



Proposed One-Year Moratorium on New Membership Applications

As discussed and directed at the Presidents Council meeting held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, the Presidents Council recommends that the York Region Soccer Association (YRSA) establish a **one-year moratorium on the acceptance of new applications for membership**.

The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to provide YRSA with the necessary time to undertake a comprehensive review of its existing membership structure, player population, field capacity, municipal permitting environment, and related policies before considering the admission of additional member organizations.

The proposed moratorium is not intended to restrict the long-term growth of soccer within York Region or prevent qualified organizations from seeking future membership. Rather, it is intended to ensure that future growth is undertaken in a planned, sustainable, transparent, equitable, and responsible manner, while protecting the interests of existing players, member clubs, and the communities they serve.

1. Membership and Player Capacity Review

During the one-year moratorium, YRSA will undertake a comprehensive review of its existing membership structure and player population to better understand current and projected demand throughout York Region.

This review will compare the existing player pool, including appropriate age groups, categories, teams, and geographic distribution, against available field capacity, existing field allocations, and municipal permits.

The objective is to determine whether the current infrastructure and field inventory within York Region can adequately support existing member clubs and their participants, as well as determine what capacity, if any, exists to accommodate additional organizations in the future.

Understanding the relationship between player population, club participation, field availability, and municipal allocations is necessary before YRSA can responsibly determine whether additional membership should be approved.

2. Field Permit and Allocation Feasibility Review

YRSA will conduct a feasibility review of municipal field permits and allocations throughout York Region.

Access to sufficient and appropriate fields is fundamental to the ability of member clubs to deliver safe, sustainable, and properly sanctioned soccer programming. The continued admission of new organizations without first understanding available field capacity may place additional pressure on an already limited municipal resource and could negatively affect the ability of existing member clubs to maintain and grow their programs.

The review should consider, where information is available:

- existing municipal field inventory and field capacity;
- current permits and allocations to YRSA member clubs;
- field utilization and demand;
- current and projected player populations;
- anticipated municipal field development or loss of existing facilities;
- municipal allocation policies and practices; and
- the potential impact of additional organizations on existing clubs and participants.

The objective will be to establish a clearer regional understanding of available field capacity and determine whether the current municipal infrastructure can sustainably support additional soccer organizations.

3. Municipal Engagement and Advocacy

During the moratorium, YRSA will prepare a coordinated presentation and engagement strategy for municipalities throughout York Region.

The purpose of this initiative will be to communicate the importance of retaining, protecting, and appropriately allocating municipal soccer fields and permits to support organized community soccer.

YRSA will emphasize the importance of recognizing and supporting local soccer clubs that are registered members in good standing with YRSA and operate within the recognized governing structure of Ontario Soccer, Canada Soccer, and FIFA.

A primary direction of this initiative will be to encourage municipalities to consider the recognized soccer governance structure when establishing field allocation and permitting policies and to recognize the important role that established local member clubs play in providing sanctioned, accountable, and sustainable soccer programming within their communities.

YRSA will also seek to strengthen communication and cooperation among municipalities, YRSA, and its member clubs so that decisions relating to field development, field retention, permitting, and allocation are informed by reliable participation data and the long-term needs of the soccer community.

4. Boundary Policy Review

During the same one-year period, YRSA will review and finalize its Boundary Policy in consultation with the Board of Directors and Presidents Council.

The Boundary Policy should provide clear and consistent guidance regarding the geographic operation of member clubs, the communities they are intended to serve, player participation and development considerations, and the relationship between club boundaries, municipal field access, and future membership applications.

Finalizing this policy before reopening the membership application process will provide greater transparency, consistency, and predictability when evaluating future applications.

It will also assist YRSA in determining whether a proposed new organization addresses a demonstrated need within a community or whether the proposed organization may unnecessarily duplicate existing services and place additional pressure on limited fields and municipal resources.

5. Why the Moratorium Is Necessary

The proposed moratorium is a temporary governance and planning measure intended to ensure that YRSA has sufficient information and appropriate policies in place before further expanding its membership.

YRSA has a responsibility to consider not only whether an applicant satisfies the administrative or technical requirements for membership, but also whether the regional soccer environment has the infrastructure and capacity necessary to support additional organizations without adversely affecting existing participants and member clubs.

Before admitting additional members, YRSA should therefore have reliable information regarding:

- the number and geographic distribution of existing players and teams;
- current and projected field requirements;
- available municipal permits and field capacity;
- the impact of additional organizations on existing field allocations;
- municipal policies and priorities relating to soccer field permitting;
- the geographic and operational boundaries of existing member clubs;
- whether there is a demonstrated need for additional organizations within particular communities; and
- the long-term sustainability of the regional soccer structure.

A one-year moratorium will provide YRSA, its Board of Directors, and Presidents Council with an appropriate period to complete this work and establish an evidence-based framework for evaluating future membership applications.

6. Treatment of Applications Received Prior to the Moratorium

To ensure fairness, transparency, and procedural consistency, applications formally received by YRSA prior to the effective date of the moratorium will not be affected by the moratorium.

Any membership application formally received by YRSA before the effective date will continue to be reviewed, evaluated, and processed in accordance with the membership policies, procedures, requirements, and approval processes in effect at the time the application was received.

For clarity, preliminary inquiries, expressions of interest, discussions, correspondence, or incomplete submissions that do not constitute a formal membership application under the existing YRSA application process should not be considered an application received for the purposes of this transitional provision.

This approach provides a clear and equitable administrative cutoff while respecting organizations that have already formally entered the membership application process.

7. Recommended Direction

It is therefore recommended that the York Region Soccer Association implement a one-year moratorium on the acceptance of new membership applications, effective on a date established and approved by the Board of Directors.

From the effective date of the moratorium, YRSA will not accept new applications for membership for the duration of the one-year period.

Applications formally received prior to the effective date will continue to be processed under the existing membership policy and procedures as outlined above.

During the moratorium, YRSA will:

1. Complete a comprehensive membership and player capacity review;
2. Conduct a field permit and allocation feasibility review across York Region;
3. Develop and undertake a municipal engagement and advocacy initiative regarding field permits and allocations;
4. Review and finalize the YRSA Boundary Policy in conjunction with the Board of Directors and Presidents Council; and
5. Review the membership application form and criteria, and amend where required.

The resulting framework should provide a clear, transparent, equitable, and evidence-based process for considering future membership applications,.

The overall objective is to ensure that future decisions regarding YRSA membership support the best interests of players, existing member organizations, municipalities, and the continued responsible growth and development of soccer within York Region.