

2018 District Development Rules and Regulations

To be approved at the 2017 AGM

Printable Version

Article 1: General

1.01 A copy of the current Rules and Regulations shall be posted on the ERSL website.

1.02 The League Executive shall inform Members of any changes to the Rules and Regulations within seven (7) days of their adoption and a consolidated copy of the amended Rules and Regulations, if any that were adopted during the year, shall be submitted for ratification by the Members at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM)- or a Special General Meeting (SGM) convened to review League matters.

1.03 All fines resulting from breaches of rules identified in these Rules and Regulations, including the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule, shall be assessed against the Club.

1.04 In the document, a reference to an "Age Group" refers to any one of the U9, U10, U11, or U12 age cohorts as defined under OSAOS Published Rules.

1.05 In this document, OSAOS means the Ontario Soccer- Incorporated Association, and EODSA means the Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association.

Article 2: Age Groups and Divisions

2.01 Subject to OSAOS Published Rules, ERSL may operate a District Development Competition for U9 to U12 teams within the Eastern Ontario District of the ~~Ontario Soccer Association~~ Ontario Soccer Incorporated, and to operate these competitions based on the TOLO approved by the EODSA.

Article 3: Membership Applications and Fees

3.01 Club Membership Applications, associated Team Entries and all fees to play in the ERSL shall be made annually on the ERSL official application form, and received by the League no later than March 28th of each year for the forthcoming Outdoor season. If the ERSL Office is not open on March 28th, then the documentation and fees must be received by the first day the ERSL Office is open after March 28th. Late entries may be accepted at the ERSL Management Board's discretion, and only upon receipt of a late fee of \$100 per team, to a maximum of \$500 per Club.

3.02 Applications shall only be accepted if the required documents are properly completed, signed by a Club Officer, and accompanied by all required Club membership and team entry fees for the season, as determined by the League.

3.03~~2~~ Withdrawals must be made through the ERSL League Management system (Web site).

3.04~~3~~ For each Team withdrawn after March 28th, the Club shall forfeit the full fees paid. For each team withdrawn after May 1st, the ERSL shall assess an additional fine equal to the Team registration fee.

3.05~~4~~ Any Club whose cheque is returned by the bank will be charged an administrative fee in accordance with the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

Article 4: Team Eligibility Rules

4.01 All ERSL Clubs approved by the EODSA to operate Youth teams may enter teams in any division of the ERSL District Development League. Clubs will self-select into which tiers they wish to enter teams.

4.02 No Club shall enter more than 2 teams in a Tier 1 division unless expressly approved by the ERSL Management Board.

Article 5: Registration of Players

5.01 All players shall be registered with the EODSA, through their respective Clubs, in accordance with the [OSAOS](#) Published Rules.

Article 6: Coaches and Other Team Officials

6.01 Each Team must appoint a Head Coach. In accordance with [OSAOS](#) Policies, all Coaches and Assistant

Coaches must be fully certified in the following categories:

- [OSAOS](#) "Learn To Train"; and
- "Respect in Soccer"; and
- "Making Ethical Decisions"; and
- "Making Headway" courses.

6.02 All Coaches and other Team Officials shall be registered with the EODSA in accordance with the [OSAOS](#) Published Rules.

6.03 All Team Officials shall be registered in the Team section of the ERSL League website.

6.04 The Head Coach is responsible for the activation of their Team on the ERSL League Management System on or before April 30 of each season. Failure to do so shall result in a fine as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

Article 7: Playing Up

7.01 [OSAOS](#) underage player rules will apply to all District Development games.

7.02 Underage player approval is controlled through the ERSL Management System. Underage players must be made available in the system by the League in order to be added to your game sheet.

Article 8: Game Sheets

8.01 The names of all players and Team Officials participating in a game must be printed on the official game sheet as generated from the ERSL League Management System. If a team's game sheet has handwritten names or OS numbers, the Club will be subject to the applicable fine as per the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule. The ERSL will manually verify the registration status of any handwritten players or team officials once the game sheet is received. –Player jersey numbers may be handwritten on the game sheet

8.02 Only 12 players may be listed on the game sheet and are eligible to play in the U9 and U10 divisions. Only 16 players may be listed on the game sheet and are eligible to play in the U11 and U12 divisions. Only four (4) Team Officials may be listed on the game sheet, and all Team Officials present at the game must sign the Team's Game sheet; the signature shall certify the eligibility of all players and officials whose names appear on the game sheet, to participate in that game.

8.03 The names of players and Team Officials not present at the game should be crossed out on the game sheet. All players, and team officials, whose names appear on the game sheet and are not crossed out, shall be deemed to have played, or participated in the game.

8.04 In the event that a game sheet cannot be printed from the ERSL League Management System due to technical difficulties, the team shall inform the ERSL Office by email or voice mail that the team was unable to print the game sheet. Notice of the difficulty must be received prior to the game start time. If notice is received after the game start time, the team's Club will be subject to the applicable fine as per the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

8.05 When a game sheet cannot be printed from the ERSL League Management System due to technical difficulties, the affected team shall create a hand written game sheet, modify a copy of an old game sheet or use the [OSAOS](#) Team Roster Report and add the additional game information. The ERSL will manually verify the registration status and eligibility of the listed players.

8.06 Any Team that fails to produce a game sheet will be subject to a fine as published in the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.→

8.07 Each team is required to provide One (1) copy of their game sheet to the referee. The referee will retain this game sheet and use for reporting purposes.

Article 9: Player Eligibility

9.01 Where it comes to the attention of the ERSL, through any means, that one or more unregistered or ineligible players have allegedly participated in a game, the ERSL may investigate and take appropriate disciplinary action.

9.02 Any Team playing an unregistered or ineligible player will be subject to a disciplinary hearing. The Team and its Officials will be assessed penalties that the Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with [OSAOS](#) Published Rules as well as any applicable fines as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

9.03 Any team playing an unregistered or ineligible or suspended player under the name of one of its other registered players and any person aiding or abetting such action shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing. The Team, its Officials or players will be assessed penalties that the Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with [OSAOS](#) Published Rules as well as any applicable fines as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

Article 10: Submission of Game Reports and Scores

10.01 There will be no standings and no recording of game results.

10.02 The Referee must [email](#), mail, fax or deliver to the ERSL Office the paper copy of all game sheets within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game. A Referee, who fails to submit the required documents within [seventy-two \(7296\)](#) hours of completion of the game, shall be reported to the EODSA for discipline.

Article 11: Equipment

11.01 At each game, the home team shall put up two sets of nets and four corner flags whose height above ground must be at least five (5) feet. The home team shall also provide two game balls that are

acceptable to the Referee. Failure of the home team to provide the required equipment shall result in fines as published in the ERS� Fees and Fines Schedule.

11.02 The game ball shall be size 4.

11.03 All Teams must register their regular and alternate Team colours with the League prior to the start of the League schedule. Where the Referee decides that the regular team colours conflict, the home team is required to change to their alternate colours providing that the visiting team's colours are as filed with the ERS� and if not, the visiting Team shall change its shirts to their regular team colour. The goalkeepers' jersey colour must be different from that of either team. It is the responsibility of the Coach of the Team that is required to change, to have alternate shirts available at each game and failure to do so shall result in fines as per the published ERS� Fees and Fines Schedule.

11.04 All players on the same team, except the goalkeeper, shall wear shirts of the same colour, which must be numbered on the back. Numbers must be at least eight inches in height. No two players may wear the same number. Players' numbers must be recorded on the game sheet and cannot be changed after the start of the game without the referee's permission.

11.05 FIFA-sanctioned safety or protective equipment may be worn after inspection by the Referee and only if the Referee deems that the wearing of such equipment will not constitute a danger to other players

11.06 All teams will have a copy of the District Development League Rules and Regulations at every game.

Article 12: Duration of Games

12.01 Games shall be of the following duration:

- U9 and U10: 4 x 12 minute quarters; and
- U11 and U12: 4 x 15 minute quarters.

There will be a 2 minute break between quarters and a 5 minute half time

Article 13: Responsibilities of Coaches and Team Officials

13.01 ~~At each game, the technical area relates to matches played in stadiums with a designated seated area for technical staff and substitutes as described below. Where no such technical area is available,~~ The Home Team shall designate the bench or technical areas for each of the Teams, which shall be on the same side of the field. The bench or designated technical area shall start at a distance of five (5) meters and end (10) meters on either side of the centre line. If the technical area is not painted on the field, each team shall use cones to designate the technical area.

13.02 Only the twelve (12) players for U9 and U10 games, and sixteen (16) players for U11 and U12 games, and a maximum of four (4) Team Officials are permitted to sit on the Team bench or within the designated technical area. All substitute players and Team Officials shall confine themselves to their designated technical or bench area as defined in Article 13.01.

13.03 The set-up and/or operation of video cameras, still or digital cameras, or other similar equipment in the technical area, on the side of the field which includes the technical areas, or behind the goals is specifically prohibited.

13.04 A Club Head Coach or Technical Director may sit on the Team bench or within designated technical area but he/she will be included in the limit of four (4) Coaches and Team Officials specified in 13.02 above.

13.05 No Coach or Team Official may enter the field of play at any time without the prior approval of the Referee.

13.06 No Coach or Team Official has the right to withdraw their Team or any of their players from the field of play without the prior approval of the Referee.

13.07 Each Team shall ensure that its spectators sit on the side of the field opposite from the side where the players and Team Officials are located. All Team Officials must remain in the Technical Area and may not sit on the spectators' side of the field.

13.08 Clubs and Team Officials are fully responsible, at all times, for the conduct of their players, other Team Officials and spectators, at and in the vicinity of any game in which their Team participates.

13.09 A player, Coach or other Team Official who tries or does impede, harass or otherwise intimidate a game official or opposing Team Officials, shall be subject to severe disciplinary action. The Team and its Officials will be assessed penalties that the ERSL Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with **OSAOS** Published Rules, as well as any applicable League fines and bonds as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

13.10 In the event of an altercation on the field of play, anyone from the bench entering the field of play during the altercation, for whatever reasons, shall be subject to severe disciplinary action. The players and the Team Officials will be assessed penalties that the EODSA League Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with **OSAOS** Published Rules, and any applicable fines as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

13.11 Any suspended Team Official may not be present at or in the vicinity of the field for any League game throughout the period of his/her suspension. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in further disciplinary action and a fine as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

Article 14: Game Start Times and Abandoned Games

14.01 Teams are required to present themselves at the game field at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and the home team shall ensure that the nets, corner flags and other necessary equipment are installed and ready before the scheduled kick-off.

14.02 Any Team that causes a game to be delayed beyond the scheduled kick-off time shall be subject to a fine as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

14.03 Any team that fails to present itself at the game field within 20 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time or fails to field the minimum five (5) players, within 20 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, shall be considered to have failed to appear for a scheduled game. The Team must start the game immediately upon arrival of the minimum number of players if the said players arrive within the prescribed 20-minute grace period.

14.04 At the end of the grace period, the Team shall be subject to a fine and costs as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

14.05 If both Teams fail to appear for a scheduled game, both teams will be fined as per Article 14.04 of the ERSL District Development Rules and Regulations.

14.06 If in the opinion of the Referee, a game should be abandoned due to adverse or dangerous weather such as in the case of electrical storms, unplayable field conditions or bad visibility, before the completion of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total regular playing time as specified in 12.01, the game shall be rescheduled. Games abandoned in the last $\frac{1}{4}$ of the regular playing time shall be deemed complete.

14.07 If a Referee decides to abandon a game at any time due to the actions of players, officials or spectators/supporters of a Team, the players and Team Officials may be subject to a disciplinary hearing and will be assessed penalties that the ERSL Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with [OSAOS](#) Published Rules as well as any applicable fines as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

14.08 If a game has to be abandoned by the Referee at any time because a team removes itself from the field, and said team is found by the ERSL League Discipline Committee to have abandoned the game without valid justification, any applicable fines as published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule shall also be assessed. The Team Head Coach or the next most senior Team Official whose name and signature appears on the game shall be deemed to have acted in a manner detrimental to the game and the applicable penalties as per the [OSAOS](#) Published Rules shall apply.

14.09 In the event of a game postponement or abandonment due to weather conditions or a Referee no show, the home team [Head](#) Coach shall be responsible for advising the League within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled start of the game.

Article 15: Schedules

15.01 The season shall begin in May on a date to be determined by the ERSL Management Board. Notice of the season start date will be provided to member clubs no later than May 1st.

15.02 The End of Season date for all ERSL District Development divisions shall be 11:59 P.M. of the first Sunday after the Labour Day long weekend. All games must be completed by this date, except where the ERSL Management Board extends the season for any/all ERSL divisions. The reasons for any such extension, and the period of the extension, will be communicated to affected clubs and teams at the earliest opportunity.

Article 16: Substitutions

16.01 Player substitutions shall be permitted with the consent of the Referee during any stoppage of play.

Article 17: Referees

17.01 Referees shall be appointed in accordance with the ERSL Referee Appointment Policy.

17.02 Referees are required to be at the assigned game field a minimum of thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time to complete the standard field check and other pre-game procedures. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action by the EODSA.

17.03 Referees assigned for District Development League games, shall be paid for their services in accordance with the [fee schedule detailed in the ERSL Terms of League Operations](#)[ERSL Referee Appointment Policy](#).

17.04 If one of the Teams raises objections as to field conditions, goalposts, balls or team colours, the Referee may, at his discretion, require the responsible Team to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying progress of the game. The Referee shall be the sole judge as to

whether the matters that gave rise to the objection by one of the Teams, is sufficient cause to abandon the game.

17.05 In the event that the appointed Referee fails to appear by the appointed kick-off time, the Home Team will make every attempt to contact a ~~Class 3 or Class 4~~ Referee as required for the level of match. If no ~~Class 3 or Class 4 certified~~ Referee can be contacted the team officials from both teams may decide whether or not to proceed with the game under the officiating of a cooperatively chosen individual(s).

17.06 The Referee shall ensure that the well being of the players is given priority over the progress of the game. Consequently, the Referee must suspend play or abandon the game, if necessary, where weather conditions, and more particularly thunderstorms, or field conditions place the safety of players at risk.

Article 18: Discipline

18.01 Disciplinary action shall be taken in accordance with the ~~OSAOS~~ Published Rules and the ERSL Discipline Procedures. The following guidelines will apply:

- a) In cases where ~~OSAOS~~ Published Rules provide for Discipline by Review (DBR), the accused player or Team/Club Official does not have to appear for a hearing. If the accused person does not request a hearing or does not file an appeal within seventy-two (72) hours of the game where the offence occurred, the case will be dealt with by DBR and, if the accused person is found guilty, the applicable penalties and/or fines, established by ~~the OSAOS~~ for the offence for which he/she has been charged, shall apply.
- b) Any request for a hearing shall be submitted by email to the ERSL League Administrator within 72 hours of the game where the offence occurred. A Hearing Fee of fifty dollars (\$50) in the form of ~~cash, a certified cheque, or money order payable to the ERSL, must be delivered by registered mail, recognized courier service or hand-delivered~~ to the League Office within 72 hours, of the completion of the game. The hearing fee shall be reimbursed only if the Discipline Panel finds the accused not guilty. An accused who has requested a hearing and fails to appear for the hearing shall forfeit the Hearing Fee.

18.02 Where the ~~OSAOS~~ Published Rules provide for Discipline by Hearing (DBH), and where the ERSL Management Board has delegated to the ERSL the authority to handle all discipline pertaining to league activities, ~~except~~ where the offence was directed at a game official, the ERSL Management Board shall appoint a Discipline Committee or Panel to hold a hearing and deal with the alleged infractions.

18.03 Where disciplinary action results in a suspension, the suspension shall not commence prior to seven (7) calendar days from the issue of the notice of discipline. For example, a player issued with a suspension notice on Friday would serve the suspension for the game(s) scheduled on or after the following Friday.

- a) Where a player is suspended for a game(s), and the game is cancelled, or not played, the suspension will carry over to the next scheduled game(s); and
- b) If a game is started, then abandoned, based on a decision of the referee, the player's suspension is deemed to have been served.

18.04 All youth players attending a Disciplinary Hearing must be accompanied by an adult who shall act as an advisor, failing which, the hearing will not proceed, and the player shall be suspended until the hearing is held.

18.05 Clubs shall ensure that accused players and Team/Club Officials appear for their Disciplinary Hearing. If, upon being advised of the failure of the accused to appear for their hearing, the Club fails in

meeting its responsibility within 30 days of the date of the original hearing, the fine published in the ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule, shall be assessed against the Club.

18.06 Failure of a Club to appear at a Disciplinary Hearing will result in a fine as specified in the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

18.07 Discipline Fine – At the conclusion of the season, every club which has a team/teams with a Discipline Index (DI) of 2.0 or greater, as calculated by the ERSL League Management System, shall be assessed a discipline fine as specified in the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule for each team/teams, to a maximum discipline fine of \$1000 per club, per season.

Article 19: Appeals

19.01 Appeals of any decisions related to the District Development competition made by the ERSL Management Board, or a Disciplinary Panel of the League ~~or one of the District Associations~~ shall be dealt with by the ~~OSAEODSA~~ in accordance with its Published Rules. Information concerning Appeals can be found on the ERSL website.

Article 20: Club Representatives

20.01 A Club that is accepted into membership shall designate up to ~~three-five (53)~~ individuals as its Club Representative(s). The Club Representative(s) shall be the official point of contact in dealings with the ~~ERSLEODSA League~~ and will be available for duties in the operation of the League that may be assigned from time to time by the ERSL Management Board.

Article 21: Communications

21.01 The ERSL shall mainly use its web-based league management system for all communications with its member Clubs, and their team officials. Communications shall be by e-mail. Clubs shall ensure they have valid email addresses in the league management system at all times for the following positions, as a minimum:

- a) President;
- b) Club Administrator;
- c) Club Representative;
- d) Treasurer;
- e) Discipline Representative; and
- f) Scheduler.

21.02 Unless specified otherwise in these rules and regulations (e.g. rescheduling of games), communication with the ERSL by players, parents, or team officials is not permitted. Questions, complaints, concerns, and other matters must be communicated to the appropriate Club representative. If, in the opinion of the Club, the matter should be addressed by the ERSL, then the Club shall forward the communication to the ERSL, requesting L league action. Failure to follow this process will result in the communication being discarded by the ERSL without further notice to the originator, and may result in a fine to the Club as specified in the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

21.03 Teams shall ensure they have valid email addresses in the L league M management S system from April 30 until October 1 of each season for the following positions, as a minimum:

- a) Head Coach; and
- b) Manager.

21.04 At a minimum, the Club President, and Club Representative shall be notified by e-mail, of all new general notices or notices that pertain to their Club teams that are posted from time to time on the ERSL Web site.

21.05 At a minimum, the Team Head Coach and Manager shall be notified by e-mail, of all new general notices or notices that pertain to their teams that are posted from time to time on the ERSL Web site.

21.06 Notices of suspensions, penalties or fines levied on a Club, Club Administrator, Team Staff or Player as a result of discipline hearings shall be communicated to the Club.

21.07 The e-mail shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:
a) March 2nd to September 30th - 72 hours after transmittal of the e-mail; and
b) October 1st to March 1st - 7 days after transmittal of the e-mail.

21.08 The e-mail shall be deemed to have been received by Teams:
a) May 1st to September 30th - 72 hours after transmittal of the e-mail; and
b) October 1st to April 30th- no e-mails will usually be sent to teams other than for informational purposes.

Article 22: Pre-Season Meetings

22.01 Each March, there ~~will~~may be a mandatory pre-season meeting for a minimum of one (1) Administrator from each member Club. There will be separate meetings held in the EODSA and ~~SOSA~~OSAOS. Clubs failing to send a representative to the Administrator pre-season meeting shall be assessed a fine as per the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

22.02 Each May, prior to the start of the season, there ~~may~~will be a mandatory preseason meeting for a minimum of one (1) team staff from each team, ~~in each of the Regional Age Groups. There will be separate meetings held in the EODSA and SOSA.~~ Clubs failing to send one (1) representative per team to the Team pre-season meeting shall be assessed a fine as per the published ERSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

Article 23: Other Matters

23.01 All matters not included in these Rules and Regulations shall be dealt with in accordance with the ~~OSAOS~~OSAOS Published Rules