



Operations Rules

Ontario Player Development League (OPDL)

Operations Rules for OPDL License Holders

April 25th, 2016

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Section I – Organization

1. The Ontario Player Development League

- a) The Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) is a high performance youth training and competition program which will be conducted and administered by the Ontario Soccer Association (OSA).

2. Technical Oversight

- a) The OSA shall provide independent technical oversight of the OPDL and the technical leadership for the program shall come from the OSA.
- b) OPDL License Holders shall discuss technical matters related to the program through a regular License Holder forum.

3. OPDL Discipline

- a) The OPDL Discipline Committee shall be appointed by the OSA Executive Director.

Jurisdiction

- a) The OPDL Discipline Committee shall be responsible for handling all cases of reported misconduct for Players, Administrators or Clubs, as per Section 12.0 Discipline in OSA Operational Procedures, in OPDL, except for:
 - i. Match official assault
 - ii. Acts of moral turpitude
- b) It is the responsibility of each License Holder to ensure that its Players and Team Officials are aware of the OPDL Discipline rules and of the discipline systems used by OPDL.

Reporting and Review of Discipline

- a) Within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of an OPDL Match, the Match Official shall submit the following items to RefCentre:
 - i. Match Results
 - ii. Misconduct report for each incident of misconduct by a player, team official, administrator, or match official
 - iii. Special Incident Reports
- b) Unless otherwise indicated by the OPDL Discipline Committee, hearings shall take place on the next available date, and at least one (1) week after the date of the misconduct being reported.
- c) At the discretion of the OPDL Discipline Committee, the accused, or any other party called, may attend a Hearing remotely via a communications technology that is duly approved by the OPDL Discipline Committee. Where permission to attend a Hearing via such a communication technology is not expressly approved by the OPDL Discipline Committee, attendance in person is assumed to be required by all parties involved.

Request for Discipline Hearing

- a) An accused Player, Coach or other Team Official subject to Discipline by Review has the right to request a Discipline Hearing, with the exception of those misconducts listed in Table 2, items 1.7.5 to 1.7.10 located in (and in accordance with) Discipline Procedure 9.0 of OSA Operational Procedures.
- b) Such a request, and subsequent hearing, must adhere to the following procedures:



- i. The Request for a Hearing must be forwarded in writing, by email to appealcasemanager@soccer.on.ca and received by 5pm on the Monday following the game in which the alleged misconduct occurred.
- ii. A \$50 Fee must accompany the Request for a Hearing.
- iii. The discipline hearing shall be conducted by an OPDL Discipline Hearing Panel.
- iv. Hearings shall take place as needed with appropriate notice given to all involved.

General Discipline Rules

- a) Cautions shall be recorded in the OPDL League Management System. The accumulation of cautions shall only apply to OPDL competition.
- b) Suspensions are levied by the OPDL Discipline Hearing/Review Panel
- c) On misconduct being proved to its satisfaction, the OPDL Discipline Committee shall have the power to order the offender:
 - i. To be suspended from all or any specific soccer activity for a stated period of time, in accordance with OSA Published Rules;
 - ii. To be suspended for a specific number of games in the OPDL competition; and
 - iii. To be fined (with or without suspension) for Organizations and Team Officials.
- d) An OPDL Discipline Hearing Panel may only suspend an accused from all soccer related activity when a finding of guilty is rendered for one or more of the OSA Misconduct Types listed in Discipline Procedure 9.5.1 of OSA Operational Procedures.
- e) In the case of "suspensions for a stated period of time":
 - i. The "beginning date" of a suspension shall be determined by the OPDL Discipline Panel and will commence within an appropriate timeline following the Discipline Hearing in which the coach, player, team official was found guilty.
 - ii. It is the responsibility of the player/team official's Club to check with the OPDL, through the OPDL League Management System, to find out what the suspension is (ie. the "beginning date" and "expiry date")
- f) In the case of "suspensions for a specific number of games":
 - i. A player suspended for a specified number of games shall serve such suspension in the OPDL competition (i.e. shall be suspended from a specific number of OPDL games) until the player's team has concluded its participation in that year's OPDL competition
 - ii. After a team has concluded its participation in that year's OPDL competition, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be served in the following season of OPDL
 - iii. If the player is not selected for or does not participate in the OPDL the following year, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be served in his/her new team's league, league cup and league playoff games
 - iv. OPDL will communicate the specific matches from which the player is suspended to the Club, in writing, via email.
- g) A listing of all suspensions (resulting from misconduct in OPDL competition) shall be posted on E2E and the OPDL website and can be accessed by the Team/Club. Notice of any suspension will always be e-mailed to the designated team contact (i.e. Head Coach, Team Manager, etc...)



Fines and Penalties

- a) In the event a team, including team officials, contravenes OPDL rules and regulations, the OPDL Discipline Committee, has the authority to levy fine(s) against the offending License Holder, in compliance with OSA Operational Procedures or with the Fines set out in “Appendix B”
- b) If a License Holder representative is required to attend a discipline hearing for one of the it’s players, coaches or administrators but fails to attend the hearing, either in person or remotely by a method of telecommunication approved in that instance by the OPDL Discipline Committee, the License Holder will be fined for non-attendance in compliance with OSA Published Rules.
- c) Fine for OPDL Non-Compliance are listed on “Appendix B”

Section II – License Holders Commitments

4. OPDL Teams

- a) OPDL License Holders shall field both a female and male team in each age category governed by their License Agreement, unless their membership is composed solely of one gender in which case they shall enter only the one team of that gender.

5. License Agreement

- a) Participation in the OPDL is contingent on the signing and submission of an OPDL License Agreement by a binding authority of the OPDL License Holder

6. License Performance Review

- a) In order to maintain the high standards of technical, organisational and facilities excellence the OPDL demands, all OPDL License Holders shall be subject to ongoing and annual evaluation and review. Central to this process is the hosting of an annual License Performance Review with each OPDL License Holder at the conclusion of each season.
- b) License Performance Reviews shall be held annually between November and December of each year.
- c) OPDL License Holders shall attend these reviews and provide all information requested in advance as well as at the meeting.
- d) License Performance Reviews shall assess the License Holders' adherence to and compliance with their obligations as outlined in Appendix B of the OPDL License Agreement.
- e) License Performance Reviews shall be an opportunity for OPDL License Holders to bring forth issues to the OPDL and present feedback for the continuous improvement of the OPDL’s operations and effectiveness.

7. Completion of OPDL Season

- a) All OPDL teams shall participate in all matches scheduled by OPDL. Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary measures as outlined on “Appendix B”.

Section III – Competition League Structure

8. Game Format

- a) OPDL teams shall play 11-a-side.
- b) Matches shall employ a size 5 ball.
- c) Field dimensions shall be as per FIFA regulations.



- d) Goal sizes shall be as per FIFA regulations.
- e) Laws of the Game as approved by IFAB shall be employed except in the instances noted in this Operations Rules, Game Day Regulations and in the Technical Manual.

9. Competition Season

- a) OPDL Competition season shall run from May through October and be comprised of a minimum of twenty rounds.
- b) Unless otherwise approved by OPDL, games played in the months of May, October and November shall be on an artificial surface.
- c) Matches from June to September can be played on grass, although use of OPDL-approved turf fields during this time is permitted.

10. OPDL Conferences

- a) The OPDL shall operate through two regional conferences – East and West.
- b) The OPDL shall be solely responsible for assigning OPDL License Holders to each conference.
- c) The OPDL may, at its sole discretion, establish a different conference structure.
- d) Assignment of License Holders to conferences shall be reviewed annually by the OPDL.
- e) Any changes to conference assignment and /or structure will be communicated in writing to all OPDL License Holders by February 15th of the year that such changes will take effect.

11. Competition Schedule

- a) The development of the OPDL's Competition Schedule, including match dates, times, referee assignment and match venues, shall be the responsibility of the OPDL.
- b) The Competition Schedule for the forthcoming season shall be issued by the OPDL no later than March 31st of the year of the season, pending availability of field availability information.
- c) The OPDL is responsible for the assignment and payment of all match officials assigned to OPDL games.
- d) The OPDL is responsible for the provision and payment of medical support services at all OPDL games.
- e) The OPDL is responsible for the payment of an OPDL Coordinator for in-conference games, who is acts as the OPDL's liaison and onsite event manager on game day.
 - i. The OPDL License Holder is required to provide a suitable individual to serve as OPDL Coordinator on each of its assigned host dates by deadline set in the OPDL Hosting Guidelines.
- f) Changes to the Competition Schedule, including postponement, may only be granted in exceptional circumstances at the sole discretion of the OPDL.
- g) The OPDL will be responsible for scheduling specific game times and order of play for all games.
- h) Competition Schedule for OPDL includes “Home Venues” and “Central Venues” as follows:
 - i. U13 Age Group: 6 Central Venues and 14 Home Venues (Home or Away Games)
 - ii. U14 Age Group: 4 Central Venue and 16 Home Venues (Home or Away Games)
 - iii. U15 Age Group: 4 Central Venues and 16 Home Venues (Home or Away Games)

12. Games hosted by License Holders at Home Venues

- a) Each team is required to host its home games as per the OPDL Published Schedule.
- b) Home games must be hosted at approved OPDL Competition Hosting Facilities.



- c) Home games shall be hosted on days approved by OPDL.
- d) The host License Holder is responsible for the securing of venue permits or permission for venue use such that the venue is secured for OPDL use on designated in-conference competition dates.
- e) The host License Holder is responsible for all costs related to venue provision, including ancillary costs such as floodlighting or change room rental.
- f) OPDL License Holders must follow and adhere to the OPDL Hosting Regulations and Game Day Regulations when hosting home games.

13. Central Venues

- a) Games played at Central Venues will be used as opportunities to scout and evaluate OPDL Players.
- b) Games shall be assigned, permitted/booked and paid for by the OPDL.
- c) Central Venue rounds are scheduled regularly as published by OPDL and played at two or more Venues simultaneously.
- d) The OPDL shall be responsible for the provision and payment of Technical evaluation personnel at Central Venues.

14. Competition Format

- a) No score or standings will be kept at U13 Age Group.
- b) For U14 age group and older:
 - i. teams will receive three points for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss
 - ii. at the end of the OPDL season, the team with most points in the league across both conferences on each gender will be declared the “OPDL League Champions” on each age group.
- c) If two or more teams are equal on points, standings will be determined as follows:
 - i. Greatest goal difference
 - ii. Greatest number of goals score
 - iii. Greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the teams concerned
 - iv. Goal difference resulting from the matches between the teams concerned
 - v. Greater number of goals scored in all matches between the teams concerned
 - vi. Drawing of lots by the OPDL
- d) “OPDL Charity Shield” will be a final game between the 1st Team in the West Conference versus 1st Team in the East Conference on both genders in the U14 Age Group, hosted by OPDL.
- e) If the score is tied after conclusion of the “Charity Shield” match. Kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

15. Game Day Regulations

- a) All OPDL games, shall be conducted in accordance with OPDL Game Day Regulations

Incomplete Games

- a) In the event that a game cannot continue through full regulation play, the game shall count provided seventy-five percent (75%) of the game was completed.
 - a. Decision to reschedule an incomplete game is responsibility of the OPDL.
- b) The referee shall have the final decision on suspension of matches due to weather or field conditions.



Grace Period Before Abandoning a Game

- a) Unless determined by OPDL, teams, match officials and OPDL staff shall wait one hour before abandoning a game that has been delayed.

Forfeit

- a) Should a team fail to appear for a scheduled league match or not be able to complete a scheduled match, the Licence Holder shall incur a forfeit fee as per the "Appendix B".
- b) A 1-0 win shall be awarded to the team not at fault

Section IV – Player Eligibility and Team Rosters

16. Player Commitment Letter

- a) Prior to the registration deadline outlined in this document, all OPDL players must be issued a Player Commitment Letter by their OPDL License Holder, which must be fully completed signed by all required parties.
- b) A Player Commitment Letter may not be altered, amended or added to in any way by any of the signing parties.
- c) Completion and signing of a Player Commitment Letter duly binds a player to an OPDL License Holder for the forthcoming OPDL season before roster submission deadline.
- d) The revoking of a Player Commitment may only be permitted with the expressed written permission of the OPDL.

17. Player Registration

- a) All registration shall be completed in accordance with "*OSA Operational Procedure – Section 6.0 Registration*".
- b) Following completion of registration, roster shall be submitted online through the OPDL League Management System.
- c) Deadline to submit rosters to OPDL shall be:
 - i. February 1st - 14 players registered in the main roster. (No changes until end of the season)
 - ii. April 1st - 18 players registered in the main roster. (No changes until end of the season)
 - iii. April 15th - 4 players registered in the Sub-Roster. (See Item 19)
- d) Players who are submitted on a roster but have signed a Player Commitment Letter with another OPDL License Holder will be deemed ineligible for registration for any other OPDL License Holder than the one the Player Commitment Letter has been signed with, without the expressed written permission of the OPDL.

18. Main Roster

- a) OPDL License Holders shall submit a main roster of players for each age group gender permitted under its License Agreement, with a minimum of fourteen (14) and a maximum of eighteen (18) registered players to be approved by the OPDL.
- b) Players listed on a main roster are considered committed to the OPDL License Holders for a period
- c) A final roster shall be submitted by April 1st of the year of the season of play.
- d) Failure to submit any player(s) in rosters by the April 1st deadline shall result in their ineligibility to play in OPDL matches.
- e) Player and team officials' information must be updated and kept current.



- f) Once the season has started, an OPDL License Holder shall not release any players until the December 31st of the current year, except in causes governed by this documents.

19. Sub-Roster

- a) A “Sub-Roster” of four (4) players can be submitted by April 15th.
- b) “Sub-Roster” is composed of:
 - i. U15: Players from a U15 Competitive Team within the License Holder
 - ii. U14: Players from a U14 Competitive Team within the License Holder
 - iii. U13: Players from a U12 Development Program within the License Holder
- c) Amendments to “Sub-Roster” may be made during the OPDL break from July 30th to August 12th.
- d) If no amendments to the “Sub-Roster” are made during the break, “sub-roster” will remain the same as issued earlier in the year.
- e) No further amendments to be made until December 31st of the current year.
- f) Players in the “Sub-Roster” must be registered with a team with the License Holder or with an affiliated feeder club. (*MOU Required*)
- g) Players from the “Sub-Roster” are selected to play at discretion of License Holder’s Technical Director or Head Coach, accordingly with team player’s needs.
- h) Players in the “Sub-Roster” are not required to sign an OPDL Commitment Letter with their OPDL License Holder.
- i) Players in the “Sub-Roster” may be charged contributory team or assessment fees for OPDL participation at the discretion of the OPDL License Holder.
- j) Players in the “Sub-Roster” are bound by all OPDL Policies and Procedures for all games, training and associated activities.

20. Call-Up Roster

- a) A “Call-Up Roster” of four (4) players can be submitted.
- b) “Call-Up Roster” is composed of:
 - i. U15: Players from the U14 OPDL Main Roster
 - ii. U14: Players from the U13 OPDL Main Roster
 - iii. U13: Players from the U13 Competitive Team within the License Holder
- c) Amendments to “Call-Up Roster” can be at any time during the OPDL season.
- d) Players in the U13 “Call-up Roster”, must be registered with a team with the License Holder or with an affiliated feeder club. (*MOU Required*)
- e) Players from the “Call-Up Roster” are selected to play at discretion of License Holder’s Technical Director or Head Coach, accordingly with player’s developmental stage and needs.
 - i. Players shall not play more than 75 minutes for U13 and U14 and 80 minutes for U15 over a weekend.
- f) Players in the U13 “Call-Up Roster” are not required to sign an OPDL Commitment Letter with their OPDL License Holder.
- g) Players in the “Call-Up Roster” may be charged contributory team or assessment fees for OPDL participation at the discretion of the OPDL License Holder.
- h) Players in the “Call-Up Roster” are bound by all OPDL Policies and Procedures for all games, training and associated activities.



21. Ineligible Players

- a) OPDL Players registered by the License Holder, but not eligible to play, due to reasons including without limitation, waiting for an International transfer certificate (ITC), serving a league suspension, not age-eligible, not cleared by OPDL Medical Staff, not listed in the Game Sheet or subject to other applicable sanctions, shall be considered to be an ineligible player.
- b) Any team using players not properly registered or cleared of sanctions by the OPDL will be subject to disciplinary action under the OPDL Rules.

22. New Players to the Country

- a) For a player who comes to Canada on or after the player is ten (10) years of age, the player must request and receive an international travel certificate (ITC) before being eligible to play in the OPDL.

23. Player Transfer Policy

- a) OPDL Players shall not move between License Holders during the OPDL season (training and competition) without the written permission of the OPDL.
- b) OPDL Player transfers shall only be considered and authorized by the OPDL in exceptional circumstances that are in the best interest of a player's ongoing development.
- c) In instances where a mid-season transfer of a player is approved:
 - i. Fees paid by the player to the License Holder the player is leaving are refundable to the player on a pro-rated basis based on the number of weeks completed in the full season to date (January 1st to December 31st). No further levy or financial penalty may be charged to the departing player.
 - ii. Fees due from the player to the OPDL License Holder he/she is moving to are similarly to be charged on a pro-rated basis based on the number of weeks completed in the full season to date (January 1st to December 31st). Fees charged must be the same as those charged to other players on the team.
 - iii. Players with outstanding debt at the time of the transfer shall be reported to OPDL.
- d) No player may be transferred more than once in any given season.
- e) From December 31st to April 15th, the OPDL has a Transfer Window, during which time players may transfer between License Holders, subject to conditions outlined in this Operations Rules.

24. Player Residency

- a) No residency rules applies to the OPDL or activities of OPDL teams within OPDL License Holders.
- b) No OPDL License Holder has exclusive 'residency rights' and/or exclusive access rights to players residing in any geographical zones, districts, regions or municipalities.
- c) In principle and where possible, players should play for OPDL License Holders located closest to them. In the event that a player is travelling a long distance to participate with an OPDL License Holder, the player must be able to commit to and maintain the weekly training schedule outlined by his/her OPDL team.
- d) OPDL License Holders shall make every effort to select players for OPDL rosters based on playing ability ahead of residency or length-of-tenure criteria. License Holders shall not unreasonably grant preference to local resident players, nor shall they aggressively recruit talent from surrounding regions at the expense of local playing talent.



- e) The imposition of fee loading, extra levies or other such financial penalties by OPDL License Holders to players for any reasons, including, but not limited to their geographical residence, shall not be permitted.
- f) In areas where there are few OPDL License Holders commensurate to player volume, OPDL License Holders shall select players based on playing ability as a priority.

25. Player Recruitment and Solicitation

Recruitment refers to the practice of deliberate and proactive persuasion or enticement of an active player by an individual or individuals associated with another team or License Holder, intended to convince the player to join their team or License Holder and leave their current team or License Holder.

- a) Active recruitment or solicitation of existing OPDL players shall be prohibited by OPDL License Holders at any time, including during the Transfer Window. All OPDL License Holders shall be responsible for the conduct of their staff, players and parents in this regard.
- b) Any attempt to contact, entice or recruit players, coaches or staff from one OPDL License Holder to another OPDL License Holder at any time shall not be permitted.
- c) OPDL License Holders shall be prohibited from using fee discounting measures as a means of indirect solicitation or recruitment of certain players to their program at any time.

26. Player Scouting & Communications

All personnel associated with OPDL License Holders, including parents, shall comply with the following with regard to the identification of and communication with potential players within and outside of the OPDL.

- a) Current OPDL players:
 - i. No contact with (including any attempts to recruit, entice or persuade) players from other OPDL License Holders shall be made at any time.
 - ii. Contact with players from other OPDL License Holders shall be permitted during the Transfer Window, but at the initiation of the player's parents/guardians only.
- b) Non-OPDL Players:
 - i. Players playing outside the OPDL may be scouted/observed in their current environment and may be contacted directly through their parents/legal guardian, or coach/official on their non-OPDL team.
 - ii. The Technical Director or Head Coach of the player's existing organization must be notified by the OPDL License Holder that they are approaching the player with a view to inviting them to join their OPDL program.

Section V – Team and Match Officials

27. Team Officials

- a) There shall be no less than two (2) or more than five (5) team officials on the bench as follows:
 - i. Head Coach
 - ii. Assistant Coach
 - iii. Goalkeeper Coach
 - iv. Athletic Therapist



- v. Team Manager
- b) For a female team, the head coach or the assistant coach must be female and present on the bench.
- c) All team officials must have evidence of clear Canadian Police Information Check (CPIC) certification that is no more than three years old by January 1st of the current year.
- d) All team officials must have valid Respect in Soccer certification.
- e) Team Officials shall not be assigned to the same team his/her child plays for.
 - i. Exception is made for Team Managers in 2016 only.

28. Team Officials Minimum Qualifications

- a) Minimum qualifications are required for Team Officials assigned to OPDL Teams in accordance with age group and respective position.
- b) Head Coaches must hold a minimum qualification of:
 - i. CSA B License, a USSF B License or a UEFA B License for Age Groups U14 and older.
 - ii. Provincial B License, USSF C License for Age Group U13.
- c) Assistant Coaches must hold a minimum of a certified CSA C License Certificate or OSA Pre-B License.
- d) Goalkeeper Coaches must hold a minimum of an OSA Goalkeeper Coach Certificate or equivalent.
- e) Athletic Therapist must be a licensed healthcare provider with any of the following qualifications:
 - i. Licensed Physician in the province of Ontario or CASM Doctor
 - ii. Licensed Chiropractor or Sport Chiropractic Specialist licensed in the Province of Ontario
 - iii. Registered Physiotherapist or Sport Physiotherapist licensed in the Province of Ontario
 - iv. Certified Athletic Therapist certified by the Canadian Athletic Therapy Association and a member of the Ontario Athletic Therapy Association

29. Team Officials Registration

- a) Coaches (Head or Assistant), Technical Directors/License Holder Head Coaches or other License Holder representatives shall also register online and submit the required information to the OPDL.
- b) Team Officials shall be identified in the OPDL League Management System by February 1st of the year of the OPDL season.

30. Match Officials

- a) Match officials for each match are assigned by the OSA in accordance with OSA Member Policies Section 10.0 – Match Officials.
- b) A minimum of one referee and two assistant referees will be assigned to each match.

Section VI – Technical Program Structure

31. Conduct

- a) Each OPDL License Holder shall be responsible for the conduct of its players, team officials, members and spectators attending any OPDL match and shall abide by the OPDL Codes of Conduct (Appendix A).



32. Player Trials

- a) OPDL License Holder shall follow the OPDL Trial Guidelines.

33. Under Age Players

- a) Players are allowed to play up for an OPDL team, on the basis such move enhances their ability to develop (technically, physically, mentally and socially) without undue risk of injury, undue stress or other harm.
 - i. Decisions on players 'playing up' shall be evaluated by the OPDL License Holder Technical Director.
- b) Players are permitted to play up from U12 into U13 OPDL age groups also on the basis such move enhances their ability to develop (technically, physically, mentally and socially) without undue risk of injury, undue stress or other harm.
 - i. The decision for a player to 'play up' must originate from a qualified technical assessment from both the OPDL License Holder's team Head Coach and its Technical Director and must be approved by the OPDL.
 - ii. Technical Assessment shall include the Fast Tracking Form – OPDL ([available here](#))



34. Play Down Policy

- a) Players are permitted to 'play down' into a year younger than their age group at the discretion of the OSA Technical Director.
- b) Permission for a player to 'play down' must be issued in writing from the OSA Technical Director to the License Holder, following a written request from the Technical Director of the player's OPDL License Holder.
 - i. Permission to 'play down' is for the current year only and must be re-requested and re-approved in writing by the OSA Technical Director in subsequent years.

35. Player Prioritization

- a) OPDL players shall not participate on any other soccer programming with the exception of participation in OSA Talent Development Centres, Provincial projects/programs, National Team programs or official trial or development opportunities, as deemed appropriate by the OPDL.
- b) OPDL players shall not participate in Ontario Cup, Indoor or Outdoor.
 - a. Participation at Ontario Futsal Cup is permitted and encouraged.
- c) OPDL players shall forego participation in school soccer and extra-curricular sport.

36. Training

- a) The minimum volume of training (excluding games & sport science related training) required to be provided to OPDL players at License Holders during the calendar year (January-December) shall be 198 hours (4.5 hours/week).
- b) The maximum volume of training (excluding games & sport science related training) allowed to be provided to OPDL players at License Holders during the calendar year (January-December) shall be:
 - i. 330 hours (7.5 hours/week) for U15 Age Group and older
 - ii. 264 hours (6 hours/week) for U13 and U14 Age Group
- c) The minimum/maximum volume of training is based on a 44-week periodized annual program.

37. Matches other than OPDL Regular Matches

- a) The OPDL shall impose a maximum of twenty (20) OPDL regular matches in which any player may participate in a given season.
- b) In addition to OPDL regular matches the following special events are part of the OPDL Competition Schedule:
 - i. U14 OPDL Charity Shield
 - ii. U15 OPDL Showcase

38. Exhibition Games

- a) License Holders may schedule exhibition games at their discretion.
- b) Exhibition games can be scheduled during the following periods:
 - i. From January 1st to the Wednesday before the first OPDL Match of the year
 - ii. On Wednesdays or Thursdays before long weekends
 - iii. From six weeks after the last OPDL match played until December 31st.
- c) All OPDL players must be registered to the License Holder for the current year in order to play.
- d) No exhibition games shall be scheduled during the mid-season OPDL Break
- e) License Holder shall maintain records of all exhibition games. Records shall include:



- i. Game Sheets with OSA numbers of all players, team officials and match officials
 - ii. Copies of ATFs and Application to host (if necessary)
- f) Appointments of Match Officials is responsibility of the License Holder.

Exhibition Games involving organizations other than OPDL License Holders

- a) For exhibition games involving organizations other than OPDL License Holders, the OPDL shall be advised of the nature of the matches in advance.
 - i. OPDL License Holders must seek district approval to host or travel to exhibition matches.

Exhibition Games involving OPDL Teams

- a) Blanket permission to play exhibition games is granted for exhibition games between OPDL teams.
- b) No application to host is required.
- c) Application to Travel (ATF) is still required when necessary. (Out-of-District)

39. Other Matches

- a) Participation of OPDL players on any other matches, including out-of-province, international competition or showcase tournaments shall be approved by the OPDL unless:
 - i. the OPDL believes the training-to-game ratio during in-season of OPDL play shall be compromised; or
 - ii. the OPDL determines the match/tournament identified does not compliment the broader development program for OPDL players

- b) Participation at showcase tournament is exclusive for age groups U15 and older.



APPENDIX A – OPDL CODES OF CONDUCT

General

The OPDL endeavours to provide a unique and challenging program that strives to provide the best possible environment for elite player development. To that end, the OPDL enforces a strict Code of Conduct for the behaviour that all individuals involved in or around the OPDL are expected to follow.

Team Official Conduct

- ✓ Be respectful of the referee and your opponents
- ✓ Refrain from using foul or abusive language
- ✓ Limit the amount of coaching done from the sidelines to only when necessary
- ✓ Keep your players and fans under control
- ✓ Remember that the score of the game is secondary to the opportunity for your players to demonstrate and improve their game
- ✓ Present a professional example to your players before, during and after competitions
- ✓ Coaches must adhere to any rules set out by the OSA and OPDL and associated policies and guidelines.
- ✓ All coaching/team officials must demonstrate responsible behavior in all training environments.
- ✓ The use of tobacco, consumption or possession of alcohol and illegal substances is not supported and may not be consumed while performing official License Holder/organization duties in the presence of minors.
- ✓ All OPDL Coaches agree to sign an OPDL Code of Conduct agreement.

Player Conduct

- ✓ Be respectful of the referee and your opponents
- ✓ Refrain from using foul or abusive language
- ✓ Remember that you are here to provide a strong performance, and that the result of the match is secondary to its benefit as a development tool.
- ✓ All players must demonstrate responsible behavior within all training environments.
- ✓ All OPDL players must agree to sign an OPDL Code of Conduct agreement (included in the Player Commitment Letter)

Fan/Spectator Conduct

- ✓ Be respectful of the referee and the teams on the field
- ✓ Refrain from using foul or abusive language
- ✓ Keep comments positive.
- ✓ Refrain from coaching from the sidelines
- ✓ Remember that you are here to support your child, not win a game where achieving a result is not the primary objective.
- ✓ Keep in mind that your attendance at OPDL events is a privilege, not a right, and that the organization will be held responsible for the behaviour of its fans



APPENDIX B – Fines

Failure to Participate in Scheduled OPDL Meetings

All License Holders are required to have a representative attend all scheduled OPDL meetings.

Failure to attend one meeting	Warning
Failure to attend two meetings	\$100
Failure to attend three meetings	\$250 Fine + Immediate License Review

Failure to Field a Team for a Scheduled OPDL Match

All OPDL teams shall participate in all matches for which they are scheduled during the course of an OPDL season.

Failure to field a team in a scheduled OPDL match \$2,500 Fine + Immediate License Review

- a) Failure to field a team is defined as not fielding a minimum of 7 players for a scheduled match.
- b) In addition to the Fine, the offending team will be responsible for reimbursement of any and all costs associated with the No-Show (i.e. Match Official costs, match supervisor costs, match official assignor costs, Match Official assessor costs, opponent’s direct costs, medical staff ,facility etc...) as determined and communicated to them by OPDL.
- c) OPDL Matches are defined as OPDL Regular Matches, U14 charity Shield and OPDL Showcases.

Failure to field a team of at least 14 players in a scheduled OPDL match:

1 st Offense	\$500 Fine
2 nd and subsequent offenses	\$2,500 Fine + Immediate License Review

Forfeiture

Should any team be unable to complete a scheduled match, the Licence Holder shall incur a forfeit fee.

Forfeit Fee	\$2,500 + Immediate License Review
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- a) In addition to the Fine, the offending team will be responsible for reimbursement of any and all costs associated with the No-Show (i.e. Match Official costs, match supervisor costs, match official assignor costs, Match Official assessor costs, opponent’s direct costs, medical staff ,facility etc...) as determined and communicated to them by OPDL.

Failure to Provide League Management with Hosting Information by deadline

Licensees will be required to provide League Management with hosting information, including appointment of OPDL Coordinator and Venue details by the deadline date established annually by League Management.

Failure to comply by deadline	\$100 Fine for each day late
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Failure to Provide Official Game Sheet

Official OPDL game sheet, generated by the OPDL League Management (E2E) must be provided by each team to the OPDL Representative no less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time and shall include signatures all team officials who will be on the bench. Penalties listed below will be applied if an unofficial game sheet is provided, as well as if the game sheet is not provided in the allotted time.

1 st Offense	\$250 Fine
2 nd and subsequent offenses	\$500 Fine each time

Failure to Comply with Registration Deadlines

OPDL License Holders shall adhere to the registration deadline as indicated in the OPDL Operations Rules.

OPDL License Holders shall submit a roster of players for each age group gender permitted under its License Agreement in accordance with the OPDL Operations Rules

Failure to comply by deadline	\$100 Fine for each day late
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Use of an Ineligible Player

Any team using players not properly registered or cleared by OPDL will be subject to disciplinary action.

1 st Offense	Forfeit Match + \$500 Fine
2 nd and subsequent offenses	Forfeit Match + \$2,500 Fine

Maximum and Minimum number of Team Officials on The Bench

There shall be no less than two (2) or more than five (5) team officials on the bench for any OPDL match and must follow OPDL dress code.

1 st Offense	\$100 Fine
2 nd and subsequent offenses	\$250 Fine each time

Improper Player Recruitment and Solicitation

Improper Recruitment of a Player

1 st Offense	\$1,000 Fine + Immediate License Review
2 nd Offense	\$2,000 Fine + Revocation of License

OPDL Standards Non-Compliance

All License Holders are required to comply with the OPDL Standards outlined in the following documents:

- a) OSA Governing Documents
- b) OPDL Entry Criteria
- c) OPDL Technical Manual
- d) OPDL Operations Rules
- e) OPDL Game Day Regulations



- f) OPDL Code of Conduct
- g) OPDL Sponsorship Guidelines
- h) OPDL Brand Guidelines
- i) OPDL Performance Management Guide

Failure to comply with the established standards, unless given specific dispensation by the OPDL, will result in discipline. All identified non-compliance will be submitted in writing to the License Holder.

The License Holder will be expected to complete a Corrective Action Report within 14 (fourteen) days of receipt of the formal Non-compliance report.

1 st Offense	\$100 Fine
2 nd and subsequent offenses	\$250 Fine each time

Late Payment of League Fees

All License Holders are required to pay their annual league fees in full within 30 days of receipt of invoice from the Ontario Soccer Association.

1 st Offense	\$100 Fine for each day late
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Non-Compliance Notification and Payment Method

- a) License Holders will be notified of non-compliance following the incident, invoice for fines will be issued twice a year. First at the mid-season OPDL Break and later after conclusion of the competition season.
- b) Failure to pay fines by the stipulated time given on the will result in immediate revocation of a license to participation in OPDL.