

ONTARIO SOCCER STANDARDS FOR PRO-AM LEAGUES

The following are minimum standards for the Pro-Am Leagues and Teams in Ontario who engage players and coaching staff on a part-time, pro-am basis. These standards represent the minimums and the league may adopt more stringent standards if it so desires. The underlying principle upon which these standards are based is that all teams provide compensation to its players to participate in matches for the benefit of paying spectators. Ontario Soccer reserves the right to amend these standards at any time to meet the changing landscape of soccer development in Ontario, pursuant to Ontario Soccer's Published Operating Procedures and subject to the confirmation of the Canadian Soccer Association.

1.0 LEAGUE OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The league office shall be located in a city served by appropriate domestic air services and in a physical location commensurate with the status of the league.
- 1.2 The personnel of the league office may be headed by a part-time or full time Commissioner, hired by and reporting to the league Board of Directors. The Commissioner shall exercise the powers vested in the office by the league bylaws and regulations and shall have the necessary broad experience for a chief operating officer in a league of this caliber.
- 1.3 The league may employ other personnel under the direction of the Commissioner, including, but not restricted to a Director of Operations, a Director of Officials, a Director of Communications / Public Relations, and a Director of Marketing. In addition, the league shall retain adequate accounting and support staff, as well as any additional staff the Board may deem necessary from time to time. The league office shall also be sufficiently staffed so as to be able to provide an equal service to all clubs regardless of time zone, and to handle the additional workload during the peak playing days of the semi-professional season.
- 1.4 The league office shall be equipped with all the communications and other equipment necessary to the twelve month operation of the league and its member teams, including such items as multiple phone lines, a twenty-four hour answering service and all equipment necessary to facilitate communication with the working press.

2.0 STADIA

- 2.1 Each member team shall have access, at the time designated for home games, to a stadium which has permanent seating for paying spectators. The stadium must be enclosed. It must have adequate spectator security, adequate vehicular access and parking, public sanitation facilities, and adequate concessions. Notwithstanding the foregoing the stadium must also meet the municipal safety standards and, where appropriate, hold a license/permit allowing soccer to be played in the venue. It must have quality flood-lighting for TV broadcasting.
- 2.2 The stadium must have a field of play which measures at least 60 meters by 100 meters (expandable to 75 by 110meters) unless otherwise required by the Competition Authorities and approved by the Provincial Association.



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- 2.3** All outdoor playing surfaces must meet FIFA standards. The stadium must have field markings and equipment pursuant to FIFA Rules, a stadium clock capable of counting up or down 45 (forty five) minutes, a scoreboard indicating the current score and a public address system. A minimum of three (3) separate locker rooms (home team, away team and match officials) are to be provided. Each is to have separate showers and toilets that are not accessible by the public. On match day, security is to be provided for the locker rooms from a minimum of two (2) hours before the scheduled kick off time until one hour after the game or when the last player or official has left the area, whichever is appropriate.

(Note: new built stadiums should have three additional locker rooms to enable double headers to be played and separate locker rooms for male and female match officials).

3.0 DAY OF GAME PERSONNEL

- 3.1** Teams must have a press box supervisor, a field manager, a visiting team liaison person, a match official liaison adequate uniformed security, access to an ambulance with ten (10) minute response time, at least six (6) uniformed ball persons, adequate ticket sellers, ticket takers, and ushers. Key personnel must be able to communicate via radio to the match day operations controller.

4.0 PRESS BOX

- 4.1** There must be a permanent press box capable of seating ten (10) people, with adequate security and a separate area for the working press. A separate area for electronic broadcast, at least one broadcast phone line if requested by a visiting team, one telephone line, online capabilities and refreshments.

5.0 TEAM OFFICE FACILITIES

- 5.1** Each member team must maintain a full-time separate office, located in a commercial building located in the team's market area. The office must be able to accommodate the required staff and team activities. It must be open during regular business hours for twelve months a year. It should be equipped with a fax machine and all the usual and necessary office equipment and supplies.

6.0 TEAM OFFICE PERSONNEL

- 6.1** Throughout the year, each team must maintain a part-time or full time General Manager, a part-time Secretary and at least one part-time staff person responsible for sales marketing, media and public relations. Hours of work should be so arranged that the office remains open for a twelve month period. In addition, a ticket and sponsors sales person should be employed during the season and other staff should be employed as necessary.

7.0 TEAM PERSONNEL

- 7.1** Each team will have a roster which has a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 25 players. All players must be under contract to the team.



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7.2 Each team will employ a head coach on a regular part-time basis. In addition, each team will, during the season, employ an assistant coach, a trainer, a team doctor/athletic therapist and an equipment manager.

8.0 LEAGUE AND TEAM MEDIA/PUBLICITY

8.1 Each team shall be required to produce the following media and publicity related materials: a media guide, a printed schedule card; a weekly press release beginning one month prior to the start of the season and continuing through to the end of the season; an up-to-date set of uniform statistics and a list of post-game media contacts.

8.2 The league shall also produce the materials set forth above, and shall produce other materials designed to promote the league and its teams.

9.0 LEAGUE PROCEDURAL STANDARDS

9.1 The league and the teams therein shall adopt and adhere to a schedule of games; maintain and promote league standings; establish uniform roster rules for dropping and adding players; maintain a separate set of home and away uniforms and warm ups; assign a uniform number to a player that does not change as long as the player is on that team's roster; establish rules for the approval of non-league games; exchange travel information and itineraries; and establish rules and procedures for player and team discipline.

9.2 The league shall establish rules and standards for game presentation which shall be maintained by all teams.

9.3 Leagues will be required to respect the FIFA International calendar, and where the release of more than three (3) international players from any one team are called for international duty, permit the team to reschedule its league match if requested.

10.0 FIFA RULES

10.1 FIFA rules shall be followed in all instances with the exception that a league may establish specific and separate rules for point standing, which shall be adhered to by all teams.

11.0 REFEREES

11.1 All referees officiating in games shall be registered with the CSA through Ontario Soccer, in accordance with CSA rules. The league shall establish a list of referees and assistant referees, in conjunction with Ontario Soccer, prior to the start of each season who meet the criteria set by Ontario Soccer Match Official Development Committee. No other person shall act as a match official in the league without the prior approval of Ontario Soccer.



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12.0 COACHING

- 12.1 At the commencement of any season, the Head Coach of any team in the league shall hold a Coaching B License (National) issued by the CSA or he or she has demonstrated enrollment to actively participate in the next available B License coaching course conducted by the CSA.
- 12.2 If the Head Coach holds an equivalent “national” licence issued by another country’s Association, the CSA Director of Coaching must validate the licence.
- 12.3 Failure to obtain the B license at the conclusion of the next available B License coaching course conducted by the CSA would render the coach ineligible.
- 12.4 All other coaches (except the Head Coach) must hold, as a minimum, a Provincial B License

13.0 TEAM BUDGET

- 13.1 Each team should operate on an annual team budget of at least, \$100,000. Each team will be required to provide to the Provincial Association a financial summary representing an accurate assessment of the financial operations of the club during the calendar year. In a situation where the pro team is part of a larger club, the operation of the semi-pro team must be reported separately within the Club’s financial report.

14.0 TEAM PLAYER BUDGET

- 14.1 Each team in 2016 should operate on at least a \$24,000 *budget* for player salaries with at least five (5) of the players on each team having a professional contract and being paid at least \$2,000 *per year*. In 2016, the salary cap for each team shall be \$40,000. The OSA and the League will continually monitor the number of players on contracts equal to or over \$2,000 per year to ensure compliance. Should a team fall below the minimum, they will be subject to disciplinary sanctions imposed by Ontario Soccer which may include, but is not limited to, fines, point deduction, or suspension from the league.
- 14.2 Ontario Soccer and the League have the right to audit the overall number of \$24,000 salary budget at the end of the year. If a team is not in compliance, the team and the league may be subject to disciplinary sanctions imposed by the Provincial Association.

15.0 LETTER OF CREDIT/ANNUAL FEES

- 15.1 Each team shall post with the league a letter of credit as required by the league membership. In addition, the team shall pay its annual registration fee and the appropriate league fees prior to the commencement of the season. The league will be required to pay an annual league registration fee to the Provincial Association as determined by the Provincial Association Board from time to time. Each team will post with the league a minimum letter of credit of \$25,000 along with a minimum annual league fee of \$5,000.



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16.0 CLUB STRUCTURE / PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- 16.1** By the commencement of season 2018, all clubs shall be required to run a player development program based on a minimum of one development team that should compete at the highest league level (based on Ontario Soccer LTPD standards) possible for youth soccer in the region where the club is registered. An official affiliation with an existing youth club is acceptable, providing the players are registered to play in the Provincial LTPD League. All youth teams must fall under the control and supervision of a head coach with a minimum “B” License (National) or equivalent.



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