



2025-26 OTTAWA TFC WINTER 9v9 FESTIVAL RULES

The Festival will be run in accordance with Ontario Soccer's Grassroots Festival Guide, Game Format and Development Matrix and in accordance with Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association (EODSA) published rules and FIFAs Laws of the Game.

1. ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Festival Organizing Committee will be responsible for all matters pertaining to the organising and running of this Festival. With respect to any question relating to the interpretation of these Rules and Procedures (other than matters that fall exclusively within the coverage of the Festival Discipline Committee) or for any matter not specifically addressed by these Rules and Procedures, the Festival Organizing Committee will, upon hearing a representation of no longer than five minutes duration from each of the teams that is affected by the issue at hand, make a final and binding decision. There will be no appeals from this decision.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - PLAY FORMAT - ROSTER – DURATION AND NUMBER OF GAMES

	9v9
Categories	U12-U13 (2014-2013)
Player format	8 + 1 GK
Player roster minimum*	13
Player roster maximum	18
Minimum players to play	7
Team officials maximum	4
Number of games	2
Duration of games** Duration of halftime	2x35 min Halves 5 min halftime

* To ensure that players are not overloaded, teams are to bring at least 13 players, to ensure 100 expected on-field minutes per player during the festival.

** The referee is the only timekeeper of the game.

Teams should arrive approximately 30 minutes before their first game for adequate pre-match preparation.

All players on a team must meet the age and date of birth requirements for the age group for which the team is registered. Teams must provide proof of age for each player. Under no circumstances will players older than the age group level be allowed to play in that age group. Teams violating this rule will be expelled from further Festival play, their entry fee will be forfeited, and this violation will be reported to Ontario Soccer, which may exercise their authority to levy additional disciplinary action against the offending team.

Ontario Soccer Operational Procedure 5.11 of Section 5 - Registration which states: A female player may register and play on a female team, male team or a mixed team. A male player may register and play on a male team or a mixed team. This rule is binding on all leagues, cup competitions, tournaments and exhibition games under the jurisdiction of Ontario Soccer and all of its member organisations. Unspecified gender may play on a team in accordance with the Gender Diversity Procedure 5.13.

In each category, the duration of each game shall be as shown in the above table. Please note that there will be no time added to games in case of an injury.

3. INSURANCE/LIABILITY

The Committee and host club will not be held liable for any injuries to any participant in the Festival on or off the fields. All teams must carry and supply proof of personal injury liability insurance while participating in the event.

Teams must also bring approved travel permits to the festival.

4. GUEST PLAYERS AND PLAY UP PLAYERS

All participating teams MUST be currently registered with their district, and all players must be currently registered with the club and the Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association (or other appropriate districts).

All players must be registered within their own club. Teams are not permitted to use players from other clubs. All players must appear on an official and current Team Roster Report (TRR), or an equivalent document from their province.

In some clubs' cases, "play-up players" may not appear on the official TRR required for Festival registration. The following documentation is therefore required for these players (if they do not appear):

- "Play-up players" require the official TRR (or provincial equivalent) where they are rostered, indicating they are registered to a lower age division within the same club.
- Players without proper documentation or documentation considered to be suspicious will not be permitted to play.

If a "play-up player" already appears on the team's TRR just like the other players, no additional documentation is required.

5. DIVISIONS

Depending on the week, there will be the following divisions: U12 and/or U13, Boys and Girls.

The Festival Organizing Committee reserves the right to accept or to refuse the entry application of any team's participation in the Festival, depending upon the number of entries that are received for this Festival. In such cases teams will be contacted prior to effecting the change.

6. STANDINGS

No scores will be recorded for Festival games.

7. MERCY RULES

No scores will be recorded in Festival games. Coaches are reminded that in the spirit of fair play, they are to remain respectful and ensure their players abide by the spirit of the game.

8. FORFEITS

If a team is unable to field at least seven (7) players (U12-U13), ten (10) minutes after starting time, the game shall be forfeited.

A team failing to appear, without valid reason, shall be assessed a \$215.00 fine which shall be payable to "Ottawa TFC" within thirty (30) days. In the event the fine is not paid, the appropriate district association and the Ontario Soccer Association shall be notified of the team's performance and appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken. Failure to appear, without valid reason, may also result in the expulsion of the team(s) from the remainder of the Festival and for the forfeiture of the team's or teams' entry fee(s). In these instances, the Festival Discipline Committee will be the sole judge as to whether the team or teams should be expelled from the remainder of the Festival.

9. PLAYING RULES

Games will be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the game and in accordance with Ontario Soccer and EODSA published rules.

9.1 Playing equipment

- All games shall be played with a size four (4) ball.
- All players must wear shoes which conform to the requirements of FIFA (Law 4).
- Shin guards are mandatory.
- Each team should have two sets of different coloured jerseys (dark and light kits). In the event of a conflict of jersey colours, the home team listed on the schedule shall be required to change.
- The goaltender's jersey must be distinct from those of his team, the opposing team and the referee.

9.2 Throw ins and free kicks

- The FIFA Free Kick Law (Law 13) is in effect for all games (**all appropriate free kicks will be direct**).
- Play will restart with a throw-in (FIFA Law 15) when the ball has gone out of play either in the air or on the ground by passing the touch line.
- If the ball inadvertently hits the overhead wires inside the facility, an **indirect free kick** will be given to the team who last touched the ball, where this last touch occurred on the field (not necessarily under the wire).

9.3 Offside

- The FIFA offside rule (Law 11) is **in effect** for all games.

9.4 Retreat line

- Retreat line will be enforced for all games **on goal kicks only**; one third (1/3) of the field.
- The Goalkeeper must ask for the retreat line to be enforced
- Players on the opposing team must be behind the retreat line **until the goal kick is taken**.

9.5 Substitutions

- There is no limit to the number of substitutions that may be made during a game.
- Substitutions in Festival games may be made **at any stoppage**.

9.6 Injured players

- In the event of an injury, substitution will be allowed for the injured player only. A player who is bleeding must leave the field for treatment and will not be allowed to resume playing until after the Referee and/or Medical Staff has verified that the area of the body (other than the inside of the nose or mouth) from which the player was bleeding has been properly covered and that the bleeding has stopped. In the case of a nose-bleed or an internal mouth injury, it will be sufficient for the Referee and/or Medical Staff to ascertain that the bleeding has stopped in order for the player to be allowed to reenter the game.

9.7 Technical area and spectators

- Teams (players, coaches and managers) will take position on the player side of the field. There shall be no more than a maximum of four team officials permitted on the player side of the field (ex.: Coach, Assistant Coach, Trainer and Manager). Teams shall restrict their movement within a technical area along the touchline.
- All spectators will take up positions on the opposite side of the field across from their respective team. All players, coaches, managers and spectators shall remain two (2) metres back from the touchline during play.

10. REFEREE AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

One Central Referee will be assigned by Ottawa TFC for all games. Assistant referees will not be assigned to games at this level and only the Central Referee assigned will call any stoppage of play.

11. GAME REPORTS

Coaches/Managers are responsible for submitting the OTFC Festival Game sheet to the Referee prior to the commencement of the game. It is to be signed by the team's Coach or Manager prior to being submitted. This becomes the Game Report. A fillable template of the game sheet will be shared ahead of the festival. Teams are to fill in their game sheets before the first game (1 sheet per game). The Game Report will remain with the Referee from then on. The Referee indicates all cautions and ejections on the Game Report. The Referee will also describe and explain all Cautions and Ejections on the appropriate Ontario Soccer Cautions and Dismissal Forms. The Referee will verify the correctness of the Game Report by signing it at the end of the match. Misconduct reports will be forwarded to EODSA within 48 hours of the completion of the game.

12. CONDUCT OF FESTIVAL

12.1 Decisions

- The referee's decision in matters concerning the application of the rules of the game, and the decision of the Festival Organizing Committee regarding conduct of the Festival shall be final and with no appeal rights.

12.2 Hearings

- Hearings will be heard where warranted and all players have the right to request a hearing by written request within 10 minutes of the completion of the game. Decisions by hearing can be appealed to the EODSA. All requests must be accompanied by a \$50.00 bond, which will only be refunded if the player is found not guilty.

12.3 Discipline

- The Ontario Soccer Published Rules on Discipline at Festival s will apply. Discipline for player misconduct will be done by Discipline by Review (and Discipline by Hearing where necessary or requested).
- Players and Team Officials (Coach, Assistant Coach, Trainer or Manager) that are dismissed during Festival play shall serve a mandatory minimum one game suspension immediately following the game in which the dismissal was issued.
- In cases of "game official assault", the player, team official, or administrator alleged to have committed "game official assault" shall be immediately suspended from all soccer activities and the discipline shall be handled by an EODSA Discipline Hearing Panel, in accordance with the Ontario Soccer Published Rules.
- All Misconduct Reports involving player dismissal will be dealt with by the Discipline Board in accordance with OS Published Rules. Further game suspensions may be issued depending on the ruling of the Board. Where permitted, requests for hearing will be accepted within 15 minutes of the completion of the game. In accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules all decisions made by review are final. All Decisions made by hearing can be appealed to the EODSA.

12.4 Behaviour

- The Festival Organizing Committee relies upon the coaches and team officials to set an example of conduct and sportsmanship and to exercise all the necessary control over their players and associated parents and spectators.

13. FESTIVAL CANCELLATION

Ottawa TFC, the Festival Organizing Committee, the Festival Discipline Committee and the Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association will not be responsible for any expenses that are incurred by any team or any person, if the Festival is cancelled in whole or in part.

If the Festival is cancelled in its entirety, the Festival will refund each team's paid entry fee. Teams that of their own accord withdraw from the Festival within 10 days of the event, will not be granted a refund.

Unless otherwise indicated within these rules, all FIFA laws apply.

The Festival Organizing Committee reserves the right to eject ANY person (player, coach, team official, parent or spectator) exhibiting inappropriate behaviour from the immediate playing areas.