



Game Day Regulations

Ontario Player Development League (OPDL)

Game Day Regulations for OPDL License Holders

July 17th, 2017

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Introduction

Welcome to the third season of the Ontario Player Development League, Ontario's standards-based youth soccer league.

As you know, OPDL is different from how any other League in Ontario has operated before. It represents an exciting new level of athlete development and match play in Ontario youth soccer. And with it comes different responsibilities and expectations the League has of its License Holders, and in turn the License Holders can expect of the League. OPDL will operate differently from Leagues you've experienced in the past, which means that procedures on game day are in places different or brand new.

To that end, this document will inform you of what you need to know when managing your OPDL team on game day. Please read it and follow the guidelines carefully each weekend when your team comes to compete. It will help ensure the best soccer experience possible for all.

Glossary of Terms

- 'OPDL': Ontario Player Development League
- 'LTPD': Long Term Player Development
- 'OPDL round': One full weekend of OPDL games, totalling 20 across the entire 2016 season
- 'Home Games': A game or round of play hosted by the License Holder
- 'Central Venue': A game or round of play hosted at Central Venues
- 'Game day': The day on which OPDL league competition occurs (Saturday or Sundays)
- 'OPDL game': One fully completed game between two OPDL teams
- 'Game time': The period of time from the blowing of the whistle by the referee to commence play to the blowing of the whistle to indicate fulltime
- 'OPDL team': A team of 14 players participating in the OPDL of one age group and gender
- 'Team management': The non-playing team of coaches, trainers and/or administrators who are in attendance and in the Technical Area on OPDL game day
- 'Playing kit': Team uniform worn by players to play OPDL games
- 'Equipment': All items used to supplement the field of play to facilitate the game to be played (e.g., goals, nets, corner flags, balls, scoreboards, etc.)
- 'Player book': Identification booklet issued by Ontario Soccer district bodies verifying a player's identity, club, registration & playing status



Section I - Pre-Game

OPDL Match Schedule & Central Venues

- a) The full schedule of matches can be found under the OPDL section at www.theopdl.com/Games_Schedules.aspx.
- b) Teams will play simultaneously at designated central venues. This format enables OPDL Technical Staff, and later University and higher level scouting personnel to monitor the development of OPDL players throughout the season.
- c) OPDL is responsible for the booking and payment of all central venues, together with the provision of necessary field and game equipment (goals, corner flags, balls, etc.), either directly or through the venue providers.
- d) When hosting, the host License Holder is responsible for permitting, booking and payment of playing fields and helping the OPDL source local event management staff support for the dates they are hosting. The OPDL maintains responsibility for (and payment of) match officials, medical support, event support and game equipment (excluding field equipment such as goals, corner flags).
- e) All venues that are used for OPDL competition are inspected and approved by the OPDL. In selecting venues, the OPDL has taken into consideration playing surface requirements and quality, geographical location, availability of support infrastructure (such as change rooms, parking, etc.) and facility availability/access.

Pre-Game Briefing

- a) Prior to the OPDL weekend, a report with specific information will be available on the OPDL League Management System (theopdl.com). In this report, the following information will be included:
 - i. Confirmation of game venue, kick-off time, opposition and uniform colours
 - ii. The names of the Match Officials assigned to your game
 - iii. Name and contact details for your OPDL Venue Coordinator
 - iv. Assignment of a specific match field
 - v. Details on parking assignment locations
 - vi. Details on changing room allocation
 - vii. Briefing on any advance weather warnings or other game time contingencies
 - viii. Any other prudent information relating to your OPDL game event that weekend
- b) Team Managers should check the briefing by the afternoon of the Wednesday prior to their OPDL round



Game Day Presentation & Dress

- a) The OPDL strives to instil a culture of high performance in all participating personnel, and that extends to dress, presentation and appearance. Teams must make every effort to present their players and team management as professionally as possible.
- b) During travel, teams should follow a consistent dress code (e.g. team tracksuits) appropriate for a youth soccer team and identifying their licence holders.
- c) Teams should ensure players are equipped with appropriate clothing if inclement weather is forecast.
- d) Team management (including coaching staff) must be dressed in attire that clearly identifies them and their management status. Full footwear is required at all times (no flip-flops/sandals).
- e) Playing Kit Standards
 - i. All uniforms must be numbered, with no duplicate jersey numbers on the roster.
 - ii. Teams are to wear the uniform colour assigned by the OPDL and should ensure they refer to the League Management site in the days prior to the OPDL round.
 - iii. The OPDL patch must be displayed on the left sleeve of all uniforms.
 - iv. Team sponsors are permitted on team jerseys at the OPDL Licence Holder's discretion, except on the left sleeve as per above.
 - v. If undergarments, undershorts or tights are worn, the colour of the sleeve/shorts must be the same main colour as the sleeve of the outer jersey or shorts.
 - vi. All other equipment must be as per FIFA Laws of the Game



Section II – At Game Venue

OPDL Venue Responsibilities

a) Home & Away Games

The host Licence Holder assumes lead responsibilities for the running of game day operations, with support from the OPDL. Specific host Licence Holder and OPDL responsibilities at in-conference rounds are outlined in the OPDL Hosting Guidelines document that is available to all OPDL Licence Holders. The document is available on the OPDL League Management site, as well as on the Ontario Soccer website (<http://www.ontariosoccer.net/player/talented-pathway/opdl/opdl-resources>).

b) Central Venues

For interleague rounds, OPDL assumes full responsibility for the running of game day operations at central venues. This includes:

- i. Booking and payment of central venues, including any ancillary costs such as floodlighting, score clock, PA system, etc.
- ii. Provision of match balls
- iii. Assignment and payment of all match officials
- iv. Rostering and payment of medical staff, who will be in attendance at all OPDL matches
- v. Rostering and payment of event support staff
- vi. Provision of technical oversight and player monitoring

OPDL Venue Coordinators

- a) For all of your OPDL matches, your team will be assisted onsite by an OPDL Venue Coordinator, who will be there to assist you, your team and your supporter base while onsite at a venue to play your game. This includes:
 - i. Assistance with change room and field directions at the venue
 - ii. Liaison with team needs during pre-game and warm-up
 - iii. Assistance to the player benches during game time
 - iv. Initial contact in the case of emergency or special incident
 - v. Assistance with team as required post-game
 - vi. Checking of Player Registration Books or cards

Venue Arrival

- a) Teams are required to be at the venue at least one hour before game time. It is imperative that you are not late as a delayed kick-off impacts kick-off times for subsequent games.
- b) In the event that you are travelling as a team and are unavoidably late, please contact the OPDL Venue Coordinator as soon as this delayed arrival becomes apparent and maintain constant contact with them with regard to your expected time-of-arrival.
- c) On arrival at the game venue, contact your OPDL Venue Coordinator in-person and notify them of the arrival. The OPDL Venue Coordinator will advise you of information related to change rooms (pending availability), drinking water sources, video area and warm up



field at the venue. These may only be accessible to teams one hour prior to their scheduled game time.

- d) The OPDL Venue Coordinator will also identify key locations at the central venue for you such as concession sites and designated spectator areas.
- e) Please note that the following is not permitted at OPDL venues:
 - i. pets of any kind
 - ii. alcohol or tobacco
 - iii. glass bottles or containers
 - iv. food (inside the field area)

Game Day Countdown

- a) Protocol outlined below shall be observed at all OPDL Matches.

Activity	Responsibility	Time until kick-off
Teams check-in with OPDL Venue Coordinator	Team Officials	60 minutes
Match Officials check-in with OPDL Venue Coordinator	Match Officials	45 minutes
Match Official Inspection of the field	Match Officials	
Match Official Mentor check-in with OPDL Venue Coordinator	Match Official Mentor	
Match Officials' warm-up starts	Match Officials	35 minutes
Teams' warm-up starts	Team Officials	25 minutes
Game Sheets & Player Registration Books provided to OPDL Venue Coordinator	Team Officials	
Match Officials' warm-up ends	Match Officials	15 minutes
Game Balls provided to Match Official Mentor	OPDL Venue Coordinator	
Teams' warm-up ends	Team Officials	5 minutes
Announcements / Final Instructions	Team Officials	
Players' equipment check	Match Officials	3 minutes
Teams and Match Officials to shake hands	Match Officials	2 minutes
Coin Toss	Match Officials	1 minute
Kick-Off	Match Officials	0

Change Rooms

- a) Some venues come equipped with change rooms, allowing your team to change for match play at the venue, and shower and change after. Some venues have limited change rooms that may require your players to arrive at their games changed and ready for play, but with change room access after their game to shower and change. A few venues have no change rooms, requiring players to arrive at and leave the venues in their playing kit.



- b) You will be notified of change room status in the Pre-Game Briefing you receive earlier in the week, so you can suitably notify your players and their parents. The pre-game briefing on the OPDL league management website will indicate the availability of change rooms at the venue.
- c) When using change rooms, please ensure they are treated respectfully and left clean and undamaged. Please also ensure valuable items are not left in change rooms, as neither the central venue nor the OPDL will take responsibility for their loss or theft.

Change Room Protocol

- a) Only registered Team Officials and players are permitted in the change room.
 - i. Unauthorized visitors are not allowed in the Change Room prior to, during, or after any sanctioned game.
 - ii. It is the responsibility of all team officials working a sanctioned game to ensure that a “professional” appearance and perception is maintained with regards to activities in the change room. Cameras and any other electronic devices capable of capturing images are prohibited in the change room.
 - iii. Cell phones that have camera capability are permitted for the purposes of telephone communications only and imaging is strictly prohibited.
- b) Any inappropriate behaviour in the change room must immediately be reported to a team official or someone in a position of trust, and may need to be followed up in writing to the Executive Assistant at Ontario Soccer according to the [Ontario Soccer Harassment Policy](#).
- c) It is essential to respect each other’s privacy. These guidelines are for the safety and protection of OPDL participants.
- d) Opposite genders must never use the change rooms at the same time without following the Change Room Protocol, regardless of age.
- e) Anyone found guilty of violating the Change Room Protocol will be subject to disciplinary action under The Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures.

Hydration & Concessions

- a) All venues shall have access to hydration, which you will be directed to by the OPDL Venue Coordinator on arrival. Teams are responsible for bringing their own water bottles and filling/replenishing them as needed.
- b) The availability of concessions varies at each venue. Options for the purchase of food and drink items will be informed of by the OPDL Venue Coordinator on your arrival at the central venue.
- c) Teams' support groups are permitted to bring food and non-alcoholic drinks with them for consumption at games outside the field area. All related litter must be disposed of in litter bins or taken away with you on vacating the venue.
- d) OPDL teams except those from licence holders hosting may not operate concession sales of any kind at OPDL events.

Designated Areas

- a) Spectator Area
 - i. Spectators may watch the games in designated areas only. Most venues come equipped with spectator bleachers and/or seating of various capacities.



- ii. Spectators are not permitted to be located on the side of the field that the technical areas are located and are not permitted to be in the technical areas at any time.
- iii. If spectators have any queries at any time during their visit at an OPDL venue, they should be directed to the OPDL Venue Coordinator.
- f) Technical Director Area
 - i. An area will be designated for Technical Directors at each venue. The OPDL Venue Coordinator will be able to direct the individual accordingly.
- g) Dismissed Player Area
 - i. An area in close proximity to the team bench will be designated for Dismissed Players at each venue. The OPDL Venue Coordinator will direct the individual to this area.

Team Sponsors & Banners

- a) Support groups for OPDL teams may bring general, non-sponsor banners of support for their team at their discretion, on the grounds that they do not represent a threat to public safety when erected or waved, or are offensive in nature.
- b) If teams are planning to bring banners larger than 4' x 8', please advise the OPDL of the name of the sponsor to be placed on the banner at least two (2) weeks before its intended use. This is required as some venues require approval of non-resident sponsor names to be displayed as part of the rental agreements on their facilities.
- c) Team sponsors logos may be displayed on team playing kit and apparel at teams' discretion in accordance with OPDL Sponsorship Guidelines and must be pre-approved by the OPDL
- d) Use of the OPDL logo on banners and kit/apparel must be conducted in accordance with OPDL Brand & Logo Guidelines.

Pre-Game Warm Up

- a) Each team shall be entitled to a concurrent warm-up period of twenty (20) minutes which shall end strictly five (5) minutes before kick-off.
- b) The warm-up zone will be indicated to you on your arrival by the OPDL Venue Coordinator and may be separate from the designated field of play.

Game Sheets & Player Reporting

- a) Game sheets will be available on the OPDL League Management System (theopdl.com)
- b) Game sheets must be completed and four copies printed by each team by end of the day on Thursday prior to the game
 - i. For mid-week games, Game Sheet shall be completed at least 48hrs prior to the game.
- c) No marks or handwritten names shall be made on printed copies of game sheets.
 - i. If a players or team official is listed incorrectly on the game sheet, his/her name can be crossed from the game sheet.
- d) The game sheet should be completed appropriately, with a minimum of 14 and maximum of 20 eligible players for age groups U13,U14 and U15 and 22 eligible players properly listed and team officials.



- i. Players on the sub-roster but not listed on the game sheet are not eligible to take part in the game.
- e) Each OPDL team shall have a minimum of fourteen (14) players and a maximum of twenty (20) players for U13, U14 and U15 and twenty-two (22) players for U16 dressed in uniform, present and eligible to participate in each match.
- f) Game sheets must be given to the OPDL Venue Coordinator at least twenty-five (25) minutes before kick-off. Once submitted, no additions can be made to the Game Sheet.
- g) Team management must bring Ontario Soccer Player Registration Books, or cards, for all players to be listed on the game sheet at all OPDL games.
- h) Without an Ontario Soccer Player Registration Book or Card, a player is not eligible to take any part in an OPDL game.
- i) Without an Ontario Soccer Team Official Registration Book or Card, a Team Official is not permitted to take any part in an OPDL game and will not be permitted to sit on the team bench unless there is no other team official present to supervise.
- j) Team failing to produce an Ontario Soccer Player Registration Book or Card for any player listed on the game sheet will be subject to disciplinary action.
- k) Ontario Soccer Player Registration Books or Cards are subject to inspection by the OPDL Venue Coordinator at every game. Twenty-five (25) minutes prior to kick-off, the Player Registration Books/Cards must be presented to the OPDL Venue Coordinator for verification. Following inspection, player books/cards will be immediately returned to team management.
- l) If a discrepancy in player eligibility is identified, it must be brought to the OPDL Venue Coordinator's attention immediately and the team may be subject to disciplinary action.
- m) Prior to the start of each game, team officials from both teams will have the opportunity to challenge a player's identification with the OPDL Venue Coordinator. Failure to do so will result in the team waiving the right, for that game, to protest any player identity.
- n) OPDL teams shall verify the accuracy of game sheets and obtain a signed copy from the Match Officials after the match.
 - i. Upon completion of the game, all game sheet copies must be signed by the team representative to acknowledge accuracy of the information. One copy will be returned to each team.
- o) On completion of the game, the substitution form must be returned to the OPDL Venue Coordinator.

Match Officials

- a) A referee and two assistant referees shall be appointed to all OPDL games
- b) Teams should adhere to Match Officials requests at all times, including requests for game sheets, warm-up completion, game start and team bench vacation at game completion.
- c) OPDL Match Officials should be appropriately dressed in official referee uniform(s) and come prepared with flags, whistles and other means needed to officiate a game.
- d) All Match Officials should be in attendance 45 (forty-five) minutes before each game and must report immediately to the OPDL Venue Coordinator on site upon arrival.
- e) OPDL Match Officials may be mentored, developed and evaluated at OPDL games. OPDL team feedback will be requested routinely after each game to assist with the evaluation



of Match Officials. Commitment and cooperation in consistently returning honest and fair feedback on OPDL Match Officials is requested to ensure proper development outcomes.

- f) Mentors must not be approached by anyone other than the appointed Match Official, regarding any decision before, during or after the game.

Match Delays & Forfeits

- a) A match may be delayed for up to one hour before being deemed cancelled and duly forfeited. The declaration of a forfeited game is the sole decision of the Match Official, in consultation with the OPDL.
- b) In the event of poor light, an unplayable field or insufficient player volume, the Referee may at his/her discretion terminate a game before the completion of the scheduled game length.
- c) 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 the responsibility of the OPDL.
- d) When a significant delay in a match start occurs, OPDL event staff will endeavour to inform team management for the teams of proceeding games as soon as possible.
- e) When match delays occur, proceeding games will still be afforded appropriate warm-up, game time and half time break as per usual, albeit with a delayed kick-off time.
- f) Repeated late arrival at games from a team, particularly where it causes the delayed start and finish of a game, is an offence that is assessed as part an OPDL Licence Holder's Annual Performance Review and may result in disciplinary action from the OPDL in line with the review process.
- g) 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 "Operations Rules - Appendix B".
- h) A 1-0 win shall be awarded to the team not at fault.
- i) In case of Lightning, the **Lightning Safety & Severe Weather Policy** [Appendix A] must be followed.

OPDL Technical Staff & Scouting Personnel

- a) OPDL's Technical Staff, as well as Ontario Soccer technical personnel will be in attendance at all Central Venue Rounds and random but routine Home & Away games. Their role is to monitor the incremental development of all OPDL players, in consultation with OPDL Licence Holder technical leadership. OPDL Technical Staff will be identifiable, dressed in appropriate Ontario Soccer/OPDL uniform.
- b) Ontario Soccer Technical Staff will also be in regular attendance at OPDL games to monitor the development of OPDL referees and for coach development purposes.
- c) OPDL/Ontario Soccer Technical Staff are present at OPDL games in an observatory capacity only and should not be approached at OPDL games by players' parents, coaches, or by the players themselves.
- d) From time-to-time, technical personnel from other soccer organizations (including the national team program) may also be in attendance at OPDL games.



- e) At older age groups, scouting personnel from prospective adult soccer establishments (including NCAA and CIS schools) are expected to routinely attend games to scout players.

SECTION III – IN-GAME

Game Length & Half Time

- a) Game rules employed shall be those of FIFA Laws of the Game except instances noted in the OPDL Operations Rules and/or the OPDL Game Day Regulations.
- b) At U13 and U14 age groups, matches will be four periods of 20 minutes, with three (3) 5 minute intermissions. The intermission period commences when the referee blows for the end of the previous period.
 - i. Teams will switch sides at the end of the second period.
- c) At the U15 age group, matches will be two periods of 40 minutes, with one 10 minute intermission. The intermission period commences when the referee blows for the end of the previous period.
- d) For the U16 age group, matches will be two periods of 45 minutes, with one 10 minute intermission. The intermission period commences when the referee blows for the end of the previous period.
- e) The Match Official will indicate to teams when two minutes of intermission are remaining and players are expected to be on the field ready for play one minute before the end of the intermission.

Game Time Management Team & Technical Area

- a) The following team officials must be present, on the team bench, at OPDL games:
 - i. Team Head Coach
 - ii. Team Assistant Coach or Goalkeeper Coach
- b) In the event that a Head Coach is sick or unable to attend a game for unavoidable reasons, another National B level coach or higher may substitute in their place.
- c) At least one (1) member of the management team who is not the Head Coach should have first aid training, with the responsibility for managing the welfare of injured players (or other parties) that do not require direct ambulatory care following initial treatment by OPDL medical personnel at a game event.
- d) Teams are also encouraged to have in attendance where possible the following:
 - i. Goalkeeper coach
 - ii. Assistant Coach
 - iii. Team Manager
- e) The technical area shall be marked and shall not exceed 5 x 10 metres. The technical area extends forward up to a distance of no more than one (1) metre from the touch line. Management of the Technical Area is the responsibility of Match Officials.
- f) Only Team Officials and players registered with the team may be permitted in the technical area.
- g) The team's coaching and management must remain within the confines of the technical area except in special circumstances, e.g. entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assist in the assessment an injured player.



- h) All players in the technical area must have pinnies on that identify them as not being active players in the game.
- i) Only one person per team is authorised to convey tactical instructions to players at any one time within the confines of the technical area during the match and must return to his/her position after giving these instructions. Always acting in a responsible manner. All players on the substitute's bench must remain properly seated on the bench at all times i.e., not on back of the bench or on the ground in the technical area.
- j) A player dismissed from the match may not continue to sit in the technical area. Dismissed players shall remain in a designated dismissed player area, properly identified by the OPDL Venue Coordinator.
- k) All Team Officials dismissed from the game are not permitted in the technical area and must vacate the vicinity of the field. Dismissed Team Officials are not permitted to continue issuing instructions from any other area at the venue.

Game Recording

- a) OPDL staff may video record OPDL games for technical analysis purposes.
- b) Video recording of OPDL games by OPDL teams specifically for technical player analysis reasons is permitted, at the discretion of the participating Licence Holders.
- c) It is the responsibility of the participating OPDL Licence Holders to ensure that the appropriate waivers have been secured from players' parents to undertake video recording of games. Verification of such waivers should also be sought from the opposing team before a Licence Holder undertakes recording of any kind.
- d) If you do intend to video your team's game, please notify the OPDL Venue Coordinator on arrival. They will direct you to the most appropriate location from which to record. Some venues have specified areas on raised ground, which are designed for match recording purposes. Others may have a designated area that the OPDL Venue Coordinator will be able to advise you of.
- e) Recording equipment must be in a safe location and may not obstruct the view or movement of, or cause confusion for Match Officials or Players. Recording equipment and its location must be approved by the Referee.
- f) An OPDL team that decides to record a game is solely responsible for any cameras and associated video recording equipment and property and neither the venue nor the OPDL is responsible for this property's damage, loss or theft.

Retreat Line Rule

- a) In order to maximize the effectiveness of the development of players in the OPDL, a unique match rule has been implemented at U13 age group called the Retreat Line Rule. This rule has been established to train young goalkeepers and defenders to restart the game from a goal kick in an optimal manner, without prohibitive pressure from opposing attacking forwards.
- b) When the "Retreat Line" is not enforced (U14 Games & U15 Games), retreat line field markings shall be removed from the field by the OPDL Venue Coordinator.
- c) The rule is as follows:
 - i. A 'Retreat Line' is drawn 15 metres beyond the top of the penalty area and will either be marked with different colour paint or with cones located on either side of the field.



- ii. On goal kicks, the opposing team must position all of its players behind this line.
- iii. The opposition is allowed to cross over this line once the ball has been released from the goalkeeper's foot.

Fair Playing Time

- a) The technical leadership at individual OPDL Licence Holders has the freedom to assign playing time to its players at their discretion.
- b) OPDL Licence Holders are required to implement a fair playing time policy. Furthermore, all substitutes on game day should play a minimum twenty (20) minutes in that game. This is subject to the discretion of OPDL Licence Holder coaching staff, as it pertains to the health, safety and eligibility of the individual player.

Substitutions

- a) A maximum of five (5) field players and one (1) goalkeeper substitutions are permitted per game and no more than 3 players may be changed during any one substitution.
 - i. Substitution of an injured player counts as one of the five allowed substitutions.
 - ii. If the substituted injured player then substitutes a player during the periods of play, it counts as one of the five allowed substitutions.
 - iii. If a team has exhausted all five substitutions and an injury occurs, the injured player cannot be substituted until the next intermission. If injury occurs during the last period of play, the team will play short until the end of the game.
- b) A substitute player may not enter the field of play until the Substitution form has been signed by the OPDL Venue Coordinator, and has been instructed by a Match Official that he/she may enter the field.
- c) Teams must keep substitution forms during the game. Form must be inspected by the OPDL Venue Coordinator upon request for substitution. Substitutions will not be permitted without substitution cards. This applies to intermission substitutions as well.
- d) Unlimited substitutions are permitted at intermissions, which do not apply to the five (5) players that are able to be substituted during game time.
- e) Substitutes entering the game during intermissions are required to enter from half upon receiving permission from the Match Official.
- f) Substitutions can be made at any game stoppage, including "water breaks"

Water Break Protocol

- a) Upon request by a Head Coach, the Referee will allow a "water break" in accordance with the following:
 - i. Water breaks are to be implemented when temperatures are at or expected to reach 30° Celsius.
 - ii. The decision in regards to a water break shall be made before the start of the match and communicated to both Head Coaches.
 - iii. The "water break" should be at a normal stoppage as close to the midpoint of the period as possible.
 - iv. All players shall remain on the field.
 - v. The stoppage should be no longer than 60 seconds.



Misconducts

- a) For U13 divisions only, a player who has been sent off may be replaced by one of the named substitutes listed on the game sheet.
- b) All misconducts will be reviewed in accordance with Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures.

Sideline Conduct

- a) Appropriate behaviour and conduct of all spectators and personnel watching the game is imperative to provide an environment conducive for players to learn and grow.
- b) All personnel must strictly follow the OPDL Operations Rules. OPDL Licence Holders are directly responsible for the conduct of all personnel associated with their teams, including players' parents and supporter groups.
- c) It is the responsibility of all OPDL Licence Holders to ensure all personnel associated with their teams are advised of the OPDL Operations Rules and agree to abide by it.
- d) If there are instances of breach of OPDL Operations Rules by a member of an OPDL Licence Holder's technical or supporter group, the Licence Holder is expected to use whatever means it has at its disposal to duly neutralize the breach and if necessary impose appropriate disciplinary measures on the offending party.
- e) Repeated breach of OPDL Operations Rules by an OPDL Licence Holder's teams will be taken into consideration in the Licence Holder's annual Performance Review and may result in disciplinary action from the OPDL measures in line with the review process.

Medical Services & Game Time Player Treatment/Injury

- a) A medical representative will be in attendance for all OPDL games and will be responsible for assessment and management of game time injuries.
- b) The medical representative will be the chief liaison agent in relation to Emergency Response Management protocol.
- c) OPDL medical representatives' responsibilities do not extend beyond game time injury management. However, injury reports will be issued on request to the parents or Head Coach of the team of an injured player, if appropriate waivers have been signed.
- d) OPDL will be providing centralized sports medicine advice and League-wide assistance with injury prevention and injury management measures as a support service to OPDL Licence Holders.
- e) "Treatment and Health Care Informed Consent Form" for all players listed on the game sheet along with any relevant medical information must be available at the venue on game day and are subject to inspection by the Medical Staff. Failing to comply can result in disciplinary action under the OPDL Disciplinary Code.
- f) Failure to comply with OPDL Medical Guidelines will result in disciplinary action.



SECTION IV – POST GAME

Following Final Whistle

- a) On completion of the game, as indicated by the referee's final whistle, players should vacate the field of play as soon as possible to allow preparation for the proceeding game. No spectators should come onto the field of play at any time after a game has been completed.
- b) Team benches and technical areas should be cleared as soon as possible after final whistle, to allow for preparation for the proceeding match participants. All belongings must be taken with departing teams, and team benches and technical areas must be left clean and free of litter.
- c) If change rooms are available, teams may return to their change room to shower and change. Match debriefs should be held in team change rooms if they are available.
- d) In the event of no change room availability, team debriefs should be in a location away from the field of play. Your OPDL Venue Coordinator will help identify such a location for you on request.

Completing Game Sheets

- a) Game sheets are completed by the Match Official, with the following information recorded:
 - i. Goals (goal scorers with times)
 - ii. Substitutions (players in and out with times)
 - iii. Misconducts (with codes and times)
- b) A member of team management from both OPDL teams must verify the game statistics and sign the match report on site. Game sheets should be signed before leaving the field of play.
- c) Game Sheets for U13 divisions returned to teams will not indicate any goals or goal scorers
- d) Game sheets and substitution forms are filed directly with the OPDL by the OPDL Venue Coordinator, with copies given to both participating teams before they leave after the game.

Game Protests

- a) Each protest arising from a game in the competition shall be sent by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the game, the protesting Licence Holder shall advise Ontario Soccer by e-mail (opdl@ontariosoccer.net)
- b) In the event that a game has been rescheduled and/or is not played on a weekend, the protesting club shall advise Ontario Soccer by 12:00 p.m. two days following game
- c) The written protest shall include the following information:
 - i. Name of protesting Licence Holder
 - ii. Date of game
 - iii. Game number
 - iv. Division
 - v. Name of Licence Holder's team
 - vi. Name of opposing team
 - vii. Rule(s) which were violated



- viii. Additional information to support protest
- ix. Name and position (within Licence Holder club) of person advising Ontario Soccer
- d) Accompanying the protest, a protest fee in the amount of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) must be received within five (5) days after the receipt of the protest
- e) In cases of disputed delivery, it is the responsibility of the protesting Licence Holder to prove which date the protest was received at Ontario Soccer.
- f) The protesting Licence Holder must provide evidence to substantiate the protest.
- g) If the preceding terms are not met, the protest shall be declared to be out of order.
- h) Upon receiving notification of the protest (in accordance with these terms) the Ontario Soccer staff shall notify the opposing Licence Holder about the nature of the protest.
- i) Upon receiving the written protest, (in accordance with these terms), the Ontario Soccer Staff shall provide the opposing team's club with a copy of the Protest.
- j) Protests shall be dealt with by the OPDL Discipline Committee.

Protest Hearing

- a) After the protest is received, the hearing will be scheduled in accordance with the Ontario Soccer Discipline Hearing Procedure (Section 12.0). Where applicable, hearing information will be communicated by Ontario Soccer if procedural timelines differ.
- b) There shall be no further appeal of any kind against its decision(s).
- c) Notwithstanding OPDL Game Day Regulation 28. h) , at its discretion, the Committee may convene a protest hearing at which officials from both Licence Holders, the match officials, or other persons may be required to attend.
- d) In the event a team is found to be in contravention of the OPDL Operations Rules as a result of a protest, the Committee has the authority to:
 - i. Decide, on the basis of the evidence provided, which team (if any) will be declared the winner of the game; and
 - ii. Levy a fine against an offending team to a maximum of \$2,500.00 per game.
- e) Protests will not be entertained if the issue is, according to the FIFA Laws of the Game, at the discretion of the referee (i.e. field conditions)

Event Evaluations

- a) After your game, you will be emailed an event questionnaire that must be completed.
- b) This questionnaire gathers important evaluation information from OPDL teams on venues, match officials, event staff, technical staff and other matters that contribute to the development of a strong game day experience for all involved in the OPDL. Its completion is essential for the OPDL to continuously drive high quality levels in its League operations.
- c) The questionnaire should be completed by a member of the team's management group who was in attendance for the full game experience being surveyed.
- d) The team representative completing the survey should canvass necessary feedback from players, parents and other members of their management and support group in order to properly complete the questionnaire.
- e) You will receive the same standardized questionnaire after each round of League play. Questionnaires should be completed by the Wednesday following your match.



APPENDIX A – LIGHTNING SAFETY & SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

When thunder roars, go indoors!

The safety of players, coaches, management and spectators is the primary concern in any weather event that occurs during all matches sanctioned by Canada Soccer. By understanding and following the below information, the safety of everyone shall be greatly increased. Ultimately, the referee has the final say over delaying or restarting a match due to weather. Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Referees are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches they are controlling.

If you can hear thunder, you can get hit by lightning. As soon as you hear thunder, quickly get to a safe location. More people are struck before and after a thunderstorm than during one. Stay inside for 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

Additional Information

Please note the following recommendations from Environment Canada:

- **To plan for a safe day, check the weather forecast first.** If thunderstorms are forecast, avoid being outdoors at that time or make an alternate plan. Identify safe places and determine how long it will take you to reach them.
- **Watch the skies for developing thunderstorms and listen for thunder.** As soon as you hear thunder, quickly get to a safe location. If you can hear thunder, you are in danger of being hit by lightning. More people are struck before and after a thunderstorm than during one.
- **Get to a safe place.** A safe location is a fully enclosed building with wiring and plumbing. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning. If no sturdy building is close by, get into a metal-roofed vehicle and close all the windows.
- **Do not handle electrical equipment, telephones or plumbing.** These are all electrical conductors. Using a computer or wired video game system, taking a bath or touching a metal window frame all put you at risk of being struck by lightning. Use battery-operated appliances only.
- **If caught outdoors far from shelter, stay away from tall objects.** This includes trees, poles, wires and fences. Take shelter in a low-lying area but be on the alert for possible flooding.

Be aware of how close lightning is occurring. Thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished due to background noise in the immediate environment and its distance from the observer.

When larger groups are involved, the time needed to properly evacuate an area increases. As time requirements change, the distance at which lightning is noted and considered a threat to move into the area must be increased.

Know where the closest “safe structure or location” is to the field or playing area and know how long it takes to get to that safe structure or location. Safe structure or location is defined as:

- Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people, i.e., a building with plumbing and / or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use the showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.

In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a convertible or golf cart) and rolled-up windows can provide a measure of safety. A vehicle is certainly better than remaining outdoors. It is not the rubber tires that make a vehicle a safe shelter, but the



hard metal roof which dissipates the lightning strike around the vehicle. Do not touch the sides of any vehicle!

If no safe structure or location is within a reasonable distance, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of the feet touching the ground, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head. Minimize contact with the ground because lightning current often enters a victim through the ground rather than by a direct overhead strike. Minimize your body's surface area and the ground! Do not lie flat! If unable to reach safe shelter, stay away from the tallest trees or objects such as light poles or flag poles), metal objects (such as fences or bleachers), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid being the highest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single, tall tree.

Avoid using the telephone, except in emergency situations. People have been struck by lightning while using a land-line telephone. A cellular phone or a portable remote phone is a safe alternative to land-line phones, if the person and the antenna are located within a safe structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.

When considering resumption of any athletics activity, wait at least thirty (30) minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the field.

First aid for lightning victims

Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strikes.


- **Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge and can be safely handled.**
- **Call for help.** Victims may be suffering from burns or shock and should receive medical attention immediately. Call 9-1-1 or your local ambulance service.
- **Give first aid.** If breathing has stopped, administer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Use an automatic external defibrillator if one is available.

For additional information the following websites are helpful:

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/foudre-lightning/default.asp?lang=En&n=57412D67-1>
www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/lightning



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