



# DISCIPLINE CODE

## LEAGUE 1 ONTARIO

Version 1.7 – March 30, 2017

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**Rules and Policies Governing the Enforcement of Rules and Discipline of Misconduct for the 2017 League1 Ontario Season**



## Introduction

League1 Ontario has an important role to play in the growth of the sport of soccer in the Province of Ontario and indeed all of Canada. L1O has been established as a standards-based league and as such, it is imperative that we collectively take responsibility for ensuring those standards are respected and adhered to. We will, rightfully, be scrutinized closely by people from all parts of the soccer community. If we are committed to the values of Excellence, Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Honesty and Transparency, I am confident we will succeed in earning the respect of supporters and critics alike.

It is the intent of Ontario Soccer and League1 Ontario to promote the principles of fair play and sportsmanship as well as to ensure that a high standard of professionalism is adhered to by all League1 Ontario License Holders, including players, technical staff and operational staff.

However, it is inevitable there will be times when those standards are not adhered to. The purpose of this document is to make it very clear to all parties what the consequences of those violations will be. It is impossible to itemize every possible infraction. Some may not be listed specifically; however, infractions of similar intent and/or consequence will be dealt with in a like manner.

Our hope and expectation is that we will rarely have to refer to this document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dino D. Rossi (Jr.)", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dino D. Rossi (Jr.)  
Commissioner, League1 Ontario



## 1. Jurisdiction

- a) The League1 Ontario (L1O) Discipline Committee shall be responsible for handling all cases of reported misconduct in L1O, except for:
  - i. Match official assault
  - ii. Physical assault or attempted physical assault of a player by a team official or administrator
  - iii. Acts of moral turpitude
  - iv. Non-Compliance with established L1O Operational, Game Day or Technical Standards.
- b) The League1 Ontario Discipline Committee shall be responsible for handling all cases of reported misconduct for Players, Team Officials, Administrators or Clubs, as per Section 6 and Section 12, Procedure 3.1.1 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures, in accordance with the League1 Ontario Operations Manual.
- c) It is the responsibility of each License Holder to ensure that its Players, Team Officials and Administrators are aware of OSA and L1O Discipline rules and of the discipline systems used by L1O.

## 2. Discipline System

- a) L1O Discipline shall be rendered in accordance with the Discipline by Review (D.B.R.) system for all Misconduct Types listed in Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures.
- b) All other misconduct shall be referred to the L1O Discipline Committee and discipline shall be rendered in accordance with the Discipline By Hearing (D.B.H.) system with penalties as specified in in Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures.
- c) The L1O Discipline Committee shall use the Discipline by Review (D.B.R.) system to review all cases of player misconduct reported by a game official, except for:
  - i. Match official assault
  - ii. Misconduct which falls under the Discipline By Hearing (D.B.H) System; and shall render discipline in accordance with the mandatory suspensions, as specified in Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures.

## 3. Reporting and Review of Discipline

- a) By no later than 4pm on the day following the conclusion of an L1O Match, the Match Official shall submit the following items to RefCentre and / or the L1O League Administrator:
  - i. Game Sheets for all games
  - a) Misconduct report for each incident of misconduct by a player, team official, administrator, or match official
  - b) Special incident reports



- b) The L1O Discipline Committee, or L1O or OSA staff designate therein, shall review all cases of reported misconduct and render discipline in accordance with the mandatory penalties, as specified in Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures.
- c) In the event that (based on the reports which it reviews) the L1O Discipline Committee, or its OSA staff designate therein, decides that additional misconduct has occurred or that a Serious Foul Play or Violent Conduct misconduct warrants more than the mandatory suspension, it shall advise the person (either directly or through his/her Club) that additional charges are being laid and that a Discipline Hearing is being scheduled in accordance with the following procedures:
- i. The discipline hearing shall be conducted by an L1O Discipline Hearing Panel.
  - ii. Unless otherwise indicated by the L1O Discipline Committee, hearings shall take place on the next available date indicated in L1O's pre-published Hearing dates, and at least one (1) week after the date of the misconduct being reported. The accused may submit a request, in writing, for an expedited hearing.
  - iii. As per Section 12, Procedure 8.2 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures, the accused is permitted to request one (1) postponement of the hearing. This Request For Postponement must be received at least four (4) days before the scheduled Hearing and be accompanied by a \$50 fee. This fee will be returned if the Request For Postponement is denied.
  - iv. The hearing shall proceed with or without the attendance of the accused or his/her representative.
  - v. At the discretion of the L1O Discipline Committee, the accused, or any other party called, may attend a Hearing remotely via a communications technology that is duly approved by the L1O Discipline Committee. Where permission to attend a Hearing via such a communication technology is not expressly approved by the L1O Discipline Committee, attendance in person is assumed to be required by all parties involved.
- d) If the Discipline Hearing Panel finds the accused guilty of the reported misconduct, discipline shall be rendered in accordance with Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures.

#### **4. 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 Section 12, Procedure 9, Table 5 (items 1.7.5 to 1.7.10) of the OSA's published 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 [league1ontario@soccer.on.ca](mailto:league1ontario@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 L1O Discipline Hearing Panel.
  - iv. Unless otherwise indicated by the L1O Discipline Committee, Hearings shall take place on the next available date indicated in L1O's pre-published Hearing dates, and at least one (1) week after the date of the misconduct being reported. The accused may submit a request, in writing, for an expedited hearing.
  - v. As per Section 12, Procedure 8.2 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures, the accused is permitted to request one (1) postponement of the hearing. This Request For Postponement must be received at least four (4) days before the scheduled hearing and be accompanied by a \$50 Request For Postponement Fee. This fee will be returned if the Request For Postponement is denied.
  - vi. The hearing shall proceed with or without the attendance of the accused or his/her representative.



- vii. At the discretion of the L10 Discipline Committee, the accused, or any other party called, may attend a Hearing remotely via a communications technology that is duly approved by the L10 Discipline Committee. Where permission to attend a Hearing via such a communication technology is not expressly approved by the L10 Discipline Committee, attendance in person is assumed to be required by all parties involved.
- c) If the L10 Discipline Hearing Panel finds the player to be guilty of the reported misconduct, the mandatory discipline shall be rendered as per Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures.
- d) Failure to request a Discipline Hearing shall mean that any suspension levied under the Discipline By Review (D.B.R.) System may NOT be appealed to the OSA or any other organization.

## 5. General Discipline Rules

- a) In all cases of match official assault, the accused shall be immediately suspended from all soccer activities. The report shall be referred to OSA and discipline shall be handled by an OSA Discipline Hearing Panel, in accordance with the OSA Published Rules.
- b) In cases where a team official or administrator is reported by a Game Official, or if charges are laid by the police, for Physical Assault or Attempted Physical Assault of a player, the team official or administrator in question shall be immediately suspended from all soccer activities and discipline shall be handled by an L10 Discipline Hearing Panel, in accordance with OSA Published Operational Procedures.
- c) In a case of mistaken identity, the accused person must prove to the Discipline Hearing Panel at a Discipline Hearing that he/she was incorrectly identified and must identify and prove the correct identity of the player/team official who actually committed the reported misconduct; and in such case the player/team official will not be suspended but the player/team official who actually committed the reported misconduct shall be disciplined in accordance with OSA Published Operational Procedures.
- d) Cautions shall be recorded in the L10 Discipline database. The accumulation of cautions shall only apply to L10 competition.

## 6. Mandatory Penalties

- a) Players
  - i. For the Misconduct Types found on Table 5 of Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures that occur in L10 games, discipline shall be rendered under the Discipline by Review system and the mandatory penalties as outlined in Table 5 shall apply. Where suspensions in Table 7 of Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures. are quoted as a range, application of a suspension within the range is required and the misconduct will be dealt with under the Discipline by Hearing system.
  - ii. If the match official's report indicates that a charge of type 1.16A or types 1.19 through 1.21A (see Table 2 of Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures) is justified, the L10 Steering Committee will review the situation and may choose to forward a report to the L10 Discipline Committee for further disciplinary action at a subsequent hearing.



- iii. For the Misconduct Types found on Table 3 of Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures that occur in L1O games, discipline shall be rendered under the Discipline by Hearing system and the mandatory penalties shall apply. This discipline shall be referred to the OSA and handled by an OSA Discipline Hearing Panel.

b) Coaches and other Team Officials

- i. For the Misconduct Types found on Table 4 of Section 12, Procedure 9 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures that occurs in L1O games, discipline shall be rendered under the Discipline by Review system and the mandatory penalties as outlined shall apply. Where suspensions are quoted as a range, application of a suspension within the range is required and the misconduct will be dealt with under the Discipline by Hearing system.

## 7. Suspensions Levied by the League1 Ontario Discipline Hearing/Review Panel

- a) On misconduct being proven to its satisfaction, the L1O Discipline Committee shall have the power to order the offender:
  - i. To be suspended for a specific number of games in the L1O competition; and
  - ii. To be fined (with or without suspension).
  - iii. To be suspended from all or any specific soccer activity for a stated period of time, in accordance with OSA Published Operational Procedures;
- b) An L1O 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 Section 12, Procedure 9.4 and 9.4.1 of the OSA's published Operational Procedures.
- c) In the case of "suspensions for a stated period of time":
  - i. The "beginning date" of a suspension shall be the Friday following the Discipline Hearing in which the coach, player, team official was found guilty.
  - ii. L1O will communicate the "beginning date" and "expiry date" for a suspension to the Club, in writing, via email.
- d) 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 L1O competition (i.e. shall be suspended for a specific number of L1O games) until the player's team has concluded its participation in that year's L1O competition.
  - ii. After a team has concluded its participation in that year's L1O competition, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be served in the following season of L1O.
  - iii. If the player does not participate in L1O the following year, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be carried over to his/her new team (assuming the new team participates in an OSA sanctioned league).
  - iv. L1O will communicate the specific number of matches for which the player is suspended to the Club, in writing, via email.



- e) A listing of all suspensions (resulting from misconduct in L1O competition) shall be posted electronically and accessible to all teams. Notice of any suspension will always be e-mailed to the designated team contact (i.e. Head Coach, Team Manager, etc...)

## **8. Fines and Penalties**

- a) In the event a team, including team officials, contravenes L1O rules as contained herein or policies and rules outlined in the L1O Operations Manual or the L1O Game Day Manual, the L1O Steering Committee has the authority to levy fine(s) against the offending team, in compliance with OSA Published Operational Procedures or with the Fine Schedule set out in Appendix A of the L1O Discipline Code.
- b) If a club representative is required to attend a discipline hearing for one of the club'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 L1O Discipline Committee, they will be fined for non-attendance in compliance with OSA Published Operational Procedures.



## Appendix A – FINE SCHEDULE FOR LEAGUE STANDARDS NON-COMPLIANCE

### 1. Failure to Participate in Scheduled League Meetings

All License Holders are required to have a Club representative attend all scheduled L1O Operations Committee and L1O Technical Committee meetings.

Failure to attend a Meeting designated by League Management as “Mandatory” will result in an automatic fine (no warning given), so long as League Management gives License Holders a minimum of thirty (30) days notice, in writing.

Failure to attend one meeting	-	WARNING
Failure to attend two consecutive meetings	-	\$200 Fine
Failure to attend three consecutive meetings	-	\$500 Fine + Immediate License Review

### 2. Failure to Field A Team For A Scheduled L1O Match (League or Cup Match)

All League1 Ontario teams shall participate in all matches for which they are scheduled during the course of an L1O season (including League and Cup matches). Failure to field a team is defined as not fielding a minimum of 7 players for a scheduled match.

Failure to field a team for a scheduled L1O match	-	Forfeit Match + \$5,000 Fine + Immediate License Review
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Please Note: In addition to the Fine, the offending team will be responsible for reimbursement of all costs associated with the No-Show (e.g. Match Official costs, Match Supervisor costs, Match Official Assignor costs, Match Official Assessor costs, opponent’s direct costs, etc...) as determined and communicated to them by L1O League Management.

### 3. Failure to Field A Minimum of 14 Players For A Scheduled L1O Match (League or Cup Match)

A minimum of 14 players must be dressed and available to play at kickoff time of any scheduled L1O Match. Players arriving late will not be considered toward meeting the minimum number of players required.

Failure to field a team of at least 14 players in a scheduled L1O match (1 <sup>st</sup> offense)	-	\$1,000 Fine
Failure to field a team of at least 14 players in a scheduled L1O match (2 <sup>nd</sup> offense)	-	\$2,500 Fine + Immediate License Review



**4. Failure to Adhere to Game Format Standards**

Field dimensions, Field surface and Field Equipment shall comply with Law 1 of the FIFA Laws of the Game and The OSA Standards for Semi Professional Leagues.

Home Team must supply a minimum of four (4) identical match balls to the Game Officials no later than one (1) hour prior to kickoff of a match. All match balls must meet the requirements of Law 2 of the FIFA Laws of the Game, conditional upon the ball bearing the marks as outlined in the L10 Operations and Game Day Manual

- Failure to adhere to any of the above (1<sup>st</sup> offense) - \$200 Fine
- Failure to adhere to any of the above (all subsequent offenses) - \$500 Fine each time

**5. Failure to Provide League Office with Home Dates by Designated Deadline**

Licenseses are required to provide League Management with a list of home dates and match start times by the deadline date established annually by League Management.

- Failure to comply by deadline - \$100 Fine for each day late

**6. Failure to Provide Official Game Sheet to Match Officials by Required Time**

Each team shall present an official, signed game sheet to the Game Officials **no less than twenty (20) minutes** prior to the scheduled kickoff time and shall include all team officials who will be on the bench.

- Failure to comply (1<sup>st</sup> offense) - Warning
- Failure to comply (2<sup>nd</sup> offense) - \$200 Fine
- Failure to comply (3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent offenses) - \$500 Fine each time

**7. Submission of a Non-Compliant Game Sheet to Match Officials**

Each team shall present a neat and properly completed game sheet to the Game Officials. Only a total of 18 players can be listed. Any player listed on the game sheet that is not participating in the match must be stricken from the game sheet. Starters must be clearly noted. Shirt Numbers for each player must be correctly noted on the game sheet.

- Failure to comply (1<sup>st</sup> offense) - Warning
- Failure to comply (2<sup>nd</sup> offense) - \$200 Fine
- Failure to comply (3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent offenses) - \$500 Fine each time



**8. Failure to Field Requisite Number of U23 Players**

No less than Eight (8) of the players listed on the game sheet MUST be U23 players. No less than Four (4) of the designated starting eleven players MUST also be U23 players

Failure to comply - Forfeit Match + \$1,000 Fine

**9. Failure to Comply with Limit on Import (Non Canadian) Players**

No more than Three (3) of the players listed on the game sheet may be “import players” (except for Windsor, who are permitted a maximum of 4 import players on the game sheet due to “Border City” designation).

An “import player” is any player who is not a Canadian citizen or does not possess a valid Canadian Permanent Resident card. “Import players” must be identified on the game sheet.

Failure to comply - Forfeit Match + \$1,000 Fine

**10. Use of an Ineligible Player**

Any team using players not properly registered to their organization in the OSA registration system or cleared of sanctions by OSA / L1O will be subject to disciplinary action.

Use of Ineligible Player - Forfeit Match + \$1,000 Fine

**11. Failure to Comply with Player Registration Deadlines**

A minimum of fourteen (14) players and all team officials shall be registered to the L1O roster within five (5) days of the first scheduled league match of any season. All players must be registered through The Ontario Soccer's online player registration system.

L1O shall require the following in order to process a player’s registration:

- i. Proof of age for all U23 players (in the form of a scanned copy of a passport or birth certificate).
- ii. A copy of a Professional or Amateur player contract and/or registration form, signed by both the player and an officer of the L1O License Holder.
- iii. A copy of the L1O Code of Ethics / Social Media Policy document, signed by the player.
- iv. Proof of international clearance from a foreign national association where a player last competed prior to signing to play with an L1O team, where applicable. More information regarding International Clearances are found in Section 4.5 of the L1O Operations Manual.
- v. L1O reserves the right to request proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status before the registration of any player will be processed.

Failure to comply with Registration Deadlines - \$100.00 Fine for each day late



**12. Failure to Provide Head Shot Photos to League by Designated Deadline**

Head Shot photos that comply with league office established standards are required for all players that participate in League1 Ontario competition.

Failure to comply with Deadline - \$100.00 Fine for each day late

**13. More Than Six Team Officials On The Bench**

There shall be no more than six (6) team officials on the bench for any League or Cup match and must wear clothing that identifies them as a member of the team

Failure to comply (1<sup>st</sup> offense) - Warning  
Failure to comply (2<sup>nd</sup> offense) - \$200 Fine  
Failure to comply (3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent offenses) - \$500 Fine each time

**14. Improper Player Recruitment and Solicitation**

Improper recruitment refers to the practice of deliberate and proactive persuasion or enticement of a player already registered with an L10 License Holder by an individual or individuals associated with another L10 License Holder, with the intent of convincing the player to leave their current team.

No License Holder shall approach a player who is registered with another L10 team without the written consent of the team for which the player is registered.

All L10 License Holders shall be responsible for the conduct of their staff, players or anyone directly associated to the License Holder in this regard.

Improper Recruitment of a Player - Loss of 3 Points + \$1,000 Fine

**15. Game Day Standards Non-Conformance**

All License Holders are required to comply with the Game Day Standards as set out in the L10 Game Day Manual.

Failure to comply with the established standards, unless given specific dispensation by the League1 Ontario Steering Committee, will result in discipline. All identified non-conformances will be submitted in writing to the License Holder. The License Holder will be expected to complete a Corrective Action Report within five (5) days of receipt of the formal Non-Conformance report.

Failure to comply (1<sup>st</sup> non-conformance) - Warning  
Failure to comply (2<sup>nd</sup> non-conformance) - \$100 Fine per non-conformance  
Failure to comply (3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent non-conformance) - \$250 Fine per non-conformance



#### 16. Late Payment of Annual League Fees

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

Along with full payment of league fees, each License Holder must post a cash or surety bond (value of bond to be determined by the League1 Ontario Steering Committee on an annual basis) prior to the kickoff of the season.

Failure to comply with On Time Payment of fees	-	\$100.00 Fine for each day late
Failure to post bond by a Team's Opening Game	-	\$100.00 Fine for each day late

#### 17. Unauthorized Change to Uniform Assignments

As part of a match coordination process, the league will assign uniforms for outfield players and goalkeepers for each match. Once finalized, teams may not deviate from those uniform colour assignments without permission in writing from a league representative. Any unauthorized deviation will result in a fine.

Failure to comply (1 <sup>st</sup> offense)	-	\$250 Fine
Failure to comply (2 <sup>nd</sup> and subsequent offenses)	-	\$500 Fine

**Please Note:**

Failure to pay all outstanding fines by November 30<sup>th</sup> of any year will result in license revocation.