

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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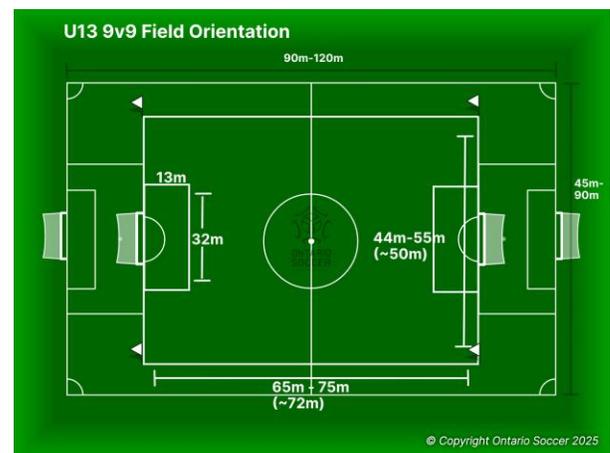
**To:** Ontario Soccer; District Membership and Associate Members  
**CC:** Ontario Soccer; Board of Directors, Staff  
**From:** Matt Ferreira, Director, Development

**Subject:** Impact of the Grassroots Standards on Under-13 Age Group

As announced by Ontario Soccer on February 20, 2025 via [Information Bulletin 2025-005](#), the Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards have been mandated throughout Canada and will be implemented in Ontario starting with the Indoor 2025/26 Season. The impact to several programs as well as the preferred field orientation have raised questions from membership, therefore, more information is now available.

## Field Orientation

With the 9v9 playing format, the field dimensions have been prescribed to be a width of 45-55 metres and length of 65-75 metres. With the inventory of these fields being inconsistent across the various regions of the province, the use of full 11-a-side fields to manage this playing format is likely to be common. To setup the fields for the 9v9 format, Ontario Soccer recommends a dual field setup for the Under-12 age group and a single, “box-to-box” setup for the Under-13 age group (see images below).



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For more information on the field setup for the 9v9 Playing Format, please visit [our website](#).

Similarly, the *Modified Laws of the Game* and a *Field Organization Guide* is in development and will be available in the coming weeks on [our website](#) with full details around all playing formats of the Grassroots Standards.

### **IModel Pilot Project**

As shared with the District Associations and IModel Steering Committees on March 25, 2025 via Memorandum on behalf of the Provincial IModel Steering Committee, and as supported by the Board of Directors, Ontario Soccer is confirming that the Under 13 age division will be **removed** from the IModel Competition starting with the Outdoor 2026 season.

### **Ontario Cup**

After consultation with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the potential adjustment of the Under-13 age division in the Ontario Cup – outdoor, indoor and futsal – was assessed by the Competitions Management Committee (CMC). As U13 is now captured as the final age band of Grassroots programming and the Ontario Cup competition format would require multiple deviations from the criteria set in the standards, the decision was made to **remove** this age group starting with the Indoor 2025/26 Season.

### **Ontario Player Development League (OPDL)**

Since 2022, the OPDL has formed Technical & Operational Focus Groups that have discussed the impact of the transition to the 9v9 playing format on the overall program and the U13 age group specifically. After further engagement with Canada Soccer and TAC, a decision was reached for the 2026 season. The OPDL will **continue** with the Under-13 age group in the **9v9** playing format. Discussions are ongoing as to how this will be managed by the OPDL, its Licence Holders and the specific rules surrounding player pool management within the program and District Association competition offerings.

To review the Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards, please visit our website here:

<https://www.ontariosoccer.net/player-grassroots>.

For further information and any questions, please contact [Matt Ferreira, Director, Development](#).

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