriate Governing Organization(s) in accordance with Operational Procedures.

## PROCEDURE 12.0 - Festival Rules

- 12.1 Festivals played in Ontario will be played based on Ontario Soccer's Adapted Laws of the Game and/or Festival Guide document.
- 12.2 Festivals may be played at the Inter-District and District levels by squads subject to the Canada Soccer [Grassroots Standards](#).
- 12.3 Squad Eligibility:
- All squads must be registered with their Provincial Association or, in the case of squads from the USA, with the State Association.
  - When applying to take part in a Festival, each squad must attach to the Festival application form (FAF) written proof of "Permission to Travel" duly authorized by its governing Association, when the squad is travelling from its District Association.
  - In Inter-District Class Festivals, all squads from outside Ontario must supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the Festival Host not later than seven (7) days prior to the Festival.
  - A squad may only use Players who are registered with its Club, except as otherwise stipulated.
- 12.4 **Laws of the Game**
- All games shall be small-sided soccer played under Ontario Soccer's Grassroots Small Sided Soccer Rules.
- 12.5 The content within Ontario Soccer's Game Organization Guide document shall apply in any instance of conflicting information with regards to all areas of Festivals organization.

## PROCEDURE 13.0 – Festival Requirements Of Hosts

- 13.1 The Festival Host must obtain approval.



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

#### PROCEDURE 14.0 - Festival Requirements Of District Associations

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

#### PROCEDURE 15.0 - Festival Requirements For Squad Participation

- 15.1** An Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11, Under-12 or Under-13 squad may only participate in a Festival which has been sanctioned in accordance with Ontario Soccer rules by a District Association.
- 15.2** The squad must comply with all of the competition rules in the Festival for which it has received approval to play.
- 15.3** When applying to take part in a Festival, each squad shall identify itself by providing its Club name, age and gender classification; and if the Festival is played outside its District, must attach to the Festival application form (FAF) written proof of permission from its Association to participate, in accordance with the following:



- a) Ontario squads - District Association approval if Festival is played out-of-District;
- b) Other Canadian squads from Border Provinces - Provincial Association approval;
- c) U.S.A. squads from Border States - State Association approval;

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

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

- 15.4** In Inter-District Festivals, all squads from Border Provinces or Border States shall supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the Festival Host not later than seven (7) days prior to the first day of the Festival.

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

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

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

## PROCEDURE 16.0 – Squad Travel To Festivals & Exhibition Games (U-8 To U-13)

- 16.1** Any travel outside a squad's District, except for a scheduled League game, shall be considered Squad Travel.
- 16.2** An APPLICATION TO TRAVEL FORM (ATF), must be used when applying for approval to travel.
- 16.3** Squad Travel will be in accordance with the mandated guidelines of the Canada Soccer [Grassroots Standards](#). A District Association may approve squad travel beyond the above time travel when there is no suitable competition within the time allotted for squad travel through a Special Dispensation request.
- 16.4** Under-6 & younger age groups participate in Club focused development programs, which involve no travel beyond their Club.
- 16.5** Grassroots Players may be given permission to travel to a limited number of Memorable Events per year which will be based in accordance with Canada Soccer's [Grassroots Standards](#).
- 16.6** Approval to travel is required from the following Associations:

Travel to	Approval By	Second Approval
Another District	District Association	
A Border Province	District Association	Ontario Soccer (U12/U13)
A Border State in USA	District Association	Ontario Soccer

- 16.7** The ATF must be completed and approved by the squad's Club and submitted to the District Association no later than 7 days before travelling to another District or Border Province. Travel to a Border State in the USA requires a minimum of 14 days prior to travel.

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

## PROCEDURE 17.0 - Exhibition Games

- 17.1** An Exhibition Game is a game arranged between two (2) teams of registered Players with a registered Match Official, which is not a scheduled League game, play-off game, cup game, tournament game or Festival game. Exhibition games have no stats, standings or set schedule of games. An exhibition game may also include one (1) team of registered Players playing against:
- a) A College team, providing that Ontario Soccer has an adequate written agreement with the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association regarding the liability pertaining to the College team's participants;



- b) A University team, providing that Ontario Soccer has an adequate written agreement with the Ontario University Athletics regarding the liability pertaining to the University team's participants; and
- 17.2 Eligibility to Play in Exhibition Games**
- a) Under-6 or younger age groups are not eligible to participate in an exhibition game.
  - b) An Under-14 or older aged team is eligible to participate in an exhibition game subject to Procedure 18.0 - Approval of Exhibition Games.
  - c) An Under-8, Under-9, Under-10, Under-11, Under-12 and Under-13 Player is eligible to play in an exhibition game providing that:
    - i. An Under-7 player who has been fast tracked may participate in an exhibition game
    - ii. The Player has not already played in a League game, Festival or another exhibition during that week
    - iii. The Player will not exceed the maximum 20 competition days permitted during one (1) season as a result of that game
    - iv. The exhibition game meets all of the criteria in the Canada Soccer [Grassroots Standards](#).
- 17.3 An Exhibition Game Host must be one (1) of the following:**
- a) Ontario Soccer
  - b) A District Association
  - c) An Affiliated Club
  - d) An Affiliated League
- 17.4 In an exhibition game:**
- a) A competitive team may play against a recreational team
  - b) A youth team may play against a senior team
  - c) A senior amateur team may play against a professional team
  - d) A female team may play against a male team or a mixed team
  - e) A mixed team may play against a male team
- 17.5 Each Player must provide the appropriate registration document or that Player will not be allowed to play in the exhibition game.**
- 17.5.1** The Exhibition Game Rules may permit Under-14 and older aged teams to include Players registered with other Clubs.
- 17.6** The Exhibition Game Host shall collect Ontario Soccer Exhibition Game team sheets that include Team Name for each team and misconduct reports from the Match Official immediately after each game and shall forward such to its District Association, or to Ontario Soccer for games approved by Ontario Soccer, no later than 48 hours after the game.
- 17.7** Ontario Soccer, or District Association, approving an Exhibition Game shall appoint, or delegate the appointment of, Match Officials.
- 17.8** Exhibition games involving foreign professional teams shall comply with the Rules and Regulations of Canada Soccer.



## PROCEDURE 18.0 - Approval Of Exhibition Games

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

Game Involving	Submission Timeline	Required Fee	Late Submission Penalty	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ontario Club teams				District Association		
Other Canadian team (Out of Province)	10 Days	\$25	\$50	District Association	Ontario Soccer	
Team from Outside Canada	30 Days	\$125	\$150	District Association	Ontario Soccer	Canada Soccer
Ontario College or University Team to Play an Ontario Club Team				District Association	Ontario Soccer	

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

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

## PROCEDURE 19.0 - Identification Camps

- 19.1** An Identification Camp is an event arranged by an Organization solely for player identification.



**Eligibility to Play in Identification Camp**

- 19.1.1** Each Player must provide the appropriate Ontario Soccer registration identification or that Player will not be allowed to participate.
- 19.1.2** U-10 and younger age groups are not eligible to participate in an Identification Camp.
- 19.2** An Identification Camp Host must be one (1) of the following:
- Ontario Soccer A District Association
  - An Affiliated Club
  - An Affiliated League
  - An organization that has received approval from the District Association
- 19.3** An Application to Identification Camp (AIC) form must be used when applying for approval.
- 19.5** An insurance certificate indemnifying Ontario Soccer is required. For events that partnered with a Club, the insurance certificate must indemnify the host Club, host District and Ontario Soccer. This certificate needs to be attached within the Application Form.
- a) Participants will be required to sign the Ontario Soccer Waiver and Release of Liability form. The host must submit the physical forms to the District Association in which the Identification Camp occurred within 30 days following the event.

**PROCEDURE 20.0 - Cup Competitions**

- 20.1** A Cup Competition shall be organized and run by one (1) of the following:
- a) Ontario Soccer;  
b) A District Association;  
c) An affiliated League for its Member Clubs;  
d) An affiliated Club.
- 20.2** A Player shall not play for more than one (1) team in any one (1) Cup Competition.
- 20.3** Athletes selected to Provincial XCEL Teams and Canada Games Teams may not participate in Club events, training or competition during the following time frames:
- 48 hours prior to authorized preparation camps/weekends and competitions
  - During authorized preparation camps/weekends and competitions
  - 24 hours after authorized preparation camps/weekends and competitions


Club teams with 3 or more Players represented in a single a Provincial XCEL Team are eligible to have their games rescheduled if it conflicts with the schedule of Provincial XCEL or Canada Games Teams events resulting in the Players in question not being available to play for their Club teams

**PROCEDURE 21.0 - Ontario Cup**

- 21.1** The Ontario Cup shall be administered in accordance with the Ontario Cup Competition Rules and Regulations.



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