



**ONTARIO  
SOCCER**  
EST. 1901

# **2026 – 2027 Operational Procedures**

## **Section 8 – Coaches**

## SECTION 8 - COACHES

### PROCEDURE 1.0 - Learning Facilitators For Coaching Clinics

- 1.1 The selection criteria considered for those who wish to apply for a Learning Facilitator with Ontario Soccer's Coach Development Program can be found [here](#). Refer to Guide to Coaching and Learning Facilitation for more information.

### PROCEDURE 2.0 – Course Fees

- 2.1 Grassroots Coach Education course fees charged to host organizations shall be in accordance with Ontario Soccer's Grassroots Coach Education Hosting Guide
- 2.2 Ontario Soccer shall host all Advanced Coach Education Program courses, as appointed by Canada Soccer, and determine the fees to be charged to each participant.
- 2.3 Ontario Soccer shall host all Ontario Soccer designed program courses and determine the fees to be charged to each participant.

### PROCEDURE 3.0 - Coach Certification Requirements

Refer to Guide To Coaching and Learning Facilitation for detailed information [here](#).

- 3.1 Each Team Head Coach and each Assistant Coach must be registered by their Club in Ontario Soccer's registration system.
- 3.1.2 A person may not be registered as a Competitive Team Head Coach per season for more than two (2) outdoor teams at any one (1) time.
- 3.2 **Minimum Coach Certification Requirements**
- 3.2.1 **Under-14 and Older Teams (including Senior Teams)**
- 3.2.1.1 Each member Club must ensure at least one (1) Head Coach or Assistant Coach registering a team in one (1) of the following leagues or cup competitions:
- Provincial, Regional and District Competitive League (Outdoor, Indoor or Futsal)
  - Ontario Cup Competition - Outdoor, Indoor or Futsal
- Is required to complete:
- Soccer for Life (and/or higher licensing voluntarily or as required by an individual league or cup competition).
  - Respect in Sport certification;
  - Making Head Way in Soccer
  - Both Making Ethical Decisions & Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation
  - NCCP Emergency Action Plan
  - NCCP Rule of Two
  - The screening requirements of the position
- 3.2.1.2 The same requirement stated in Procedure 3.2.1.1 applies to a Club Head Coach serving as a Team Official for a team in any of the above Leagues or cup competitions.



**3.2.2 OPDL Teams**

Each Coach registered with their organization and assigned by that organization as the Team Head Coach or as an Assistant Coach to an OPDL team is required to have certification in accordance with OPDL Operational Rules.

**3.2.3 Grassroot Squads (Under-13 and younger)**

**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 a Grassroots squad playing in a Grassroots District Development Competition (Outdoor, Indoor or Futsal) is required to have completed all coaching qualifications as detailed in Canada Soccer's [Grassroots Standards](#).

**3.2.3.2** Under 7 and younger squads, playing only in internal 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.

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.

**3.2.4 Under-7, 8 and 9 squads are Fundamentals**

**3.2.4.1** Each Coach registered with her/his Club and assigned by that Club as the Team Head Coach or as an Assistant Coach to an Under-8 squad playing in an Under-8 District Festival (Outdoor, Indoor or Futsal) is required to have completed all coaching qualifications as detailed in Canada Soccer's [Grassroots Standards](#).

The same requirement applies to a Club Head Coach serving as a Team Official for a team in any of the above youth Festivals.

**3.2.5 Under-6 and below Squads**

**3.2.5.1** Each Coach registered with her/his Club and assigned by that Club as the team Head Coach or as an Assistant Coach to a Grassroots squad playing in one (1) of the following Grassroots Leagues:

Grassroots District Development League (Outdoor, Indoor or Futsal) is required to have completed all coaching qualifications as detailed in Canada Soccer's [Grassroots Standards](#).

The same requirement applies to a Club Head Coach serving as a Team Official for a squad in any of the above youth Leagues.


**3.3** All Youth teams regardless of the competition must have a minimum of one (1) registered Team Official on the bench at all times. If a team does not have a registered Team Official on the bench prior to the game or at any time during the game, the game will be abandoned and result awarded to the opposition.

**3.4** Each Club Team may have (a) Team Manager(s), Assistant Manager(s), Assistant Coach(es), Goalkeeper Coach(es), and Fitness Coach(es) as (a) Team Official(s).

**3.5** A maximum of five (5) team officials can be on the bench for any given match.



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