



HIGH PERFORMANCE YOUTH SOCCER DEVELOPMENT IN ONTARIO

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

An [Introductory guide for Ontario Soccer Clubs](#) document contains an overview of the OPDL. You can also read more about the evolution of the OPDL at the [About OPDL](#) page.

As we receive questions related to the OPDL, we will be posting them below on this page. You will not receive a direct reply to your question. This page will be updated every Tuesday with new responses to unanswered questions that we receive.

Newly added questions will be in **red** font.

The answers to questions are divided into five categories:

1. General
2. RFP process
3. Costs and fees
4. Criteria (i.e., technical, organizational, facilities)

If you would like to ask a question please send an email to opdl@soccer.on.ca.

GENERAL:

May 21, 2013 - What if two or more clubs/organizations want to get together to create an OPDL bid? Could a satellite or affiliate organization be created as an off-shoot of one of those clubs/organizations? What would be required for documentation?

Clubs may merge in order to establish the capacity needed to lodge an OPDL license application. Clubs may also collaborate to facilitate the establishment of a new club that in turns lodges an application. In both instances, the resultant clubs must be affiliated to the OSA by their respective OSA District bodies and remain in good standing therein. Organisational accountabilities and standards for OPDL entry exist for clubs where inter-club capital financing relationships exist, which can be found in sections 5.1 and 5.2 on P7 of the OPDL Request of Proposal for League Entry document.

April 25, 2013 - Are there a minimum number of OPDL licenses that will be granted for 2014?

No minimum number of OPDL licenses has been specified. Such a number depends on the geographical location of license holders and the basic critical mass of teams needed to make a League viable.

May 21, 2013 - Do we have to be a Gold Standard Club Excellence Club to enter the OPDL RFP process.

No.

May 21, 2013 - Is the substitution rule for the League going to be once a player is removed from the game that player cannot enter again during the remainder of that game?

Specifics relating to League operations will be built over the summer of 2013 and released to clubs following the announcement of successful license applications in October 2013. This will include matters such as player substitutions other games rules variations, discipline protocol, and player movement policy.

April 25, 2013 - When will more details on League rules be released, particularly things like Player Transfer Policy?

Details on league operations (or 'Terms Of League Operations') will be developed over the summer months of 2013 and will include such matters as player transfer policy, discipline, fines, etc. These will be released following the announcement of successful 2014 OPDL entrants in Fall 2013.

April 25, 2013 - What if I prepare to enter OPDL and my application is unsuccessful?

Applicants should prepare OPDL license applications on the full understanding that rejection of their application is a possibility. To that end, they should understand that staff, program changes and other resources invested as part of their application should not be made without the contingency of OPDL application rejection in mind. It is hoped that clubs will see such investments as worthwhile enhancement of their technical programs and aim to implement regardless of OPDL entry or not, particularly if they are planning to reapply for OPDL entry for 2016. However, if clubs feel they cannot maintain such enhancements without OPDL involvement, they should ensure they are conditional, transferable or can be actively disposed if their OPDL application for 2014 is not successful.

April 25, 2013 - How many players are expected to be supported under the Hardship Program?

One player per 1st team per each gender age group has been budgeted to be covered under the Hardship Program. However, this does not mean one Hardship Program player is automatically designated per team. Hardship recipients will be decided based on applications received and overall funds available for that year. Multiple players from one team could qualify for the Program if deemed appropriate.

April 25, 2013 - How will clubs apply for player support under the Hardship Program?

Program details will be released after OPDL licenses have been announced in October 2013, at which time OPDL clubs will be asked to submit applications for players who they deem qualify.

April 25, 2013 - Can OSA-Recognised Non-Club Academies (ORNCA) apply for the OPDL?

Currently, ORNCAs have been granted certain benefits and rights in the new ORNCA membership category recently created by the OSA. Entry into OSA competitions such as the OPDL is not a current benefit or right. Discussion regarding ORNCAs role and place in the OSA are ongoing. The OSA is inviting ORNCA organisations to engage in the RFP process, notwithstanding their current membership status don't not permit League entry. The final decision will be made by the OSA board at the September 2013 board meeting.

April 30, 2013 - We are looking to do a presentation to our organization on OPDL. What content can we use?

Organizations are welcome to download the [OPDL presentation](#) from Soccer Conference 2013 for their use. In addition organizations can share i) [An Introductory Guide for Ontario Soccer Clubs to the OPDL](#) as well as the ii) [Request for Proposals for League Entry](#) process. These documents provide valuable information for potential OPDL organizations.

April 30, 2013 - Have specific showcase tournaments/ possible tournament travel dates already been finalized for 2014?

The dates for 2014 showcase tournaments will be finalized and released after the announcement of the successful applicants in Fall 2013.

May 7, 2013 - Will OPDL organizations be required to have open tryouts?

Yes, all OPDL organizations will be required to have open tryouts.

July 9, 2013 - Our organization generally runs tryouts during the last two weeks of September; however the final acceptance notification deadline for OPDL is October 1st. The timing of the information and the uncertainty about the league in which our U13's will be participating makes proper marketing of our U13 program problematic. Has there been any consideration for expediting the acceptance timeline to help clubs provide better information to their members? Or is there a way the OPDL clubs can be mandated a tryout window so that everyone is on equal footing?

Unfortunately, we cannot expedite the license approval process. However, it is our intention for 2016 to bring the RFP process three months forward so that licenses are awarded in July instead of October. We realize that this initial launch year is an exception and will create potential difficulties. Finally more information on the possibility for a standardized tryout period will be released in the fall.

May 7, 2013 - Are there any boundaries for where a player lives versus where he/she can play?

Currently there are no boundaries set in regard to player travel to an OPDL organization. A decision will be made in regard to appropriate travel for players to and from an OPDL organization. That decision will be communicated in the OPDL Operations Manual and will also be outlined within the OPDL Licensing agreement that will be shared with successful OPDL organizations following the September 2013 OSA Board of Directors meeting.

May 7, 2013 - How will the existing District, Regional and Provincial Programs fit with the OPDL?

The OSA is currently reviewing high performance programming at the District, Regional and Provincial levels for 2014 and beyond. This review will ensure that all development options within the Talented Pathway of LTPD provide aspiring players with the appropriate opportunities to maximize their full potential. More information on the outcome of that review and options for those programs will be released Fall 2013.

May 14, 2013 - Can a player registered for the OPDL participate in high school soccer?

This question will be answered in the OPDL Technical Operations Manual that will be released in early October for successful License holders.

June 11, 2013 – Our 2001's have booked an international trip for 2014. If we get an OPDL license, do we have to cancel the trip or can we still go?

The trip cannot interfere with the OPDL schedule. If it did interfere in anyway then the trip would have to be cancelled or the organization's license forfeited.

June 11, 2013 - Within the periodized calendar there are futsal games marked for Saturdays during the winter training period. Does this imply that it is the suggested (or mandatory) game for clubs to participate in? Further to this, what restrictions, if any will be put on who OPDL can play during the winter and spring period before league play?

Futsal is not mandatory during the winter period. It is very effective manner to continue programming and skill development throughout the winter, especially in smaller spaces since we all know the costs of facilities during this time of year. The winter and spring period should be a combination of period for rest and pre-season preparation, further detail will be covered in the Technical Operations Manual that will be completed by October.

July 16, 2013 - Will the OPDL shut down for the Easter long weekend, like it will for the summer long weekends?

We have not yet made any decisions about shutting down for any long weekend that falls during the league season. Further information will be released after the announcement of the successful organizations awarded an OPDL license.

June 11, 2013 – I have heard that OPDL teams are going to be feeder teams to Toronto FC Academy but how would that work if TFC is in the OPDL? Is there a clear and transparent plan as to how the Toronto FC Academy fits into the OPDL?

Discussions as regards TFC's role in high performance youth soccer, including its involvement in the OPDL, are ongoing.

RFP PROCESS:

June 18, 2013 - Is the proposed two year draft annual budget for OPDL entry for your organization in 2014 and 2015, including proposed team fees, costs and other non-fee revenue sources expected to be an OPDL specific program-type budget or a full level club-wide budget reflecting the entire annual operating budget of the organization applying for franchise status?

The two year draft annual budget is expected to be a full level organization-wide budget.

April 25, 2013 - What assistance can/will the OSA provide for clubs putting their applications together?

In the interests of equity and fairness, no direct assistance will be unilaterally offered by the OSA to any particular club in the compilation of their OPDL license application. The OSA will, however, be posting information to this website regularly to assist clubs build their applications. All questions lodged through opdl@soccer.on.ca will also be answered here. Finally, the OSA will holding four open Q&A sessions in early May to provide further applications assistance in an equitable, transparent manner.

April 25, 2013 - What if I need some days of grace in completing my application, will there be dispensation given beyond the 31st July 2013 deadline?

No days of grace will be offered under any circumstances. The deadline 31st July 2013 is hard and unmovable.

April 25, 2013 - What if I haven't hired the staff yet that I need to qualify? Will conditional employment offers suffice for the purpose of the RFP?

Applications that have required staff already in place will be looked on favourably. In the instance where new hires will need to be made in order to meet OPDL standards, conditional offers^[1] to a named candidate, with agreed salary and terms of employment, will be deemed acceptable.

May 14, 2013 - Does the list of an organization's non-technical personnel only include the senior staff or should it include all staff?

An organization should provide the required information for all their non-technical personnel.

June 18, 2013 - We are required to provide copies of signed contract for non-technical staff. Does this include volunteer team managers for both rep & OPDL teams?

No, non-technical staff includes office staff such as administrative assistant, bookkeeper, sponsorship manager and so on.

July 16, 2013 - Are coaching contracts required for potential OPDL assistant coaches and goalkeeper coaches to be shown within the RFP?

Contracts are required for all paid coaches and/or technical staff. You must either include them in your RFP application that you submit or make them available at the time of your site visit (if selected to progress to that point).

June 11, 2013 - For the Police check submission for volunteers and the coaching certification requirements, do you require a copy of the actual certification/police check validation, or can we just provide a listing of the top certifications obtained by coaches and the police checks?

For the submission of your RFP application, a listing of coaching certifications and police checks can be provided. However, for the site visit, it is necessary that all original CPIC documents and NCCP transcripts are available for viewing.

May 14, 2013 - Are signed agreements required to be in place by July 31st for 3rd parties (i.e., medical /health providers) or can it be contingent that they can be completed at a later date?

Our preference would be for signed agreements to be in place at the 31st of July. Where this is not possible agreements should be drafted with identified parties outlined as part of the RFP Submission, with commitment to the execute the agreement upon successfully securing an OPDL License.

June 11, 2013 - With regards to section 5.1, and Third Party Agreements - does this include agreements between independent contractors and the organization, for example, the proposed physiotherapist or fitness coach?

No. This refers to Agreements with regard to organization ownership or financing agreements that exercises organization control to a degree. It does not mean contracts or agreements with regard to organization operations.

June 11, 2013 – Do Capital Licensing Agreements include, for instance, field contracts?

Yes, in the instance that the club has licensed control to operate and/or enhance the field. Basic permits on fields do not qualify. A licensing agreement on, for example, an indoor dome over multiple years where the organization will be injecting long term capital investment, does qualify.

May 21, 2013 - Is it acceptable to send a letter of reference from our external auditor in lieu of audited financial statements?

No.

April 25, 2013 - Will there be a Confidentiality Agreement for Assessment & Selection Committee members?

Yes, such an agreement will be required to be signed and adhered to by all Committee members.

April 25, 2013 - Specifically what are OPDL clubs' obligations with regard to development and recreational matrix implementation?

OPDL clubs are expected to be early adopters and leaders in LTPD across their entire soccer operations. At the very least they must be compliant with base level requirements the OSA has of all its members, which is the mandatory adoption of program design in U8-U12 competitive programs laid out in the OSA's [Development Matrix](#) by 2014. Adoption of program standards for clubs' recreational programs (including broad House League) as laid out in the OSA's [Recreational Matrix](#) must be in place by 2016 in OPDL clubs.

April 25, 2013 - If there are errors/omissions in a lodged application, will the applicant be advised as such before the deadline closes, so they can fix/amend?

No. Applications received will be deemed final and complete and assessed on that basis. Amendments to applications once submitted are not permitted.

May 21, 2013 - If we make mistakes on our application and therefore do not get granted a license, will there be an appeal process?

There is currently no appeal process in place for 2014/15 license applications.

May 21, 2013 - What is the make-up of the Assessment and Selection Committee? Are there any geographical specifications for the Committee? What are the conflict of interest guidelines?

The Executive Director of the OSA will appoint five members to the Assessment and Selection Committee. Two of them will be staff members and three will be independent and volunteers. There are no residency restrictions for independent Committee members.

'Independence' in this matter is defined as not being either employed by or an officer of the OSA or any of its affiliates. Independent Committee members are not required to be from the soccer community. As part of the process of appointment, the 'independence' of Committee members will be clarified as part of recruitment due diligence.

August 6, 2013 – How can we be certain the sensitive information we make available will be handled with the utmost discretion by the members of the Assessment and Selection Committee?

Caution is our concern as well. The five members of the Assessment and Selection Committee have already signed Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA's). An NDA creates a confidential relationship between submitting organizations and the Assessment and Selection Committee in order to protect any type of confidential and proprietary information. As such, an NDA protects nonpublic business information.

June 25, 2013 - Once the July 31st application deadline has passed, will the OSA make public the names of the organizations that have submitted an application?

No. The OSA will only release the names of the organizations that have been granted OPDL licenses and that will be done October 1st.

April 25, 2013 - If more than 24 applications fulfill all the standards, how are successful applications determined?

In the event of more applications meeting standards laid out than available licenses, licenses will be awarded based on an assessment framework that weights criteria as deemed important and scores application based on the collective strength of their applications. Weighting structure on criteria will be released before the application window opens on 7th June 2013.

April 30, 2013 - What is the proposed "physical" audit process for organizations being considered for franchise status post the July 31st application deadline?

After the July 31st application deadline, validated applicants will be contacted by August 2nd in order to set up and confirm a date for Assessment & Selection Committee representatives to physically visit the organization. These visits are scheduled to occur between August 5th and 21st (approximately). The Assessment & Selection Committee will conduct final assessments and recommendations over the remainder of August 2013. OPDL license holders for 2014/15 will be presented at the OSA's Board of Directors meeting to be held September 21st- 22nd. The announcement of the selected organizations for the inaugural OPDL season of 2014 will be made on or about October 1st.

June 25, 2013 - Will the weighted evaluation model be released publicly to the organizations that applied? This question pertains to the overall "grading" scheme during the evaluation process once the RFP is submitted.

We have released the broad weighting system but will not be releasing detailed weighting to ensure all questions and information prepared by you are treated with a high degree of importance.

May 21, 2013 - Are the assessment scores of successful applicants (i.e., those granted OPDL licenses) going to be made public?

No.

May 21, 2013 - After applicants are accepted and granted licenses, what happens if one or more of those organizations granted a license cannot fulfill their commitment to the standards?

This contingency will be managed in line with broader policy that has yet to be set with regard to lack of compliance from OPDL license holders. However, such policy will have provisions for the expulsion of license holders in instances of repeated and/or gross violation of League rules/standards.

May 21, 2013 - Once the initial license holders have been selected and they have gone through the first two years, do they have to go through the entire RFP process again?

No. However, all OPDL license holders will go through an extensive review process, at the end of which the decision may be made by either or both parties not to renew the license. If both parties (club and League) are satisfied with the club's OPDL involvement to date, licenses are renewed without the RFP entry process required for new League entrants.

May 21, 2013 - Once organizations have their licenses and have moved forward with their OPDL programming will there be any requirement for them to self-report or will the OSA do all the assessment through inspections?

Ongoing assessment will occur both as self-reporting and inspection. Further details will be released in fall 2013 with the announcement of the 2014 license holders.

June 11, 2013 –In 2015 the OPDL will include U13 and U14 age groups. In 2016 it will include U13, U14 and U15. In 2016, after the initial two year moratorium on new OPDL licenses ends, will organizations be able to field teams at only U15 and not U13 or U14 or will they need to have teams in all current OPDL age groups?

If you choose to field teams in the older age groups you will need to field teams in the younger. For example, if you are proceeding to apply for a U15 and U16 age group licenses for 2016 and 2017 you must also field U13 and U14 teams. However you could decide to not progress with the addition of U15/U16 age groups and play in the OPDL at a U13 and U14 level only.

COSTS AND FEES:

April 25, 2013 - Does the estimate of \$4000-\$4500 include League fees?

Yes.

April 25, 2013 - What if I can run the program at less than \$4000-\$4500 per player?

Great! Clubs should run their program at whatever costs they are faced with and set team fees as competitively as possible.

April 25, 2013 - Is the \$4000-\$4500 per player the fee the player will be paying to the club?

No, this is the estimated 'ballpark' cost per player the club will experience in running an OPDL team and the annual training program required as part of it. The fee the club charges to the player (or team) is a matter for the club to decide. If clubs have the discretionary revenue to subsidize OPDL costs to their players, they are free to do so.

April 25, 2013 - Are League fees for Reserve Grade the same as for First Team?

Yes. This is done to prevent substantial billing problems that would occur if fees were not the same and to allow players to freely mitigate between 1st and reserve teams on a week-to-week basis.

May 7, 2013 - What will it cost per team to participate in the OPDL?

<i>Organisational Staff (as required by OPDL)</i>	<i>\$41,683</i>
<i>Training facilities (year-round, as required by OPDL)</i>	<i>\$15,250</i>
<i>Kit & equipment (match day & training kit but not boots)</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>
<i>Game Day Costs (refreshments, medical supplies, etc.)</i>	<i>\$7,560</i>
<i>OPDL League Fees</i>	<i>\$9,000</i>
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<i>Estimated Expenditure</i>	<i>\$81,493</i>

It is important to note that the figures listed here are only guides. There will be great variability in these numbers between organizations. Each applying organization must use due diligence when coming up with a budget that fits the needs of their prospective OPDL program. The revenue listed is based on team fee assumptions of \$4,500. Also, organizational staff costs include provisions for OPDL-mandated administrative staff requirements, as well as technical, but do not include any extra club overhead allowance.

May 21, 2013 - When is the \$9000 team fee due? If you have paid the \$9000 but you cannot field a time, what happens to that money?

Specifies on when League fees fall due will be issued after 1st October 2013 as part of broader Terms of League Operations.

June 25, 2013 - Will an OPDL organization be able to charge players that make its team but that do not reside in the community of that OPDL organization a higher registration fee than a player that makes its team from within the community's boundaries?

While each OPDL organization sets its own registration fee rates, we would expect to see fair and transparent fees administered for all players regardless of their place of residence.

June 11, 2013 - What are the rules around clubs/organizations selling team sponsorships?

Clubs may sell non-exclusive sponsorships that include their OPDL assets as they see fit. However, some overarching rights for OPDL sponsors may be required of teams that do not unreasonably conflict with local club sponsor benefits.

June 11, 2013 - Will the OPDL be soliciting sponsors?

Yes it will.

June 11, 2013 - Will the OPDL be mandating that we use particular vendors/sponsors of theirs?

The OPDL will be respectful of existing legacy sponsorships and equipment agreements that extend into clubs' OPDL teams. However, when League-wide sponsorships are struck, the League may ask its license holders to comply with certain terms/sponsor rights assuming they do not unreasonably put license holders in breach of contract with their core sponsors.

June 11, 2013 - Which assets does the OPDL control?

Currently none. OPDL is a League program that moving forward will sit on the Balance Sheet of the Ontario Soccer Association.

June 11, 2013 - If an OPDL sponsorship is sold, do the teams get a share of that revenue? Will the OPDL be responsible for the activation of those sponsors?

There is no sponsorship revenue-sharing model currently in place for ODL sponsorships, although it would be expected that OPDL sponsors will bring benefits that license holders will benefit from. License holders are expected to leverage OPDL value through the capturing or enhancing of its own local sponsorships.

June 11, 2013 - Will club/organization exclusive sponsors get precedence over any sponsors the OPDL might sign? Specifically, will we be required to cover the logos of our own jersey sponsors or be required to promote sponsors that may conflict with our existing partnerships?

OPDL will not be selling premium shirt sponsorships and considers this a key asset for license holders to offer their local sponsors. Other logo placement on OPDL jerseys in ancillary locations (such as sleeve, for example) may be requested of license holders. All sponsors will also need to agree to non-exclusivity. That is to say that they understand and agree that competing companies may be sponsoring other OPDL clubs/teams or the League itself.

June 11, 2013 - Will OPDL sponsor logos be part of license holder uniforms?

This has not been decided yet but will probably be the case.

June 11, 2013 - Does the OPDL have a potential marketing plan yet?

A significant amount of strategic marketing work was undertaken by the OSA as part of the business planning for the League, undertaken earlier this year. Specifically marketing program design will be undertaken and implemented between now and League launch in April 2014.

July 2, 2013 - We are trying to understand the game day costs (\$7,560) mentioned in the briefing document. Please provide the type of costs include in this calculation. Also, for the same costs, if the OSA/OPDL is providing the first aid for match days, why would medical supplies be required from the team (per game day costs)?

Game day costs are taken to include medical supplies and refreshments/meal costs that the team may endure on game day. These costs are at the discretion of the team/club. OPDL will have medical staff at site for medical attention with regard to management of game injuries. Teams should, however, bring their own medical first aid supplies for minor injuries and post-match medical care that may be required.

CRITERIA:

May 14, 2013 - Is an OPDL franchise required to provide a team at both genders in all available age brackets?

Yes, an OPDL License holder must provide teams in both genders for the first 2 year license period (2014 and 2015) unless they are an existing single gender club.

April 30, 2013 - Will the same venues be used for both gender teams on match days to allow potential coach sharing between squads?

Where possible, the League will look to schedule rounds with either adjacent age groups (e.g., BU13 & BU14) or both genders of the same age group (e.g., GU13 & BU13). Specifics will be decided once OPDL licence agreements have been granted in Fall 2013.

June 25, 2013 - Is there a minimum sized area requirement for outdoor training (i.e., half full field vs. full field)?

It would be expected that for outdoor training one OPDL team would have a minimum of one half of a full field or the equivalent of that in usable green space.

July 2, 2013 - For Indoor training, the requirement for a gymnasium is 50' x 100'. Bubbles/Fixed structures indicate the size must be equivalent to a mini-field. According to the Field guide, this is 30m by 40m (significantly larger than the 50 ft by 100 ft). Given the difference, what is the correct training area required for non-gymnasium training (50 ft x 100 ft/30m by 40m)?

We would like to see players training in the best environment possible. A 30m by 40m indoor field would be preferable to a standard gymnasium facility of 50 ft by 100 ft..

April 25, 2013 - What specific volunteers need CPIC screening?

All non-casual volunteers who have defined volunteer roles in the club should have valid CPIC screening. This means volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, managers, convenors and Board/committee members, etc. It does not mean casual help used for event support, etc.

May 14, 2013 - Who can fill the role of the paid individual or organization that is responsible for the treatment and prevention of injuries for all OPDL players?

This role can be filled by either a diagnosing healthcare provider, such as a licensed physician or chiropractor, or it can be filled by a non-diagnosing healthcare provider, such as a registered physiotherapist or certified athletic therapist. This information is captured in detail on page 11 of the OPDL Request for Proposals for League Entry document.

June 4, 2013 – The sport science and medicine portions of the OPDL standards for play are going to be a challenge for us because of the added costs they brings to the final price tag. We need to be economical without falling short on those standards. What are the basic requirements for the sport science and medicine components in order to fulfill the standard?

For the sport science component, the organization must have a physical training plan established and led by a paid and certified fitness professional – be that an individual or a party.

For the sport medicine component, the organization must have a paid individual or party that is responsible for the injury prevention and treatment of all your OPDL players. During training, the organization must have an injury treatment protocol in place for training sessions or games to deal with injury management. This should involve appropriately qualified first aid personnel on site. It is not a requirement to have one paid individual working with each OPDL team. An athletic therapist, for example, can work with all OPDL teams if those OPDL teams train at the same time and in the same location (i.e, squad training).

June 11, 2013 – It says that each organization have an injury treatment protocol for training sessions and for games. Are there minimum standards/requirement for this protocol (i.e., should every player have baseline concussion testing and/or have completed a preseason physical?)

While there are essential components we would expect to see - like a program for the prevention and treatment of head trauma - it is up to each organization to determine the scope of their protocols around prevention and treatment of injuries.

May 21, 2013 - What specifically are debt and current ratios?

An organisation's debt ratio is its total liabilities divided by its total unrestricted assets and is a measure of long term solvency. An organisation's current ratio is its total current assets divided by its total current liabilities and is a measure of short term solvency and working capital management.

April 25, 2013 - What about privacy re sending actual Employment Agreements?

The OSA acknowledges sensitivity that may exist in sending full employment agreements of staff as part of the RFP application. In instances where there is particular sensitivity to this, the OSA will agree to document inspection and validation as part of an on-site visit that will be required of all shortlisted licence applicants.

July 16, 2013 - We deem some of the information requested as confidential and do not wish to send it as part of our application. We are willing, however, for it to be inspected by the OPDL Committee if needed. Is this acceptable?

All information requested to be included in the RFP document must be forwarded by the July 31st deadline. Failure to do so will result in invalidation and disqualification of your application. The only circumstances where inspection of information is acceptable is circumstances where release of information is unlawful and places the organization in legal breach. Should such instances be the case, organizations must detail this specifically in their application. If such is granted, the information required must still be made available in full, if and when the organization is visited by the OPDL Assessment & Selection Committee as part of its due diligence.

April 25, 2013 - Are the same standards applied to Reserve League as are to First Team?

Yes. Reserve team players are expected to be intrinsically involved in the training program that the 1st team are. 1st team and reserve team players are all deemed 'OPDL players' and are subject to the same quality of development program. This is deemed essential to allow week-to-week migration of players between 1st team and reserve team squads.

May 7, 2013 - Is having a team in the reserve team league a mandatory pre-condition for securing a team spot in the OPDL?

No, a reserve team in the reserve team league is not a mandatory pre-condition.

July 9, 2013 - We have some concern about the Reserve League because all of our budgeting has been based on the assumption that our organization will be able to run a Reserve Team to share costs and therefore minimize the impact on our fees. How soon will we get assurances regarding the existence of the Reserve League? It's imperative that we release the proper fee information to our members and important that we are able to have accurate budget projections in order to properly manage the league.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide any assurances at the current time. We first have to consider who has applied, and whether or not they are planning to enter a team in the Reserve League. Therefore, further details on the Reserve League will not be released until the fall once the OPDL License holders are confirmed.

June 18, 2013 - What is the minimum coaching license standard to coach in the Reserve League of the OPDL?

First team and reserve team squads should train together as an overall squad of players. To that end, only one National B head coach is needed to manage the group training, with the help of the appropriate number of assistant coaches (who must be Pre-B qualified) and GK coach support. What is very important is that all OPDL players receive the same quality of programming from the organization's technical staff.

May 14, 2013 - Can another soccer organization/club be designated as an OPDL franchise's reserve team provider or must the reserve team only come from the OPDL franchise itself?

No. The reserve team must come from the OPDL License holder directly.

April 25, 2013 - Can OPDL Reserve Teams play in regional leagues?

The reason we are offering an OPDL Reserve league is to give clubs the opportunity to offer the benefits of the OPDL environment to a greater number of players. We currently see the Reserve League as a stand alone league, and do not see OPDL reserve teams playing in Regional Leagues.

April 30, 2013 - Is the Club Head Coach/Technical Director under all circumstances different from the Team Head Coach?

While the role of Club Head Coach (or Technical Director) is different from the role of Team Head Coach, it is possible that the CHC/TD could serve as a Head Coach for a team on game day. Note: girls' teams must have either a female Head Coach or a female Assistant Coach. Assistant Coaches must have a minimum Pre-B Assessment coaching level (or signed up to take the Pre-B in 2014).

April 30, 2013 - Is there a male and a female Club Head Coach required from 2014 onwards?

There is no requirement for a club to have separate male and female Club Head Coaches. Note: girls' teams must have either a female Head Coach or a female Assistant Coach. Assistant Coaches must have a minimum Pre-B Assessment coaching level (or signed up to take the Pre-B in 2014).

May 14, 2013 - If a coach working in the U8 to U12 development stage has a Pre-B or higher license completed under the old system, but not the new LTPD course, are they required to take the LTPD course?

Yes. The coaching requirement is for U8 – U12 coaches is to complete the development stage appropriate course under the new CSA Community Coaching Curriculum, introduced in 2012.

June 11, 2013 - For stage-appropriate licensing, for coaches U8-U12, must they all be compliant as of 2013 or 2014?

To reference the Development Matrix, U8-U12 stage-appropriate coaching certification is mandatory in 2014 (and for the Recreational Matrix U8-U12 stage-appropriate coaching is strongly recommended for 2014). The more of those coaches you have with the appropriate certification the better and the sooner you have them certified the better.

May 21, 2013 - Can The OSA set the pay indications for OPDL Head Coaches?

The OSA will not set pay indications for employment of OPDL Head Coaches. Based on research conducted in preparation for the business plan, it was determined that \$15,000 was an equitable salary for a head coach of one team. At the end of the day, each organization will have to determine what it is they are willing and able to pay these individuals.

May 21, 2013 - Which will be seen as more valuable in the RFP assessment process: an organization that has recruited National B certified head coaches and Pre-B or higher assistant coaches or an organization that has developed its own coaches but does not yet have all of them at the appropriate levels of certification for OPDL?

The OSA would be very pleased to see OPDL applicants that have invested the time and money into developing their own coaches as long as those coaches meet the minimum standards laid out in the RFP.

May 21, 2013 - The RFP asks an organization to indicate how they plan to make use of the OSA elite coach development program that will be offered for all OPDL Head Coaches. If we don't know what this looks like, how can we specifically provide an answer for that criterion?

Whilst the elite coach development program has yet to be detailed by the OSA, we are keen to evaluate the extent to which planned, structured coach development initiatives are currently underway in clubs. Information here should include how you would choose to use the availability an elite coach development program, when it is established. As a program is not currently built, you are free to identify in your answer how you would see such a program operating, as part of your own coach development endeavours.

May 14, 2013 - Is an organization required to have a recreational program?

No. It is not mandatory for an organization to offer recreational programming at/or below the U8-U12 age level but it is highly recommended.

April 30, 2013 - What are the mandatory components/details of the required technical development plan? Can a template be provided by the OSA?

A Technical Development Plan should outline at a high level the pathway through which a player is developed at the club, from initial recreational U4 children up to elite level. The Plan should also indicate how and where recreational soccer fits in to the organization's programming from a technical standpoint. Good Technical Development Plans should also contain a coach development component (i.e., an intrinsic element of developing players), and some include referee development (i.e., if this is a significant function of the organization. Technical Development Plans should clearly demonstrate and integrate with the core stages of LTPD. For clarity, Technical Development Plans are not coaching session plans, or program curricula.

The Technical Development Plan is the intellectual property of the organization and as such its content is ultimately that organization's decision. Therefore, the OSA will not be providing a template for a Technical Development Plan.

[1] An employment letter of offer that is conditional on the club acquiring a OPDL license