



## Ottawa Ice Breaker Outdoor Mini Soccer Festival Official Festival Rules – 29th Edition

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These Festival Rules govern all matches and participation at the Ottawa Ice Breaker Outdoor Mini Soccer Festival (“Festival”). Where explicitly stated, these rules supersede Eastern Ontario Soccer (EOS), Ontario Soccer, Canada Soccer, and FIFA Laws of the Game. Where no Festival-specific rule is stated, EOS, Ontario Soccer, Canada Soccer, and FIFA rules apply, in that order.

## 1. Festival Dates

Girls Festival:

- U8 and U9 – Saturday, May 23, 2026
- U10 – Saturday, May 23, 2026
- U11 – Sunday, May 24, 2026

Boys Festival:

- U8 and U9 – Saturday, May 30, 2026
- U10 – Saturday, May 30, 2026
- U11 – Sunday, May 31, 2026

Festival days are subject to change based on league play, field availability, or operational requirements.

## 2. Age Groups

The Festival is open to teams with players born in the following years:

- Under 8 (U8): Born on or after January 1, 2018
- Under 9 (U9): Born on or after January 1, 2017
- Under 10 (U10): Born on or after January 1, 2016
- Under 11 (U11): Born on or after January 1, 2015

Any age or eligibility exceptions must be submitted in writing and approved by the Festival & Tournament Organizing Committee (FTOC) prior to the team’s roster being finalized. Unapproved exceptions will not be permitted to participate.

## 3. Team Eligibility Criteria:

- All teams must be registered with their Provincial, State, or National Association
- Each team must include with tournament application written proof of team travel permission authorized by its governing association.
- All teams from outside Ontario must supply proof of accident/injury/illness medical insurance to the Tournament Host no later than seven (7) days prior to the tournament.
- Teams may only use Players who are registered with them, except as stipulated in Section 4 below.



- All youth teams regardless of the competition must always have a minimum of one (1) registered team official on the bench. If a team does not have a registered Team Official on the bench prior to the game or at any time during the game, the game will be abandoned, and the result will be awarded to the opposition.

#### **4. Player Eligibility and Rosters**

- All players must be properly registered with their club, district, and governing body prior to participation.
- Players may only compete for one (1) team during the festival.
- Teams must submit an approved Ontario Soccer Team Roster Report (TRR) prior to the festival. Any roster exceptions must be approved in writing by the Festival Organizing Committee before the Festival begins.

#### **5. Gender Inclusivity**

- The festival is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, respectful, and equitable environment for all participants.
- Players may compete in the division aligned with their registered gender designation, in accordance with Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer policies. Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

#### **6. Errors, Omissions, and Authority**

- Any errors or omissions within this document may be corrected at the discretion of the Festival & Tournament Organizing Committee (TOC) at any time.
- All decisions rendered by the Festival Organizing Committee regarding rules interpretation, team acceptance, division placement, scheduling, discipline, and operational matters are final and binding. Festival Organizing Committee decisions are not subject to appeal except through the appropriate governing bodies where permitted.

#### **7. Team Acceptance and Division Placement**

- The Tournament Organizing Committee reserves the right to accept or decline any team application to ensure a balanced, safe, and enjoyable Festival experience.
- Based on registrations received, the Festival Organizing Committee may combine, split, tier, or restructure divisions as needed. Teams may be placed in higher or lower tiers at the discretion of the TOC. In rare circumstances where no suitable division exists, teams may be offered a refund. This is at the sole discretion of the Festival Organizing Committee.



## 8. Game Format

The festival will use the following game formats:

- U8 and U9: 5 versus 5
- U10 and U11: 7 versus 7
- U12 and U13: 9 versus 9

## 9. Roster Sizes

Roster sizes for the Festival are as follows:

- U8 and U9 (5v5): Minimum 7 players, Maximum 10 players
- U10 and U11 (7v7): Minimum 10 players, Maximum 16 players

Teams failing to meet minimum roster requirements may be denied participation.

## 10. Match Duration

- U8 and U9: One (1) 25-minute period
- U10 and U11: Two (2) 15-minute halves
- There is no overtime or extra time in Festival matches.

## 11. Number of Games

- All teams are scheduled to play a minimum of three (3) games. The Tournament Organizing Committee reserves the right to adjust the number of games due to weather, field conditions, or operational constraints.

## 12. Ball Specifications

- Size 4 ball: U8 through U12

## 13. Scores and Standings

In accordance with Ontario Soccer Festival Guidelines, scores and standings are not kept for Festival divisions.

## 14. Team and Player Registration

- Final roster changes must be submitted by 11:59 PM EST on May 15 for both Girls and Boys events.
- Any roster changes submitted after the deadline must receive written approval from the Ice Breaker Tournament Organizing Committee. All players must be properly registered prior to the start of their first match.



## 15. Required Documentation

- Each team must complete the following:
  - Upload an approved Ontario Soccer Team Roster Report (TRR) to the TeamSnap for Tournaments platform.
- Enter each participating player's full legal name and date of birth into TeamSnap.
- Enter all registered team officials into TeamSnap. All officials must appear on the TRR.
- Out-of-province teams must provide proof of valid injury and liability insurance.

## 16. Check-In Procedures

- Teams must check in with a Field Marshal at least thirty (30) minutes prior to their first scheduled match at the scheduled field. Failure to check in may result in match forfeiture.

## 17. Kick-Off Times

- Teams must be ready to take the field and begin play at the scheduled kick-off time.
- Any delays resulting from injuries or issues in preceding matches will be communicated to teams by Field Marshals or Tournament Officials as soon as reasonably possible.

## 18. Bench and Technical Areas

- Only players and team officials listed on the approved Team Roster Report are permitted in the bench area.
- Suspended players are not permitted on the bench. Team officials must remain within the designated bench or technical area.
- Where markings are not present, the referee will define the technical area prior to the match.

## 19. Tents, Benches, and Equipment

- All tents, benches, and team equipment must be positioned at a minimum of five (5) meters from the sideline. Teams are responsible for removing all refuse and personal items from their bench area following each match.

## 20. Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions are permitted with the referee's consent at any stoppage in play.
- Substitutions may not be used for the purpose of delaying the match. Referee approval must be granted prior to substitutions being made.
- All substitutes must wear a pinnie while on the sideline or bench.



- Players with visible blood must leave the field and may only return once properly cleaned and cleared.

## 21. Tournament Officials and Field Marshals

- Tournament Officials may position themselves between team benches and around the field to perform operational duties.
- Field Marshals may assist with Code of Conduct matters and identify designated bench areas but are not involved in refereeing decisions or the management of the Laws of the Game.

## 22. Conduct and Discipline

- All participants, team officials, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times.
- Discipline is administered in accordance with Ontario Soccer and Eastern Ontario Soccer rules, with the following Festival-specific provisions:
- U8, U9: Cautionable offences may result in a yellow card and, at the referee's discretion, a five (5) minute temporary dismissal. Red card results in expulsion; the team may replace the expelled player.
- U10, U11: A yellow card results in a five (5) minute temporary dismissal. A red card results in expulsion; the team may replace the expelled player.
- A player receiving three (3) yellow cards during the Festival will be suspended from further participation.
- A player receiving two yellow cards in a single match (red card) is suspended for one (1) match (the next match).
- Straight red cards result in a two (2) match suspension.

## 23. Match Officials

- All match officials must be properly registered with their district, and governing body prior to participation.
- All match officials must understand applicable rules including shoot-out rules prior to refereeing matches.
- All play-offs and Finals are scheduled to have Assistant Referees.



## 24. Match Official Fees

Match Official Fees are set based on approved Ontario Soccer Match Official Fees and where required, adjusted for the level of play and shortened duration of matches.

Festival Match Official Fees		
Age Group	Referee	Assistant Referee
U8 & U9	\$15	N/A
U10 & U11	\$20	N/A

## 25. Appeals

- Red card appeals must be submitted within fifteen (15) minutes of match completion and must be accompanied by a \$200 cash bond.
- Judgement decisions are not appealable.
- Yellow cards are not subject to appeal or review.

## 26. Late Arrivals, Team No-Shows and Withdrawals

- The Ice Breaker Festival prioritizes development, enjoyment, and schedule integrity. Being on time ensures every team gets the experience they came for.

## 27. Readiness to Play

- Teams must be ready to play at the scheduled kick-off time.
- Teams are fully responsible for all travel, parking, warm-up, equipment, and player-availability logistics.
- No allowances or exceptions will be made for traffic, weather, or logistical delays.

## 28. Grace Period

- A five (5) minute grace period from the scheduled kick-off time will be observed.
- The game clock continues to run during this period.
- More than 10 minutes late: The match will not be played, unless time allows, the opponent agrees, and the Competition Coordinator authorizes a shortened game.

## 29. Shortened Games (Festival Discretion)

- At the sole discretion of the Field Marshal or Tournament Officials, a shortened festival game may be played if:
  - Both teams are present and agree to play the game.
  - The adjustment does not affect the overall schedule.
  - Shortened games count as official festival matches.



- Competition Coordinator has final authority with respect to determining lateness and authorizing shortened games.
- All decisions are final and not subject to protest.

### **30. Minimum players required to start a match**

- U8 and U9: 4 players
- U10 and U11: 5 players

### **31. Weather and Field Conditions**

- Matches may be delayed, relocated, or cancelled due to weather or field conditions.
- Matches abandoned after seventy-five percent (75%) of regulation time has been completed may be deemed complete.
- Electrical storms require the immediate suspension of play.

### **32. Protests**

- Protests are accepted only for non-judgment issues.
- A written protest accompanied by a \$200 cash deposit must be submitted within one (1) hour of match completion. The decision of the Festival Discipline Committee is final.

### **33. General Liability**

- The Ottawa Internationals Soccer Club (OISC), the Tournament Organizing Committee, and Eastern Ontario Soccer are not responsible for costs incurred due to delays or cancellations.
- If the Festival is cancelled in its entirety, partial refunds may be issued where feasible.

### **34. Governing Rules**

- Any rules not explicitly stated in this document shall default to the FIFA Laws of the Game, Canada Soccer rules, Ontario Soccer rules, and Eastern Ontario Soccer rules, in that order.