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Long Term Officials Development

The Club Environment

Frequently Asked Questions

March 1, 2017

The Club Environment

Will Club Head Referees support Long Term Officials Development?

We will include and engage all levels of leadership in this program.

We will work with Club Head Referees and Club leaders and support them in the implementation of Long Term Officials Development (LTOD). We will educate them on the benefits to their Club officials and their overall program.

We will bridge any gaps between Clubs and District Associations in Match Officials Development programming through LTOD implementation.

Will Clubs be given sufficient resources to meet the demands of the Long Term Officials Development program?

All resources will be shared at all levels. Club Head Referees will have direct access to Long Term Officials Development leadership and Regional Champions. We will ensure that we have a direct communication line for Clubs that request or require support.

By working closely with the District Referee Coordinators and requiring that a Development Plan between the Clubs and District Associations be created annually, resources will be accessible to Clubs across the province. Clubs can also reach out to their Regional Champions or LTOD staff at any time.

Why, as a Club Head Referee, should I report through the Club Technical Director when their focus is typically on coaches and players, and Match Officials are often an afterthought?

Officiating is a technical part of the game, but often not under the responsibility of the Club Technical Directors. We are working with Club Technical Directors to ensure that Match Officials development becomes part of the technical program of every Club. In the past 2 years we have presented at the Technical Director Course, and have built relationships with a number of Clubs that are realizing the importance of building a working relationship with their Club Head Referees.

We are also willing to come and meet with your Club Technical Directors to educate them on LTOD, the Match Officials Development program, and the value it brings to the Club.

Is there an incentive for Clubs to put effort and time into managing officials? Currently some Clubs do not understand officiating, or support Match Officials properly.

The Club level is typically the entry point for Match Officials. The incentive for Clubs to put effort and time into the Match Officials development program is to have more educated and qualified Match Officials for Club games. If a Match Official feels supported, valued and has equal access to games, the Club will retain them for their programs and the official will be better prepared for future development opportunities.

If Clubs put money into developing Match Officials, is there a risk that Clubs will not want to 'give up' their Match Officials to Districts?

As with players advancing to higher levels of play, Clubs should be proud of Match Officials advancing to the next level. The goal of the Club should be to support those Match Officials that wish to pursue higher levels. Pro-active Clubs will understand the importance of the development pathway for Match Officials.

Will Long Term Officials Development be built into Ontario Soccer's Club Excellence criteria?

Match Officials Development will become an important component of the Club Excellence program as of 2017. More information will be provided as we move forward

What if Clubs do not have a Club Head Referee? This will affect Long Term Officials Development for the referees registered with that Club...

It is an Ontario Soccer policy to have a Club Head Referee if the Club is a Youth Club. There are 675 Clubs in the province and 363 of them are Youth Clubs.

We are encouraging Clubs to ensure they bring a Club Head Referee on board. If they cannot, we will work with them to partner with a neighbouring Club to share resources. Barring that, we will help create a development partnership with their District leaders.

How do you plan on educating the clubs that often do not understand the assigning process for Match Officials, causing problems for newer/younger Match Officials not being assigned properly by Clubs?

We are developing a Club and District Assignors training program. Part of this program will be the importance of assigning the correct official on the correct game and the balanced assigning of all officials in the Club. This is planned to be a 2018 pre-season session.

All assignors now have to register with Ontario Soccer. Ontario Soccer and/or the District Associations have the ability to request reports of all assignments. Our goal is for this oversight to assist in alleviating assigning issues as we move forward with Long Term Officials Development.

Why can Match Official training not be paid by clubs as is usually the case with Coach education?

Ontario Soccer does not have the ability to mandate that Clubs pay for Match Officials training. With regards to coach training being paid for by the Clubs, a majority of Club coaches are volunteers and this is part of their development pathway, while the majority of Club Match Officials get paid for their services. Larger Clubs may offer some financial resources.



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