

THE D-LEAGUE

Rules

1) Club, Academy and Team Responsibilities

- a) Member Clubs are responsible for the conduct of all players/ team officials and for team supporters at all times. Players, team officials and spectators shall conduct themselves in accordance with the League and Ontario Soccer published rules
- b) Registration for the D-League is open to all Ontario Soccer sanctioned Clubs
- c) Teams from clubs located outside of the Peel Halton Soccer Association (PHSA) district must provide playing out permission from their respective district association a minimum of five (5) days before their first scheduled league game
- d) Team officials and players for all age groups must be registered with their respective districts and in the position of a properly authorized player book/card at all league games
- e) Team officials and players must appear on the game sheet and shall confine themselves to within 1 meter of the players' bench and outside of the playing area when not on the playing surface
- f) A maximum of four registered team officials are permitted to appear on the game sheet
- g) Team officials are not permitted to enter the field of play unless they receive permission from the referee
- h) Game balls shall be the responsibility of the home team. Size 4 for U9 - U12 and size 5 or U13+

2) Player Identification

- a) All players must be in possession of properly authorized Ontario Soccer player registration books/cards at all games. Players may not participate in the game without a properly authorized Player Registration book/card. Teams, at their discretion, may inspect a

player/team's Ontario Soccer official books/cards of the opposing team. Inspection will take place prior to kick-off and must not delay the start of the game. Upon request, teams may not refuse to have their books checked

b) **Game Played Under Protest**

i) If a team feels that the opposition is playing an ineligible player, they must advise the referee before the start of the 2nd half that they wish to play the game under protest. The team protesting must identify the player(s) (maximum of two) that they feel are ineligible. The referee will make note of these players on the game sheet so that the league may investigate.

c) Failure to produce the Ontario Soccer player books/cards will result in a forfeit of the game and potential disciplinary action.

d) Only players and team officials with authorized Ontario Soccer registration books/cards may have their names entered on the game sheet and be deemed eligible to play.

3) Player Eligibility

a) All players shall be duly registered before playing

b) Rules and regulations as set out in Ontario Soccer's Policies and Procedures regarding the signing and transfer of players shall apply.

c) Teams found to have used an ineligible player(s), shall forfeit the game(s) to its opponents. If both teams are found guilty of using an ineligible player(s), no points will be awarded. A team found guilty of using an ineligible player(s) may be subject to disciplinary action.

d) Ineligible Player - Although the list below is not exhaustive, an ineligible player is a player who:

i) Is not registered under Ontario Soccer policies and procedures

ii) Is registered under a false name.

iii) Is under discipline suspension

iv) Played under a different name (used book/card from another player)

v) Played as a guest player without the appropriate approvals

4) Call Ups

a) Call-ups only apply to the U14+ age groups

b) Call-ups must have a valid player book/card validated for the current indoor season with their appropriate club/academy

c) Call-ups are permitted (as per 4a) to be used from a younger age group, a lower-level league (L7 Indoor Club House League) or lower tiers within an age group (rostered development player can be called up to the Target team)

- d) Players cannot play more than one year above their birth year
- e) Unlimited call-ups may be used during the season, at any time in the season
- f) Players that are being used as a call-up must be noted/identified as such on the game sheet

5) League Games

- a) The duration of all league games will be as follows
 - i) 5v5 | 2 x 20 minutes
 - ii) 7v7 | 2 x 25 minutes
 - iii) 9v9 | 2 x 30 minutes
 - iv) 11v11 | 2 x 30 minutes
- b) Half-time will be one (1) minute
- c) Teams shall be given five (5) minutes of grace time from the scheduled kick-off time to field the minimum required number of players (4) for small, sided games, (5) for 9v9 games and (7) players for 11v11 games.
- d) If one team does not field the minimum required number of players to start a game or if a team does not show up, it will be considered to have defaulted the game and shall forfeit the points. The opposing team will be awarded the win and a score of 3-0 will be recorded. Teams failing to field a team may also be subject to fines from the league.
- e) If both teams are unable to field the minimum number of players to play the game, both teams shall be in default of the game and no points awarded.
- f) Grassroots leagues will have no maximum or minimum roster for each team. There will be "game day maximums" as per Ontario Soccer Grassroots Standards.
 - i) 5v5 | game day maximum is 10
 - ii) 7v7 | game day maximum is 12
 - iii) 9v9 | game day maximum is 16
- g) 11v11 teams may register (roster) a maximum of 20 players, minimum of 11 players
- h) League standing purposes in the U13+ leagues, three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss
 - i) In the event of a tie in league points, the winner shall be determined as follows:
 - ii) Goal Difference
 - iii) If still tied, Goals for
 - iv) If still tied, Goals against
 - v) If still tied, Most wins
 - vi) If still tied, Penalty kicks

6) Playing Laws

- a) For small-sided, 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 Grassroots games, Ontario Soccer rules for Grassroots league games will be applied - <https://www.ontariosoccer.net/player-grassroots>
 - i) No standings or results will be posted for Grassroots games
 - ii) The Retreat Line will be in effect - <https://tinyurl.com/mtjmmfrh>

- b) For 11v11 league games, all of Ontario Soccer's Playing Rules for Outdoor Soccer shall apply - <https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/laws-of-the-game-2022-23?!=en>

- c) Exceptions to the above
 - i) Substitutions can be made at any stoppage of play
 - ii) if play is interrupted due to the ball contacting the following obstacles:
 - The wires from the curtains
 - The dome structure (ceiling)
 - The curtain mesh during throw-ins

The following procedure is taken - Dropped ball

The ball is dropped for the defending team goalkeeper in their penalty area if, when play was stopped:

- the ball was in the penalty area or
- the last touch of the ball was in the penalty area
- In all other cases, the referee drops the ball for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the position where it last touched a player, an outside agent or, as outlined in Law 9.1, a match official. All other players (of both teams) must remain at least 4 m (4.5 yds) from the ball until it is in play

7) League Schedule

- a) Games will be played as scheduled unless the game is postponed by the league or the referee

- b) A game is deemed to be complete if one half has been played

- c) A request for a schedule change must be submitted Thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled game day. The league will only consider schedule requests for tournaments or Ontario Indoor Cup

8) Player Equipment

- a) The player's equipment shall consist of their club/academy uniform with a number on the back of the shirt that corresponds to their number on the game sheet. It is mandatory for all players on the team to have the same shirts with different numbers.
- b) The goalkeeper must wear a numbered shirt with colours that distinguish them from the other players on both teams as well as the opposing goalie
- c) The number shall be permanently affixed to the player jersey. Footwear shall be running shoes, indoor soccer shoes (Flat sole), Turf Shoe's or outdoor cleats (Molded Stud). No metal cleats or six studs will be permitted.
- d) If the teams have the same colour shirt the home team must change
- e) Shinpads are mandatory

9) Referees

- a) All games shall have an assigned an Ontario Soccer registered referee(s).
- b) Referees must be paid in full by both teams before the start of the game
- c) The decision of the referee is final.
- d) It is the responsibility of the referee to report discipline that occurred in the game to the League within forty-eight (48) hours from the completion of the game. In the case of an alleged referee assault, reports shall be forwarded by the referee to the district in which the game is played immediately upon completion and a copy of such report shall also be provided to the League
- e) The Referee is responsible for sending completed game sheets and other official paperwork to the League within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the game
- f) Referee fees are as follows. Fees are to be paid directly to the referee before the start of each game. Referees are not permitted to start a match until both teams have paid their respective fees in full. Please bring exact change.
 - i) 5v5 | \$12.00 per team, per game
 - ii) 7v7 | \$15.00 per team, per game
 - iii) 9v9 | \$20.00 per team, per game
 - iv) 11v11 | \$50.00 per team, per game

10) Discipline Administration

- a) All league discipline shall be administered by the PHSA
- b) The Discipline by Review (DBR) process will be used for all cases as outlined in Ontario Soccer's Published Rules.

- c) In cases where Discipline by Hearing (DBH) is mandatory, the appropriate parties will be notified
- d) All parties have the right to request a hearing (DBH) and such requests will be made in writing to the League no later than 48 hours following the playing of the game. Hearing requests must be sent by a team/club/academy official.
- e) An Ontario Soccer player book/card must be presented at all hearings otherwise there shall be no hearing held and the player shall be considered to have missed the hearing.
- f) Failure to appear for a hearing will result in the immediate suspension of the accused until a new hearing has been requested by the accused
- g) Players, team coaches and officials whose names appear on game sheets after a suspension has been imposed are deemed to have participated in the game while under suspension. They will be subject to further disciplinary action.
- h) Alleged referee assaults will be handled by the district association in which the player or team officials are registered. The Accused is automatically suspended from all soccer-related activity, as per OS Rules, until the case has been disposed of.

11) PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- a) Game protests must be made in writing to the league within 48 hours of the game being played. Protests may only be made by a team official. Team officials submitting a protest must appear on the game sheet of the game in dispute.
- b) Game protests will be heard by the League in accordance with Ontario Soccer's published rules. Any other protest will be heard by the respective district association
- c) No protest pertaining to the decision of a game official will be heard