



# Athlete Scholarship Program

## Ontario Player Development League (OPDL)

Guidelines on the 2026 OPDL Athlete Scholarship Program

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

Play. Inspire. Unite.

Table of Contents

Section I – Introduction ..... 2

    Compliance to NCAA Eligibility Rules..... 2

Section II – Eligibility ..... 3

    Community Leadership ..... 3

    Club Support..... 3

    Financial Assessment ..... 4

    Player Commitment ..... 4

    Technical Assessment ..... 4

    Special Circumstances..... 5

Section III - Application Information ..... 6

Section IV - Application Dates & Deadlines..... 6



Play. Inspire. Unite.



## Section I - Introduction

The OPDL Athlete Scholarship Program is available to eligible full time players registered with an OPDL License Holders for the current year. The program provides concentrated funding to OPDL players with a demonstrated significant playing potential.

The Athlete Scholarship Program started in the inaugural year of the OPDL, 2014, where 32 grants of \$500 were given to OPDL players, who met the established criteria. From 2014 to 2025, over \$1,000,000 in grants have been made available to OPDL players. In 2026 the OPDL Athlete Scholarship Program will award grants ranging from \$500-\$1,500.

### Compliance to NCAA Eligibility Rules

Any athlete considering applying to an NCAA institution is strongly encouraged to contact the NCAA Eligibility Center prior to applying to the OPDL Athlete Scholarship Program.



Play. Inspire. Unite.



## Section II – Eligibility

All OPDL players applying for the Athlete Scholarship Program must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (previously known as a Landed Immigrant).
- Athlete must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario
- Athlete must have signed a full time OPDL Player Commitment Letter
  - U13 Players must have a signed U13 player commitment letter
- Athlete must be in good standing with the OPDL Licence Holder and Ontario Soccer
- Athlete must not be under a sanction that prohibits competition as per Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures

Players will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- a) Community Leadership
- b) Club Support
- c) Financial assessment, as verified by their OPDL Licence Holder
- d) Dedication to the sport of soccer and high performance training
- e) Technical development potential, as assessed by Technical Director
- f) Special Circumstances

### Community Leadership

Applicants with demonstrable commitment to community service and volunteerism will receive a maximum of **3** (three) points towards their application total.

Reference letters confirming length of service from each organization the applicant has volunteered for must be submitted along with the application.

### Club Support

Applicants who have already received financial support from their OPDL Licence Holders will receive a maximum of **3** (three) points towards their application total.



## Financial Assessment

The following table, made based on the Stats Can Income Cut-off Tables from 2016 to 2020, shall be used as a guide for assessing financial need:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	1 POINT AWARDED	3 POINTS AWARDED	5 POINTS AWARDED
2 PERSONS	\$34,974.60 or more	\$29,298.40 to \$34,974.60	\$29,298.40 or less
3 PERSONS	\$42,997.00 or more	\$36,018.68 to \$42,997.00	\$36,018.68 or less
4 PERSONS	\$52,203.80 or more	\$43,732.40 to \$52,203.80	\$43,732.40 or less
5 PERSONS	\$59,209.00 or more	\$49,599.96 to \$59,209.00	\$49,599.96 or less
6 PERSONS	\$66,777.20 or more	\$55,941.08 to \$66,777.20	\$55,941.08 or less
7 OR MORE PERSONS	\$74,346.80 or more	\$62,281.92 to \$74,346.80	\$62,281.92 or less

## Player Commitment

A brief summary, outlining the commitment exhibited by the player and family to soccer within the License Holder historically, or the OPDL environment to date, shall be included with the application.

Summary shall be limited to 150 words. Applicants will receive a maximum of **5** (five) points towards their application total.

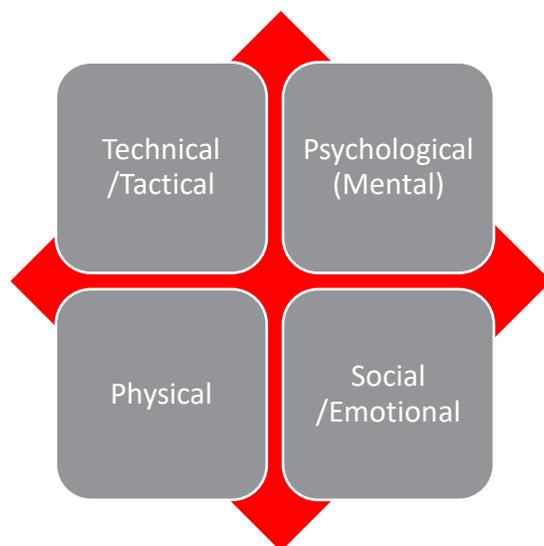
## Technical Assessment

A Technical Assessment must be completed by the License Holder's Technical Director, highlighting key attributes of the player across the four (4) corners of development that make them a talented player.

- The most recent player assessment, using the template in Scouting Systems Pro, submitted will be used as part of this assessment and a raw file version can be found below.
  - [OPDL Player Assessment Tool](#)

Applicants will receive a maximum of **5** (five) points towards their application total.





### **Special Circumstances**

In the event players and/or their families are experiencing special circumstances that require greater consideration, OPDL Licence Holders must include a letter detailing what is being experienced for review by the OPDL. Applicants may receive up to a maximum of **3** (three) points towards their application total.



## Section III - Application Information

Interested candidates shall contact their OPDL License Holder with necessary information to validate financial criteria.

License Holders shall appoint an Official to collect and review information provided by candidates, complete the application form, and act as a point of contact with Ontario Soccer.

Upon completion of the financial assessment by the designated License Holder Official, the Technical Assessment must be completed by the License Holder's Technical Director and submitted in the application form.

Applications are to be submitted by OPDL Licence Holders directly to Ontario Soccer via the online application form available online at <https://www.opdl.ca/athlete-scholarship-program>.

Application Form shall include:

- a) License Holder Information
- b) Player's Contact Information
- c) Parent/Guardian Information
- d) Family Information
- e) Financial Information  
*Must include 2024 Notice of Assessment; 2023 will be accepted with point deductions*
- f) Technical Information, as assessed by the License Holder's Technical Director
- g) Demonstrated commitment, as assessed by the License Holder Official

## Section IV - Application Dates & Deadlines

Only one application form per player shall be completed by the License Holder Official in accordance to the window deadlines outlined below:

Application window	
February 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2026	Application opens
March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	Application closes
May 1, 2026	Successful Applicants and License Holders notified

Applications must be submitted directly by OPDL Licence Holders. Applications submitted by parents/guardians will **not** be reviewed.

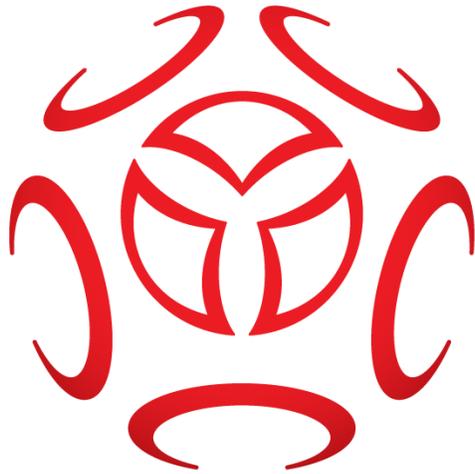
All applications will be reviewed by Ontario Soccer during the assessment period and successful applicants and License Holders will be notified directly. Funds for successful applicants, will be transferred to the OPDL Licence Holder directly.



**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 —