



**ONTARIO
SOCCER**
EST. 1901

2026 – 2027 Operational Procedures

Section 4 – High Performance

SECTION 4 – HIGH PERFORMANCE

PROCEDURE 1.0 – High Performance Programs

1.1 High Performance Programs across all soccer modalities shall include:

- a) Provincial Team and Canada Games Competition
- b) Ontario Player Development League (OPDL)
- c) Talent on Location Days (TOLD)
- d) Provincial Projects Trials
- e) Provincial Screening Competition
- f) Authorized preparation camps and competitions

PROCEDURE 2.0 - Provincial XCEL & Canada Games

2.1 Appointment of Team Staff to Provincial & Canada Games Teams

2.1.1 Ontario Soccer shall circulate an invitation to serve as a Provincial Team and or a Canada Games Team Coach or Manager at least 10 days prior to the appointment deadline

2.2 Provincial XCEL Programs including Canada Games Teams

2.2.1 Program Responsibility

Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for providing opportunities for Players and Coaches to reach a Provincial, National, and International Standard of Play.

Ontario Soccer shall be responsible for and operate the Provincial XCEL Program and Canada Games Program.

Talent-On-Location Days (TOLD), the Ontario Player Development League (OPDL), and where applicable League1 Ontario shall provide the opportunities for Players and Coaches to participate in a Province-wide High-Performance Program and act as the primary method of detection for Players to participate in the Provincial XCEL and Canada Games Programs.

2.2.2 Scope of the Programs

The Program shall consist of Male and Female Youth Teams.

2.2.3 Program Duration

The Provincial XCEL Program shall operate annually which includes preparation for, and participation in, Inter-Provincial competition which will include at Under-14 to Under-16 unless otherwise announced by Ontario Soccer.

2.2.4 Player Selection

Provincial XCEL Player Selection

Provincial Players shall be scouted by and/or written, electronic or verbal recommendation by the following persons:

- National Staff Coach
- Provincial Technical Staff
- Member Organization Technical Director
- Ontario Soccer Master Coach Developer
- Ontario Soccer Development Staff
- Member Organization Coach
- Professional Club Technical Staff



The persons listed above must hold a Canada Soccer National B or Youth Licence (or foreign equivalent) as a minimum level of coaching qualification.

A Player is required to be registered with an Ontario Soccer member organization (Club) in order to be eligible for Provincial and Canada Games Teams.

2.2.4.1 Canada Games Team Player Selection

The Canada Games Age Groups, as set by the Canada Games Council & Canada Soccer, shall be scouted by and recommended by verbal, written or electronic communication by the following persons:

- National Staff Coach
- Provincial XCEL Technical Staff
- Member Organization Technical Director
- Ontario Soccer Coach Developer
- Ontario Soccer Development Staff
- Member Organization Coach
- Professional Club Technical Staff

Canada Games council determines the athlete selection criteria each quadrennial cycle and therefore player selection is subject to change for which Ontario Soccer must comply.

2.2.5 Coach Selection

Coach selection for the Ontario Soccer Provincial XCEL, Inter-Provincial Competition and Canada Games Teams are selected by Ontario Soccer's Development Department. They must be recommended by the Director of Development and approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

2.2.6 Coach Qualifications

The Head Coach minimum requirement is the National B Licence or Youth Licence. Canada Games requires the Coaches and/or staff to have a minimum of nine (9) competitive development modules. The Canada Games Council may also have additional requirements with which the Coach and or staff will need to comply with in order to be eligible to be assigned.

A Technical Director or High-Performance Manager from an OPDL Licence Holder as well as any Coaches assigned to an OPDL team, are not eligible to be the Coach of a Provincial XCEL Team or Canada Games Team.

Non-OPDL Club Technical Staff and Coaches may be considered, as long as the team is of the opposite gender or, if of the same gender, the team is at least one (1) year younger or older than the Provincial XCEL or Canada Games Team with which they are coaching.

2.2.7 Budget/Financial Policies

These policies will be set by Ontario Soccer and under the jurisdiction of the Chief Financial Officer.

2.2.8 Team Travel

All team travel will require prior approval by the appropriate Ontario Soccer staff member.

2.3 Scheduling Competitions for Provincial and Canada Games Teams

2.3.1 Athletes selected to Provincial XCEL Teams and Canada Games Teams may not participate in Club events, training or competition during the following time frames:

- 48 hours prior to authorized preparation camps/weekends and competitions
- During authorized preparation camps/weekends and competitions
- 24 hours after authorized preparation camps/weekends and competitions




Club teams with three (3) or more Players represented in a single Provincial XCEL Team are eligible to have their games rescheduled if it conflicts with the schedule of Provincial XCEL or Canada Games Teams events resulting in the Players in question not being available to play for their Club teams

PROCEDURE 3.0 – Ontario Player Development League (OPDL)

- 3.1 The Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) is the province's standards-based, youth high performance program that combines top level competition with strict high performance training standards. This innovative exciting youth high performance program is an important component of the overall movement to adopt the core principles of Long Term Player Development (LTPD) across soccer at large in Ontario and Canada. OPDL encompasses the U13 to U17 age categories.
- 3.2 The OPDL program is administered in accordance with all OPDL Governing Documents, developed and maintained by Ontario Soccer's Soccer Development Department, and published annually. The OPDL Governing Documents can be found here: OPDL.ca



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