

# **Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association**

## **Membership Policies**

Rights, Requirements and Obligations

December 2023 Version 6 FINAL

These policies supercede all existing EODSA rules and policies regarding membership



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## 1. DEFINITIONS

- **Active Membership** shall mean any EODSA Member Club with a current membership
- **Club** refers to an EODSA Member that registers players to take part in training and competition
- **Full Service Club** refers to an EODSA member Club that offers programming to youth participants and may also offer programming to senior participants
- **Senior Club** refers to an EODSA member Club that offers programming to only senior participants
- **Associate Member** refers to an organization that is a member of the EODSA without voting rights and such other rights as described below
- **Associate League** is a league that offers league competition services to EODSA Member Clubs and is not governed by Ontario or Canada Soccer
- **Community Association** refers to a neighbourhood based community organization that offers a variety of recreational and cultural programs and services, soccer being one of those programs.
- **Supporting Associate Member** refers to a soccer organization that trains or otherwise helps progress the development of players, coaches, match officials or soccer in general. Not to include any organization that operates any team or squad, or enters into any events not sanctioned by Ontario Soccer
- **Team Official** refers to any individual registered to a Club Member's team as a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Assistant Manager, or Club Head Coach, Technical Director or Technical Staff (such as a Goalkeeper Coach, Athletic Therapist etc.).
- **Sanctioned Organization** shall mean an active soccer organization that is a registered member of the EODSA, Ontario Soccer or any other governing body under FIFA
- **Sanctioned Competition** shall mean a competition which has obtained the approval of the EODSA, Ontario Soccer or another FIFA Member organization, in accordance with that organization's governing documents.
- **Grassroots Standards** shall mean a document developed and recommended by Ontario Soccer's Player Development Program in alignment with Canada Soccer
- **Affiliation** refers to a written agreement with another EODSA Active Member that allows for movement of players, in accordance with all EODSA and Ontario Soccer governing documents
- Probationary shall mean the period of time in which a Member organization's activities are subject to review by the EODSA Board before being admitted into membership in the subsequent membership year.

## 2. MEMBER CLASSES

The EODSA has two (2) classes of Members:

- a. **Active Membership is open to:**
  - i. Full Service Club
  - ii. Senior Club
- b. **Associate Membership is open to:**
  - i. Community Association

- ii. Associate League
- iii. Supporting Associate Member

### **3. MEMBER RIGHTS**

#### **a. Active Member**

##### **i. Full Service Club**

1. Access to all Canada Soccer, Ontario Soccer and EODSA programs, leagues and competitions
2. Access to Provincial and National Championships
3. Access to sanctioned tournaments worldwide
4. Access to Ontario Soccer's grassroots standards curriculum
5. Ability to host coach and referee clinics offered by Ontario and/or Canada Soccer
6. Insurance coverage for all registrants (Accident, Liability, Travel and Third party Certificates)
7. Access to Ontario Soccer certified Match Officials at all competitions
8. Access to Ontario Soccer's Discipline, Complaints and Dispute Resolution processes and administration
9. Voice and votes at all Member Meetings, as written in the EODSA Bylaws and/or Articles
10. Access to Ontario Soccer's employee benefits program
11. Ability to apply for tournament sanctioning
12. Display on the EODSA's website as an Active Member

##### **ii. Senior Club**

1. Access to all Canada Soccer, Ontario Soccer and EODSA Senior programs, leagues and competitions
2. Access to Senior Provincial and National Championships
3. Access to sanctioned Senior tournaments, inside Ontario and outside of Ontario and Canada
4. Ability to host coach and referee clinics offered by Ontario and/or Canada Soccer
5. Insurance coverage for all registrants (Accident, Liability, Travel and Third party Certificates)
6. Access to Ontario Soccer certified Match Officials at all competitions
7. Access to Ontario Soccer's Discipline, Complaints and Dispute Resolution processes and administration
8. Voice and votes (as written in the EODSA's Bylaws) at all Member Meetings
9. Access to Ontario Soccer's employee benefits program
10. Ability to apply for tournament sanctioning
11. Display on the EODSA's website as an Active Member

**b. Associate Member**

***i. Community Association***

1. Access to Ontario Soccer's grassroots standards curriculum
2. Voice at all Member Meetings
3. Access to affiliation with an EODSA member for the purposes of youth player development and advancement
4. Display on the EODSA's website as an Associate Member

***ii. Associate League***

1. Ontario Soccer certified Match Officials at all competitions
2. Access to Ontario Soccer's Discipline, Complaints and Dispute Resolution processes and administration
3. Voice at all Member Meetings
4. Ability to apply for tournament sanctioning
5. Display on the EODSA's website as an Associate Member

***iii. Supporting Associate Member***

1. Voice at all Member Meetings
2. Display on the EODSA's website as an Associate Member

**4. MEMBER REQUIREMENTS**

**a. Active Members**

***i. Full Service Club***

1. Must renew their Club Membership annually by August 31st, or on a date set by the EODSA
2. Pay the new Active Member application fee or the annual Active Member annual renewal fee, as set by the EODSA, annually by August 31st or on a date set by the EODSA
3. Register all of its Leagues, Teams, Players, Team Officials and Administrators with Ontario Soccer, as prescribed by Ontario Soccer and annually provide a registration summary including the number of players registered in every Club program, to the EODSA, for reconciliation with Ontario Soccer's registration system
4. For transparency and Registrant agency, make clear to prospective Registrants what is included in the Club's program fees. For example, uniforms or tournament costs.
5. Submit annually a list of all Club programs offered, including any programs offered by affiliated subdivisions of the Club.
6. Submit annually a summary of the Club's financial activities in order to show proof that the Club is a going concern.
7. Must hold the minimum Canada Soccer License, Quality Service Provider
8. Playing formats are aligned to the EODSA Development matrix

**ii. Senior Club**

1. Must renew their Club Membership annually by August 31st, or on a date provided annually by the EODSA
2. Pay the new Active Senior Member application fee or the Active Senior Member annual membership renewal fee, as set by the EODSA, annually by August 31st or on a date set by the EODSA
3. Register all of its Leagues, Teams, Players, Team Officials and Administrators with Ontario Soccer, as prescribed by Ontario Soccer

**b. Associate Members**

**i. Community Association**

1. Must renew their Associate Membership annually by August 31st, or on a date provided annually by the Association
2. Pay the new Associate Member application fee or the annual Associate Member annual membership renewal fee, as set by the EODSA, annually by August 31st or on a date set by the EODSA

**ii. Associate League**

1. Must renew their Associate Membership annually by August 31st, or on a date provided annually by the EODSA
2. Pay the Associate Member application fee or the Associate Member annual membership renewal fee, as set by the EODSA, annually by August 31st or on a date set by the EODSA
3. Register with Ontario Soccer, as prescribed by Ontario Soccer
4. Post all League participants publicly, including on the League website
5. Submit annually a full list of all League divisions and programs offered. Only approved programs and divisions will be permitted to operate
6. Have a minimum of one League representative certified in Ontario Soccer's Chair Discipline and Certification Course

**iii. Supporting Associate Member**

1. Must renew their Associate Membership annually by August 31st, or on a date provided annually by the EODSA
2. Pay the Associate Member application fee or the Associate member annual membership renewal fee, as set by the EODSA, annually by August 31st or on a date set by the EODSA
3. Provide a full list of all Member programs offered annually

## 5. MEMBER OBLIGATIONS

### a. Active Member

#### i. Full Service Club

1. Adhere to all Club membership requirements of Ontario Soccer, as written in Ontario Soccer's Governing Documents
2. Will not engage, interact or shelter non-sanctioned, recognized entities under their club umbrella on a payment-for-accessibility arrangement as it does not align with the natural evolution of clubs and free and fair movement of individuals within the EODSA's ecosystem
3. Clubs must submit a current list of Club Board of Directors to the EODSA and post the list publicly on Club website
4. Must commit to Long Term Player Development as prescribed by Canada Soccer
5. Clubs must have a policy that commits the Club to striving to achieve gender and cultural equity within their Board of Directors or within their ownership group. In other words, the Board of Directors will be reflective of the culture and genders of its membership.
6. Must have programs that target underrepresented groups and reduce barriers to participation as outlined in Canada Soccer's Guide to Accessibility and Inclusion
7. Must submit a Volunteer Screening Report annually using a method prescribed by the EODSA
8. Pay all invoices from the EODSA within sixty (60) days
9. Have the following Policies:
  - a. Child Protection Policy
  - b. Volunteer Screening Policy
  - c. Rule of Two Policy
  - d. Whistleblower Policy
  - e. Gender Equity Policy
  - f. Diversity & Inclusivity Policy
  - g. Player Financial Assistance Policy
10. Commitment to follow Ontario Soccer's Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Policies
11. Must operate a Grassroots development program
12. Must operate more Club recreational teams than competitive teams at the age of U13 and older.
13. Must not register teams from any other EODSA Member Club into its own Club leagues without permission from the EODSA
14. Share addresses of all players with the EODSA

**ii. Senior Club**

1. Adhere to all Senior Club membership requirements of Ontario Soccer, as written in Ontario Soccer's Governing Documents
2. Will not engage, interact or shelter non-sanctioned, recognized entities, under their club umbrella on a payment-for-accessibility arrangement as it does not align with the natural evolution of clubs, and free and fair movement of individuals within the EODSA's ecosystem
3. Clubs must submit current list of Club Board of Directors to the EODSA
4. If the Club has any players under the age of 18 the Club must submit a Volunteer Screening Report annually, using a method prescribed by the EODSA
5. Pay all invoices from the EODSA within sixty (60) days
6. Have the following Policies:
  - a. Child Protection Policy (if any players under 18 in Club)
  - b. Volunteer Screening Policy (if any players under 18 in Club)
  - c. Rule of Two Policy (if any players under 18 in Club)
  - d. Whistleblower Policy
  - e. Player Financial Assistance Policy
7. Commitment to follow Ontario Soccer's Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Policies
8. Must operate a minimum of four (4) teams or register a minimum of thirty (30) players. Senior Clubs grandfathered in the year 2000 are exempt from this requirement
9. Must not register teams from any other EODSA Member Club into its own Club leagues without permission from the EODSA

**b. Associate Member**

**i. Community Association**

1. Adhere to all Associate membership requirements of Ontario Soccer, as written in Ontario Soccer's Governing Documents
2. Must have programs that target underrepresented groups and reduce barriers to participation as outlined in Canada Soccer's Guide to Accessibility and Inclusion
3. Youth Clubs must submit a Volunteer Screening Report annually, as part of the Membership renewal process using a method prescribed by the EODSA
4. Pay all invoices from the EODSA within sixty (60) days
5. Have the following Policies:
  - a. Child Protection Policy (if any players under 18 in Club)
  - b. Volunteer Screening Policy (if any players under 18 in Club)
  - c. Rule of Two Policy (if any players under 18 in Club)
  - d. Whistleblower Policy



e. Player Financial Assistance Policy

ii. **Associate League**

1. Adhere to all League membership requirements of Ontario Soccer, as written in Ontario Soccer's Governing Documents
2. Pay all invoices from the EODSA within sixty (60) days
3. Have the following Policies:
  - a. Whistleblower Policy
  - b. Commitment to follow Ontario Soccer's Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Policies

iii. **Supporting Associate Member**

1. Must submit a Volunteer Screening Report, if applicable, using a method prescribed by the EODSA
2. Pay all invoices from the EODSA within sixty (60) days
3. Have the following Policies, where applicable:
  - a. Child Protection Policy
  - b. Volunteer Screening Policy
  - c. Rule of Two Policy
  - d. Whistleblower Policy
  - e. Gender Equity Policy
  - f. Diversity & Inclusivity Policy
4. Commitment to abide by Ontario Soccer's Code of Conduct Policies

**6. NEW MEMBER REQUIREMENTS**

a. **Active Member**

i. **Full-Service Club**

1. Must abide by all Requirements and Obligations of Active Full-Service Clubs listed above, with the exception of Canada Soccer Licensing which must be obtained within the first year of membership
2. May not offer competitive programs in the first year of membership
3. Must submit Club's governance and organizational structure to the EODSA
4. First year of membership is a probationary period with a review following year one to ensure that the Club continues to meet all requirements
5. Detail prospective players in the Club including their registration history within the EODSA, if applicable, with the goal of ensuring that new Clubs are primarily bringing new players to sanctioned soccer.
6. Club sustainability demonstrated through governance and incorporation structure, technical, operational and financial plans
7. Demonstrated access to fields and facilities

8. Must submit membership application in the manner prescribed by the EODSA

**ii. Senior Club**

1. Must abide by all Requirements and Obligations of Active Senior Clubs listed above
2. Submit Club's governance and organizational structure to the EODSA
3. First year of membership is a probationary period with a review following year one to ensure that the Club continues to meet all requirements
4. Provide registration history, including ages and genders of players, for the past two years, if applicable
5. Club sustainability demonstrated through governance and incorporation structure, technical, operational and financial plans
6. Must submit membership application in the manner prescribed by the EODSA

**b. Associate Member**

**i. Community Association**

1. Must abide by all Requirements and Obligations of Associate Community Members listed above
2. Must submit Club's governance and organizational structure to the EODSA
3. First year of membership is a probationary period with a review following year one to ensure that the Club continues to meet all requirements
4. Must submit Associate Membership application in the manner prescribed by the EODSA

**ii. Associate League**

1. Must abide by all Requirements and Obligations of Associate League Members listed above
2. Must submit League's governance and organizational structure to the EODSA
3. First year of membership is a probationary period with a review following year one to ensure that the League continues to meet all requirements
4. League sustainability demonstrated through governance and incorporation structure, operational and financial plans
5. Demonstrated access to fields and facilities
6. Must submit membership application in the manner prescribed by the EODSA

**iii. Supporting Associate Member**

1. Must abide by all Requirements and Obligations of Supporting Associate Members listed above
2. Must submit Organization's governance and organizational structure to the EODSA
3. First year of membership is a probationary period with a review following year one to ensure that the Club continues to meet all requirements
4. Must submit membership application in the manner prescribed by the EODSA

**7. NEW MEMBER ASSESSMENT**

**a. Active Member**

**i. Full Service Club**

Approval of the EODSA Board of Directors is subject to and will comply with the "New Full-Service Active Member Consideration Procedure" as amended from time to time

**ii. Senior Club**

Approval of the EODSA Board of Directors is subject to and will comply with the "New Senior Active Member Consideration Procedure" as amended from time to time

**b. Associate member**

**i. Community Association**

Approval of the EODSA Board of Directors is subject to and will comply with the "New Community Association Member Consideration Procedure" as amended from time to time

**ii. Associate League**

Approval of the EODSA Board of Directors is subject to and will comply with the "New Associate League Member Consideration Procedure" as amended from time to time

**iii. Supporting Associate Member**

Approval of the EODSA Board of Directors is subject to and will comply with the "New Supporting Associate Member Consideration Procedure" as amended from time to time