

2026-2027 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE UPDATES

Addition of new Operational Procedures, and edits to existing procedures are shown in red text.

These updates and changes are designed to enhance player development, ensure consistency in programming, and promote a positive soccer experience across all age groups. Clubs will be required to adapt their operational and coaching practices to meet these standards, while coaches will benefit from clearer guidelines that prioritize long-term player growth over short-term results. For players and families, these updates aim to create a safer, more inclusive, and development-focused environment that supports skill progression and enjoyment of the game.

Game Related Edits

SECTION 3 – GAME TYPES

<p>Procedure 6.4.1</p>	<p>If a Player is evaluated and approved to play with an older age group that Player shall be registered in that age group exclusively. Grassroots Players can only play up one (1) year and the Technical Director of the Club must sign off on the Player movement and there must be rationale as to why there is Player movement.</p> <p>Player movement request can include two successive seasons for a full 12 months, and Evaluation shall be valid for the season or seasons as recommended by the evaluator and approved by the District (ie. outdoor/indoor or indoor/outdoor).</p> <p>Only Technical Directors, who hold either Canada Soccer's Children's Diploma or Ontario Soccer's Technical Director Diploma can evaluate and sign off on Fast-Tracking Player Evaluation forms. These individuals must observe the Player in an appropriate environment (game or training) to appropriately complete their assessment.</p>	<p>This Operational Procedure addresses concerns about the length or term of the Player Movement Agreement assessment.</p>
<p>Procedure 6.4.2</p>	<p>Under no circumstance may a Club, Team Official, or other third-party individual complete or submit a Fast-Tracking Player Evaluation form under the name of an appropriately licensed Technical Director. This includes any form of digital or physical signature without direct authorization and oversight.</p>	<p>This rule addresses concerns about the integrity of the assessment and risk of non-authorized individuals completing or falsifying their assessment of the Fast-Tracking Player Evaluation forms.</p>



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	<p>As such, all involved parties must adhere to the required observation and authorization procedures, and Districts must be able to verify the authenticity of the submitted assessment by a qualified Technical Director.</p> <p>Ontario Soccer, at its sole discretion, may audit the evaluations completed by appropriately qualified third-party evaluators.</p>	<p>Rules around the issued technical licences and their maintenance will be published to govern this area.</p>
<p>Procedure 6.4.3</p>	<p>An Under-13 and younger aged Player may only play with a younger group under one of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A Player is evaluated to play with a younger age group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Under-9 Players wishing to play with a younger age group must complete the U8 and U9 Play Down Evaluation Form. ii. Under-10 and Under-11 Players wishing to play with a younger age group must complete the U10 and U11 Play Down Evaluation Form. iii. Under-12 and Under-13 Players wishing to play with a younger age group must complete the U12 and U13 Play Down Evaluation Form. iv. Players who are playing down cannot play back up into their own age group for the duration of the current registered season. b) Play Down Player Evaluation forms are located on the Fast Tracking and Play Down page under Grassroots Resources on the Ontario Soccer Website. 	<p>Introduction of a standardized play down process similar to the Fast-Tracking process will bring clarity and alleviate special dispensation requests for Grassroots players to play down in inter-club competitions.</p>
<p>Procedure 6.5.1</p>	<p>If a Player is evaluated and approved to play with a younger age group, that Player shall be registered in that age group exclusively. Grassroots Players can only play down one (1) year.</p> <p>Only Technical Directors, who hold either Canada Soccer’s Children’s Diploma or Ontario Soccer’s Technical Director Diploma and can evaluate and sign off on Play Down Player Evaluation forms. These individuals must observe the player in an appropriate environment (game or training) to appropriately complete their assessment.</p>	<p>Introduction of standardized play down process similar to the Fast-Tracking process will bring clarity and alleviate special dispensation requests for Grassroots Competition.</p>
<p>Addition to Procedure 6.5.2</p>	<p>No single Grassroots Player Pools may have more than three (3) players fast-tracked to play-up or down</p>	<p>Re-introduce a cap for grassroots player movement to ensure players are placed in competition environments that are appropriate, use internal</p>



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		training environments to expose players, and manage improper player recruitment and “team” formation.
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SECTION 5 – COMPETITIONS

Procedure 3.5	At the discretion of the District Association, Under-14 to Under-18 teams may be denied registration as a team to enter tournaments.	Support a mechanism for District to support rural communities and/or player groups that are otherwise committed.
Procedure 8.4	Under-12 and Under-13 Teams will require Ontario Soccer approval, for travel to another Province, the USA and/or internationally to comply with Canada Soccer Grassroot Standards.	Management of Tournament play at Under-12 and Under-13 as per Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards
Procedure 8.7	Ontario Soccer has added the following to all travel out of Province or Country: A copy of the Sport Specific travel insurance is required	Sport-specific insurance is essential for traveling outside the province or country because standard travel insurance often excludes injuries from organized sports. It provides coverage for medical costs, liability, equipment, and emergency evacuation, ensuring individuals are protected.
Procedure 8.8	Team Travel to Exhibition Games with U.S. College/University. Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Application to Travel Form (ATF) on CTMS, • Team Roster Report (for team registration verification purposes only), • Written Invitation (on letterhead) from the College/University for the Team College/University Head Coach/Athletic Director, • Date of Games, • Location of Games, • Schedule of competition, • Competition Rules, • Proof of Sport Specific Travel Insurance. 	To better support Ontario-based player recruitment, introduce a procedure that outlines the requirements for Teams travelling to the USA for exhibition games.
Procedure 19	IDENTIFICATION CAMPS 19.1 An Identification Camp is an event arranged by an Organization solely for player identification. Eligibility to Play in Identification Camp	Identification Camps or events are to be treated similarly to Tournaments/Festivals. There is no current procedure text that outlines



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	<p>19.1.1 Each Player must provide the appropriate Ontario Soccer registration identification or that Player will not be allowed to participate.</p> <p>19.1.2 U-10 and younger age groups are not eligible to participate in an Identification Camp.</p> <p>19.2 An Identification Camp Host must be one of the following: Ontario Soccer A District Association An Affiliated Club An Affiliated League An organization that has received approval from the District Association</p> <p>19.3 An Application to Identification Camp (AIC) form must be used when applying for approval.</p> <p>19.4 An insurance certificate indemnifying Ontario Soccer is required. For events that partnered with a Club, the insurance certificate must indemnify the host Club, host District and Ontario Soccer. This certificate needs to be attached within the Application Form.</p> <p>a) Participants will be required to sign the Ontario Soccer Waiver and Release of Liability form. The host must submit the physical forms to the District Association in which the Identification Camp occurred within 30 days following the event.</p>	<p>requirements here and this event type is not currently being tracked.</p>
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SECTION 8 – COACHES

<p>Procedure 3.2.3</p>	<p>Grassroots Squads (Under-13 and younger)</p> <p>3.2.3.1 Each Coach registered with her/his Club and assigned by that Club as the Team Head Coach or as an Assistant Coach to any Grassroots squad playing in a Grassroots District Development Competition (Outdoor, Indoor or Futsal) is required to have completed all coaching qualifications laid out in Canada Soccer’s Grassroots Standards.</p> <p>3.2.3.2 Under-7 and younger squads, playing only in Club Competitions, shall have each Coach registered with her/his Club and assigned by that Club as the Team Head Coach or as an Assistant Coach will have completed all coaching qualifications laid out in Canada Soccer’s Grassroots Standards.</p>	<p>To clarify coaching requirements as per Canada Soccer’s Grassroots Standards</p>
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	The same requirements shall apply to a Club Head Coach serving as a Team Official for a team at any of the above age groups.	
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Non-Game Related Edits

SECTION 1 – GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

All Definitions	There have been multiple changes/edits to the Section 1 Definitions, Procedures 1.1 to Procedure 1.131 . Please review at your convenience.	
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SECTION 2 – REGISTRATION

Procedure 1.1	<p>All individuals must be registered with Ontario Soccer, through an affiliated Club or Member Organization prior to participating in any soccer activity.</p> <p>Registration is a prerequisite for recognition as a member and for eligibility in any sanctioned event or program including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational programs at all ages • Competitive programs • Development programs • Training sessions 	To provide clarity that any player or program participant must be registered to take part in any sanctioned programming or competition.
Procedure 2.8	A Player is registered and insured only after they have completed Ontario Soccer's Registration Process including signing the approved waiver form. and Their registration is valid once it has been entered into Ontario Soccer's registration system. The effective date of registration shall be the day and time that the registration has been entered.	Purpose is to reinforce the fact that insurance coverage is tied to registration in the system.



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Procedures 2.11	A senior Player may register on an unlimited number of teams, with one or more Clubs, only one of which may be a competitive team. d) A player may only have one League1 registration.	Must differentiate between Soccer for Life and Talented Pathway registrations despite cross-border support amendment.
Procedure 4.3	All Club “competitive level” teams which includes, Indoor and Outdoor, at all age levels, competing at the District, Regional, Provincial or National Levels (including tournaments and championships) shall be identified on the field of play by its official Club name and/or emblem and be displayed by its Clubs’ common colours. No third party or affiliated soccer organization markings or colours are permitted to be a part of a Member Club’s branding.	To provide clarity and clearly define what branding guidelines are acceptable and compliant.
Procedure 4.4	Club Licensing a) Ontario Soccer, under the directives of Canada Soccer’s Rules and Regulations shall operate a Club Licensing System. b) Amateur Clubs who operate a youth programme must at minimum requirement, hold a “Quality Soccer” Club Licence. c) Any new Club applying for membership for the first time, who are unable to meet the minimum standard for Club Licensing, the District Association can grant “Interim Membership” by their District Association, as long as the Club applies and receives Club Licensing within one year of acceptance.	Added to ensure Club Licensing is stated as an integral part of a Club’s membership with their District and Ontario Soccer.
Procedure 4.5	Club Reviews - Ontario Soccer and the applicable District Association, or the applicable District Association have the right to conduct financial and/or participant registration reviews upon 30 days’ written notice to the Club. The Club is required to participate fully in the review, and failure to complete the request may result in discipline, fines, or sanctions in accordance with Ontario Soccer’s and/or the applicable District Association’s governing documents.	To clarify the importance of the request by Ontario Soccer or the District Association.
Procedure 5.10	Club Team Officials • A person may not be registered as a Team Head Coach for more than two Competitive teams, youth or senior in any one season. • Each Club Team may have a Team Manager(s), Assistant Manager(s), and Assistant Coach(es), Goalkeeper Coach(es) and Fitness Coach(es) as (a) Team Official(s). Each Team Official must be registered with Ontario Soccer through the registration system and shall be responsible for the Team they are assigned to.	To provide consistency and clarify the number of Head Coach positions an individual may hold on competitive teams.



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	Only Team Officials, meeting the certification requirements for that age division and classification shall be eligible to participate in a game, be listed on the team game day roster, and be present in the team's technical area.	
Procedure 8.7	Grassroots Players are not permitted to "Play Up" or act as a trial player.	As per the Canada Soccer Grassroot standards.
Procedure 13.3 c)	c) The Club shall have seven (7) days maximum to sign the transfer form,	Rules requiring a transfer of a player in good standing by the Club must be time sensitive
Procedure 13.1	A player may not play in any foreign competition while holding an Ontario Soccer registration. A player may transfer their registration from Ontario Soccer to the foreign organization through the ITC Process.	USSF and foreign leagues are not following the correct ITC process or appropriately registering players. This is leading to significant issues with player movement.



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SECTION 6 – LEAGUES

<p>Procedure 2, Table 2.5</p>	<p>In reference to 2.5 Leagues in Ontario, please note the following changes:</p> <p>League Level: Youth District Recreational League has been removed: Districts administer Youth District Competitive Leagues only. Detailed in Procedure 3.0, 3.8</p> <p>League Level: Youth Interlock League has been added and is defined in the Procedure 5.0. This league is administered only by the clubs who are participating in the Interlock.</p> <p>Club teams participating in a Youth District Competitive League must be registered as competitive players.</p> <p>Club teams participating in a Youth Interlock League must be registered as recreational players.</p>	<p>The provide clarification of the local league level competition, now referred to as Interlock.</p>
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SECTION 7 – MATCH OFFICIALS

<p>Procedure 2.1</p>	<p>A Match Official must select the District in which they reside when completing the annual registration process.</p>	<p>Assignors need this information to assign correctly, manage mileage costs when Match Officials from other areas take assignments. This will also help with data collection, planning and setting strategic goals.</p>
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SECTION 8 – COACHES

<p>Procedure 2.3</p>	<p>Ontario Soccer shall host all Ontario Soccer designed program courses and determine the fees to be charged to each participant.</p>	<p>Ontario Soccer is looking to expand and bring in our own coach courses, this is required to accommodate this plan.</p>
<p>Procedure 3.5</p>	<p>A maximum of (5) five team officials can be on the bench for any given match.</p>	<p>Minimize the number of officials on the bench for all games as a standard across the province. Currently there is no maximum.</p>
<p>Procedure 3.2.1.1 and all</p>	<p>The following was added to the Coach requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the Screening requirements of the position. 	<p>Each level Coaching requirements should include a mandatory Screening component to ensure athlete safety and policy requirements.</p>



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Coaching levels		
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Existing Procedures Moved into Policy

Following a comprehensive review of our governing documents, we have transitioned several Operational Procedures into our policy documents to ensure that the principles, rules, and expectations governing Ontario Soccer are clearly defined at the policy level, while reducing redundancy and minimizing the risk of misinterpretation. By elevating these items into policy, we also create a more consistent framework that supports compliance, enhances governance, and ensures our practices reflect current legal standards and organizational requirements.

Moved to Judicial Matters Policy and Guide

Section 12 Discipline
 Section 13 Appeals
 Section 14 Protests
 Section 15 Dispute Resolution
 No section Whistleblower

Move to Risk Management Policy and Guide

No section Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA)
 Section 2 Membership requirements, Terms of Reference and Status

The complete set of new Policy documents are located here: [Governing Documents](#)



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