



PFC 2025-2026 Winter Festival



U8 to U13 Rules

The Pickering Football Club's Winter Festival will be played in accordance with Canada Soccer's Grassroots Standards.

Teams in the U8, U9, U10, U11, and U12 divisions will play a minimum/maximum of 2 games on the day that their respective division is scheduled.

Teams in the U13 division will play a minimum/maximum of 3 games on the day that their respective division is scheduled.

Game scores will not be recorded, nor will standings be kept. In addition, no trophies will be presented. As such, no game protests will be accepted by the Festival Committee.

Team Eligibility

The PFC 2025-2026 Winter Festival is open to teams – boys and girls – in the U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, and U13 age groups.

Teams from outside of the Durham Region Soccer Association must submit an Approved Travel Permit from their respective district association.

Team entry/acceptance cannot be confirmed until payment has been received. For teams outside of the DRSA team acceptance cannot be confirmed until the Approved Travel Permit has been received.

A team representative is required to check in at the Festival Desk no less than 45 minutes prior to the team's first scheduled game. The following documents must be presented at Team Check In:

- Festival Master Roster (1 copy)
- Team Officials' and Players' Ontario Soccer Books/Cards/Electronic Rosters
- District Approved/Stamped Player Pool or Squad Roster
- Approved Travel Permit (for non DRSA teams)

Teams that withdraw before the Entry Deadline of December 11, 2025, will receive a full refund less a \$50 administrative fee. Teams that withdraw after the deadline will forfeit the full amount of the entry fee.

TEAM / PLAYER REGISTRATION

All players and teams must be registered with the Ontario Soccer Association.

Teams **must be** registered as:

- *2025-2026 Ontario Soccer Indoor Season*

All players on a team must be registered for the same season. Players registered to a division other than their respective team's registration will not be accepted.

Playing Format

Age Division	Playing Format
U8/U9	5 v 5 (including GK)
U10/U11	7 v 7 (including GK)
U12/U13	9 v 9 (including GK)

The team designated as the home team on the schedule will be responsible for providing the game ball.

In the U8, U9, U10, U11, and U12 divisions, a Size 4 ball will be used.

In the U13 division, a Size 5 ball will be used.

Maximum Squad Size

Age Division	Roster Size
U8/U9	Minimum of 7 / Maximum of 12
U10/U11	Minimum of 9 / Maximum of 14
U12/U13	Minimum of 11 / Maximum of 18

Game Duration

Age Division	Game Length
U8/U9	2 X 20 minute halves 5 minute half time break
U10/U11	2 X 25 minute halves 5 minute half time break
U12	2 X 30 minute halves 5-minute half time break
U13*	40 minutes (no halves) No half time break or change of ends

*Where there are 3 teams in a U13 age division, teams will play 2 games of 2 x 30 minute halves with a 5 minute half time break

There is no added time at the end of either half.

If either team does not have the stipulated minimum number of players available at the start of the game or at any time during the game, the game shall be shortened to 20 minutes. Referees will be instructed to strictly apply this rule.

Maximum Playing Time

Teams in the U8, U9, U10, U11, and U12 divisions will play a maximum of 2 games.

Teams in the U13 division will play a maximum of 3 games

Age Division	Game Length/Substitutions
U8/U9	80 minutes per player
U10/U11	100 minutes per player
U12/U13	120 minutes per player

Coaches are required to give fair playing time to all players, including goalkeepers, and thus ensure that no player exceeds the permitted maximum minutes per day.

A player can only play for one team in the Festival.

Game Sheets

All teams must submit a completed Winter Festival Game Sheet to the referee prior to the start of the game. Teams will be sent Festival Game Sheets the week prior to the festival.

Throw-Ins/Pass-Ins

The U8, U9, U10, and U11 divisions will use Pass-Ins or Dribble-Ins for balls that have crossed the touch line. The U12 and U13 divisions will use Throws-Ins, as per the Laws of the Game, for balls that have crossed the touch line.

Goal Kicks – Retreat Line

In the U8, U9, U10, and U11 divisions the defending team must be behind the retreat line as per the Small Sided Laws. In the U12 and U13 divisions, there will be no retreat line.

Free Kicks

In the U8, U9, U10, and U11 divisions, free kicks, with the exception of penalty kicks, are indirect. This also includes kickoffs, corner kicks and goal kicks.

In the U12 and U13 divisions, all free kicks are indirect or direct as per IFAB

Offside

The U8, U9, U10, and U11 divisions will not have offsides.

The U12 and U13 divisions will play offside as per the Laws of the Game.

Kick-offs

Ball does not have to be played forward on a kick-off

There will be no coin toss to start the game. In all divisions the Home Team will kick-off to start the game, and the Away Team will kick-off to start the 2nd half (if applicable).

Substitutions

There is no limit to the number of player substitutions during a game.

Substitutions may be made for:

- Goals
- Goal Kicks
- Replacing an injured player
- Half Time
- Team's own throw in / piggyback

Discipline

The Pickering Football Club's Winter Festival will follow the Ontario Soccer's Discipline Policy for dealing with discipline issues. The Pickering Football Club will appoint a Discipline Chair to review and rule on matters of discipline.

Appeal Process/Protests

In the Pickering Football Club's Winter Festival there are no standings or playoff games. As such, there is no appeal of a game score.

Appeals of referee decisions will not be accepted by the Festival Discipline Chair.

Any player or team official receiving a red card will not be able to participate in any of the team's remaining festival games.

Appeals of discipline matters – yellow/red cards – must be submitted in writing by the Team Manager and submitted to the Festival Discipline Chair within 30 minutes of the conclusion

of the game in question. Ontario Soccer rules and regulations will be followed in the review of all appeals.

Referee Fees

U8/U9: \$20

U10/U11: \$25

U12/U13: \$30

**Referee fees are included in the festival registration fee*