



ONTARIO  
CUP 2026

POWERED BY *Milk*

# Competition Rules

Revised February 16, 2026

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**New or Revised Ontario Cup Rules for 2026**

## 1.0.... COMPETITION NAME AND DIVISIONS

1.1 The name of the competition shall be the **ONTARIO CUP Powered by Milk**, hereinafter referred to as *the competition*.

1.2 The competition shall be divided into the following divisions:

Under 14 Boys	Under 14 Girls
Under 15 Boys	Under 15 Girls
Under 16 Boys	Under 16 Girls
Under 17 Boys	Under 17 Girls
Under 18 Boys	Under 18 Girls
Under 21 Men	Under 21 Women
Men	Women

1.3 In the event that there is not a division for a specific Team Age Classification, the team shall be permitted to enter the division for the next highest Team Age Classification, with the exception of the Under 14 Division. **Teams that have an age/gender classification of Under 13 or lower, will not be permitted to enter the Competition.**

1.4 The competition will be played in each of the above divisions providing that there is a minimum of eight entries in the division.

1.5 Subject to age restrictions, a female player may play on a team in any one of the above divisions.

1.6 Subject to age restrictions, a male player may only play on a team in one of the Boys' divisions or the Men's division.



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- 1.7 In the event that the league status of a team in a division changes after the Ontario Cup Powered by Milk Draw and the change affects the division the team should be in, the team will have the option of deciding whether to remain in the Ontario Cup Powered by Milk and not accept the new league position, or to accept the new league position. If the team accepts the new league position, it must withdraw from the Cup and the team's Entry Fee (minus an admin fee) will be refunded.

## 2.0.... MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

- 2.1 The Competitions Management Committee shall be responsible for developing the rules, policies, and procedures governing the competition. The Chair of the Competitions Management Committee shall be accountable to the Chief Executive Officer for the Competition Rules, Policies, and Procedures.
- 2.2 The Ontario Soccer staff shall be responsible for managing and implementing the operational functions of the competition. The staff shall be accountable to the Chief Executive Officer for these operational functions.
- 2.3 Protests shall be managed by the Ontario Cup Protest Committee.
- 2.4 Discipline shall be managed by the Ontario Cup Discipline Committee.
- 2.5 The District Ontario Cup Coordinator, hereinafter referred to as the D.O.C.C., shall be responsible for the operations of the competition within their District. The D.O.C.C. shall be accountable to their District Association. Each District Association shall appoint a D.O.C.C., failing which, entries (to participate in the competition) from that District shall be rejected.
- 2.6 The Competitions Management Committee shall be the final decision maker on all issues related to the Competition. Decisions made by the Competitions Management Committee shall be deemed final and are not subject to an appeal process.

## 3.0.... PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING THE COMPETITION

- 3.1 Teams must obtain permission from their Club to enter the Ontario Cup Powered by Milk.
- 3.2 Teams must register online for the **2026 Ontario Cup Powered by Milk** by **no later than April 1, 2026 and must include full team identification.**
- 3.3 The entry fee is **\$435.00**. The entry fee can be paid online using a credit card. Payment will also be accepted in the form of cheque or money order payable to **The Ontario Soccer Association**, or e-transfer sent to **etransferOS@ontariosoccer.net**. Payment must arrive at the Ontario Soccer office by no later than **April 1, 2026**. ***If a team has submitted an online Entry before the deadline, but payment has not been received at the Ontario Soccer Office by the payment deadline, that team will be denied entry into the Competition.***
- 3.4 Teams participating in the Ontario Cup Powered by Milk must have two uniforms of different colour at all Ontario Cup Powered by Milk games to avoid colour conflicts. These uniform colours will be registered with Ontario Soccer. Goal Keepers must also have two distinct uniform colours.
- 3.5 Each entry form must be approved by the team's Club. When a team or Club completes the Online Entry Form and submits it, a copy will be sent to the team's Club. The Club must then complete the online approval process by no later than April 9, 2026. **A team will not be entered in the Ontario Cup Powered by Milk if its Club does not approve the Entry by the April 9, 2026 Club Approval Deadline.**
- 3.6 Entry Fees will not be reimbursed to teams that enter the competition but do not receive club approval.
- 3.7 A Team that has entered the Ontario Cup Powered by Milk but withdraws after the deadline but more than three days prior to the Ontario Cup Draw will be charged a \$100 administration fee. When a Team that has entered the Ontario Cup but withdraws less than three days before the Ontario Cup Draw, the team will forfeit its Ontario Cup Entry Fee.

## 4.0.... FORMAT FOR THE COMPETITION

- 4.1 The competition shall be organized in five regions with a series of open draws. The regional breakdown of the District Associations is:



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REGION A:	Durham Region, Hamilton Soccer, Huronia District, TO Soccer, Niagara, Peel Halton, Southwest Soccer, York Region
REGION B:	Elgin Middlesex, Essex County, Lambton Kent
REGION C:	East Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario Soccer, Southeast Ontario
REGION D:	Greater North
REGION E:	Soccer Northwest Ontario

4.2 For each division, the competition shall consist of:

- a) **"single-game knockout"** format only; or
- b) a combination of **"round-robin tournament"** format and the **"single-game knockout"** format; or
- c) a combination of **"knockout format with a two game guarantee"** and the **"single-game knockout"** format

4.3 For each division using the **"round-robin tournament"** format, a minimum of 12 teams must enter that division of the competition. If 8-11 teams enter the division, the **"single-game knockout"** format shall be implemented for that division.

4.4 For each division using the **"knockout format with a two game guarantee"**, teams travelling more than 1000km will enter the competition in the Round following the Re-Entry Round and forfeit the two game guarantee.

## 5.0.... TEAM ELIGIBILITY

5.1 The competition shall be open to all competitively registered youth and senior amateur teams whose Clubs are affiliated with Ontario Soccer.

5.2 **A team may only be entered in the division which matches the League age division that the team is playing in. (e.g. An Under 17 team playing in an Under 21 League must enter the Under 21 division of the Ontario Cup).**

5.3 Notwithstanding Rule 5.2, if there is no League division offered in a Team's age, and the team must play up a division or in a combined division, the team may enter the Ontario Cup in the division that matches the age the Team is registered as. (e.g. An Under 17 team playing in a combined Under 17/Under 18 League division may enter the Under 17 division of the Ontario Cup provided the team is registered as Under 17)

5.4 Teams that are registered as "Tournament Teams" and are not playing in a League, must enter the Ontario Cup in the division in which they are registered.

5.5 Notwithstanding Rule 5.2, if there is no division provided for a specific age/gender classification, the team will be permitted to enter the division for the next highest age division of the same gender with the exception of the Under 14 Division. Teams that have an age/gender classification of Under 13 or lower, will not be permitted to enter the Competition.

5.6 A team playing in a Non-Amateur or Professional Soccer League is not eligible to participate in the Ontario Cup.

5.7 A team which plays in an amateur league at a higher level than any other offered in Ontario, as determined by Ontario Soccer, may not enter the Ontario Cup.

5.8 A team playing in the Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) is not eligible to participate in the Ontario Cup.

5.9 A team playing in the Ontario Premier League is not eligible to participate in the Ontario Cup.

5.10 Each team entered in the competition must have a registered team head coach who has completed the:

1. **Grassroots Diploma** (and/or higher licensing);
2. Respect in Soccer for Activity Leaders;
3. Making Head Way in Sport;
4. Making Ethical Decisions;
5. NCCP Emergency Action Plan; and
6. NCCP Understanding the Rule of Two

Assistant Coaches registered to the team must also have completed the:

1. **Soccer for Life** (and/or higher licensing);
2. Respect in Soccer for Activity Leaders;
3. Making Head Way in Sport;
4. Making Ethical Decisions;
5. NCCP Emergency Action Plan; and
6. NCCP Understanding the Rule of Two



- 5.11 All Team Officials listed on the Team Roster must have completed the following certification.
1. Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC);
  2. Respect in Soccer for Activity Leaders;
  3. Making Head Way in Sport;
  4. Making Ethical Decisions (MED);
  5. NCCP Emergency Action Plan; and
  6. NCCP Understanding the Rule of Two
- 5.12 All teams must have a minimum of two team officials listed on the Ontario Cup Entry Form, one of which must be a certified head coach.
- 5.13 Each team must have at least one team official registered to the team that is the same gender as the players.
- 5.14 **A team may call up no more than seven (7) players for any game in the Ontario Cup.**
- 5.15 If a team has entered another tournament on the same weekend as an Ontario Cup round for its division, the team shall be denied entry into the competition. (*Ontario Soccer Published Rules prohibit a team already entered in the Ontario Cup from entering a tournament scheduled for the same weekend as a scheduled round for its division of the Ontario Cup.*)

## 6.0.... PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

6.1 For the competition, eligibility shall be defined as the following:

- a) A player may only play for the club to which they are registered, subject to Competitions Procedure 21.1 3) of Ontario Soccer. Published Rules and Rule 6.1 c) below.
- b) A player shall be deemed registered for the competition if their registration form has been properly registered by their District Association (*in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules*) before a game in which they play in the competition.
- c) A player shall **NOT** play for more than one team in the Ontario Cup.
- d) Save for provision of proof to the contrary, a player whose name and signature appears on the teamsheet shall be deemed to have played in the game.
- e) Short Term Registration Permit (S.T.R.P.'s) and Temporary Eligibility Permits (T.E.P.'s) shall not be permitted in the competition.
- f) Each player shall be:
  - i) registered with the Club not later than **July 31**
  - or
  - ii) transferred to the Club not later than **July 31**, providing the player has not played for another team in the *Ontario Cup*.
- g) Each player shall be:
  - i) assigned to the team not later than **August 15**
- h) **Notwithstanding Rule 6.1 f) and subject to Competition Procedure 21.0, a player may, with permission of their Club, play for another Club Team within the same Club to which they are registered provided the player plays up to a higher level Club Team. A higher level team shall be defined as a team which meets any of the following criteria:**
  - i) Registered in a higher team age classification;
  - ii) Registered in a higher player classification;
  - iii) Registered in a higher team classification
  - iv) Playing in a higher league level, or
  - v) Playing in a higher division of the same league

Any player playing up to a higher level team in the Ontario Cup must be registered to the Club not later than **July 31**.

**NOTE:** Criteria iv) and v) shall not be applied to players registered to a Tournament Team. These players may not be called up by league level or league division as a Tournament Team does not play in a League.

- i) **Notwithstanding Rule 6.1 g), a player registered to an Under 13 team may not play up to an Under 14 team in the Ontario Cup.**



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- j) Subject to **Rule 6.1 c)**, a transferred player shall be deemed registered for the competition if their transfer form has been properly registered by their District Association (*in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules*) before a game in which they play in the competition, provided the player is registered on or before **July 31**.
- k) A player who has been a professional or non-amateur player and who has been reinstated by Canada Soccer shall be eligible to participate in the competition provided that they have been a registered amateur player with their Club for a period of **thirty days** prior to the game. The player may not register as an amateur player until their reinstatement has been approved by Canada Soccer.

**6.2** An ineligible player shall be defined as one or more of the following:

- a) a player who does not conform with one or more of the requirements in **Rule 6.1**;
- b) a player who plays during a time period in which they are suspended;
- c) a player who plays when they require an *International Transfer*;
- d) a player who plays under an assumed name;
- e) a player who plays for a team of a Club with which they are not registered except for 6.1 a);
- f) a player who is not registered or is improperly registered;
- g) a player who is registered to a team in the OPDL;
- h) a player who has registered to and is listed on a match sheet of a team in the Ontario Premier League or PLSQ after **June 12** in the current calendar year; and
- i) a player who plays as a call-up to a team in the Ontario Premier League or PLSQ more than three (3) times during the season while the Player's team is still playing in the Ontario Cup.

**6.3** Each player and team official shall be identified on the teamsheet, in accordance with the following procedures:

- a) *Ontario Cup teamsheets* shall be available online at [www.ontariosoccer.net](http://www.ontariosoccer.net) for all teams to download and print prior to the competition. **Each team must print one copy of the teamsheet for each game.** This copy must be signed by all players and team officials participating in the game. Each team must also print one copy of the online "Teamsheet - Referee Report".
- b) If an *Ontario Cup teamsheet* is not available prior to the start of the game, a *substitute teamsheet* may be used. The following information must be included on a *substitute teamsheet*:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- division</li> <li>- game number</li> <li>- date of game</li> <li>- kick-off time</li> <li>- venue (location of game)</li> <li>- name of Home Team</li> <li>- name of Visiting Team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for each player, their:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name</li> <li>- SEOS Number that matches the SEOS Number on the Team Roster Report</li> <li>- signature</li> <li>- jersey (sweater) number</li> </ul> </li> <li>- name and signature of each Team Official</li> </ul>
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- c) A representative of each team shall, no later than **20 minutes** prior to the kick-off time, hand to the Referee, the copy of their team's teamsheet along with the "Teamsheet - Referee Report". At this time, the team representative must inform the Referee that the team would like to check the opposing team's Player ID.
- d) The teamsheet shall list all eligible players (including potential substitutes) and up to **five** team officials.
- e) The teamsheet must be signed by **all** players and team officials.
- f) **After the Referee checks the teamsheets for proper completion, a representative of each team may take a photograph of the teamsheets prior to the game. Paper copies of the teamsheets will not be provided to the teams at the field.**

- 6.4** a) In each game of the competition, a team shall be permitted to dress and play up to **20** players.
- b) Only the **20 "dressed" players** and the **five** team officials included on the teamsheet may sit on the team bench or in the area designated for that team.
- c) Unlimited substitution shall be permitted but can only be made during the following stoppages in play,



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- \* when a goal is scored
- \* at a goal kick
- \* **on possession throw-ins or on an opposing team's throw-in providing the opposing team is also making a substitution**
- \* at the beginning of the second half
- \* at the referee's discretion, for an injured player

6.5 Each player/team official must produce their Ontario Soccer Registration Book/Card/OSCAR Digital ID before being eligible to participate in a game of this competition, subject to the following:

- a) In games up to, and including, the quarter-final round and including the tournament rounds, one representative from each team shall inspect the Player Registration Books, Player Registration Cards or OSCAR Digital ID (Team Roster Report with photos of each player and Team Official) of the players on the opposing team. It shall be the responsibility of the team representative to notify the Referee of any discrepancy **prior to the game**. The Referee **shall** record such discrepancies in their report to Ontario Soccer.
- b) In games played in the **Semi-Final Round and Cup Final Round**, Ontario Soccer representative(s) shall inspect the Player ID of both teams. In such cases, the Ontario Soccer representative(s) may declare a player ineligible to play in the game.
- c) Notwithstanding **Rule 6.5 a)** above, in extenuating circumstances where the Player ID is not present at the start of the game, the Player/Team Official Registration Books/Cards/OSCAR Digital ID may be checked at any time prior to the beginning of the second half. In such cases, it shall be the responsibility of the (opposing) team representative to notify the Referee of any discrepancy **immediately after the Player IDs have been checked**; and the Referee **shall** record such discrepancies in their report to Ontario Soccer.
- d) Notwithstanding **Rules 6.5 a) and 6.5 c)** above, a player, whose name is included on the teamsheet but is not present at the time when the Player IDs are checked by the (opposing) team representative, shall not play in the game until after their Player Registration Book/Card/OSCAR Digital ID has been checked (by the opposing team representative) in their presence and they have signed the teamsheet. In such cases, it shall be the responsibility of the (opposing) team representative to notify the Referee of any discrepancy **immediately after the Player ID has been checked**; and the Referee **shall** record such discrepancy in their report to Ontario Soccer. **A player that arrives after the start of the second half shall not be eligible to participate in the game.**
- e) When a team representative has reported a player eligibility discrepancy to the Referee (*in accordance with Rules 6.5 a), 6.5 c), and 6.5 d), above*), the Referee shall have the player complete the section on the reverse side of the teamsheet (regarding "**player eligibility**"), in which the player must write their date of birth and signature.
- f) **An OSCAR Team Roster Report must be presented along with the Player Registration Books/Cards.**

## 7.0.....SCHEDULING AND RESCHEDULING OF GAMES PLAYED UNDER "SINGLE-GAME KNOCKOUT" FORMAT

7.1 The home team's D.O.C.C. shall be responsible for scheduling the game:

- a) **ten** days prior to the scheduled date; or
- b) **five** days prior to the scheduled date, in the case when a team's game is scheduled to be played within **ten** days of its previous Ontario Cup game; or
- c) by a date stipulated by Ontario Soccer in extenuating circumstances

7.2 If the home team's D.O.C.C. is unable to provide a suitable venue by the required deadline, as stipulated in **Rule 7.1**, the away team shall become the home team and its D.O.C.C. shall become responsible for providing, within **72** hours, a suitable venue. In such cases, the team originally scheduled as the home team will still be responsible for paying the full match official fees.

7.3 If the home team's D.O.C.C. is unable to provide a suitable venue by the required deadline, for two rounds where it is the home team, the away team shall become the home team and its D.O.C.C. shall become responsible for providing, within **72** hours, a suitable venue. In such cases, the team originally scheduled as the home team will still be responsible for paying the full match official fees and will pay a fine of \$500 to Ontario Soccer.

7.4 In the event that a scheduled game cannot be played at the scheduled venue because of *unplayable field conditions (as determined by the Referee or the facility manager)*, it may be moved to an alternate venue provided that the field conditions of



the alternate venue are acceptable to the Referee and provided that the game commences within 30 minutes of the originally scheduled kick-off time.

- 7.5 In the event that a scheduled game cannot be completed on the designated date because of unplayable field conditions, it shall be rescheduled to be played on a date determined by Ontario Soccer. The home team's D.O.C.C. may be responsible for providing, within **72** hours, a suitable venue for the rescheduled game.
- 7.6 If the home team's D.O.C.C. is unable to provide a suitable venue by the required deadline, as stipulated in **Rule 7.4**, the away team shall become the home team and its D.O.C.C. shall become responsible for providing, within **72** hours, a suitable venue for the rescheduled game.
- 7.7 If a request is submitted to Ontario Soccer by the home team's D.O.C.C., to change the time or field for a scheduled game after the deadline, after it has been published, or within 10 days of the scheduled date of the game, rationale for the change must be provided and the change request will be reviewed. It will be at the sole discretion of Ontario Soccer whether the request is approved or not.
- 7.8 There will be a \$100 administration fee charged to the Club where a field or time change is required to a scheduled game after the game has been published on ontariocup.ca. This fee may be waived by Ontario Soccer in exceptional circumstances and at its sole discretion.
- 7.9 If a team has at least **three** players competing on the Ontario Provincial Team or the National Team for Canada or another country, on the same day as a scheduled Ontario Cup game, the game shall be rescheduled if:
- the Provincial/National Team duty is a player development camp, or game(s) arranged by, or on behalf of, Provincial or National authorities for that team;
  - the team advises its D.O.C.C. of the schedule conflict at least **ten days** prior to the scheduled game; and
  - the D.O.C.C. notifies Ontario Soccer. within **24 hours** after being notified by the team.
- 7.10 For games played under the "**single-game knockout**" format, the following divisions shall have their games scheduled for:
- SATURDAY:**
    - Under-14
    - Under-15
    - Under-16
    - Under-18
    - Under-21
  - SUNDAY:**
    - Under-17
    - Men
    - Women

with the exception of rescheduled games, Semi-Finals and Finals.

*Note: These division days are not applicable in the Opening Round and Re-Entry Round of the "knock-out with a two game guarantee" format.*

- 7.11 Notwithstanding **Rule 7.9**, when a team travels by air (subject to the approval of Ontario Soccer) or when a team travels more than 550 km to a game played under the "**single-game knockout**" format:
- in a division subject to **Rule 7.9 b)**, the game shall be scheduled to be played on Saturday and the Sunday shall be scheduled as the "**rain date**"; and
  - in a division subject to **Rule 7.9 a)**, the Sunday shall be scheduled as the "**rain date**".
- 7.12 Except for the *Semi-Final Round*, and *Cup Final Round*, the kick-off time cannot be scheduled:
- for games played under the "**round-robin tournament**" format:
    - before **5:00 p.m.** or after **8:00 p.m.** for games played on Friday; or
    - before **2:00 p.m.** or after **6:00 p.m.** for games played on Saturday; or
    - before **1:00 p.m.** or after **5:00 p.m.** for games played on Sunday
  - for games played under the "**single-game knock-out**" and "**knockout format with a two game guarantee**" format:



- before **11:00 a.m.** or after **6:00 p.m.**

c) In extreme weather condition situations refer to rule 16.6.7

**7.13** Notwithstanding **Rule 7.11**,

a) in a game played under the **"single-game knockout"** format, where the Visiting Team must travel in excess of 300 kilometres one way, the kickoff time cannot be scheduled before **1:00 p.m.** or after **3:00 p.m.** unless the Visiting Team requests otherwise. Such requests must be made in writing and be received by Ontario Soccer no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the previous round. The request is sent to the host team, but is not guaranteed and is subject to host team availability and facility availability.

- 7.14**
- a) A team or its Club shall be informed about the time, date, and location of its game(s) by the D.O.C.C. of its District Association.
  - b) The D.O.C.C. shall provide this information at least *five days* prior to the game.
  - c) Failure by a D.O.C.C. to fulfil the requirements of **Rule 7.14** shall not constitute grounds for an appeal or protest.

**8.0.... TEAM NO-SHOWS AND TEAM WITHDRAWALS**

**8.1** If a team fails to appear at its scheduled Ontario Cup game in the **"single-game knockout"** format:

- a) the team's Club shall:
  - i) forfeit its Ontario Cup entry fee
  - ii) pay the applicable match officials' fees and travel expenses
  - iii) pay a penalty of **\$750.00** to Ontario Soccer; and
- b) the manager and the coach of the team may be subject to further disciplinary action.

**8.2** If a team fails to appear at its scheduled Ontario Cup game in the **"round-robin tournament"** format:

- a) the team's Club shall:
  - i) forfeit its Ontario Cup entry fee
  - ii) pay the applicable match officials' fees and travel expenses
  - iii) pay a penalty of **\$1,200.00** to Ontario Soccer; and
- b) the manager and the coach of the team may be subject to further disciplinary action.

**8.3** If a team is unable to fulfil its scheduled Ontario Cup game in the **"single-game knockout"** format but,

- a) has notified its D.O.C.C., **five or more days** prior to the scheduled game, that it is withdrawing from the competition, the team's Club shall:
  - i) forfeit its Ontario Cup entry fee
  - ii) pay a penalty of **\$500.00** to Ontario Soccer; or
- b) has notified its D.O.C.C. **four or less days** prior to the scheduled game that it is withdrawing from the competition, the team's Club shall:
  - i) forfeit its Ontario Cup entry fee
  - ii) pay a penalty of **\$650.00** to Ontario Soccer.

**8.4** If a team is unable to fulfil its scheduled Ontario Cup game in the **"round-robin tournament"** format but,

- a) has notified its D.O.C.C., **twenty one or more days** prior to the scheduled tournament weekend, that it is withdrawing from the competition, the team's Club shall:
  - i) forfeit its Ontario Cup entry fee
  - ii) pay a penalty of **\$750.00** to Ontario Soccer; or
- b) has notified its D.O.C.C. **twenty or fewer days** prior to the scheduled tournament weekend that it is withdrawing from the competition, the team's Club shall:
  - i) forfeit its Ontario Cup entry fee
  - ii) pay a penalty of **\$1000.00** to Ontario Soccer.



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- 8.5 Notwithstanding 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 or 8.4, teams withdrawing from or failing to appear at a scheduled Ontario Cup game may not be accepted into the Ontario Cup the following year, pending a review by the Competitions Management Committee.
- 8.6 Notwithstanding 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 or 8.4, a team withdrawing from or failing to appear at a scheduled Ontario Cup game where it is required to travel over 1000km one way will be fined an additional 50% of the applicable penalty outlined in 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 or 8.4.
- 8.7 Teams must produce the minimum number of required players (7) in order for them to be considered as fulfilling their scheduled game. If a team starts a game with the minimum number of players and then the game is abandoned due to players being injured or leaving the game, that team may be subject to a penalty pending review by the Ontario Cup Discipline Committee.
- 8.8 Notwithstanding 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 or 8.4, a team failing to appear at a scheduled Ontario Cup game shall be disqualified from the remainder of the competition.

## 9.0....MATCH OFFICIALS

- 9.1 A referee and two assistant referees shall be appointed to **each** Ontario Cup game, except for the Semi-Finals and Cup Finals where a fourth official may also be assigned.
- 9.2 In the event that one or both of the appointed assistant referees are not present at the game or are unable to act:
  - a) the referee may recruit "**registered Ontario Soccer match official(s)**" to serve as assistant referee(s);
  - b) if no "**registered Ontario Soccer match official(s)**" is/are available, the referee shall recruit "**club referee assistant(s)**" to serve as assistant referee(s);
  - c) the game **shall** still be played.
- 9.3 In the event the appointed referee is not present at the game or is unable to act:
  - a) 1. the senior assistant referee, providing that they are qualified (as per Ontario Soccer Published Rules) to referee that level of game, shall assume the duties of referee;
  - 2. a replacement assistant referee shall be recruited, in accordance with **Rule 9.2**;
  - 3. the game **shall** still be played or continued; or
  - b) 1. if the "**senior assistant referee**" is not qualified (as per Ontario Soccer Published Rules) to referee that level of game, a "**registered Ontario Soccer match official**" (who is qualified to referee that level of game) may be recruited to referee the game;
  - 2. the game **shall** still be played or continued; or
  - c) in the event that a) and b) above are not applicable, the game **shall only** be played, or continued, if both teams agree to play, or continue, the game with the assistant referee or some other person serving as the referee.
- 9.4 With the exception of *Senior level games, the Semi-Finals, and Cup Finals*;
  - a) the D.O.C.C. shall be responsible for **ensuring** that the match officials are appointed to all games in which one of their District Association's teams is the home team;
  - b) the District Referee Coordinator (DRC) or selected Regional Assignor is responsible for **appointing** the match officials to all games in which one of their District Association's teams is the home team; and
  - c) the D.R.C. or selected Regional Assignor shall ensure that all appointments are completed no less than 72 hours prior to game start time, are assigned based on the current Ontario Soccer Game Fee and Assigning Protocol and are assigned on Ontario Soccer's electronic assigning system.
- 9.5 For games in the *Men's, Women's, Under 21 Men, Under 21 Women, Semi-Finals, and Cup Finals*;
  - a) Ontario Soccer's Manager of Match Official Development or assigned designate shall be responsible for **appointing** the match officials to all games and will ensure that all appointments are completed no less than 72 hours prior to game start time, and are assigned in Ontario Soccer's electronic assigning system. All assignments must meet the Game Fee and Assigning Protocol Document and Ontario Cup Assigning Chart.



- 9.6 Except as specified in **Rules 9.2 b) and 9.3 c)**, all Match Officials officiating Ontario Cup games shall be a registered Match Official in good standing with Ontario Soccer.
- 9.7 With the exception of Semi-Final or Final Games, Match Officials must arrive a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the game. For Semi-Final or Final Games, Match Officials must arrive a minimum of 1 hour prior to kick-off and report to the on-site Match Official Coordinator.
- 9.8 Dress Code for Ontario Cup Semi Finals and Finals competition is "business casual". Track suits, halter tops, sweats and jeans are not permitted. If no change rooms are available for Match Officials, prior approval may be provided to arrive in track suits and/or referee kit.
- 9.9 The **"Match Officials Fees"** shall be paid in accordance with the following:
- For games played in the *Semi-Final Round*, Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for paying the **"Match Officials Fees"** and any approved (by Ontario Soccer) expenses to the Match Officials.
  - At the *Cup Final Round*, the Match Officials shall be paid and a suitable memento of the occasion shall be presented to each Match Official. Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for paying any approved (by Ontario Soccer) expenses to the Match Officials.
  - For other games played under the **"single-game knockout"** format, the **"Match Officials Fees"** shall be paid, prior to the commencement of the game, by the Home Team to the Match Officials. If the home team is unable to provide a suitable venue by the required deadline, the away team shall become the home team and will provide a suitable venue. In such cases, the team originally scheduled as the home team will still be responsible for paying the full Match Official fees.
  - For other games played under the **"round-robin tournament"** format, the **"Match Officials Fees"** shall be paid by each participating team to the **Tournament Host Organization** prior to the commencement of the tournament round. The **Tournament Host Organization** shall be responsible for paying the **"Match Officials Fees"**, upon completion of the Match Officials' duties after the game, including the submission of the teamsheets and all misconduct reports, and their attendance at any *discipline hearing(s)*.
  - The **"Match Officials Fees"** shall be:

**Under-14 Divisions:**

Referee	\$60.00
Each Assistant Referee	\$45.00

**Under-15 Divisions:**

Referee	\$65.00
Each Assistant Referee	\$50.00

**Under-16 Divisions:**

Referee	\$70.00
Each Assistant Referee	\$55.00

**Under-17 and Under-18 Divisions:**

Referee	\$75.00
Each Assistant Referee	\$60.00

**Under-21, Men and Women's Divisions:**

Referee	\$90.00
Each Assistant Referee	\$70.00

- In the Semi-Finals and Finals only, a Match Official is entitled to a *travel allowance* of **0.60 cents per kilometre (return trip)** for each kilometre over 50 km (based on most direct route based on Google Maps). When possible and practical, the Match Officials shall travel in one vehicle, in which case only the driver is entitled to the *travel allowance*. As per Ontario Soccer Match Official Development Department Expense Policy, car pooling is mandatory and will be enforced. No 407 ETR travel reimbursement will be approved, without prior approval from Manager, Match Officials Development.
- In the Semi-Finals and Finals only, for travel over 200 kilometres one way, a Match Official shall be entitled to a *meal allowance* of **\$15.00**. This allowance must be claimed in accordance with Rule 9.9 a).
- If for any reason, the game is not started, each Match Official present shall be paid one half of their **"Match Official Fee"** and the full applicable allowances/expenses, in accordance with **Rules 9.7 a), b), c), d), and e)**.



- 9.10 In Tournament Rounds, Semi-Final Rounds, and Cup Finals, the teamsheets, and misconduct reports must be completed by the Referee immediately after the game and submitted to the Event Coordinator at the game. The Referee shall also be required to attend the discipline hearing of any player dismissed during the game who requests a hearing. Such hearing shall take place within 30 minutes after it is requested and no later than one hour after the game.
- 9.11 With the exception of 9.10 above, the teamsheets and misconduct reports must be uploaded by the Referee to Ref Centre within 24 hours after the conclusion of the game. Alternatively, teamsheets and misconduct reports may be mailed to Ontario Soccer or scanned and emailed to [ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net](mailto:ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net) within 24 hours after the conclusion of the game. Failure to do so shall result in the referee being referred to their District Association for discipline.
- 9.12 The Match Officials and the District Referee Coordinator shall have other duties which are specified in the **Policy Document** called: "**Ontario Cup Rules For Match Officials**".

## 10.0....DURATION OF PLAY

- 10.1 For games played under the "**single-game knockout**" format and the "**knock-out format with two game guarantee**", the *duration of play* shall be:

<i>Division</i>	<i>Regulation Time</i>	<i>Overtime</i>
Under-14	two periods of 40 minutes	No Overtime
Under-15	two periods of 45 minutes	No Overtime
Under-16	two periods of 45 minutes	No Overtime
Under-17	two periods of 45 minutes	No Overtime
Under-18	two periods of 45 minutes	No Overtime
Under-21	two periods of 45 minutes	No Overtime
Men	two periods of 45 minutes	No Overtime
Women	two periods of 45 minutes	No Overtime

- 10.2 For games played under the "**round-robin tournament**" format, the *duration of play* shall be:

<i>Division</i>	<i>Regulation Time</i>	<i>Overtime</i>
Under-14	two periods of 35 minutes	No Overtime
Under-15	two periods of 35 minutes	No Overtime
Under-16	two periods of 40 minutes	No Overtime
Under-17	two periods of 40 minutes	No Overtime

- 10.3 The referee shall be the sole judge of the amount of time played and their decision on this matter **shall NOT** be subject to appeal or protest. Allowance shall be made in either period for all time lost through substitution, the transport from the field of injured players, time-wasting or other cause, the amount of which **shall** be a matter for the discretion of the referee.
- 10.4 In accordance with **Rule 10.1** if the game is tied at the end of **Regulation Time**, a winner shall be determined by "**Penalties (penalty shoot-out)**", in accordance with the current edition of the **I.F.A.B. Laws Of The Game**.
- 10.5 In games played under the "**round-robin tournament**" format at the **Ontario Cup Tournaments**, the "**drawing of lots**" may be necessary as part of the *tie-breaking procedure* to determine the *Group Winner*, in accordance with **Rule 17.0**. In this event, the Match Officials from the last tournament game would officiate this procedure. Such procedure should commence within **20 minutes** after the last game.
- 10.6 In the event that a game cannot be played for the full duration of time, the game shall be considered complete if at least 75% of the game has been completed. This rule will not apply if the game does not run its full duration because the Referee has abandoned the game as a result of the actions of one or both teams; and in such a case, the Ontario Cup Discipline Committee shall determine the status of the game. As the sole judge of the amount of time played, the Referee shall report how much time had lapsed before the game was terminated.
- 10.7 In the event that penalties (penalty shoot-out) cannot be played to conclusion in a game which requires a winner, then the winner of the game will be decided by the "**drawing of lots**". This rule will not apply if the penalties do not run the full duration because the Referee has abandoned the game as a result of the actions of one or both teams; and in such a case, the Ontario Cup Discipline Committee shall determine the status of the game.



## 11.0....HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- 11.1 The Home Team shall be designated on the draw chart and shall be responsible for the following at all games, except for the games in the tournament round, Semi-Finals, and Cup Finals:
- a) the provision of nets and corner flags;
  - b) properly lined fields;
  - c) the provision of a suitable game ball which shall be a Size 5 Ball for all divisions;
  - d) the reporting of the game result to its D.O.C.C. within four hours after the conclusion of the game;
  - e) the payment of all expenses in staging the game including, but not limited to,:
    - **"Match Officials Fees"**;
    - if for any reason the game is not played, 50% of the **"Match Officials Fees"** plus the full travel and meal allowances (if applicable) to each Match Official present;  
(NOTE: The home team may claim reimbursement of these amounts from Ontario Soccer)
    - facility rental
    - damages to the facility
    - security expenses (if necessary)
- 11.2 The Visiting Team and Home Team must wear its registered main colours. If the colours of the two teams are similar (as judged by the Referee), the Home Team must wear alternate colours. The Visiting Team is only permitted to wear alternate colours to its main colours, providing that such colours are not similar to the colours worn by the Home Team. Only jersey colours will be considered a conflict and therefore, the team would only be required to change its jerseys. (NOTE: The main colours and alternate colours of each team have been registered with Ontario Soccer)
- 11.3 If there is a conflict with the goalkeeper colours and the outfield players of the opposing team, the goalkeeper must change regardless of which team is home or away.
- 11.4 Except for games in the *Tournament Round*, *Semi-Final Round*, or the *Cup Final Round*, the Home Team may charge an admission to its Ontario Cup game. Ten percent of the *gross gate receipts* shall be payable to the Home Team's District Association; and the Home Team may retain the balance of the gate receipts.

## 12.0....TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

- 12.1 Each Club whose team is required to travel more than *200 kilometres one way* to play in an Ontario Cup game in one of the following rounds:
- *Tournament Round*
  - *Opening Round*
  - *Re-Entry Round*
  - *First Round*
  - *Second Round*
  - *Third Round*
  - *Quarter-Final Round*
  - *Semi-Final Round*
  - *Cup Final Round*

may apply to Ontario Soccer for a *travel grant*, in accordance with the following policies and procedures:

- a) claims for reimbursement shall be submitted using the online Ontario Cup Travel Grant Application Form available on the Ontario Soccer website. Each form must be completed in its entirety
- b) claims must be accompanied by receipts
- c) if the organization has not been previously set up for EFT, then a completed EFT Form along with a void cheque will be required (form will be available on the website). (Note: Expenses will only be reimbursed to a Club or Team Account. Not a personal account.)
- d) an expense claim submitted after *October 31, 2026* will not be accepted.



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**12.2** The amount of the grant shall be based on the following rates:

- a) for a team which travels *by road*, the grant to the Club shall be 40 cents *per kilometre* return trip for one vehicle only;
- b) for a team travelling over 1000 km one way which travels *by air* and which has received approval (*in advance*) from Ontario Soccer to travel *by air*, Ontario Soccer will:
  1. make the travel arrangements;
  2. provide funding for 60% of the air travel expense for a maximum of 18 persons;
  3. if the team also is required to travel *by road* after the flight, provide a grant toward the cost of ground transportation, subject to Ontario Soccer approval, *in advance*;
- c) for a team which is required to *stay overnight*, the grant to the Club shall not exceed \$180.00;

**12.3** For games involving teams from *Sault Ste. Marie Rule 12.2* shall **NOT** be in effect and the following special grants shall be in effect:

- a) for a team travelling from *Region B* (Elgin Middlesex S.A., Essex County S.A., and Lambton Kent S.A.) to *Sault Ste. Marie*, there will be a *flat grant of \$750.00* for travel and accommodation expenses;
- b) for a team travelling from *Sault Ste. Marie* to a game played in *Region B*, there will be a *flat grant of \$750.00* for travel and accommodation expenses;
- c) for a team travelling from *Region A* (Durham Region S.A., Hamilton Soccer, Huronia District S.A., Toronto S.A., Niagara S.A., North York S.A., Peel Halton S.A., Scarborough S.A., Southwest Soccer, and York Region S.A.) or from *Region C* (East Central Ontario S.A., Eastern Ontario Soccer, and Southeast Ontario S.A.) to *Sault Ste. Marie*, there will be a *flat grant of \$950.00* for travel and accommodation expenses; and
- d) for a team travelling from *Sault Ste. Marie* to a game played in either *Region A* or *Region C*, there will be a *flat grant of \$950.00* for travel and accommodation expenses.

Notwithstanding **Rules 12.1 b) and d)**, a Club may apply for these special grants *in advance* of the game.

**12.4** For games involving teams from *Timmins Rule 12.2* shall **NOT** be in effect and the following special grants shall be in effect:

- a) for a team travelling from *Region B* (Elgin Middlesex S.A., Essex County S.A., and Lambton Kent S.A.) to *Timmins*, there will be a *flat grant of \$1050.00* for travel and accommodation expenses;
- b) for a team travelling from *Timmins* to a game played in *Region B*, there will be a *flat grant of \$1050.00* for travel and accommodation expenses;
- c) for a team travelling from *Region A* (Durham Region S.A., Hamilton Soccer, Huronia District S.A., Toronto S.A., Niagara S.A., North York S.A., Peel Halton S.A., Scarborough S.A., Southwest Soccer, and York Region S.A.) or from *Region C* (East Central Ontario S.A., Eastern Ontario Soccer, and Southeast Ontario S.A.) to *Timmins*, there will be a *flat grant of \$850.00* for travel and accommodation expenses; and
- d) for a team travelling from *Timmins* to a game played in either *Region A* or *Region C*, there will be a *flat grant of \$850.00* for travel and accommodation expenses.

Notwithstanding **Rules 12.1 b) and d)**, a Club may apply for these special grants *in advance* of the game.

## **13.0....PROTESTS**

**13.1** Each protest arising from a game in the competition shall be sent in accordance with the following policies and procedures:

- a) *by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the game*, the *protesting club* shall advise the Ontario Soccer Office by:
  - telephone (905) 264-9390 or
  - e-mail ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net or
  - in person

*(Please note that Ontario Soccer is not responsible for protests sent by email that are not received by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday)*

*(In the event that a game has been rescheduled and is not played on a weekend, the protesting club shall advise the Ontario Soccer Office by 12:00 p.m. two days following game)*



- b) within **TWO** days (Saturdays, Sundays, and Legal Holidays excepted) of the conclusion of the game being protested, the protesting club shall send:
- the written protest to the Ontario Soccer Office (7601 Martin Grove Road, Vaughan, Ontario, L4L 9E4) by:
    - **registered mail or registered courier service,**
    - **hand delivery, or**
    - **e-mail to ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net**

that it is protesting the game and provide the following information:

- name of *protesting club*
- date of game
- game number
- division
- name of *club team*
- name of *opposing team*
- rule(s) which were violated
- additional information to support protest
- name and position (within club) of person advising Ontario Soccer.

to the Ontario Soccer Office accompanying the protest, a protest fee in the amount of **\$500.00**  
**(if letter of protest is e-mailed, the fee must be received within five response days after the receipt of the e-mail)**

- c) **in cases of disputed delivery date regarding protests submitted by hand delivery or e-mail, it is the responsibility of the protesting Club to prove which date the protest was received at the Ontario Soccer Office.**

- 13.2 If the terms of **Rule 13.1** are not met, the protest shall be declared to be out of order.
- 13.3 The *protesting club* must provide evidence to substantiate the protest.
- 13.4 Upon receiving the initial notification of the protest (*in accordance with Rule 13.1 a*), the Ontario Soccer staff shall notify the D.O.C.C. (or an alternate person in that District Association) of the *opposing team's club* about the nature of the protest. The D.O.C.C. (or the alternate person) shall advise the *opposing team's club* about the nature of the protest.
- 13.5 Upon receiving the written protest, (*in accordance with Rule 13.1 b*), the Ontario Soccer staff shall provide the opposing team's club with a copy of the Protest.
- 13.6 Protests shall be dealt with by the *Ontario Cup Protest Committee*.
- 13.7 After the protest has been received, the hearing will be scheduled and the date and time will be communicated to all parties.
- 13.8 Officials from both clubs/teams and both D.O.C.C.'s have the right to send written submissions to Ontario Soccer regarding the protest. Such submissions shall be considered by the *Ontario Cup Protest Committee*. Additional information will be considered providing it arrives **two hours** prior to the scheduled meeting of the *Ontario Cup Protest Committee*.
- 13.9 All written submissions being considered by the Committee will be disclosed to both the protesting team and the opposing team prior to the hearing.
- 13.10 The *Ontario Cup Protest Committee*, in reviewing the protest, shall consider all written submissions including:
- the written protest from the *protesting club*
  - any submissions received *in accordance with Rule 13.8*
  - the referee's report
  - any other submissions received
- and shall render a decision based on the evidence presented and there shall be no further appeal of any kind against its decision(s).
- 13.11 Notwithstanding **Rule 13.8**, at its discretion, the *Ontario Cup Protest Committee* may convene a *protest hearing* at which officials from both clubs/teams, the match officials, or other persons may be required to attend. There shall be no further appeal of any kind against its decision(s).
- 13.12 In the event a team is found to be in *contravention of the competition rules* as a result of a protest, the *Ontario Cup Protest Committee* has the authority to:
- a) decide, on the basis of the evidence provided, which team (if any) will be declared the winner of the game; and
  - b) levy a fine against an *offending team* to a maximum of **\$1,200.00 per game**.
- 13.13 Protests will not be entertained if the issue is, according to the laws of the game, at the discretion of the referee (i.e. field conditions)



## 14.0....RULE CONTRAVENTION WITHOUT PROTEST

14.1 Notwithstanding **Rule 13.0**, the *Ontario Cup Protest Committee* may:

- a) reverse a game result of a team

for that team's *contravention of a competition rule(s)*, even if a protest has not been lodged correctly, or lodged at all, providing the *Ontario Cup Protest Committee* makes such decision *by no later than the Monday preceding the next game of that team*. The *Ontario Cup Protest Committee* may also:

- b) fine a team
- c) take any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Committee

## 15.0....DISCIPLINE

### 15.1 Jurisdiction

15.1.1 The *Ontario Cup Discipline Committee* shall be responsible for handling all cases of reported misconduct with the Ontario Cup, except for:

1. **match official assault**
2. physical assault or attempted physical assault of a youth aged player by a team official or administrator
3. immediate discipline of players at games played in Tournament Rounds

15.1.2 It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that its Players and Team Officials are aware of the Ontario Cup Discipline rules and of the discipline systems used at different levels of the competition

### 15.2 Discipline Systems

15.2.1 Ontario Cup Discipline shall be rendered in accordance with the **Discipline by Review (D.B.R.)** system for all Misconduct Types listed in **15.6.1** and some sections in **15.6.2**

15.2.2 All other misconduct shall be referred to the *Ontario Cup Discipline Committee* and discipline shall be rendered in accordance with the **Discipline By Hearing (D.B.H.)** system with penalties as specified in Ontario Soccer Discipline Procedure 9.0.

15.2.3 At **Tournament Rounds**, an *Ontario Cup Tournament Discipline Hearing/Review Panel* shall be appointed by the District Association in which the tournament is being played and shall use the **Discipline by Review (D.B.R.)** system to review all cases of **player** misconduct reported by a match official, **except for**:

- a) **match official assault**
- b) misconduct by a **player** which occurred in their team's last game in the tournament, unless the player requests a Discipline Hearing;
- c) misconduct which falls under the **Discipline By Hearing (D.B.H.)** System;

and shall render discipline in accordance with the mandatory suspensions, as specified in **15.6.1**

**(Note: Except for Match Official Assault or physical assault/attempted physical assault of a youth registered player by a team official or administrator, there shall be no discipline rendered for team officials or administrators at a Tournament Round)**

15.2.4 At the **Semi-Finals or Cup Finals**, a *Discipline Hearing/Review Panel* shall be appointed by the *Ontario Cup Discipline Committee* and shall use the **Discipline by Review (D.B.R.)** system to review and render discipline in **all** cases of reported misconduct occurring in these rounds, **except for**:

- a) **match official assault**
- b) misconduct which falls under the **Discipline By Hearing (D.B.H.)** System;
- c) *caution(s)*

and shall render discipline in accordance with the mandatory suspensions, as specified in **15.6.1**

### 15.3 Reporting and Review of Discipline



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- 15.3.1 Within one day after the conclusion of a **Tournament Round**, the *Tournament Host Organization* shall mail the following items to the Ontario Soccer Office:
- teamsheets for all games
  - misconduct report for each incident of misconduct by a player, team official, administrator, or match official
  - *Ontario Cup Discipline Summary Form* for all games
  - Minutes of all *Discipline Hearings* conducted at the tournament
  - the *Request For Hearing Fee(s)* for any hearings conducted at the tournament
  - the *Tournament Discipline Summary Report* for each team which participated in the tournament, including the number of tournament games from which each player was suspended.
- 15.3.2 The *Ontario Cup Discipline Committee* shall review all cases of reported misconduct and shall render discipline in accordance with the mandatory penalties, as specified in **Rule 15.6.1**, after taking into consideration the number of games suspended at the tournament, as reported by the *Tournament Host Organization*, in accordance with **Rule 15.3.1**, or the number of games suspended at the Semi-Finals or Cup Finals.
- 15.3.3 In the event that (based on the reports which it reviews) the *Ontario Cup Discipline Committee* decides that additional misconduct has occurred or that a Serious Foul Play or Violent Conduct misconduct warrants more than the mandatory suspension, it shall advise the person (either directly or through their Club) that additional charges are being laid and that a *Discipline Hearing* is being scheduled in accordance with the following procedures:
- 1) the discipline hearing shall be heard by an *Ontario Cup Discipline Hearing Panel* prior to the next round being played
  - 2) the accused shall receive at least 48 hours notice of the hearing and the hearing shall proceed with or without the attendance of the accused or their representative
  - 3) if the *Discipline Hearing Panel* finds the accused guilty of the reported misconduct, discipline shall be rendered in accordance with **Ontario Soccer Discipline Procedure 9.0**.

#### 15.4 Request for Discipline Hearing

15.4.1 An accused **Player** subject to **Discipline by Review** has the right to request a **Discipline Hearing**:

a) In **Tournament Rounds, Semi-Finals, and Cup Finals**, such request, and subsequent hearing, must adhere to the following procedures:

- 1) the request may pertain to any game including Semi-Finals and Cup Finals, except the last game of the player's team in a Tournament Round. Requests pertaining to the last game of the player's team in a Tournament Round shall be made in accordance with Rule 15.4.1 b).
- 2) the *Request For A Hearing* must be made **in writing**
- 3) the request must be submitted within **30 minutes** after the conclusion of the game in which the player committed the alleged misconduct
- 4) a **\$250.00 Request For Hearing Fee** must be included with the request
- 5) the *Discipline Hearing* must convene within **30 minutes** after receipt of the request.
- 6) the player must attend the hearing. The referee must attend the hearing if requested by the discipline hearing panel
- 7) the player may not participate in any soccer activities until the decision of the *Discipline Hearing Panel* has been communicated

b) for **all other games**, such requests must adhere to the following procedures:

- 1) the accused or their Club's representative must advise Ontario Soccer of the intent to request a hearing by one or more of:

- telephone to (905) 264-9390
- e-mail to ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net
- in person at the *Ontario Soccer Office*

**by no later than 3:00 p.m. on the first Monday** following the game in which the alleged misconduct occurred

- 2) the *Request For A Hearing* must be forwarded in writing, by email, *registered mail, certified mail, trace mail, or courier service* **within one day of the conclusion of the match** in which the alleged misconduct occurred, to the *Ontario Soccer Office*
- 3) a **\$250.00 Request For Hearing Fee** must accompany the *Request For A Hearing*
- 4) the *Discipline Hearing* shall be heard by an *Ontario Cup Discipline Hearing Panel* prior to the next round being played
- 5) the accused person shall receive **48 hours notice of the hearing** and the hearing shall proceed with, or without, the attendance of the accused person or their representative

c) If the *Discipline Hearing Panel* finds the player to be **guilty** of the reported misconduct, the mandatory discipline shall be rendered, in accordance with **Rule 15.6.1**



If the *Discipline Hearing Panel* finds the player to be **not guilty** of the reported misconduct, the player shall be refunded their **\$250.00 Request For Hearing Fee**.

15.4.2 An accused **Coach or other Team Official** subject to **Discipline by Review** has the right to request a **Discipline Hearing**:

a) In **Semi-Finals and Cup Finals**, such request, and subsequent hearing, must adhere to the following procedures:

- 1) the request may pertain to any game including the last game of the team
- 2) the *Request For A Hearing* must be made **in writing**
- 3) the request must be submitted within **30 minutes** after the conclusion of the game in which the coach or team official committed the alleged misconduct
- 4) a **\$250.00 Request For Hearing Fee** must be included with the request
- 5) the *Discipline Hearing* must convene within **30 minutes** after receipt of the request
- 6) the coach or team official must attend the hearing. The referee must attend the hearing if requested by the discipline hearing panel
- 7) the coach or team official may not participate in any soccer activities until the decision of the *Discipline Hearing Panel* has been communicated

b) for **all other games** (including tournament rounds), such requests must adhere to the following procedures:

- 1) the accused or their Club's representative must advise Ontario Soccer of the intent to request a hearing by one or more of:
  - telephone to (905) 264-9390
  - e-mail to ontariocup@soccer.on.ca
  - in person at the *Ontario Soccer Office*

**by no later than 3:00 p.m. on the first Monday** following the game in which the alleged misconduct occurred

2) the *Request For A Hearing* must be forwarded in writing, by *registered mail, certified mail, trace mail, or courier service* **within one day of the conclusion of the match** in which the alleged misconduct occurred, to the *Ontario Soccer Office*

3) a **\$250.00 Request For Hearing Fee** must accompany the *Request For A Hearing*

4) the *Discipline Hearing* shall be heard by an *Ontario Cup Discipline Hearing Panel* prior to the next round being played

5) the accused person shall receive **48 hours notice of the hearing** and the hearing shall proceed with, or without, the attendance of the accused person or their representative

c) If the *Discipline Hearing Panel* finds the coach or team official to be **guilty** of the reported misconduct, the mandatory discipline shall be rendered, in accordance with **Rule 15.6.2**

If the *Discipline Hearing Panel* finds the coach or team official to be **not guilty** of the reported misconduct, the player shall be refunded their **\$250.00 Request For Hearing Fee**.

15.4.3 Failure to request a *Discipline Hearing*, in accordance with **Rule 15.4.1 or Rule 15.4.2** shall mean that any suspension levied under the *Discipline By Review (D.B.R.) System* may **NOT** be appealed to Ontario Soccer or any other organization.

## 15.5 **General Discipline Rules**

15.5.1 In all cases of **match official assault**, the accused shall be **immediately suspended from all soccer activities**, the report shall be referred to Ontario Soccer, and discipline shall be handled by an *Ontario Soccer Discipline Hearing Panel*, in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules.

15.5.2 In cases where a team official or administrator is reported by a Match Official, or if charges are laid by the police, for Physical Assault or Attempted Physical Assault of a youth registered player, the team official or administrator in question shall be **immediately suspended from all soccer activities** and discipline shall be handled by an *Ontario Soccer Discipline Hearing Panel*, in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules

15.5.3 In a case of *mistaken identity*, the accused person must prove to the *Discipline Hearing Panel* at a *Discipline Hearing* that they were incorrectly identified and must identify and prove the **correct identity** of the player/team official who actually committed the reported misconduct; and in such case the player/team official will not be suspended but the player/team official who actually committed the reported misconduct shall be disciplined, in accordance with **Rule 15.6.1 or 15.6.2**

15.5.4 Cautions shall be recorded in Ontario Soccer's Ontario Cup Discipline database. The accumulation of cautions shall only apply to the Ontario Cup competition.

## 15.6 **Mandatory Penalties**

15.6.1 a) **Players** (only Players may be disciplined at Tournament Rounds): For the Misconduct Types found on Table 1 of Procedure 9.0 of the Judicial Matters Policies and Guides in the Published Rules and occurring in Ontario Cup games, discipline shall be rendered under the *Discipline by Review* system and the mandatory penalties as outlined in Table 1 shall apply. Where



suspensions in Table 1 of section 9.0 of the Published Rules are quoted as a range, application of a suspension within the range is required and the misconduct will be dealt with under the *Discipline by Hearing* system.

b) If the match official's report indicates that a charge of 1.16A is justified, the Review Hearing Panel will deal with the player under 1.16 and forward the report to the Ontario Cup Committee for further disciplinary action at a subsequent hearing. If the match official's report indicates that there was intent to injure i.e. types 1.19A and 1.21A, the Review Hearing Panel will deal with the player under types 1.19 and 1.21 and forward the reports to the Ontario Cup Committee for further disciplinary action at a subsequent hearing.

**15.6.2** a) **Coaches and other Team Officials**(*Coaches and other Team Officials will not be disciplined at Tournament Rounds*): For the Misconduct Types found on Table 2 of Procedure 9.0 of the Published Rules and occurring in Ontario Cup games, discipline shall be rendered under the *Discipline by Review* system and the mandatory penalties as outlined in Table 2 shall apply. Where suspensions in Table 2 of Procedure 9.0 of the Published Rules are quoted as a range, application of a suspension within the range is required and the misconduct will be dealt with under the *Discipline by Hearing* system.

**15.7 Suspensions Levied by the Ontario Cup Discipline Hearing/Review Panel**

**15.7.1** On misconduct being proved to its satisfaction, the *Ontario Cup Discipline Committee* shall have the power to order the offender:

- a) **to be suspended from all or any specific soccer activity for a stated period of time;**
- b) **to be suspended for a specific number of games in the Ontario Cup competition; and**
- c) **to be fined and/or bonded (with or without suspension).**

**15.7.2** An Ontario Cup Discipline Hearing Panel may only suspend an accused from **all soccer related activity** when a finding of guilty is rendered for one or more of the Ontario Soccer Misconduct Types listed in Ontario Soccer Discipline Policy 9.5.1

**15.7.3** In the case of "**suspensions for a stated period of time**";:

- a) The "**beginning date**" of a suspension shall be the **Wednesday** following the Discipline Hearing in which the coach, player, team official was found guilty.
- b) It is the **responsibility of the player/team official's Club** to check with the District Association and/or the team's League to find out what the suspension is (*i.e. the "beginning date" and "expiry date"*)

**15.7.4** In the case of "**suspensions for a specific number of games**",

- a) A player suspended for a specified number of games shall serve such suspension in the Ontario Cup competition (*i.e. shall be suspended from a specific number of Ontario Cup games*) until the player's team has concluded its participation in that year's Ontario Cup. After a team has concluded its participation in that year's Ontario Cup, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be served in their team's league, league cup, and league playoff games.
- b) For each player who has a remaining number of suspended games to be served after their team has concluded its participation in that year's Ontario Cup, Ontario Soccer shall transfer the suspended games (still to be served) to the team's league and Ontario Soccer (for Provincial, Regional and Multi-Jurisdictional District Leagues) or District Associations (for its District Leagues) shall designate the specific games in that league from which the player will be suspended.
- c) It is the **responsibility of the player/team official's Club** to check with its Club's District Association and/or the team's League to find out what the suspension is (*i.e. the specific games from which the player is suspended*)

**15.7.5** If the player/team official's team plays in a *District League*, the league's District Association shall advise it about the **suspension period or suspended games** levied to the player or team official **by no later than the Tuesday** preceding the **suspension period**.

**15.7.6** **By no later than the Monday preceding any suspensions**, a listing of all suspensions (resulting from misconduct in the **Ontario Cup**) shall be entered in the Ontario Cup Discipline database by Ontario Soccer. The suspension is e-mailed to the team contact after obtaining a game number for the Ontario Cup, the corresponding league or District.

**15.7.7** Any suspended games transferred to a League shall be indicated in the Ontario Cup Discipline database by Ontario Soccer. For *Provincial Leagues, Regional Leagues, and Multi-Jurisdictional District Leagues*, the league shall indicate game numbers for the suspended games transferred to it. For *District Leagues*, the District Association shall indicate the game numbers for suspended games transferred to it.



**15.8 Fines, Bonds and Penalties**

- 15.8.1 In the event a team, including team officials, contravenes the *competition rules* as contained herein, the **Competitions Management Committee** and/or the **Ontario Cup Discipline Hearing/Review Panel**, has the authority to levy fine(s) against the offending team, up to a maximum of **\$1,100.00** per game.
  - 15.8.2 A club representative required to attend a discipline hearing for one of its players, coaches or administrators who fail to appear at the hearing will be fined \$200.00 for non appearance.
  - 15.8.3 If a game is abandoned due to the action(s) of its players, coaches, administrators or spectators and such actions are warranted as invalid reason(s) for abandoning the game, the Competitions Management Committee may declare a team ineligible to enter the Ontario Cup in the subsequent year and the team will be fined in accordance with Discipline Policy 9.0 Table 9
  - 15.8.4 Bonds may be levied at the discretion of the Ontario Cup Discipline Committee for a specified period of time and purpose. No interest will be paid on any bond levied.
- 15.9 Forfeiture of Game**
- 15.9.1 In cases of severe team misconduct, the Ontario Cup Discipline Hearing Panel has the authority to **reverse a game result of a team**.

**16.0....ONTARIO CUP TOURNAMENTS (Format not being used in 2026)**

- 16.1 For the following divisions, the competition will begin with a **"round-robin tournament"** format and then, the tournament group winners will play under the **"single-game knockout"** format.

<i>Under 14 Boys</i>	<i>Under 14 Girls</i>	<i>Under 15 Boys</i>	<i>Under 15 Girls</i>
<i>Under 16 Boys</i>	<i>Under 16 Girls</i>	<i>Under 17 Boys</i>	<i>Under 17 Girls</i>

- 16.2 The locations and dates of the tournaments shall be finalized after the *Cup Draw*.  
  
In the event that any of the groups are unable to play at the designated location, Ontario Soccer may assign the group to another *tournament host organization* and play the games at another location.
- 16.3 Based on the total number of team entries in a division, a tournament group will be comprised 3 teams or 4 teams.
- 16.4 The number of games played on each day are as follows:

Teams in Group	Friday Games	Saturday Games	Sunday Games
3 teams	One game in two out of the three days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)		
4 teams	1	1	1

- 16.5 Notwithstanding **Rule 16.4**, in the event that the referee or the facility manager declares that the *field conditions are unplayable* and there is **no alternate field** on which to play the games, the *Tournament Host Organization* may reschedule the unplayed games to be played in accordance with the following policies:

- 1) in a 3-team or 4-team group:
  - a) if each team has played at least one game,:
    - i) the games played shall count in the standings;
    - ii) the remaining (Saturday) game(s) shall be re-scheduled to be played on the Sunday; and
    - iii) the *duration of play* for all games played on Sunday shall be in accordance with **Rule 10.2**;
  - b) if none of the Friday games are played, or if one or more teams have not played their first game,;



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- i) the games played shall count in the standings;
  - ii) the remaining Friday game(s) shall be re-scheduled to be played on Saturday; and
  - iii) the *duration of play* for all games played on Saturday shall be in accordance with **Rule 10.2**;
- c) if all the Friday games are played, but none of the Saturday games are played, or if one or more teams have not played their second game,;
  - i) the games played Friday shall count in the standings; any games played Saturday shall count in the standing;
  - ii) the remaining Saturday game(s) shall be re-scheduled to be played on Sunday; and
  - iii) the *duration of play* for all games played on Sunday shall be in accordance with **Rule 10.2**.
- d) if one or more teams have not played their first game, or if none of the Friday games are played, and none of the Saturday games are played:
  - i) the games played shall count in the standings;
  - ii) the remaining game(s) shall be re-scheduled to be played on Sunday, provided teams do not play more than two games on the Sunday
  - iii) any games that cannot be played because it would be a third game for a team, shall be rescheduled to a date and venue determined by Ontario Soccer before the next round.; and
  - iv) the *duration of play* for all games played shall be in accordance with **Rule 10.2**;

2) each team has at least **90 minutes** between the end of its game and the beginning of its next game if a team is required to play two games in one day.

**16.6** *Scheduling Games Played Under The "Round-Robin Tournament" Format*

**16.6.1** The schedule shall be a generic schedule prepared by Ontario Soccer prior to the *Ontario Cup Draw*. The schedule shall identify the *order of games* for teams designated as *Team #1, Team #2, Team #3, and Team #4* in each *Tournament Group*.

**16.6.2** At the *Ontario Cup Draw*, the following shall be determined (*by a draw*) for each team:

- the group
- the other teams in the group
- the city/town where the games will be played
- the team number (*eg., Team #1, Team #2, etc.*)
- the location of the group in the overall draw chart for the division

**16.6.3** The *Tournament Host Organization* for each Group shall schedule the times and field locations for the games, providing that:

- i) the *team numbers* (as drawn at the *Ontario Cup Draw*) are not altered
- ii) the *order of games* (as per the generic Ontario Soccer schedule) is not changed;
- iii) the first game on Friday does not kick-off before **5:00 p.m.**; the first game on Saturday does not kick-off before **2:00 p.m.**; and the first game on Sunday does not kick-off before **1:00 p.m.**;
- iv) the last game on Friday does not kick-off after **8:00 p.m.**; the last game on Saturday does not kick-off after **6:00 p.m.**; and the last game on Sunday does not kick-off after **5:00 p.m.**

**16.6.4** Notwithstanding **Rule 16.6.3 iii**;

- a) when some, or all, of the scheduled games for Saturday have been moved to Sunday (because of *unplayable field conditions* on Saturday), the kick-off time for the Sunday games may be scheduled to begin before **1:00 p.m.**.
- b) when some, or all, of the scheduled games for Friday have been moved to Saturday (because of *unplayable field conditions* on Friday), the kick-off time for the Saturday games may be scheduled to begin before **2:00 p.m.**

**16.6.5** The *Tournament Host Organization* shall enter on the *Ontario Cup website*, by a date to be determined, the following:

1. the schedule of times and locations for each game of the *Tournament Group* it is hosting
2. the site details of all fields being used to host the *Tournament Group*



- 16.6.6** Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for publishing on the Ontario Soccer website, all other *Ontario Cup competition information*.
- 16.6.7** *Field Conditions are Unplayable*
- a) In the event that some or all games of a tournament group cannot be played due to the referee or the facility manager declaring that *the field conditions are unplayable*, the unplayed games shall be rescheduled to a date and venue determined by Ontario Soccer before the next round.
  - b) Every attempt should be made to complete the entire schedule of games of a tournament group, including:
    - i) implementation of **Rule 16.5**;
    - ii) moving the games to an alternate location where *the field conditions are playable*;
    - iii) if **Rule 16.5** is implemented, then **Rule 7.9** can be waived on the Sunday;
    - iv) the 6:00 p.m. *kick-off deadline* in **Rule 7.9** can be waived on the Saturday;
    - v) changing or delaying the scheduled kick-off times to adapt the schedule so that it can be completed;
    - vi) if all teams and the *Tournament Host Organization* agree, waive **Rule 16.6.3 ii**; and
    - vii) if all teams and the *Tournament Host Organization* agree, waive **Rule 16.6.3 v**.
- 16.7** If a team does not appear at any one of its scheduled games at a *Tournament* or, if a Club withdraws its team from the Ontario Cup prior to its participation in a *Tournament Round*, the team's Club shall be fined, in accordance with **Rules 8.2 or 8.4**.
- 16.8** Notwithstanding 16.7, in a 4- team tournament, if a team drops out by the Tuesday before a *Tournament*, the schedule will be revised to a 3-team single round robin. The team numbers will be revised so that the host team or most local team will be *Team #2*. The other two teams will be allocated to *Team #1* and *Team #3* positions and that position will be determined by the number they are closest to. If a team withdraws from the tournament after the Tuesday, the schedule will not change and games involving the withdrawn team will be cancelled.
- 16.9** Notwithstanding 16.7, in a 3- team tournament, if a team withdraws from the Competition, the remaining two teams will play a single knock-out game to determine the team or placement of teams in the next round.
- 16.10** If a team has at least **three** players competing on Ontario Provincial Team or the National Team for Canada or another country, on the same day as a scheduled Ontario Cup game, the game shall be rescheduled if:
- a) the Provincial/National Team game is an official competition game for that team;
  - b) the team advises its D.O.C.C. of the schedule conflict at least **ten days** prior to the scheduled game; and
  - c) the D.O.C.C. notifies Ontario Soccer. within **24 hours** after being notified by the team.
- 16.11** The *duration of play* at games in the *Tournament Round* shall be in accordance with **Rules 10.2**.
- 16.12** The *Tournament Host Organization* shall be responsible for the following:
- a) the provision of nets and corner flags on all fields used in the tournament;
  - b) properly lined fields;
  - c) the provision of a suitable game ball which shall be a Size 5 Ball for all divisions;
  - d) the reporting of the game results to the D.O.C.C. within four hours after the conclusion of the tournament;
  - e) the posting of the game results on the Ontario Cup website as soon as possible after each game;
  - f) the collection of the *match official fees* from each team prior to the commencement of the tournament;
  - g) the payment of the *match official fees* to the referee and referee assistants after the completion of all duties by the *match officials*;
  - h) the payment of all expenses in staging the game including, but not limited to,:
    - facility rental
    - game balls
    - damages to the facility or equipment
    - security expenses (if necessary)
    - St. John's Ambulance or other medical services (if provided)



- i) the *Chair of the Tournament Host Organization's Local Organizing Committee (L.O.C.)* shall serve as the **Ontario Soccer Representative** at the tournament;
- j) the *Tournament Host Organization's District Association* shall appoint the *Ontario Cup Tournament Discipline Hearing/Review Panel*;
- k) the *Tournament Host Organization's District Association's District Referee Coordinator* shall appoint the *Match Officials* to officiate the games in the tournament;
- l) shall supervise the competition, control the schedule, implement the *competition rules*, act as an information resource for the teams, and generally, host the participating teams; and
- m) provide *special events*, especially for teams which require *overnight accommodation*.

16.13 Travel assistance to attend a tournament shall be in accordance with **Rule 12.0**.

16.14 Protests of games played in a tournament shall be dealt with by the *Ontario Cup Protest Committee*, in accordance with **Rule 13.0**.

16.15 *Discipline*

a) The **immediate** discipline for misconduct occurring in a tournament shall be dealt with by the *Ontario Cup Tournament Discipline Hearing/Review Panel* (appointed by the **District Association** of the *Tournament Host Organization*), in accordance with **Rules 15.1.2, 15.2, and 15.3**.

b) In addition to the **immediate** discipline rendered at the tournament, all misconduct occurring in a tournament shall be dealt with by the *Ontario Cup Discipline Committee*, in accordance with **Rules 15.1.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.6, and 15.7**.

16.16 Prior to the commencement of the tournament, each team shall pay, to the *Tournament Host Organization*, 50% of the *match officials fees* **IN CASH** for all of the games to be played during the tournament.

16.17 *Late For Game Rule*

16.17.1 A grace period of *fifteen minutes* will be given to each team that is late for the scheduled kick-off time of its game.

16.17.2 If a team is more than *fifteen minutes* late for any game in the tournament, it will be *disqualified from the tournament*.

16.17.3 In the event that a team is *disqualified from the tournament*, all games involving that team shall be *declared null and void*.

16.17.4 In the event that a team is late for a game and that game is forfeited, that team may be subject to further disciplinary action.

16.18 The verification of *Player Eligibility* is the responsibility of the representative of the *opposing team*, in accordance with **Rules 6.5 a), 6.5 c), 6.5 d), and 6.5 e)**.

16.19 In the event that two or more teams are tied for first place in a *Tournament Group*, the higher standing shall be determined in accordance with **Rule 17.0**.

16.20 In the event that **wild card teams** are selected for play in the next round, the second place team in each group will be identified and the following procedure will be applied:

- a) the second place team which has the best goal difference average (determined by finding the goal difference ("*goals-for*" minus "*goals-against*") and dividing the difference by the number of games played) will be selected, failing which:
  - b) the team which, in the "*drawing of lots*", draws the higher placing, in accordance with **Rule 17.2**.

## 17.0....TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

17.1 For games played under the "*round-robin tournament*" format in *Tournament Rounds*, the *Tournament Group winners*, the *Tournament Group Runners-Up*, and the *other placings in the standings* shall be determined by the following formula:

i) The team standings shall be based on:

3 points for a win  
1 point for a draw  
0 points for a loss

ii) If two teams accumulate the same number of points, the higher standing shall be awarded to:



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- a) the team winning the match between the tied teams, failing which:
  - b) the team with the highest **goal difference** (determined by deducting the "goals against" from the "goals for"), failing which:
  - c) the team with the most goals scored, failing which:
  - d) the team which, in the "drawing of lots", draws the higher placing, in accordance with **Rule 17.2**.
- iii) If three or four teams accumulate the same number of points at the completion of the round-robin tournament format, the team position standings shall be determined by the following:
- a) **the team with the highest goal difference (determined by deducting the "goals against" from the "goals for") in matches between the teams concerned shall have the highest standing.** If all teams have the same goal difference then proceed to **17.1 iii) b**. If some teams remain tied for goal difference but some positioning has been determined, the positioning that has been determined stands, and the remaining teams tied for goal difference proceed to **17.1 iii) b** to determine the remaining positioning.
  - b) **the team with the most goals scored in all matches between the teams concerned (if a team's position was determined in b), it shall not be included in this tie breaker procedure) shall have the higher standing.** If all teams have the same goals scored then proceed to **17.1 iii) c**. If some teams remain tied for goals scored but some positioning has been determined, the positioning that has been determined stands, and the remaining teams tied for goals scored proceed to **17.1 iii) c** to determine the remaining positioning.
  - c) **the team with the highest goal difference (determined by deducting the "goals against" from the "goals for") in all group matches shall have the highest standing.** If all teams have the same goal difference then proceed to **17.1 iii) d**. If some teams remain tied for goal difference but some positioning has been determined, the positioning that has been determined stands, and the remaining teams tied for goal difference proceed to **17.1 iii) d** to determine the remaining positioning.
  - d) **the team with the most goals scored in all group matches shall have the higher standing.** If all teams have the same goals scored then proceed to **17.1 iii) e**. If some teams remain tied for goals scored but some positioning has been determined, the positioning that has been determined stands, and the remaining teams tied for goals scored proceed to **17.1 iii) e** to determine the remaining positioning.
  - e) the team which, in the "drawing of lots", draws the higher placing, in accordance with **Rule 17.2**.

Note: Head to Head is not considered if three or more teams are tied.

**17.2** In the event that two or more teams are still tied after applying criteria a), b), and c) of **Rule 17.1**, the "drawing of lots" shall be handled as follows:

- 1) the name of each team will be placed on a small piece of paper;
- 2) each team name will be placed in a bowl or similar object;
- 3) the first team to be drawn from the bowl shall be awarded the "higher group standing";
- 4) the next team to be drawn from the bowl shall be awarded the next highest placing;
- 5) if applicable, the remaining team shall be awarded the next highest placing.

**17.3** **Rule 17.2** shall be implemented **within 20 minutes** following the final game of the *Tournament Round* for that *Tournament Group*. The *match officials* of the final game shall conduct the "drawing of lots".

**17.4** Each team involved in the "drawing of lots" has the right, at its discretion, to have a team representative present when the draw is made. The draw shall still be conducted in accordance with **Rule 17.3** even if a team representative for each team is not present.

## 18.0....ONTARIO CUP FINALS

**18.1** In the event that a player/team official is dismissed in the cup final or is suspended from the cup final, that player/team official may or may **NOT** receive their medal during the **Trophy/Medal Presentations** after the game at the discretion of the Competitions Management Committee. If the player/team official is not permitted to participate in the **Trophy/Medal Presentations** they shall receive their medal at a later time.



- 18.2 Both finalist teams in an Ontario Cup Final shall participate in the Trophy/Medal Presentations which are held after the game.
- 18.3 If a team does not participate in the **Trophy/Medal Presentations**, without a valid reason, it shall be severely disciplined, in accordance with **Rules 15.7 and 15.8**.

## 19.0...NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 19.1 The National Club Championships shall be played at the following locations:

Under-15 Boys and Girls	-	Surrey, British Columbia
Under-17 Boys and Girls	-	St. John's, Newfoundland
Men and Women	-	Ottawa, Ontario

- 19.2 The Ontario Cup Winners in each of the following divisions shall participate in the National Club Championships.

Under-15 Boys	- shall play in Under 15 Boys National Club Championships
Under-15 Girls	- shall play in Under 15 Girls National Club Championships
Under-17 Boys	- shall play in Under 17 Boys National Club Championships
Under-17 Girls	- shall play in Under 17 Girls National Club Championships
Men	- shall play in Men's Challenge Cup National Club Championships
Women	- shall play in Women's Jubilee Trophy National Club Championships

- 19.3 In the event that an **Ontario Cup Winner** in one of the following divisions:

Under-15 Boys Division  
Under-15 Girls Division  
Under-17 Boys Division  
Under-17 Girls Division  
Men's Division  
Women's Division

does not participate in the **National Club Championships**, its Club shall be fined **\$2,500.00** and may be required to pay other expenses incurred by the Host Organization.

- 19.4 A player who has been registered as a professional player or a non-amateur player and who has been reinstated, but subsequently re-registers as a professional player or a non-amateur player, shall not be eligible to play in the *National Club Championships*.

- 19.5 Each team in the Men's and Women's divisions must have at least 12 players that shall 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 divisions, any player that transfers from another country into Canada must obtain an International Transfer Certificate prior to registering and playing soccer in Canada.

- 19.6 Each player shall be:

- a) registered with the Club not later than **35 days prior** to the Ontario Cup Final for that division.

or



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- b) transferred to the Club not later than **35 days prior** to the Ontario Cup Final for that division, providing the player has not played for another team in the *Ontario Cup*.
- c) assigned to the team not later than **21 days prior** to the Ontario Cup Final for that division.

19.7 No team shall register players after qualifying for the National Championships.

19.8 To be eligible to participate in the National Championships, a qualified team must have a minimum of 17 registered players who were eligible to participate in the 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.

19.9 Qualified teams must be able to field a minimum of fifteen (15) players to participate in the National Championships, including at least one goalkeeper. Clubs who fail to meet this minimum standard for any match will be subject to sanction.

19.10 Any Club that lists only one goalkeeper on their Team Delegation List must identify, to both Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer, at least one player who can serve as a backup goalkeeper in case the goalkeeper is injured or suspended.

19.11 A youth-aged player who has been registered as an adult/senior amateur player for the current season may not play in Canada Soccer's U-17 Cup or U-15 Cup, unless they have, upon request, be reassigned as a youth amateur player by Ontario Soccer at least 60 days prior to the completion of the Ontario Cup Finals.

19.12 A youth-aged player who is registered to a Club's team in a competitive youth league may not play in a younger age category (Canada Soccer's U-17 Cup or U-15 Cup), unless they have been transferred or reassigned to the younger age category by Ontario Soccer at least 60 days before the Ontario Cup Final.

19.13 Each team must have Team Official(s) identified as the same gender as the gender in which the team competes. 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 Team for every day of the competition.

- a) For youth National Championships, each team must have at least two such Team Officials included in the Team Delegation List;
- b) For adults National Championships, each team must have at least one such Team Official included in the Team Delegation List

19.14 Each team must have one member of the team staff complete the CCES E-learning online education. These online education modules focus on the anti-doping program, including information about banned substances and methods, the sample collection process, and the whereabouts program. A copy of the CCES certificate must be submitted to Canada Soccer prior to the National Championships through the competition platform along with the Team Delegation List.

19.15 Teams must meet the minimum Canada Soccer Club Licensing Program requirement in order to be eligible to participate in the National Championships.

19.16 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.

19.17 Any team travelling to a National Competition is responsible for 50% per person of the cost of return airline tickets and 100% of hotel accommodation and meals.

Expenses paid by Ontario Soccer for travel will only cover the following team party: 18 team members, and shall not be less than 50% of the travel cost. Ontario Soccer will not pay for accommodation or meals.

The team shall be responsible for all other expenses incurred.

19.18 Canada Soccer will make all necessary flight arrangements. Teams should be prepared to travel at least one day ahead of the dates on which games are to be played. Increases in fares, service charges or other expenses incurred as a result of a request for change in time, date or duration of travel must be paid by those requesting the changes, otherwise, no changes will be permitted.



# NEW OR REVISED ONTARIO CUP RULES IN 2026

Rule 1.2  
Rule 5.11  
Rule 6.2 h)  
Rule 6.2 i)  
Rule 7.3  
Rule 8.0

Rule 19.6  
Rule 19.8  
Rule 19.10  
Rule 19.11  
Rule 19.12  
Rule 19.13  
Rule 19.16



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## APPENDIX A – FINES AND FEES

Description of Infraction	Fine
Withdrawal of Team after the deadline but more than three days prior to the Ontario Cup Draw	Admin Fee of <b>\$100</b>
Withdrawal of Team less than three days before the Ontario Cup Draw	Forfeit of Ontario Cup Entry Fee
A field or time change is required to a scheduled game after the game has been published on ontariocup.ca. This fee may be waived by Ontario Soccer in exceptional circumstances and at its sole discretion.	Admin Fee of <b>\$100</b>
Failure to have two uniforms of different colour or two distinct Goal Keeper uniform colours at an Ontario Cup game.	<b>\$250</b>
Incomplete or missing information on Ontario Cup teamsheet	<b>\$250</b>
Failure to adhere to the team check-in process as outlined by Ontario Soccer	<b>\$250</b>
Failure to comply with facility specific game day procedures and/or facility rules as communicated and outlined by Ontario Soccer / Facility Representatives	<b>\$250</b>
Failure to appear at, or not enough players (7) to start, a scheduled Ontario Cup game in the <b>"single-game knockout"</b> format	Forfeit of Ontario Cup entry fee Payment the applicable match officials' fees and travel expenses Fine of <b>\$750.00</b> and; the manager and the coach of the team may be subject to further disciplinary action.
Failure to appear at, or not enough players (7) to start, a scheduled Ontario Cup game in the <b>"round-robin tournament"</b> format	Forfeit of Ontario Cup entry fee Payment the applicable match officials' fees and travel expenses Fine of <b>\$1200.00</b> and; the manager and the coach of the team may be subject to further disciplinary action.
Team is unable to fulfil its scheduled Ontario Cup game in the <b>"single-game knockout"</b> format but, has notified its D.O.C.C., <b>five or more days</b> prior to the scheduled game, that it is withdrawing from the competition	Forfeit of Ontario Cup entry fee Fine of <b>\$500.00</b>
Team is unable to fulfil its scheduled Ontario Cup game in the <b>"single-game knockout"</b> format but, has notified its D.O.C.C., <b>four or less days</b> prior to the scheduled game, that it is withdrawing from the competition	Forfeit of Ontario Cup entry fee Fine of <b>\$650.00</b>
Team is unable to fulfil its scheduled Ontario Cup game in the <b>"round robin tournament"</b> format but, has notified its D.O.C.C., <b>twenty one or more days</b> prior to the scheduled game, that it is withdrawing from the competition	Forfeit of Ontario Cup entry fee Fine of <b>\$750.00</b>
Team is unable to fulfil its scheduled Ontario Cup game in the <b>"round robin tournament"</b> format but, has notified its D.O.C.C., <b>twenty or fewer days</b> prior to the scheduled game, that it is withdrawing from the competition	Forfeit of Ontario Cup entry fee Fine of <b>\$1000.00</b>
Team withdrawing from or failing to appear at a scheduled Ontario Cup game where it is required to travel over 1000km one way.	Fine of an additional 50% of the applicable penalty outlined in 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 or 8.4



Description of Infraction	Fine
Failure of the Home Team to provide or complete any of the following at a game, except for the games in the tournament round, Semi-Finals, and Cup Finals: a) the provision of nets and corner flags; b) properly lined fields; c) the provision of a suitable game ball which shall be a Size 5 Ball for all divisions; d) the reporting of the game result to its D.O.C.C. within four hours after the conclusion of the game;	\$250
Failure of the Home Team to provide a field and time for an Ontario Cup game for two rounds where the team is the home team.	\$500
Failure of club representative required to attend a discipline hearing for one of its players, coaches or administrators to appear at the hearing	Fine of \$200 for non appearance
Failure of team to follow protocols/ceremonies at Semi-Finals and Finals as directed by the Ontario Soccer Representatives	\$500
Failure of team to participate in the medal presentation ceremony	\$1000
Showing unsporting conduct at the Ontario Cup Finals ceremonies	\$500
Team fails to control the actions of its spectators at any point during the competition, including, but not limited to: a) The invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play; b) The throwing of objects; c) Contact made with an individual by thrown object d) The lighting of fireworks or any other objects; e) The use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices; f) The use of gestures, words, objects and any other means to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event g) Acts of damage h) Causing a disturbance during national anthem i) Any lack of order or discipline observed in or around the competition venue	Up to \$1200 plus cost of damages
Team that qualifies for the National Club Championships does not participate.	Fine of \$2,500.00 and may be required to pay other expenses incurred by the Host Organization
Contravention of Ontario Cup Competition Rules	Fine to a maximum of \$1,200.00 per game

