



## OTTAWA CARLETON SOCCER LEAGUE

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# Rules & Regulations

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# RULES & REGULATIONS

## I TEAM APPLICATIONS

1. Team applications shall be made on or before March 1<sup>st</sup> of each Calendar year for forthcoming competition.

For all Clubs that operated teams in the OCSL in the previous outdoor season the properly completed application must be accompanied by any outstanding fees from the previous year plus all League fees payable at the time of application as specified below. These fees will include League entry fees, field user or rental fees plus field marking charges and any other applicable fees as well as referee fees in the form of post-dated cheques as specified below.

Clubs whose total fees, exclusive of referee fees, will be in excess of \$2000 pay a minimum of:

- i. \$2000 in full with application(s); and
- ii. 50% of the remaining balance with the application, plus
- iii. The remaining balance in the form of a post-dated cheque dated on, or before, May 1.  
This post-dated cheque must accompany the application.

Clubs/teams may make the referee payment portion in the form of two post-dated cheques of equal amounts dated May 15 and June 15. Post-dated cheques for referee fees must accompany the application(s).

Ottawa Cup fees are due and payable on the date set for receipt of Cup applications and are to accompany the Cup application.

2. NSF Cheques - Any Club/team whose cheque is returned by the bank because of insufficient funds will be charged an administrative fee in addition to the amount of any fee charged by the bank.

3. The deadline for acceptance of team applications will be March 1<sup>st</sup> for the succeeding summer season. Acceptance of any late application will be at the discretion of the LMB. In making its decision to accept any such application the LMB will be guided by such matters as the need to create balanced divisions and/or to create viable divisions, the convenience of teams that have met the deadline for entry, the existence of playing facilities, past financial and discipline performance of the Club and team, and the administrative cost of revising schedules, etc.

4. Teams shall apply for admittance by Category and Division according to the following guidelines:

- Adult teams will apply for the category and division in which they competed the previous year except in cases where they are due for promotion or demotion in which case they will apply to play in the division to which they are entitled. Any team wishing to play at a higher level than that to which they are entitled must make a special submission in writing justifying special consideration.
- A team moving from youth competitive to senior competitive has the opportunity to apply to any senior competitive division subject to the availability of space in such division. The decision on acceptance of the team in the relevant competitive Division will be made by a committee comprised of the Director, Youth Operations, the Director, Senior Operations, and each Club with teams in that division.
- Youth teams must register in the age category in which the players are registered. Teams wishing to play at a higher age level than that for which their age qualifies them are required to make a special submission in writing, justifying special consideration.
- In all cases the LMB will consider the possible effect of granting special permission on all others concerned including the viability of the division in which the team is wishing to play. The interests of the organization will be given greater consideration than those of the team asking for special consideration.
- Requests to change divisions must be submitted on or prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Clubs submitting requests after the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline may be charged an amount as determined by the LMB.
- All players registered on an OCSL team in an open age division must be at least 16 years old by January 1 of that calendar year.

5. a. Teams that are withdrawn after May 1<sup>st</sup> and before May 14<sup>th</sup> (inclusive) shall be liable for the full league team entry fee established for the category/division in which they have been entered plus an administrative fee of \$500. The Club's

liability will include any unpaid and outstanding balance due on the above but will not include any unused part of prepaid referee fees.

b. Teams that are withdrawn after May 15<sup>th</sup>(inclusive) shall be liable for the full league team entry fee established for the category/division in which they have been entered plus an administrative fee of a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$1000 subject to review by the LMB. The Club's liability will include any unpaid and outstanding balance due on the above but will not include any unused part of prepaid referee fees.

Withdrawals must be in writing and filed with the OCSL secretary.

6. Each team will be identified only by its Club name and/or by the addition of a simple name, colour, letter or number, except in the case of conflict between teams of the same club.
  - a. It is the club's responsibility to ensure the team name is created in the OSA's computerized registration system in accordance with the above criteria by May 1 of the upcoming outdoor season. If not entered by May 1, clubs will be subject to corrective action on a per team basis as indicated in the fee table and after May 15 the affected teams will be removed from the OCSL. Non Ontario teams, who at this time cannot enter this information themselves, are exempt from entering the teams directly into the OSA's computerized registration system.
  - b. It is the responsibility for all clubs with teams playing in the OCSL, who provide their own fields, to have their field allocations in to the OCSL Office by May 1 of the upcoming outdoor season. If not provided by May 1, clubs will be subject to corrective action on a per team basis as indicated in the fee table and after May 15 the affected teams will be removed from the OCSL.

## **II CATEGORIES/DIVISIONS**

### **1. CATEGORIES**

- a. The OCSL will operate Divisions in the following categories as applicable in accordance with OSA Published Rules:
  - I. District League
    - i. Senior Competitive Men
    - ii. Senior Competitive Women
  - II. Multi-Jurisdictional Club League
    - i. Senior Recreational Men
    - ii. Senior Recreational Women
    - iii. Youth Recreational Boys
    - iv. Youth Recreational Girls
    - v. Mini Soccer Boys (Recreational)
    - vi. Mini Soccer Girls (Recreational)
- b. Youth Recreational categories will be divided into those age groups recognized by the OSA.
- c. New teams, teams returning from suspension or from a one year lapse in participation (or more) will be placed at the discretion of the LMB.
- d. The LMB may recognize any group of four (4) or more teams wishing to organize and operate a division or category not currently existing where not prohibited according to the OSA Published Rules.

### **2. DIVISIONS**

#### **A. SENIOR COMPETITIVE/RECREATIONAL**

- a. If possible, divisions shall be of even numbers of teams, and as even in size as possible. Divisions will be listed in the schedule as MP, WP, MC1, WC1, MC2, WC2, etc..
- b. The Senior Competitive Men's and Women's Categories shall comprise of divisions of no fewer than six (6), and no more than fourteen (14) teams each. At the end of each season the bottom two (2) teams from each of the competitive divisions will be demoted to the next lower division (for divisions that have eight or more teams), and the top two (2) teams in each competitive Division will be promoted to the next higher division. Additional competitive divisions may be added as required and promotion and relegation as stated herein will apply to all competitive divisions.

The following exceptions will apply:

i. Where a Club with a team in either the First or Second Division or other competitive division promotion zone elects not to move that team to the higher level the team with the next best record will be promoted.

No team having refused promotion one year may do so a second successive year.

ii. Where expansion or contraction of any of the competitive divisions is considered necessary a meeting will be held with the involved Clubs to determine and recommend to the LMB the most appropriate divisional competition.

c. Each Senior Competitive Category team shall have a fully certified Coach as required by OSA regulations.

d. The Senior Recreational Categories will be comprised of Divisions indicated by MR1,WR2, etc. as well as "REC". With the exception of the "REC" and Oldtimers/Masters Divisions any team finishing first or second will have the option to elect to be promoted, otherwise promotion will be at the discretion of the LMB. The bottom (2) teams will normally be subject to demotion. Additional recreational divisions may be added as required and promotion and relegation as stated herein will apply to all recreational divisions.

e. There will be no promotion from Senior Recreational Categories to Senior Competitive. Any Club/team wishing to compete in the Senior Competitive Categories must make application to the LMB to be considered.

f. In all deliberations as to the placement of teams in Divisions, all members of the LMB having Club affiliations will declare their affiliation. Any member of the LMB having an affiliation to a Club with a team whose placement is under discussion may speak to that team's application and then withdraw from related deliberations and shall not vote on placement of that team

g. Reserve teams: Each senior Premier Division and Competitive One Division team may designate one lower level competitive team as reserve for the current season, subject to LMB approval. The number of call ups for reserve players is subject to the numbers noted in the Playing Up section. The deadline to appoint a reserve team is May 15.

## B. YOUTH RECREATIONAL:

a. Youth age groups shall be divided into single year categories where possible. Each age group will have one division, which may be subdivided as required for each season. Each division will have a minimum of four (4) teams. Divisions may be combined as required each season. Selection of teams is to be made by the LMB. The LMB reserves the right to determine the final number of teams (not exceeding the maximum) in each age category and division.

b. Youth Age divisional categories shall be known as:

One Year	Two Year
Under 18	Under 18
Under 17	
Under 16	Under 16
Under 15	
Under 14	Under 14
Under 13	
Under 12	Under 12

c. Mini-Soccer: CSA regulations require that teams in the Under 9 & 10 age category play mini-soccer (7 a-side). The OCSL will require U11 teams to also participate in mini-soccer. The OCSL mini-soccer shall:

i. have all teams playing registered as recreational teams.

ii. have all girls teams participate in the Girls Division(s), with all other teams competing in the Boys Division(s).

## III RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS

In addition to league play the LMB may organize the following competitions for OCSL registered teams:

a. OTTAWA CUPS (Senior Divisions) – Two separate competitions are available and open to all senior teams. Each team wishing to participate in the Ottawa Cup shall pay a non-refundable entry fee, to be set by the LMB, payable with the entry application. Cup applications are to be received on the appropriate application form by the

OCSL office on, or before, the date set by the LMB for the current year. Applications will be according to the Ottawa Cup Rules.

- i. Recreational Ottawa Cup – Open to all senior recreational teams
  - ii. Competitive Ottawa Cup – Open to all senior competitive teams and the Recreational Ottawa Cup Finalists.
- b. OCSL YOUTH CUP for each age group - open to all teams in both boys and girls divisions. Each team wishing to participate in the Youth Cup shall pay a non-refundable entry fee, to be set by the LMB, payable with the entry application. Cup applications must be received on the appropriate application form by the OCSL office on, or before, the date set by the LMB for the current year.
- c. The LMB reserves the right to cancel at any time, or defer, any of the above competitions in the absence of sufficient entries or Club support. In the event of cancellation entry fees will be refunded.

#### **IV REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

1. All players shall be registered in accordance with OSA and EODSA regulations. All players on Quebec based teams shall be registered with the Quebec counterpart of the OSA and official team rosters are to be on file with the EODSA Registrar's office before the beginning of the season.

2. All players shall possess validated player identification which must be produced upon request. Such identification must bear a recognizable photograph of the player and be signed by the player. No player identification will be considered valid unless it is the signed Player Identification Card or approved identification from out of district teams. An official team Roster must be present for validation of the signed Player Identification Card for Eastern Ontario district teams. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that all required paper work is submitted to the EODSA Registration Office in advance of the commencement of the season to ensure that properly validated player registration identifications are ready for the first games of each team.

3. For the purpose of playing in any League or Cup competition of the OCSL there shall be no movement of players from one team to another without an appropriate approved transfer or permit

4. All youth players, at the time of their registration, shall have an indemnity form signed by their parent(s) or guardian(s) which will absolve and save harmless the League, its governing bodies and any of its agents, coaches, administrators or organizers from responsibility in case of accidents causing injury on file with their home clubs. Responsibility for ensuring that indemnity releases are obtained shall rest solely with the Clubs with whom the players are registered. The forms shall be held by the Clubs and shall be valid for one playing season.

5. Any team playing a player not registered in accordance with the OSA Published Rules or, in the case of Quebec based teams, those of the FQSF or one who is ineligible to compete at the level of the team, or a player who is serving a "time suspension" as a player or from all soccer activity, or is specifically suspended for the game(s) in question shall forfeit all games in which he/she participates.

Any player listed on the game sheet is deemed to have played in the game, except if a line is struck through the player's name or the words "suspended", "suspension" or "under suspension" is written beside the player's name. Where a suspended player's name appears on the game sheet without the above notation the player will not be able to claim that he/she sat out a game of his/her suspension.

Any team playing such an ineligible player will be subject to corrective action in addition to the forfeiture of points. The case will be referred to the EODSA which will impose further penalties as warranted against Club and Team officials as prescribed by OSA discipline regulations.

6. Any team playing an ineligible player under the name of one of its registered players will be subject to the above penalties as well as possible expulsion from the League competition.

7. No player may register with more than one (1) team in the Ottawa Carleton Soccer League with the exception of those players who qualify, by reason of age, to participate in an age restricted Senior division. Players registered with a Premier Division team, or its documented Reserve team, may only register, and compete with, teams at the highest level of the age restricted division (Oldtimers 1). All other eligible players may register and participate with any team at any level of the age restricted league.

8. No person/player registered with an Oldtimer/Masters team may participate in more than two (2) trial games with a Senior Competitive team without having to register with that competitive team.

9. On July 31 OCSL team rosters shall be fixed and ONLY these players shall be eligible to play in OCSL competitions. Players added after 31 July are for tournament play only and are NOT eligible to play in OCSL competitions.

## V PLAYING UP and PLAYING ON TRIAL

1. Playing of players at a higher age and/or competitive level is permitted in League competition in accordance with OSA Published Rules as long as it complies with the following chart where MP, and WP are the highest levels of play.

A player can play up to any division that is higher on the table than their highest registered team.

Old Timers	Men	Women	W30+
	MP	WP	
	MC1	WC1	
	MC2	WC2	
	MC3	WC3	
	MC4	WC4	
	MC5		
OT1 (see notes)	MR1	WR1	
OT2	MR2	WR2	W30+ (see notes)
OT3	MR3	WR3	
OT4	MR4	WR4	
OT5	MR5	WR5	
OT6	MR6	WR6	
OT7	Mrec		
Over 50			

### Notes:

- A player can only play up from their highest registered team.
  - A player registered to MP can only register in OT1. This player cannot play up to any other team.
  - A player who is registered to OT1 and MC3 can play up to MC2, MC1 and MP if the opportunity arises.
- For all play ups, the relevant form is required.
- You cannot play across the levels.
  - A player cannot play up between OT1 and MR1 or similarly WR2 and W30+.
- Under no circumstances is a player allowed to play down.
- When dealing with any age specific categories play ups are still required to satisfy the age requirement.
- Women can play up on men's teams but men cannot play on women's teams.
- Should any of these situations occur the player will be considered ineligible.
  - Any team playing an ineligible player will be subject to corrective action in addition to the forfeiture of points according to the published rules.

2. No more than three (3) players from one, or a combination of lower level teams, may play up to a higher level team in any one game, except in the U9, U10 and U11 age divisions where up to five (5) players may play up in any one game. Senior Competitive Divisions will have no limits on the number of call ups per game after August 1.

3. Players playing at a higher level within their own club must first obtain an OCSL Playing Up Permit. A Temporary Registration Permit is required for a player playing up from another club.

- 4.
- a. Youth players
    - i. Any duly registered recreational youth player may be granted a permit to play 3 games with any senior team(s). He/she may be granted a further 3 games to play only with the Senior team(s) of his/her own Club.
    - ii. A registered youth player may during the season play a total of 6 games with higher level teams, including Senior teams, with his/her own Club without affecting his/her registration.
    - iii. No player who is registered as a competitive player may play up to a recreational team.

- b. Senior players
    - i. Teams may play any player from a lower division team a maximum of three (3) games with an OCSL Playing Up permit without having to transfer that player to the roster of the higher level team.
    - ii. Senior Premier teams calling up players from designated Reserve teams are restricted to the maximum number of three (3) players per game, except after August 1 as noted above. There is no restriction on the number of games for which an individual player can be called up.
5. Having played the maximum number of games with one, or a combination of, higher level team(s) a player may not compete in any further games at any level other than the one at which he/she is registered without having first transferred to such a higher level team.
  6. Exhibition or practice games are not considered as scheduled competition and therefore no OCSL Playing Up Permit is required for such games.
  7. A player playing on either an OCSL Playing Up Permit or OSA Temporary Registration Permit is considered to have temporary registration with the team for which he/she is playing. Any player playing up without such permit or registration will be considered ineligible to play and subject to OSA discipline, as may be the team officials and/or team club.
  8. Cup Competitions: No player may play for more than one (1) team in any Cup competition.
  9. Trial Games: Any player not registered with any club must use a Trial Permit in accordance with OSA Published Rules.

## **VI TRANSFERS**

Transfers shall be in accordance with OSA Published Rules.

## **VII STANDINGS**

1. In all league games a team will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for a draw. The team with the most points at the end of the regular league schedule shall be the division champion.
2. Tie Breaking - If two (2) or more teams are tied on points, then the first tie breaker will be each team's total goal difference over the seasons. If the teams are still tied with total goal difference, then the team with the most goals for will be the winner.
3. If a division has been split into two (2) subdivisions on a basis other than playing ability, overall first place shall be determined by one play-off game between the division leaders. No other places will be ranked overall. If a division has been split into more than two divisions, then a modified round robin format will be used to determine overall first placing.
4. A team forfeiting a game shall lose the game 2 - 0 in addition to suffering any other penalties prescribed by the LMB. Forfeits will be subject to extra scrutiny.
5. Play-off games shall be played under extra-time rules as stated herein.

## **VIII DEFUNCT TEAMS**

A team withdrawing from the League, a team failing to fulfill 2 consecutive scheduled games, or a total of 4 scheduled games in a season; or a team under disciplinary action which results in their failing to fulfill 2 consecutive, or a total of 4, games shall be considered as defaulting the season and withdrawn (where they have not already done so). The entire record for the season for that team will be expunged from the division standings. All fees will be forfeited for the season and an administrative fee as described in Rule I 5b may be levied.

## **IX RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM OFFICIALS**

1.
  - a. All coaches for Ontario teams must be certified according to the OSA Published Rules and all coaches must be registered with the OSA. Coaches for teams from outside Ontario must be certified and registered according to their team's governing body. A copy of the coaching certificate must be filed with the OCSL office.
  - b. For every game a properly registered individual shall be designated by the Club as team coach or manager. The coach or manager is responsible for the conduct of his/her team.
  - c. The coach's name shall be entered on the game report and he/she shall identify him/herself to the referee.

- d. No coach, manager, trainer or other Club/team official may enter the field of play unless requested to do so by the referee.
  - e. No coach or manager has the right to withdraw his or her team from the field of play without the approval of the referee except as specified herein.
  - f. Objectionable conduct by a coach or any team official may result in the coach or team official being warned, ejected or reported by the referee to the OCSL/EODSA and may be subject to further disciplinary action.
2. The home team shall assign the two team "benches" to separate areas on the same side of the field. Coaches shall restrict their activities to their own bench area. Each team shall be responsible for restricting their spectators to the opposite side of the field from the teams. Children under the age of 12 of team officials and/or players will be entitled to remain in the immediate area of their team bench.
  3.
    - a. Club and team officials are fully responsible for the conduct of their players, officials and spectators at, and at the vicinity of, games in which they participate.
    - b. Club Officials are responsible for keeping Club practices and non-scheduled games off publicly owned fields for which they have no permit.
    - c. Claims for losses or damages against the League arising from misconduct may be assessed by the LMB against the player, official(s) or Club(s) deemed to be responsible.
    - d. Club Officials are responsible for their players arriving on time and where the game is delayed due to insufficient number of players arriving on time corrective action will be taken.
    - e. Violation of any of the above could result in corrective action.

## **X EQUIPMENT**

1.
  - a. All players on the same team (except the goalkeeper) shall wear shirts of the same colour. The goalkeeper shall wear a shirt of a different colour from those of his/her team and the opposition.
  - b. All teams shall register their colours with the OCSL Secretary prior to playing their first game. If possible they should state their colours when initially applying to the League.
  - c. Where, in the opinion of the referee, a similarity of colours could be confusing, the home team shall change providing the visiting team's colours are as listed with the League. If not, the visiting team shall change. It is the responsibility of the coach of the team that is required to change to have alternate shirts ready.
  - d. In all OCSL games shirts must be numbered, except for goalkeepers' jerseys which may or may not be. Numbers must be at least 8 inches in height. No two players may wear the same number. The player's number shall be indicated on the Game Report beside his/her name and no player shall change his/her number during the course of the game without the permission of the referee.
2. Each team shall provide, and put in place, corner flags as follows:
  - a. Senior teams shall provide two flags at one end.
  - b. Youth teams shall provide all 4 flags when they are the home team. Corner flags shall be no less than 5 feet in height (above the ground).
3. Each team shall provide, and put in place, nets as follows:
  - a. Senior teams should provide, and put in place, a good net at one end of the field.
  - b. Youth teams should provide, and put in place, two good nets at all home games.
4. The home team shall provide a properly inflated ball of the following size:
 

Under 13 through Senior	Size 5
Under 9 through Under 12	Size 4
5. The wearing of safety/protective equipment, eg. safety glasses, by players shall be permitted where it is deemed by the referee as not constituting a hazard. Such equipment shall be examined on the individual merits of the player and level of

competition. All jewellery items, including rings, bracelets, earrings, etc. shall be removed before the game. Any items identifying medical conditions, ie. Medical Alert bracelets, necklets, etc., should not be removed, however, they do need to be taped down on the player. Any such items are to be identified to the referee before the start of the game in accordance with FIFA rules.

6. Every team shall ensure that an adequate first aid kit, and someone to use it, be at each game.
7. If a team does not provide a goal net, corner flags, or a game ball they will be subject to corrective action

## **XI PLAYER IDENTIFICATION AND CARD CHECKING**

Player Identification and Card Checking will be in accordance with the OSA Published Rules and as set out in the OCSL Discipline procedures.

1. a. Signed valid Player Identification Cards (or approved identification for out of district teams) and permit (if applicable) for every player must be available at every game in which he/she participates. The game official(s) will verify player identification against the game sheet before the start of every game.  
b. An official team roster for Eastern Ontario district teams must also be present at the start of every game for verification of player registration by team officials.
2. The showing of identification is mandatory regardless of whether or not any irregularity is suspected. Team officials must present the game sheet and players to the game official(s) at least ten (10) minutes before the scheduled game start for the game official to verify the game sheet and approved player identification. Team officials still have the right to verify the official roster during this process. However, roster verification by team officials will not be permitted to delay the start of the game. Game and team officials must initial the appropriate boxes on the Game Sheet to confirm that this process has taken place. Any player without valid player identification is not eligible to play.
3. If a player's valid identification and permit (if applicable) is not available it should be noted on the game sheet by the referee and the player shall be considered ineligible to play. Any team playing an ineligible player will be subject to corrective action in addition to the forfeiture of points.
4. Where one team does not have valid player identification and players to start the game at the scheduled kick-off time or within 20 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, the game will not be played. The team without valid player identification will be considered in default and the points awarded to the opposing side. If the game is (for whatever reason) started the team with valid player identification will be considered to have waived any right of protest on the grounds of player ineligibility and the final result will stand subject to receipt of a valid protest on other grounds.
5. Where a team fails to produce its valid player identification to the game official the Club will be subject to fines.
6. Where one team questions the legitimacy of their opposition's player identifications, permits, etc. presented at the field prior to game time, this must be noted by the referee and the game shall be played. The complaining team should protest according to the normal protest procedures.
7. Players who arrive after the first half has started but before the start of the second half ARE eligible to play immediately and the game official will verify the valid player identification for such players at half time. Players arriving after the second half has started are NOT eligible to play.
8. Any club official, team official, or player involved in the harassment of the game official(s) with regards to the above rules will be subject to corrective action and possible expulsion from the league.

## **XII GAME REPORTS**

1. OCSL Game Sheets (signed by the designated coach present at the game) with attached permits, etc. must be provided to the game official prior to the start of the game. These sheets must contain a hand printed or typed list of all registered players' full names (first and last names) together with their shirt numbers and game related information (Division, Date, Team Names, and location etc). Any player listed but not in attendance must have a line through their name or he/she is deemed to have played that game. Any player under suspension must have the word "suspension" printed besides his/her name on the game sheet or he/she is not considered to have sat out the game. Failure to identify players under suspension may result in disciplinary action by the OCSL.

At the end of the game, the game official will provide each team with one completed copy of the respective team sheets and return a signed copy to the OCSL with any required reports. Failure of a team to properly fill in a game sheet as noted above will result in the team being subject to corrective action.

2. The Game Report shall consist of both teams' Game Sheets, complete with the applicable Caution Forms, Dismissal Forms, Referee Assault Forms, Special Incident Report Forms, and Permits. The Referee must sign all sheets.
3. The Game Sheet, when complete, shall show the final score, scorers and any incident which resulted in a caution or ejection of a player or team official, or other Special Incident.
4. Game Sheets are required for all scheduled games. If a game is not played the Game Sheet(s) shall be filled in as completely as possible and the reason given why the game was not played.
5. Failure to provide the required equipment, including a Game Sheet, shall be noted on the Game Sheet and the team(s) will be subject to fines.
6. The referee is responsible for transmitting the complete game report to the League office within 48 hours. The coach or manager of both teams may also fax in their game sheet, and/or phone or send electronically the score to the office upon completion of the game. In the event that no one notifies the office of the game result within five (5) days, the game will be recorded as unplayed with no points being awarded to either team.
7. Notes may be put on the game sheet at the bottom for anything that needs to be reported to the office. This can include, but not be restricted to, questioning player eligibility, noting the cards were not checked, or attempts were made to check cards but other team did not wish to check cards, etc. The OCSL Office staff will follow up with all comments noted for appropriate action.

### **XIII POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES**

1. Notification of league postponements shall be made to both teams at least 24 hours before the game, except in those cases where a Field Permit issuer declares the field unusable where there may be no prior notice. Notification shall be made by telephone, email or facsimile using the Club/Team listings provided to the League. The accuracy of club contact information is the responsibility of the Clubs.

### **XIV UNPLAYABLE AND ABANDONED GAMES**

1. The referee is the sole judge of postponing/abandoning a game due to the absence of equipment, field markings etc. except in the case of valid player identification etc. where the coach(es) have this right as laid-down in these Bylaws.

Teams are required to present themselves at the game field no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff time.

- a. Any team which fails to field the allowable minimum number of players within 20 minutes after the scheduled kickoff time shall be considered to have failed to appear and they shall default the game. Defaulting team(s) shall be subject to fines. In all categories the score will be recorded as 2 - 0 for their opposition.

If both teams fail to appear, both teams will be subject to corrective action. There shall be no points and no score for the game but each team will have one loss added to its record.

The LMB may order a defaulted game rescheduled where -

- i. the defaulting team benefits from having defaulted, or
- ii. a team other than the defaulting team is adversely affected by the default. Any team which refuses or is unable to replay the game may have its record deleted from the league records.

- b. Any team which fails to field the allowable minimum number of players at any time after the match has commenced shall be considered to have failed to appear and they shall default the game. Defaulting team(s) may be subject to fines. In all categories the score will be recorded as 2 - 0 for their opposition or the score at the time the game is stopped, whichever score is more beneficial to the remaining team.

2. If a game is abandoned by the referee for reasons of weather, including visibility, or field conditions before the completion of 3/4 of the normal playing time for that division it may be rescheduled. Games abandoned in the final 1/4 of the normal playing time will be considered complete. Inclement weather is not, by itself, sufficient grounds for cancellation but a game shall be delayed, at least until danger passes, if an electrical storm occurs.

Referees and coaches are subject to any supplementary rules set by field owners (such as school boards, cities, etc).

3. If the referee is required to abandon a game at any time for any reason other than noted above, the LMB will determine the outcome of the game. If warranted, such decision may wait until any related discipline matters are decided.

4. The LMB reserves the right to rule on the status of any game abandoned for whatever reason.

## **XV SCHEDULING**

The LMB shall recognize for the purpose of scheduling:

- CSA and OSA sanctioned Cup competitions;
  
- local tournaments that are sanctioned by the EODSA, provided that notice is given to the OCSL prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year;
  
- games will not be scheduled on July 1;
  
- when preparing the schedules, the League will make every effort to avoid scheduling youth games that will conflict with high school examinations;
  
- soccer related travel outside the country which is EODSA approved.

It is the responsibility of the teams involved in any of the above to notify the OCSL in advance of such games to have league games rescheduled.

## **XVI RESCHEDULING**

### **1. ABANDONED/UNPLAYED**

Games will be rescheduled by the League in the following instances:

- the assigned referee does not appear for the match and no suitable stand in official is available or agreed upon at the field;
  
- the permitting authority (the organization that issued the permit) closes the facility;
  
- the referee judges the field to be unfit for play. If this is due to a club field not being lined properly, the LMB may issue a fine against the offending club;
  
- there are weather factors, such as an electrical storm, which in the opinion of the referee, warrant not playing the game or its abandonment.

Teams shall be given at least one (1) week notice of the time and location of a rescheduled game, (due to any of the above). Notice shall be in accordance with current OCSL Correspondence Policy. If notice is sent to the Club, or recognized Club contact, it is the Club's responsibility to notify the appropriate Team Official(s).

The rescheduled date set by the League shall stand.

### **2. SPECIAL NEEDS**

Once the season has begun, teams will be allowed to reschedule a maximum of two (2) games for the following reasons and provided official notification signed by the Club President, or recognized Club contact, has been received by the League office TWO (2) WEEKS PRIOR TO THE ORIGINALLY scheduled game:

- teams wishing to take part in all approved tournaments and where necessary with authorized travel provided by the EODSA;
  
- school activities during the months of May, June, and September;
  
- two or more players are involved with a CSA, OSA or EODSA program.

In the case of games to be rescheduled by the League at the request of the Club/teams, both clubs must notify the OCSL office prior to the original date of the game. Then, both teams must provide a date, time and field to reschedule on within two (2) weeks after the originally scheduled date for consideration. If no information is received after this two (2) week period the League will reschedule the game without the teams consideration.

### **3. DEFAULTED GAMES**

Clubs/teams must notify the OCSL office in writing at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time if they are not able to field a team. Otherwise, they shall be fined. Defaulted games will not be rescheduled.

## **XVII REFEREES**

1. Referees are expected to be at the game site (scheduled field) at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff time, or face disciplinary action.
2. The game official(s) will obtain the game sheets at least ten (10) minutes before the scheduled game start to verify the approved player identification, player and game sheet. If a player does not have their approved player identification it must be noted on the game sheet and the coach/manager of the player should be made aware so they can fulfil their administrative duties.
3. Registered Referees shall be appointed to all games in those divisions which have been given such notice by the LMB, from provincial association lists of currently registered referees. All referees will be appointed according to the OSA Published Rules.
4. Referees (and assistant referees) officiating OCSL games shall receive fees for their services in the amount set by the EODSA. Game reports must be received in the OCSL office within forty-eight (48) hours of the game in order for all officials involved to receive credit for the game and to be guaranteed payment with the next monthly payment. No payment for any game will be processed until the game sheet has been received.
5. Where an appointed referee fails to appear within 20 minutes after the scheduled kickoff time either team has the right to leave with an automatic right of reschedule. The teams concerned should however endeavour to agree on a person, not necessarily on the official list, to act as an appointed referee and this shall be so noted on the game sheet by both coaches. Once so appointed, such an individual shall have any and all powers of an official referee. Game reports must be received within the stipulated time period(s) for payment(s) to be processed and issued.
6. The referee shall be responsible for the conduct of the game in accordance with the FIFA laws and the rules and regulations of the League.
7. Subject to such rules laid down by the authority responsible for permitting a facility, the referee shall have the power to decide on the fitness of the grounds in all matches and his decision shall be final.
8. Immediately at the conclusion of a game the referee shall complete all sections of the Game Report and delivers or makes all reasonable effort to deliver one complete copy of each team's portion of the Report to each team's manager or coach. Information to be given to each team must include a list of all goal scorers as well as a description of all discipline (cautions and dismissals). He/she must transmit the signed documentation including discipline reports and special incident documentation (including as detailed as possible description of any injuries) to the OCSL office within 48 hours following the game. Failure to abide by this regulation may result in disciplinary action.
9. The referee is required to report the details of any disciplinary action - cautions, ejections or special incidents by 9:00am of the day after the game to the office by phone (on the answering machine) or by fax. He/she is required to state the nature of any offence and the name and team of each individual involved.
10. The referee shall ensure that the well being of the players is given priority over the progress of the game. If there is any doubt about the seriousness of an apparent injury the referee must immediately stop play and ensure the player receives appropriate attention.  
  
The referee shall prepare a written report and attach it to the match report in all cases of apparent serious injury including those of broken limbs and all head injuries.
11. The referee shall immediately abandon play, at least temporarily, in any game during which an electric (lightening) storm occurs. Failure to do so will result in a report being forwarded to the EODSA for possible disciplinary action. No action will be taken against a Coach who removes his/her team from the field under such circumstances where the referee fails to act.
12. During extreme hot weather, before the start of play, if either team requests that water breaks be taken - the referee must comply with this request. Such breaks should occur approximately midway through each half and be at an appropriate stoppage in play e.g. goal kick, injury, substitution.

## **XVIII DURATION OF GAMES**

Games shall be of the following duration:

Under 16 through Senior	45 minutes each half
Under 14 & Under 15	40 minutes each half
Under 12 & Under 13	35 minutes each half

Games can only be otherwise shortened by the separate rules of a competition recognized by the OCSL, or by mutual agreement as in the case of cloudy and dull nights or shortness of light late in the season. These changes should be noted on the respective Game Sheets by the referee.

## **XIX NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTION**

1. A minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twenty-five (25) players shall constitute a team at any Youth Recreational game of the OCSL.

A minimum of five (5) and a maximum of fourteen (14) players shall constitute a team at any mini soccer (7-side) game of the OCSL.

A minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twenty-five (25) players shall constitute a team at any Senior Competitive and Recreational game of the OCSL.

2. In any case where kickoff has been delayed due to either or both teams having fewer than the minimum number of players the game will kickoff as soon as both teams can field the specified minimum number for that category. If unable to start within twenty (20) minutes of the scheduled start, the game will be abandoned and a report filed with the OCSL office.

3. Substitutions shall be allowed on the signal of the referee at halftime, goal kicks, after a goal or to replace an injured player.

4. There shall be no limit in the number of substitutions made by a team in any game under the jurisdiction of the OCSL.

In addition, at levels up to and including Under 13, substitutions shall be allowed at corner kicks at the option of the attacking team. If the attacking team exercises the option to make a substitution(s), the defending team may also make a substitution(s).

In mini-soccer, and Senior Recreational and Oldtimers divisions, substitutions may be allowed on a team's own throw-ins. If the team with the throw in makes a substitution, then the other team may make a substitution as well.

5. A team may change its goalkeeper for any player already on the field at any stoppage in play provided proper notice is given to the referee in accordance with Law 3 of FIFA.

## **XX REPRESENTATIVE GAME**

Clubs/teams shall release their players to play for Provincial or National Representative teams if so selected in accordance with OSA Published Rules.

## **XXI CUP RULES**

1. The League will normally offer the following cup competitions :

- OTTAWA CUP
- OCSL YOUTH CUP

The LMB may cancel or defer any of its sponsored Cup competitions in the absence of support from its members and reserves the right to determine what constitutes adequate support. In addition, the OCSL may sponsor additional Cup competitions as it sees fit subject to the general application of these Cup rules.

2. All teams will be eligible to enter in the appropriate League operated Cup Competition.

For Senior teams entry must be made on the appropriate Cup application form and submitted to the OCSL Secretary prior to the date set by the LMB for the Calendar year in question. Senior teams withdrawing from the Cup Competition after the draw has been published will forfeit the entry fee.

Youth teams must formally apply to the OCSL by the published deadline on an annual basis for entry into the Youth Cup. The prescribed fee must accompany the application in order for a team to be registered. The prescribed fee will be forfeited if withdrawal from the Youth Cup happens after the published default date as published by the OCSL.

3. All OCSL Cup Competition games will be subject to the format, rules and regulations as established and approved by the LMB.

The entry fee will be set by the LMB on an annual basis.

## **XXII EXTRA TIME**

1. Extra time will only be played in games which may be required under Rule VII or where Cup rules require it to be played.
2.
  - a) If the teams are tied at the end of regulation time they shall toss for selection of ends and play two 10 minute periods.
  - b) The teams shall be entitled to 5 minutes rest between periods.
3. Where a game is still tied at the end of the prescribed extra time, the tie will be broken by the taking of FIFA penalty kicks.
4. There is no extra time for regularly scheduled season games.

## **XXIII TROPHIES**

Team trophies, cups and shields are the property of the League. They are presented to the appropriate winners on an annual basis on the condition that they be returned.

Each club must ensure that all League property presented to a representative of their Club is returned to the OCSL prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following season.

Failure to do so will result in the Club being fined an appropriate amount per trophy, cup or shield or the cost of replacing the trophy, cup or shield (whichever is higher).

## **XXIV PROTESTS**

1. A Protest Panel shall hear all protests arising out of any game within the OCSL. The Protest Panel shall consist of at least three (3) members of the LMB and/or Discipline Panel.
2. The Protest Panel will deal only with matters raised in the Protest. Any other issues that arise (eg. Discipline) will be dealt with at subsequent hearings as may be necessary.
3. Any protest concerning ineligible players must be noted on the official's game sheet at first opportunity indicating when the player in question arrived i.e. start of game, first half, halftime, or second half. If this is not noted on the game sheet the protest will not stand.
4. Failure to meet the following submission requirements will result in the protest being disqualified.
  - a. Protest fee shall be as established by the LMB and must accompany any protest.
  - b. Intention to file a protest shall be recorded within 24 hours of the game to which it relates by phoning the OCSL office, at its current telephone number, leaving all pertinent details. Notice of intention to protest may also be filed by fax and/or email within the specified 24 hours.
  - c. The written protest must be filed on the official protest form, counter-signed by a Club official, and addressed to the OCSL Secretary c/o OCSL office at its current office.
  - d. The written protest must be received at the OCSL office by recorded delivery (ie. registered mail, hand delivery, courier, etc.) within three (3) working days of the game in question. The stipulated protest fee must accompany the written protest.
  - e. The protesting team must send a copy of the written protest (by recorded delivery) to its opponent in the game being protested within three (3) working days. A copy of the receipt from the recorded delivery must be submitted (with the written protest) as proof that this requirement has been met.
  - f. No responsibility shall be assumed by the LMB for protests not received within the specified time period unless they are sent by registered mail.
  - g. Successful protests will be refunded the protest fee, while those which are denied will lead to forfeiture of the fee.

5. Any protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, crossbars, ball, colours or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained unless notice of complaint was lodged with the referee prior to the game or at the time it was discovered during the game. The referee shall record details of the complaint on the game report immediately upon being informed. The referee shall require that the cause of the objection be rectified by the team responsible (or by the teams) if this can be accomplished without unduly delaying the game. The referee may abandon the game if rectification is not possible and to continue would, in his/her opinion, be dangerous or otherwise unfeasible.

6. The decision by the Protest Panel on a protest may only be overturned by appeal to the EODSA or higher body in accordance with that body's rules.

7. In the event that the OCSL or a higher governing body takes discipline action (charges with a misconduct) which pertains to the matter being protested, and the accused does not attend the hearing, the Protest Panel shall make a decision based on the information provided in the written protest and information provided at the Protest meeting.

## **XXV DISCIPLINE**

1. If authorized to do so by the EODSA, the LMB shall be delegated responsibility for discipline and appoint a Discipline Committee to deal with infractions occurring at games under the jurisdiction of the OCSL but not including misconduct directed at game officials.

2. The rules and procedures followed for discipline shall be those as established by the OSA and as set out in the Published OCSL Discipline Procedures.

3. The Discipline Committee shall be empowered to bond, fine, suspend or deal with in accordance with the OSA Published Rules those Clubs, teams, players or Club officials whom it shall find guilty of any form of misconduct. The notification of the hearing shall include a complete listing of the charges to be faced, including appropriate references to this and other applicable constitutions.

4. All unpaid fines and fees at the end of each season (received by an individual or organization under the jurisdiction of a Club) will be the responsibility of the Club.

## **XXVI ADDITIONAL RULES**

1. The LMB may amend, clarify, add or delete by majority vote at a LMB meeting, additional rules and regulations pertaining to any or all divisions of the League provided that they are sent to the clubs and teams concerned before the start of the season during which they are to have effect.

2. The LMB may make emergency rulings during the season on matters not currently covered by the existing rules and regulations. These rulings must be communicated immediately to the membership and will be enforceable on a moving forward basis, and not on a retroactive basis.

3. The LMB may modify existing rules and regulations during the season if required. Such changes must be communicated immediately to the membership. Enforcement of any such change will be on a moving forward basis, and not on a retroactive basis.

4. Such Rules, Regulations and Rulings shall have effect for the current season only and may be subject to ratification at the next Annual General Meeting.

5. The OCSL, may at its discretion, levy fees for the provision of services to its members.