

# Masters Provincial Championship Competition Rules

Revised April 6, 2026

1.0	Competition Name and Divisions	9.0	Match Officials
2.0	Management of the Competition	10.0	Duration of Play
3.0	Procedures for Entering the Competition	11.0	Home Team Responsibilities
4.0	Format for the Competition	12.0	Protests
5.0	Team Eligibility	13.0	Rule Contravention Without Protest
6.0	Player Eligibility	14.0	Discipline
7.0	Scheduling and Rescheduling of Games	15.0	Masters Provincial Championship Cup Finals
8.0	Team No-Shows and Team Withdrawals		

## 1.0.... COMPETITION NAME AND DIVISIONS

- 1.1 The name of the competition shall be the **MASTERS PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**, hereinafter referred to as **the competition**.
- 1.2 The competition shall be divided into the following divisions:

Masters Over-35 Men	For teams registered as a Senior Over-35 team
Masters Over-30 Women	For teams registered as a Senior Over-30 team
Masters Over-50 Men	For teams registered as a Senior Over-50 team
Masters Over-50 Women	For teams registered as a Senior Over-50 team

- 1.3 The competition will be played in each of the above divisions providing that there is a minimum of four entries in the division.
- 1.4 Subject to age restrictions, a female player may play on a team in any one of the above divisions.
- 1.5 Subject to age restrictions, a male player may only play on a team in a Men's division.

## 2.0.... MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

- 2.1 The Competitions Management Committee shall be responsible for developing the rules, policies, and procedures governing the competition. The Chair of the Competitions Management Committee shall be accountable to the Chief Executive Officer for the Competition Rules, Policies, and Procedures.
- 2.2 The Ontario Soccer staff shall be responsible for managing and implementing the operational functions of the competition. The staff shall be accountable to the Chief Executive Officer for these operational functions.
- 2.3 Protests shall be managed by the Competitions Protest Committee.
- 2.4 Discipline shall be managed by the Competitions Discipline Committee.
- 2.5 The District Ontario Cup Coordinator, hereinafter referred to as the D.O.C.C., shall be responsible for the operations of the competition within their District. The D.O.C.C. shall be accountable to their District Association. Each District Association shall appoint a D.O.C.C., failing which, entries (to participate in the competition) from that District shall be rejected.



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- 2.6 The Competitions Management Committee shall be the final decision maker on all issues related to the Competition. Decisions made by the Competitions Management Committee shall be deemed final and are not subject to an appeal process.

### 3.0.... PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING THE COMPETITION

- 3.1 Teams must obtain permission from their Club to apply for the Masters Provincial Championships
- 3.2 Teams must register on-line for the **2026 Masters Provincial Championships by no later than May 6, 2026.**
- 3.3 The entry fee is **\$435.00**, the entry fee can be paid on-line using a credit card. Payment will also be accepted in the form of cheque or money order payable to **The Ontario Soccer Association**, or e-transfer sent to **etransferOS@ontariosoccer.net**. Payment must arrive at the Ontario Soccer office by no later than **May 6, 2026**. **If a team has submitted an online Entry before the deadline, but payment has not been received by the Ontario Soccer Provincial Office by the Payment Deadline that team will be denied entry into the Competition.**
- 3.4 Teams participating in the Masters Provincial Championships must have two uniforms of different colour at all Masters games to avoid colour conflicts. These uniform colours will be registered with Ontario Soccer. Goal Keepers must also have two distinct uniform colours.
- 3.5 Each entry form must be approved by the team's Club. When a team or Club completes the Online Entry Form and submits it, a copy will be sent to the team's Club. The Club must then complete the online approval process by no later than May 13, 2026. **A team will not be entered in the Masters Provincial Championship if its Club does not approve the Entry by the May 13, 2026 Club Approval Deadline.**
- 3.6 Entry Fees will not be reimbursed to teams that enter the competition but do not receive Club approval.
- 3.7 A Team that has entered the Masters Provincial Championship but withdraws after the deadline but more than three days prior to the Cup Draw will be charged a \$100 administration fee. If a Team that has entered the Masters Provincial Championship but withdraws less than three days before the Cup Draw, the team will forfeit its Entry Fee.

### 4.0.... FORMAT FOR THE COMPETITION

- 4.1 The competition shall be organized in five regions with a series of open draws. The regional breakdown of the District Associations is:

REGION A:	Durham Region, Hamilton Soccer, Huronia District, TO Soccer, Niagara, Peel Halton, Southwest Soccer, York Region
REGION B:	Elgin Middlesex, Essex County, Lambton Kent
REGION C:	East Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario Soccer, Southeast Ontario
REGION D:	Greater North
REGION E:	Soccer Northwest Ontario

- 4.2 For each division, the competition shall consist of a **"single-game knockout"** format only.

### 5.0.... TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 The competition shall be open to all "Senior Recreational" and "Senior Competitive" registered amateur teams whose Clubs are affiliated with Ontario Soccer.
- 5.2 Club shall mean the Governing Organization that is affiliated to, and under the jurisdiction of a District Association and is established and operates in accordance with Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures
- 5.3 A team may only be entered in the division for which it is registered with Ontario Soccer (i.e. team age classification and team gender classification).
- 5.4 Notwithstanding *Rule 5.2*, if there is no division provided for a specific age/gender classification, the team will be permitted to enter the division for the next highest age division of the same gender (i.e. an Over-40 team may enter the Over-35 division).
- 5.5 A team playing in a Non-Amateur or Professional Soccer League is not eligible to participate in the Masters Provincial Championships.



- 5.6 Each team entered in the competition must have a team head coach who has completed the:
1. **Soccer for Life** (and/or higher licensing);
  2. Respect in Soccer for Activity Leaders;
  3. Making Head Way in Sport;
  4. Making Ethical Decisions;
  5. NCCP Emergency Action Plan; and
  6. NCCP Understanding the Rule of Two

Assistant Coaches registered to the team must also have completed the:

1. **Soccer for Life** (and/or higher licensing);
2. Respect in Soccer for Activity Leaders;
3. Making Head Way in Sport;
4. Making Ethical Decisions;
5. NCCP Emergency Action Plan; and
6. NCCP Understanding the Rule of Two

- 5.7 If a team has entered another tournament on the same date as a competition round for its division, the team shall be denied entry into the competition.
- 5.8 Each team must have at least one team official registered to the team that is the same gender as the players.

## 6.0.... PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

6.1 For the competition, eligibility shall be defined as the following:

- a) A player may only play for the club to which they are registered, subject to Registration Procedure 8.1 c) of the Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures and Rule 6.1 c) below.
- b) A player shall be deemed registered for the competition if their registration form has been properly registered by their District Association (*in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules*) before a game in which they play in the competition.
- c) A player shall **NOT** play for more than one team in the Masters Provincial Championships.
- d) Save for provision of proof to the contrary, a player whose name and signature appears on the teamsheet shall be deemed to have played in the game.
- e) Short Term Registration Permit Forms (S.T.R.P.'s) and Temporary Eligibility Permits (T.E.P.'s) shall not be permitted in the competition.
- f) Each player shall be:
  - i) registered with the Club not later than **July 15**
  - or
  - ii) transferred to the Club not later than **July 15**, providing the player has not played for another team in the Masters Provincial Championship.
- g) Each player shall be:
  - i) assigned to the team not later than **August 1**
- h) **Notwithstanding Rule 6.1 f) and subject to Registration Procedure 8.0, a player may, with permission of their club, play for another Club Team within the same Club to which they are registered provided the player plays up to a higher level Club Team. A higher level team shall be defined as a team which meets any of the following criteria:**
  - i) Registered in a higher team age classification;
  - ii) Registered in a higher player classification;
  - iii) Registered in a higher team classification
  - iv) Playing in a higher league level, or
  - v) Playing in a higher division of the same league

Any player playing up to a higher level team in the Masters Provincial Championship must be registered to the Club not later than **July 15**.



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- i) Subject to **Rule 6.1 c)**, a transferred player shall be deemed registered for the competition if their transfer form has been properly registered by their District Association (*in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules*) before a game in which they play in the competition, provided the player is registered on or before **July 15**.
- j) A player who has been a professional or non-amateur player and who has been reinstated by the Canadian Soccer Association shall be eligible to participate in the competition provided that they have been a registered amateur player with their Club for a period of **thirty days** prior to the game. The player may not register as an amateur player until their reinstatement has been approved by the Canadian Soccer Association.

**6.2** An ineligible player shall be defined as one or more of the following:

- a) a player who does not conform with one or more of the requirements in **Rule 6.1**;
- b) a player who plays during a time period in which they are suspended;
- c) a player who plays when they require an *International Transfer*;
- d) a player who plays under an assumed name;
- e) a player who plays for a team of a Club with which they are not registered except for 6.1 a); and
- f) a player who is not registered or is improperly registered.
- g) a player who has registered to and is listed on a match sheet of a team in Ontario Premier League or PLSQ after **May 31** in the current calendar year
- h) **a player who plays as a call-up to a team in Ontario Premier League or PLSQ more than three (3) times during the season while the Player's team is still playing in the Masters Provincial Championships**

**6.3** Each player and team official shall be identified on the teamsheet, in accordance with the following procedures:

- a) *Masters Provincial Championship teamsheets* shall be available online at [www.ontariosoccer.net](http://www.ontariosoccer.net) for all teams to download and print prior to the competition. **Each team must print one copy of the teamsheet for each game.** This copy must be signed by all players and team officials participating in the game. Each team must also print one copy of the online "Teamsheet - Referee Report".
- b) If a *Masters Provincial Championship teamsheet* is not available prior to the start of the game, a *substitute teamsheet* may be used. The following information must be included on a *substitute teamsheet*:
  - division
  - game number
  - date of game
  - kick-off time
  - venue (location of game)
  - name of Home Team
  - name of Visiting Team
  - for each player, their:
    - name
    - SEOS Number that matches the SEOS Number on the Team Roster Report
    - signature
    - jersey (sweater) number
  - name and signature of coach
  - name and signature of manager
  - name and signature of trainer
  - name and signature of assistant coach
- d) A representative of each team shall, no later than **20 minutes** prior to the kick-off time, hand to the Referee their team's teamsheet. At this time, the team representative must inform the Referee that the team would like to check the opposing team's Player ID.
- e) The teamsheet shall list all eligible players (including potential substitutes) and up to five team officials.
- f) The teamsheet must be signed by **all** players and team officials.



g) **After the Referee checks the teamsheets for proper completion, a representative of each team may take a photograph of the teamsheets prior to the game. Paper copies of the teamsheets will not be provided to the teams at the field.**

6.4 a) In each game of the competition, a team shall be permitted to dress and play up to **20** players.

b) Only the **20 "dressed" players** and the **five** team officials included on the teamsheet may sit on the team bench or in the area designated for that team.

c) Unlimited substitution shall be permitted but can only be made during the following stoppages in play:

- \* *when a goal is scored*
- \* *at a goal kick*
- \* *on possession throw-ins or on an opposing team's throw-in providing the opposing team is also making a substitution*
- \* *at the beginning of the second half*
- \* *at the referee's discretion, for an injured player*

6.5 Each player/team official must produce their Ontario Soccer Player ID before being eligible to participate in a game of this competition, subject to the following:

a) In games up to, and including, the semi-final round, one representative from each team shall inspect the Player ID of the players on the opposing team. It shall be the responsibility of the team representative to notify the referee of any discrepancy **prior to the game**. The referee **shall** record such discrepancies in their report to Ontario Soccer.

b) In games played in the **Cup Final Round**, the Ontario Soccer representative(s) shall inspect the Player/Team Official ID of both teams. In such cases, the Ontario Soccer representative(s) may declare a player ineligible to play in the game.

c) Notwithstanding **Rule 6.5 a)** above, in extenuating circumstances where the books are not present at the start of the game, the Player/Team Official ID may be checked at any time prior to the beginning of the second half. In such cases, it shall be the responsibility of the (opposing) team representative to notify the referee of any discrepancy **immediately after the Player ID have been checked**; and the referee **shall** record such discrepancies in their report to Ontario Soccer.

d) Notwithstanding **Rules 6.5 a) and 6.5 c)** above, a player, whose name is included on the teamsheet but is not present at the time when the Player ID is checked by the (opposing) team representative, shall not play in the game until after their Player ID has been checked (by the opposing team representative) in their presence and they have signed the teamsheet. In such cases, it shall be the responsibility of the (opposing) team representative to notify the referee of any discrepancy **immediately after the Player ID has been checked**; and the referee **shall** record such discrepancy in their report to Ontario Soccer. **A player that arrives after the start of the second half shall not be eligible to participate in the game.**

e) When a team representative has reported a player eligibility discrepancy to the referee (*in accordance with Rules 6.5 a), 6.5 c), and 6.5 d), above*), the referee shall have the player complete the section on the reverse side of the teamsheet (regarding **"player eligibility"**), in which the player must write their date of birth and signature.

f) **An Ontario Soccer Team Roster Report including the Player ID must be presented.**

## 7.0.... SCHEDULING AND RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

7.1 The home team's D.O.C.C. shall be responsible for scheduling the game:

a) **ten** days prior to the scheduled date; or

b) **five** days prior to the scheduled date, in the case when a team's game is scheduled to be played within **ten** days of its previous Masters Provincial Championship game.

7.2 If the home team's D.O.C.C. is unable to provide a suitable venue by the required deadline, as stipulated in **Rule 7.1**, the away team shall become the home team and its D.O.C.C. shall become responsible for providing, within **72** hours, a suitable venue. In such cases, the team originally scheduled as the home team will still be responsible for paying the full match official fees.

7.3 If the home team's D.O.C.C. is unable to provide a suitable venue by the required deadline, for two rounds where it is the home team, the away team shall become the home team and its D.O.C.C. shall become responsible for providing, within **72** hours, a



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suitable venue. In such cases, the team originally scheduled as the home team will still be responsible for paying the full match official fees and will pay a fine of \$500 to Ontario Soccer.

- 7.4 In the event that a scheduled game cannot be played at the scheduled venue because of *unplayable field conditions (as determined by the referee or the facility manager)*, it may be moved to an alternate venue provided that the field conditions of the alternate venue are acceptable to the referee and provided that the game commences within 30 minutes of the originally scheduled kick-off time.
- 7.5 In the event that a scheduled game cannot be completed on the designated date because of unplayable field conditions, it shall be rescheduled to be played on a date and venue determined by Ontario Soccer. The home team's D.O.C.C. shall be responsible for providing, within **72** hours, a suitable venue for the rescheduled game.
- 7.6 If the home team's D.O.C.C. is unable to provide a suitable venue by the required deadline, as stipulated in **Rule 7.4**, the away team shall become the home team and its D.O.C.C. shall become responsible for providing, within **72** hours, a suitable venue for the rescheduled game.
- 7.7 If a request is submitted to Ontario Soccer by the home team's D.O.C.C., to change the time or field for a scheduled game after the deadline, after it has been published, or within 10 days of the scheduled date of the game, rationale for the change must be provided and the change request will be reviewed. It will be at the sole discretion of Ontario Soccer whether the request is approved or not.
- 7.8 There will be a \$100 administration fee charged to the Club where a field or time change is required to a scheduled game after the game has been published on ontariocup.ca. This fee may be waived by Ontario Soccer in exceptional circumstances and at its sole discretion.
- 7.9 When a team travels by air or when a team travels more than 550 km to a game played under the "**single-game knockout**" format, the game shall be scheduled to be played on Saturday and the Sunday shall be scheduled as the "*rain date*".
- 7.10 Except for the *Cup Final Round*, the kick-off time cannot be scheduled before **10:00 a.m.** or after **7:00 p.m.**
- 7.11 Notwithstanding **Rule 7.9** in a game played where the Visiting Team must travel in excess of 300 kilometres one way, the kickoff time cannot be scheduled before **1:00 p.m.** or after **4:00 p.m.** unless the Visiting Team requests otherwise. Such requests must be made in writing and be received by Ontario Soccer no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the previous round.
- 7.12 a) A team or its Club shall be informed about the time, date, and location of its game(s) by the D.O.C.C. of its District Association.
- b) The D.O.C.C. shall provide this information at least *five days* prior to the game.
- c) Failure by a D.O.C.C. to fulfil the requirements of **Rule 7.11** shall not constitute grounds for an appeal or protest.

## 8.0.... TEAM NO-SHOWS AND TEAM WITHDRAWALS

- 8.1 If a team fails to appear at its scheduled game:
- a) the team's Club shall:
- i) forfeit its entry fee
  - ii) pay the applicable match officials' fees and travel expenses
  - iii) pay a penalty of **\$750.00** to Ontario Soccer; and
- b) the manager and the coach of the team may be subject to further disciplinary action.
- 8.2 If a team is unable to fulfil its scheduled game but,
- a) has notified its D.O.C.C., **five or more days** prior to the scheduled game, that it is withdrawing from the competition, the team's Club shall:
- i) forfeit its entry fee
  - ii) pay a penalty of **\$500.00** to Ontario Soccer; or
- b) has notified its D.O.C.C. **four or less days** prior to the scheduled game that it is withdrawing from the competition, the team's Club shall:
- i) forfeit its entry fee
  - ii) pay a penalty of **\$650.00** to Ontario Soccer.



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- 8.3 Notwithstanding 8.1 or 8.2, teams withdrawing from or failing to appear at a scheduled game may not be accepted into the competition the following year, pending a review by the Competitions Management Committee.
- 8.4 Teams must produce the minimum number of required players (7) in order for them to be considered as fulfilling their scheduled game. If a team starts a game with the minimum number of players and then the game is abandoned due to players being injured or leaving the game, that team may be subject to a penalty pending review by the Competitions Management Committee.
- 8.5 Notwithstanding 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 or 8.4, a team failing to appear at a scheduled Masters Provincial Championship game shall be disqualified from the remainder of the competition.

## 9.0....MATCH OFFICIALS

- 9.1 A referee and two assistant referees shall be appointed to **each** Masters Provincial Championship game, except for the Cup Finals where a fourth official will also be assigned.
- 9.2 In the event that one or both of the appointed assistant referees are not present at the game or unable to act,;
- the referee may recruit "**registered Ontario Soccer match official(s)**" to serve as assistant referee(s);
  - if no "**registered Ontario Soccer match official(s)**" is/are available, the referee shall recruit "**club referee assistants(s)**" to serve as assistant referee(s);
  - the game **shall** still be played.
- 9.3 In the event the appointed referee is not present at the game or is unable to act,;
- the senior assistant referee, providing that they are qualified (as per Ontario Soccer Published Rules) to referee that level of game, shall assume the duties of referee;
    - a replacement assistant referee shall be recruited, in accordance with **Rule 9.2**;
    - the game **shall** still be played or continued; or
  - if the "**senior assistant referee**" is not qualified (as per Ontario Soccer Published Rules) to referee that level of game, a "**registered Ontario Soccer match official**" (who is qualified to referee that level of game) may be recruited to referee the game;
    - the game **shall** still be played or continued; or
  - in the event that a) and b) above are not applicable, the game **shall only** be played, or continued, if both teams agree to play, or continue, the game with some other person serving as the referee.
- 9.4 With the exception of the *Cup Finals*,;
- the D.O.C.C. shall be responsible for **ensuring** that the match officials are appointed to all games in which one of their District Association's teams is the home team;
  - the District Referee Coordinator (hereinafter referred to as the D.R.C.) is responsible for **appointing** the match officials to all games in which one of their District Association's teams is the home team; and
  - the D.R.C. shall ensure that all appointments are completed no less than 72 hours prior to game start time, and are assigned on Ontario Soccer's electronic assigning system.
- 9.5 For games in the *Cup Finals*,;
- the Ontario Soccer Manager of Match Official Development or assigned designate shall be responsible for **appointing** the match officials to all games and will ensure that all appointments are completed no less than 72 hours prior to game start time, and are assigned in Ontario Soccer's electronic assigning system.. All assignments must meet the Assigning and Game Fees Protocol Document and Ontario Cup Assigning Chart.
- 9.6 Except as specified in **Rules 9.2 b) and 9.3 c)**, all match officials officiating Masters Provincial Championship games shall be a registered Match Official in good standing with Ontario Soccer.



- 9.7 With the exception of Final Games, Match Officials must arrive a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the game. For Final Games, Match Officials must arrive a minimum of 1 hour prior to kick-off and report to the on-site Referee Coordinator.
- 9.8 Dress Code for Masters Provincial Championship Finals competition is "business casual". Track suits, halter tops, sweats and jeans are not permitted.
- 9.9 The "**Match Officials Fees**" shall be paid in accordance with the following:
- For games played in the *Semi-Final Round* and *Cup Final Round*, Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for paying the "**Match Officials Fees**" and any approved (by Ontario Soccer) expenses to the Match Officials, upon completion of the Match Officials' duties after the game.
  - At the *Cup Final Round*, the Match Officials shall be paid and a suitable memento of the occasion shall be presented to each Match Official. Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for paying any approved (by Ontario Soccer) expenses to the Match Officials.
  - For other games played the "**Match Officials Fees**", shall be paid, prior to the commencement of the game, by the Home Team to the Match Officials.
  - The "**Match Officials Fees**" shall be:

Referee	\$80.00
Each Assistant Referee	\$60.00
  - In the Semi-Finals and Finals only, a Match Official is entitled to a *travel allowance* of **0.60 cents per kilometre (return trip)** for each kilometre over 50 km (based on most direct route based on Google Maps). When possible and practical, the Match Officials shall travel in one vehicle, in which case only the driver is entitled to the *travel allowance*. As per Ontario Soccer Match Official Development Department Expense Policy, car pooling is mandatory and will be enforced. No 407 ETR travel reimbursement will be approved, without prior approval from Manager, Match Officials Development.
  - In the Semi-Finals and Finals only, for travel over 200 kilometres one way, a Match Official shall be entitled to a *meal allowance* of **\$15.00**. This allowance must be claimed on the Official Expense Claim as per 9.9 a).
  - If for any reason, the game is not played, each Match Official present shall be paid one half of their "**Match Official Fee**" and the full applicable allowances/expenses, in accordance with **Rules 9.7 a), b), c), d), and e)**.
- 9.10 In the Cup Finals, the teamsheets, and misconduct reports must be completed by the Referee immediately after the game and submitted to the Event Coordinator at the game. The Referee shall also be required to attend the discipline hearing of any player dismissed during the game who requests a hearing. Such hearing shall take place within 30 minutes after it is requested and no later than one hour after the game.
- 9.11 With the exception of 9.10 above, the teamsheets and misconduct reports must be uploaded by the referee to Ref Centre within 24 hours after the conclusion of the game. Alternatively, teamsheets and misconduct reports may be mailed to Ontario Soccer or scanned and emailed to [ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net](mailto:ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net) within 24 hours after the conclusion of the game. Failure to do so shall result in the referee being referred to their District Association for discipline.

## 10.0....DURATION OF PLAY

- 10.1 The *duration of play* shall be:

<i>Division</i>	<i>Regulation Time</i>	<i>Overtime</i>
Over-35 Men	two periods of 40 minutes	no overtime
Over-30 Women	two periods of 40 minutes	no overtime

- 10.2 The referee shall be the sole judge of the amount of time played and their decision on this matter **shall NOT** be subject to appeal or protest. Allowance shall be made in either period for all time lost through substitution, the transport from the field of injured players, time-wasting or other cause, the amount of which **shall** be a matter for the discretion of the referee.
- 10.3 In accordance with **Rule 10.1**, if the game is tied at the end of **Regulation Time**, the winner of the game shall be determined by "**Penalties (penalty shoot-out)**", in accordance with the current edition of the **I.F.A.B. Laws Of The Game**
- 10.4 In the event that a game cannot be played for the full duration of time, the game shall be considered complete if at least 75% of the game has been completed. This rule will not apply if the game does not run its full duration because the referee has



abandoned the game as a result of the actions of one or both teams; and in such a case, the Competitions Discipline Committee shall determine the status of the game. As the sole judge of the amount of time played, the referee shall report how much time had lapsed before the game was terminated.

- 10.5 In the event that a penalty shootout cannot be played to conclusion in a game which requires a winner, then the winner of the game will be decided by the **"drawing of lots"**. This rule will not apply if the penalty kicks do not run the full duration because the referee has abandoned the game as a result of the actions of one or both teams; and in such a case, the Competitions Discipline Committee shall determine the status of the game.

## 11.0....HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- 11.1 The Home Team shall be designated on the draw chart and shall be responsible for the following at all games, except for the games in the Cup Finals:

- a) the provision of nets and corner flags;
- b) properly lined fields;
- c) the provision of a suitable Size 5 game ball;
- d) the reporting of the game result to its D.O.C.C. within four hours after the conclusion of the game;
- e) the payment of all expenses in staging the game including, but not limited to,:
  - **"Match Officials Fees" (with the exception of the Semi-Finals);**
  - if for any reason the game is not played, 50% of the **"Match Officials Fees"** plus the full travel and meal allowances (if applicable) to each match official present;  
(NOTE: The home team may claim reimbursement of these amounts from Ontario Soccer)
  - facility rental
  - damages to the facility
  - security expenses (if necessary)

- 11.2 The Visiting Team must wear its registered main colours and if the colours of the two teams are similar (as judged by the referee), the Home Team must wear alternate colours. The Visiting Team is only permitted to wear alternate colours to its main colours, providing that such colours are not similar to the colours worn by the Home Team. Only jersey colours will be considered a conflict and therefore, the team would only be required to change its jerseys. (NOTE: The main colours and alternate colours of each team have been registered with Ontario Soccer)

- 11.3 If there is a conflict with the goal keeper colours and the outfield players of the opposing team, the goal keeper must change regardless of which team is home or away.

## 12.0....PROTESTS

- 12.1 Each protest arising from a game in the competition shall be sent in accordance with the following policies and procedures:

- a) by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the game, the protesting club shall advise the Ontario Soccer Office by:
  - telephone (905) 264-9390 or
  - e-mail [ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net](mailto:ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net) or
  - in person

(Please note that Ontario Soccer is not responsible for protest sent by fax or e-mail that are not received by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday)

(In the event that a game has been rescheduled and is not played on a weekend, the protesting club shall advise the Ontario Soccer Office by 12:00 p.m. two days following game)
- b) within **TWO** days (Saturdays, Sundays, and Legal Holidays excepted) of the conclusion of the game being protested, the protesting club shall send:
  - the written protest to the Ontario Soccer Office (7601 Martin Grove Road, Vaughan, Ontario, L4L 9E4) by:
    - **registered mail or registered courier service,**
    - **hand delivery, or**
    - **e-mail to [ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net](mailto:ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net)**

that it is protesting the game and provide the following information:

- name of protesting club
- date of game



- game number
- division
- name of *club's team*
- name of *opposing team*
- rule(s) which were violated
- additional information to support protest
- name and position (within club) of person advising Ontario Soccer.

to the Ontario Soccer Office accompanying the protest, a protest fee in the amount of **\$500.00**  
**(if letter of protest is e-mailed, the fee must be received within five response days after the receipt of the e-mail)**

c) ***in cases of disputed delivery date regarding protests submitted by hand delivery or e-mail, it is the responsibility of the protesting Club to prove which date the protest was received at the Ontario Soccer Office.***

- 12.2 If the terms of **Rule 12.1** are not met, the protest shall be declared *to be out of order*.
- 12.3 The *protesting club* must provide evidence to substantiate the protest.
- 12.4 Upon receiving the initial notification of the protest (*in accordance with Rule 12.1 a*)), the Ontario Soccer staff shall notify the D.O.C.C. (or an alternate person in that District Association) of the *opposing team's club* about the nature of the protest. The D.O.C.C. (or the alternate person) shall advise the *opposing team's club* about the nature of the protest.
- 12.5 Upon receiving the written protest, (*in accordance with Rule 12.1 b*)), the Ontario Soccer staff shall provide the opposing team's club with a copy of the Protest.
- 12.6 Protests shall be dealt with by the *Competitions Protest Committee*.
- 12.7 After the protest is received, the hearing will be scheduled and the date and time will be communicated to all parties.
- 12.8 Officials from both clubs/teams and both D.O.C.C.'s have the right to send written submissions to the Ontario Soccer Office regarding the protest. Such submissions shall be considered by the *Competitions Protest Committee*. Additional information will be considered providing it arrives **two hours** prior to the scheduled meeting of the *Competitions Protest Committee*.
- 12.9 All written submissions being considered by the Committee will be disclosed to both the protesting team and the opposing team prior to the hearing.
- 12.10 The *Competitions Protest Committee*, in reviewing the protest, shall consider all written submissions including:
- the written protest from the *protesting club*
  - any submissions received *in accordance with Rule 12.8*
  - the referee's report
  - any other submissions received

and shall render a decision based on the evidence presented and there shall be no further appeal of any kind against its decision(s).

- 12.11 Notwithstanding **Rule 12.8**, at its discretion, the *Competitions Protest Committee* may convene a *protest hearing* at which officials from both clubs/teams, the match officials, or other persons may be required to attend.
- 12.12 In the event a team is found to be in *contravention of the competition rules* as a result of a protest, the *Competitions Protest Committee* has the authority to:
- a) decide, on the basis of the evidence provided, which team (if any) will be declared the winner of the game; and
  - b) levy a fine against an *offending team* to a maximum of \$1,100.00 per game.
- 12.13 Protests will not be entertained if the issue is, according to the laws of the game, at the discretion of the referee (i.e. field conditions)

### **13.0....RULE CONTRAVENTION WITHOUT PROTEST**

- 13.1 Notwithstanding **Rule 12.0**, the *Competitions Protest Committee* may:
- a) reverse a game result of a team



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for that team's *contravention of a competition rule(s)*, even if a protest has not been lodged correctly, or lodged at all, providing the *Competitions Protest Committee* makes such decision *by no later than the Monday preceding the next game of that team*. The *Competitions Protest Committee* may also:

- b) fine a team
- c) take any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Committee

## 14.0....DISCIPLINE

### 14.1 Jurisdiction

14.1.1 The *Competitions Discipline Committee* shall be responsible for handling all cases of reported misconduct with the Masters Provincial Championship, except for:

- 1. **match official assault**
- 2. physical assault or attempted physical assault of a youth aged player by a team official or administrator
- 3. immediate discipline of players at games played in Tournament Rounds

14.1.2 It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that its Players and Team Officials are aware of the competition Discipline rules and of the discipline systems used at different levels of the competition

### 14.2 Discipline Systems

14.2.1 Discipline shall be rendered in accordance with the **Discipline by Review (D.B.R.)** system for all Misconduct Types listed in [14.6.1](#) and some sections in [14.6.2](#)

14.2.2 All other misconduct shall be referred to the *Competition Discipline Committee* and discipline shall be rendered in accordance with the **Discipline By Hearing (D.B.H.)** system with penalties as specified in **Ontario Soccer Judicial Matters Policies and Guides – Discipline Policy 9.0**

14.2.3 At **Tournament Rounds**, a *Tournament Discipline Hearing/Review Panel* shall be appointed by the District Association in which the tournament is being played and shall use the **Discipline by Review (D.B.R.)** system to review all cases of **player** misconduct reported by a match official, **except for**:

- a) **match official assault**
- b) misconduct by a **player** which occurred in their team's last game in the tournament, unless the player requests a Discipline Hearing;
- c) 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 [14.6.1](#)

**(Note: Except for Match Official Assault by a team official or administrator, there shall be no discipline rendered for team officials or administrator at a Tournament Round)**

14.2.4 At the **Cup Finals**, a *Discipline Hearing/Review Panel* shall be appointed by the *Competition Discipline Committee* and shall use the **Discipline by Review (D.B.R.)** system to review and render discipline in **all** cases of reported misconduct occurring in these rounds, **except for**:

- a) **match official assault**
- b) misconduct which falls under the **Discipline By Hearing (D.B.H)** System;
- c) *caution(s)*

and shall render discipline in accordance with the mandatory suspensions, as specified in [14.6.1](#) and [14.6.2](#)

### 14.3 Reporting and Review of Discipline

14.3.1 Within one day after the conclusion of a **Tournament Round**, the *Tournament Host Organization* shall mail the following items to the Ontario Soccer Office:

- teamsheets for all games
- misconduct report for each incident of misconduct by a player, team official, administrator, or match official
- Minutes of all *Discipline Hearings* conducted at the tournament
- the *Request For Hearing Fee(s)* for any hearings conducted at the tournament
- the *Tournament Discipline Summary Report* for each team which participated in the tournament, including the number of tournament games from which each player was suspended.



**14.3.2** The *Competition Discipline Committee* shall review all cases of reported misconduct and shall render discipline in accordance with the mandatory penalties, as specified in **Rule 14.6.1**, after taking into consideration the number of games suspended at the tournament, as reported by the *Tournament Host Organization*, in accordance with **Rule 14.3.1**, or the number of games suspended at the Semi-Finals or Cup Finals

**14.3.3** In the event that (based on the reports which it reviews) the *Competitions Discipline Committee* 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 their Club) that additional charges are being laid and that a *Discipline Hearing* is being scheduled in accordance with the following procedures:

- 1) the discipline hearing shall be heard by a *Discipline Hearing Panel* prior to the next round being played
  - 2) the accused shall receive at least 48 hours notice of the hearing and the hearing shall proceed with or without the attendance of the accused or their representative
- 3) if the *Discipline Hearing Panel* finds the accused guilty of the reported misconduct, discipline shall be rendered in accordance with **Ontario Soccer Judicial Matters Policies and Guides – Discipline Policy 9.0**

#### **14.4 Request for Discipline Hearing**

**14.4.1** An accused subject to **Discipline by Review** has the right to request a **Discipline Hearing**:

a) In **Semi-Finals, and Cup Finals** such request, and subsequent hearing, must adhere to the following procedures:

- 1) the request may pertain to any game including Semi-Finals and Cup Finals, except the last game of the accused team in a Tournament Round. Requests pertaining to the last game of the accused team in a Tournament Round shall be made in accordance with Rule 14.4.1 b).
- 2) the *Request For A Hearing* must be made **in writing**
- 3) the request must be submitted within **30 minutes** after the conclusion of the game in which the accused committed the alleged misconduct
- 4) a **\$250.00 Request For Hearing Fee** must be included with the request
- 5) the *Discipline Hearing* must convene within **30 minutes** after receipt of the request.
- 6) the accused must attend the hearing. The referee must attend the hearing if requested by the discipline hearing panel
- 7) the accused may not participate in any soccer activities until the decision of the *Discipline Hearing Panel* has been communicated

b) for **all other games**, such requests must adhere to the following procedures:

- 1) the accused or their Club's representative must advise Ontario Soccer of the intent to request a hearing by one or more of:
  - telephone to (905) 264-9390
  - e-mail to ontariocup@ontariosoccer.net
  - in person at the *Ontario Soccer Office*
- 2) **by no later than 3:00 p.m. on the first Monday** following the game in which the alleged misconduct occurred
- 3) the *Request For A Hearing* must be forwarded in writing, by *registered mail, certified mail, trace mail, or courier service* **within one day of the conclusion of the match** in which the alleged misconduct occurred, to the *Ontario Soccer Office*
- 4) a **\$250.00 Request For Hearing Fee** must accompany the *Request For A Hearing*
- 5) the *Discipline Hearing* shall be heard by an *Ontario Cup Discipline Hearing Panel* prior to the next round being played
- 6) the accused person shall receive **48 hours notice of the hearing** and the hearing shall proceed with, or without, the attendance of the accused person or their representative

c) If the *Discipline Hearing Panel* finds the player to be **guilty** of the reported misconduct, the mandatory discipline shall be rendered, in accordance with **Rule 14.6.1**

If the *Discipline Hearing Panel* finds the player to be **not guilty** of the reported misconduct, the player shall be refunded their **\$250.00 Request For Hearing Fee**.

**14.4.2** Failure to request a *Discipline Hearing*, in accordance with **Rule 14.4.1** shall mean that any suspension levied under the *Discipline By Review (D.B.R.) System* may **NOT** be appealed to Ontario Soccer or any other organization.



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## 14.5 General Discipline Rules

- 14.5.1 In all cases of **match official assault**, the accused shall be **immediately suspended from all soccer activities**, the report shall be referred to Ontario Soccer, and discipline shall be handled by an *Ontario Soccer Discipline Hearing Panel*, in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules.
- 14.5.2 In cases where a team official or administrator is reported by a Match Official, or if charges are laid by the police, for Physical Assault, the team official or administrator in question shall be **immediately suspended from all soccer activities** and discipline shall be handled by an *Ontario Soccer Discipline Hearing Panel*, in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules
- 14.5.3 In a case of *mistaken identity*, the accused person must prove to the *Discipline Hearing Panel* at a *Discipline Hearing* that they were incorrectly identified and must identify and prove the **correct identity** of the player who actually committed the reported misconduct; and in such case the player will not be suspended but the player who actually committed the reported misconduct shall be disciplined, in accordance with [Rule 14.6.1](#)
- 14.5.4 Cautions shall be recorded in Ontario Soccer's Discipline database. The accumulation of cautions shall only apply to the Masters Provincial Championship competition.

## 14.6 Mandatory Penalties

- 14.6.1 a) **Player**: For the Misconduct Types found on Table 1 of **Ontario Soccer Judicial Matters Policies and Guides – Discipline Policy 9.0** and occurring in Masters Provincial Championship 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 1 of **Ontario Soccer Judicial Matters Policies and Guides – Discipline Policy 9.0** 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.
- b) If the match official's report indicates that a charge of 1.16A is justified, the Review Hearing Panel will deal with the player under 1.16 and forward the report to the Competitions Committee for further disciplinary action at a subsequent hearing. If the match official's report indicates that there was intent to injure i.e. types 1.19A and 1.21A, the Review Hearing Panel will deal with the player under types 1.19 and 1.21 and forward the reports to the Competitions Committee for further disciplinary action at a subsequent hearing.
- 14.6.2 a) **Coaches and other Team Official**: For the Misconduct Types found on Table 1 of **Ontario Soccer Judicial Matters Policies and Guides – Discipline Policy 9.0** and occurring in Masters Provincial Championship games, discipline shall be rendered under the *Discipline by Review* system and the mandatory penalties as outlined in Table 7 shall apply. Where suspensions in Table 1 of **Ontario Soccer Judicial Matters Policies and Guides – Discipline Policy 9.0** 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.

## 14.7 Suspensions Levied by the Discipline Hearing/Review Panel

- 14.7.1 On misconduct being proved to its satisfaction, the *Competitions Discipline Committee* shall have the power to order the offender:
- to be suspended from all or any specific soccer activity for a stated period of time;**
  - to be suspended for a specific number of games in the competition; and**
  - to be fined and/or bonded (with or without suspension).**
- 14.7.2 A 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 Misconduct Types listed in Ontario Soccer Discipline Policy 9.5.1
- 14.7.3 In the case of "**suspensions for a stated period of time**";:
- The "*beginning date*" of a suspension shall be the **Wednesday** following the Discipline Hearing in which the coach, player, team official was found guilty.
  - It is the **responsibility of the player/team official's Club** to check with the District Association and/or the team's League to find out what the suspension is (*i.e. the "beginning date" and "expiry date"*)
- 14.7.4 In the case of "**suspensions for a specific number of games**",
- A player suspended for a specified number of games shall serve such suspension in the competition (*i.e. shall be suspended from a specific number of Masters Provincial Championship games*) until the player's team has concluded its participation in that year's competition. After a team has concluded its participation in that year's competition, the player's remaining number of suspended games shall be served in their team's league, league cup, and league playoff games.



b) For each player who has a remaining number of suspended games to be served after their team has concluded its participation in that year's competition, Ontario Soccer shall transfer the suspended games (still to be served) to the team's league and Ontario Soccer (for Provincial, Regional and Multi-Jurisdictional District Leagues) or District Associations (for its District Leagues) shall designate the specific games in that league from which the player will be suspended.

c) It is the **responsibility of the player/team official's Club** to check with its Club's District Association and/or the team's League to find out what the suspension is (*i.e. the specific games from which the player is suspended*).

- 14.7.5 If the player/team official's team plays in a *Provincial League, Regional League, or Multi-Jurisdictional District League*, Ontario Soccer shall enter the data in the Soccer Discipline System database **by no later than the Monday** preceding the **suspension**. The team's League and District Association are required to check the Soccer Discipline System database for suspensions levied against their players or team officials.
- 14.7.6 If the player/team official's team plays in a *District League*, the league's District Association shall advise it about the **suspension period or suspended games** levied to the player or team official **by no later than the Tuesday** preceding the **suspension period**. The District Association shall then enter the suspension information into the Soccer Discipline System database.
- 14.7.7 **By no later than the Monday preceding any suspensions**, a listing of all suspensions (resulting from misconduct in the Masters Provincial Championship) shall be entered in the Discipline database by Ontario Soccer. This information shall be available to all *District Associations, Provincial Leagues, Regional Leagues, and Multi-Jurisdictional District Leagues* by checking the Soccer Discipline System database.
- 14.7.8 Any suspended games transferred to a League shall be indicated in the Ontario Cup Discipline database by Ontario Soccer. For *Provincial Leagues, Regional Leagues, and Multi-Jurisdictional District Leagues*, the league shall indicate game numbers for the suspended games transferred to it. For *District Leagues*, the District Association shall indicate the game numbers for suspended games transferred to it.

#### 14.8 **Fines, Bonds and Penalties**

- 14.8.1 In the event a team, including team officials, contravenes the *competition rules* as contained herein, the **Competitions Management Committee** and/or the **Discipline Hearing/Review Panel**, has the authority to levy fine(s) against the offending team, up to a maximum of **\$1,200.00** per game.
- 14.8.2 A club representative required to attend a discipline hearing for one of its players, coaches or administrators who fail to appear at the hearing will be fined \$100.00 for non-appearance.
- 14.8.3 If a game is abandoned due to the action(s) of its players, coaches, administrators or spectators and such actions are warranted as invalid reason(s) for abandoning the game, the Competitions Management Committee may declare a team ineligible to enter the competition in the subsequent year and the team will be fined in accordance with **Ontario Soccer Judicial Matters Policies and Guides – Discipline Policy 9.0** Table 5.
- 14.8.4 Bonds may be levied at the discretion of the Discipline Committee for a specified period of time and purpose. No interest will be paid on any bond levied.

#### 14.9 **Forfeiture of Game**

- 14.9.1 In cases of severe team misconduct, the Discipline Hearing Panel has the authority to **reverse a game result of a team**.

### 15.0....MASTERS PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

- 15.1 In the event that a player/team official is dismissed in the Final or is suspended from the Final, that player/team official may or may **NOT** receive their medal during the **Trophy/Medal Presentations** after the game at the discretion of the Competitions Management Committee. If the player/team official is not permitted to participate in the **Trophy/Medal Presentations** they shall receive their medal at a later time.
- 15.2 Both finalists teams in a Masters Provincial Championship Final shall participate in the Trophy/Medal Presentations which are held after the game.
- 15.3 If a team does not participate in the **Trophy/Medal Presentations**, without a valid reason, it shall be severely disciplined, in accordance with **Rules 14.6 and 14.7**.



# NEW OR REVISED MASTERS PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES IN 2026

6.1 f)  
6.1 g)  
6.1 i)  
6.2 g)  
6.2 h)  
7.3  
8.1  
8.2



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## APPENDIX A – FINES AND FEES

Description of Infraction	Fine
Withdrawal of Team after the deadline but more than three days prior to the Masters Provincial Championship Draw	Admin Fee of <b>\$100</b>
Withdrawal of Team less than three days before the Masters Provincial Championship Draw	Forfeit of Ontario Cup Entry Fee
A field or time change is required to a scheduled game after the game has been published on ontariocup.ca. This fee may be waived by Ontario Soccer in exceptional circumstances and at its sole discretion.	Admin Fee of <b>\$100</b>
Failure to have two uniforms of different colour or two distinct Goal Keeper uniform colours at an Ontario Cup game.	<b>\$250</b>
Incomplete or missing information on Ontario Cup teamsheet	<b>\$250</b>
Failure to adhere to the team check-in process as outlined by Ontario Soccer	<b>\$250</b>
Failure to comply with facility specific game day procedures and/or facility rules as communicated and outlined by Ontario Soccer / Facility Representatives	<b>\$250</b>
Failure to appear at, or not enough players (7) to start, a scheduled Masters Provincial Championship game.	Forfeit of entry fee Payment the applicable match officials' fees and travel expenses Fine of <b>\$750.00</b> and; the manager and the coach of the team may be subject to further disciplinary action.
Team is unable to fulfil its scheduled Masters Provincial Championship game in the " <b>single-game knockout</b> " format but, has notified its D.O.C.C., <b>five or more days</b> prior to the scheduled game, that it is withdrawing from the competition	Forfeit of entry fee Fine of <b>\$500.00</b>
Team is unable to fulfil its scheduled Masters Provincial Championship game in the " <b>single-game knockout</b> " format but, has notified its D.O.C.C., <b>four or less days</b> prior to the scheduled game, that it is withdrawing from the competition	Forfeit of entry fee Fine of <b>\$650.00</b>
Team withdrawing from or failing to appear at a scheduled Masters Provincial Championship game where it is required to travel over 1000km one way.	Fine of an additional 50% of the applicable penalty outlined in 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 or 8.4
Failure of the Home Team to provide or complete any of the following at a game, except for the games in the Cup Finals: a) the provision of nets and corner flags; b) properly lined fields; c) the provision of a suitable game ball which shall be a Size 5 Ball for all divisions; d) the reporting of the game result to its D.O.C.C. within four hours after the conclusion of the game;	<b>\$250</b>
Failure of club representative required to attend a discipline hearing for one of its players, coaches or administrators to appear at the hearing	Fine of <b>\$200</b> for non appearance



Description of Infraction	Fine
Failure of team to follow protocols/ceremonies at Finals as directed by the Ontario Soccer Representatives	<b>\$500</b>
Failure of team to participate in the medal presentation ceremony	<b>\$1000</b>
Showing unsporting conduct at the Masters Provincial Championship Finals ceremonies	<b>\$500</b>
<p>Team fails to control the actions of its spectators at any point during the competition, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play;</li> <li>b) The throwing of objects;</li> <li>c) Contact made with an individual by thrown object</li> <li>d) The lighting of fireworks or any other objects;</li> <li>e) The use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices;</li> <li>f) The use of gestures, words, objects and any other means to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event</li> <li>g) Acts of damage</li> <li>h) Causing a disturbance during national anthem</li> <li>i) Any lack of order or discipline observed in or around the competition venue</li> </ul>	Up to <b>\$1200</b> plus cost of damages
Team that qualifies for the National Club Championships does not participate.	Fine of <b>\$2,500.00</b> and may be required to pay other expenses incurred by the Host Organization
Contravention of Masters Provincial Championship Competition Rules	Fine to a maximum of <b>\$1,200.00</b> per game



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