



Ottawa Carleton Soccer League

2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON K1H 7X7 tel: 613 233-4451
web site: www.ocslonline.ca fax: 613 233-6051 e-mail: manager@ocslonline.ca

2026 Ottawa Cup Rules

I. Competition Name

1. The name of the competition shall be the Ottawa Cup.

II. Format for The Competition

1. The Ottawa Cup shall be divided into the following competitions:

- a. Men's Open Ottawa Cup
- b. Men's Recreational Ottawa Cup
- c. Women's Open Ottawa Cup
- d. Women's Recreational Ottawa Cup

2. The competition is open only to teams registered in the Ottawa Carleton Soccer League (OCSL) for the 2026 season.

3. Competitions will only run if there are a minimum of EIGHT (8) teams.

4. Match Officials (MOs)

Men's and Women's Competitive (Open) Competitions

The group stage and round of 16 **will not** have assistant referees (ARs)

The quarterfinals **may** have ARs, based on MO availability

The semifinals **will** have ARs

The Final **will** have ARs and a fourth official

Recreational Competitions

The opening round, quarterfinals and semifinals **will not** have ARs.

The final **will** have ARs.

5. Seeding

Men's Competitive Open

The top four (4) teams from the 2025 MP division will receive a bye to the quarterfinals. All other teams will be drawn into the bracket at random.

Women's Competitive Open and Men's & Women's Rec

Teams will be drawn into the bracket at random.

6. Draw

Men's Competitive Open

a) Group Stage (June 14)

Teams will be divided into groups of two, three or four depending on the number of entries. Each team will play each opponent in their group once. Three points for a win, one point for a draw, and zero points for a loss. Here is the game length depending on the number of teams in a group:

- Two teams: One (1) 90-minute game (if tied after 90-minutes, straight to PKs)
- Three teams: Two (2) 60-minute games



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- Four Teams: Three (3) 40-minute games

The winner of each group will advance to the round of 16.

For groups with three or four teams: if at the end of the group stage two or more teams are tied on points, the tie will be broken by the following process:

- i. Head-to-head
- ii. Goal differential
- iii. Goals for
- iv. Coin toss

b) Round of 16 (June 21)

The eight winners of the group stage will be drawn at random into the bracket for the Round of 16. They will play against the one of the other Group Stage winners. The winners will advance to the quarterfinals.

c) Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Final (June 28, July 12 & July 19)

Continue bracket. Single game elimination. When possible, teams that play as the away team in an early round will be designated as a home team in the following round (and vice versa).

Women's Competitive Open and Men's & Women's Rec

The opening round will have a random draw into a bracket. Two teams will be drawn for each game.

When possible, teams that play as the away team in an early round will be designated as a home team in the following round (and vice versa).

II. Management of the Competition

1. The OCSL shall be responsible for developing the rules, policies and procedures governing the competition.
2. The OCSL staff shall be responsible for managing and implementing the operational functions of the competition.
3. Protests shall be managed by the Ottawa Cup Protest Committee.
4. Discipline shall be managed by the Ottawa Cup Discipline Committee.
5. The Ottawa Cup Team/Club Representative shall be responsible for the operations of the competition within his/her Club.

III. Procedures for Entering the Competition

1. The Club must complete a "Ottawa Cup Entry Form" for each team it enters in the competition.
2. The entry form must be received by the OCSL on or before the date set by the LMB for the current year and must be accompanied by the entry fee.
3. The entry fee must be in the form of cheque, e-transfer, or EFT to the OCSL by June 7, 2026 for Competitive (Open) Competitions, and by July 13, 2026 for Recreational Competitions.

V. Team Eligibility

1. The Men's Open competition shall be open to all OCSL teams.



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2. The Women's Competitive competition shall be open to all senior women's teams in the OCSL.
3. The Men's Recreational competition shall be open to all MR, OT, and MOT teams.
4. The Women's Recreational competition shall be open to all WR teams.

VI. Player Eligibility

1. For the Ottawa Cup, eligibility shall be defined as the following:
 - i. A player may NOT play with more than one team. Once a player has played with a team they are tied to this team and therefore "cup-tied" for the duration of the competition. Any team using a "cup tied" player will forfeit the game and default the balance of the competition;
 - ii. A player may only play for the Club to which he or she is registered;
 - iii. A player whose name appears on a game sheet for a Cup game will be considered to have participated in that game even if it was not played for whatever reason (e.g., default by the opposition) and could therefore be subject in a subsequent round to being ruled ineligible and his/her team declared to be in default;
 - iv. No player registered with a higher-level team will be eligible to play down to a lower level during Cup competition; the criteria for determining playing up shall be competition level as follows:
2. A player may not play at a lower competition level.
3. Short Term Registration Permits (STRP) and Temporary Eligibility Permits (TEP) are NOT permitted in the Ottawa Cup.
4. OCSL Playing Up Permits (playing up within the same club) shall be permitted. An unlimited number of call ups can be used for each cup competition.
 - i. Call ups within Cup play do not transfer over into regular league play. You cannot call up a cup tied player.
5. In addition, if the reserve team enters the cup, they are cup tied to the team they play with first.
6. An ineligible player shall be defined as one or more of the following:
 - i. a player who does not conform with one or more of the requirements listed above;
 - ii. a player who plays during a period in which he or she is suspended;
 - iii. a player who plays under an assumed name
 - iv. a player who plays for a team of a Club with which he or she is not registered; and
 - v. a player who is not registered according to OS guidelines, is improperly registered, or cannot produce proof of registration
7. Each player must have a valid form of ID before being eligible to play in a Cup game.
8. Each player and team official shall be identified on the game sheet.

VII. Scheduling and Rescheduling of Games

1. The OCSL shall be responsible for scheduling all the Cup games.
2. If a scheduled game cannot be played at the scheduled venue for any reason (as determined by the referee or the field manager), it may be moved to an alternate venue provided that the field conditions of the alternate venue are acceptable to the referee and provided that the game commences within 30 minutes of the originally scheduled kickoff time.
3. The league will only reschedule a game if there is written agreement (email) between both teams' officials (i.e., coaches, managers etc.). If a field for the game is showing in the OCSL website, the team(s) requesting to reschedule the game will be responsible for the cost of the new field permit. The league will not accommodate any requests to reschedule a game after the date of each round indicated on the website.



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VIII. Game Results

1. All teams (both coaches) must communicate their Cup scores immediately after each game, win, lose or draw, in the OCSL website. The deadline to receive Cup scores is TWO (2) working days.

IX. Defaults and Withdrawals

1. Any team failing to fulfill its scheduled Cup game shall be subject to a fine of \$300 dollars and they shall default the game.
2. No team defaulting a game shall be permitted to advance.
3. A team which defaults shall pay all referee costs where applicable.
 - a. Note: In the case of an 'apparent' default no series/game winner will be declared until the circumstances have been investigated. Should such a situation arise during the Cup final, no award presentation will take place pending the results of the investigation.
4. Where the time interval is less than 48 hours, both the opposing team and the League office and/or coordinator must be advised at the earliest possible time. Should it be impossible to contact the scheduled referee, the conceding team will be required to pay the referee fees.

X. Duration of Play

1. The duration of play shall be 90 minutes, consisting of two 45-minute halves (excluding the Group Stage of the Men's Competitive Open Competition).
2. If the game is tied after 90 minutes, there will be no extra time. All rounds will go directly to FIFA style penalty kicks.

XI. Field & Kickoff Times

1. The home team is determined at random for each round.
2. Games will be played at the designated home team's home field, or a suitable alternative if said field is unavailable. Games will be scheduled to start between 2:00-9:00pm at the league's discretion, except for the following:
 - Women's Competitive Open: Fridays between 6-9pm
 - Men's Competitive Open Final: Sunday, July 19 @ 12:00pm
3. Notwithstanding Rule 12.1 certain circumstances may dictate that:
 - a. a game or games be played on a neutral site in order to have access to a lighted field, or
 - b. the order be altered to compensate for the unavailability of an appropriate home field of one or both teams.

XII. Protests

1. Each protest arising from a game in the competition shall be sent in accordance with the following policies and procedures:
 - a. by 10:00 am on the day following the game, the protesting team shall advise the OCSL and the opposing team via email, leaving all pertinent details, that they are protesting the game.
 - b. The following information must be provided in the message:
 - i. Name of the protesting Club
 - ii. Date of the game
 - iii. Game number



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- iv. Division
- v. Name of the opposition's Club
- vi. Rule(s) which were violated
- vii. Additional information to support protest
- viii. Name, phone number and position (within Club) of person advising the OCSL.

c. Within 72 hours of the conclusion of the game being protested, the protesting Club shall send the written protest to the OCSL office (2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1H 7X7) and the opposition's Club by:

- i. Email
- ii. A protest fee in the amount of \$100.00 must be e-transferred to manager@ocslonline.ca

2. If the terms of Rule 12.1 are not met, the protest shall be declared to be out of order.
3. The Protesting Club must provide evidence to substantiate the protest.
4. Protest shall be dealt with by the Ottawa Cup Protest Committee. This committee shall consist of at least three (3) members of the League Management Board and/or Discipline Panel.
5. Officials from both Clubs/teams have the right to send written submissions to the OCSL office regarding the protest. Such submissions shall be considered, providing they arrive prior to the meeting of the Ottawa Cup Protest Committee.
6. The Ottawa Cup Protest Committee, in reviewing the protest, shall consider all written submissions including:
 1. The written protest from the protesting Club;
 2. Any submissions received in accordance with Rule 12
 3. The referee's report; and
 4. Any other submissions received and shall render a decision based on the evidence presented.
7. Notwithstanding Rule 13.6, at its discretion, the Ottawa Cup Protest Committee may convene a protest hearing at which officials from both Clubs/teams, the game officials, or other persons may be required to attend.
8. In the event a team is found to be in contravention of the competition rules as a result of a protest, the Ottawa Cup Protest Committee has the authority to:
 - a. decide, on the basis of the evidence provided, which team (if any) will be declared the winner of the game; and
 - b. levy a fine against an offending team to a maximum of \$1000.00 per game.
9. The decision of the Ottawa Cup Protest Committee may only be overturned by appeal to Ontario Soccer or higher body in accordance with that body's rules.
10. Any protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, crossbars, ball, colours, or other appurtenances of the game will not be entertained unless notice of the complaint was lodged with the referee prior to the game or at the time it was discovered during the game. The referee will record details of the complaint on the game sheet immediately upon being informed. The referee will require that the cause of the objection be rectified by the team(s) responsible 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.

XIII. Rule Contravention Without Protest

1. Notwithstanding Rule 12.0, the Ottawa Cup Protest Committee may:
 - a. Reverse a game result of a team; and/or
 - b. Fine a team.



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2. For that team's contravention of a competition rule(s), even if a protest has not been lodged correctly, or lodged at all, providing the Ottawa Cup Protest Committee makes such decision by no later than the day preceding the next game of that team.

XIV. Discipline

1. Jurisdiction

a. The Ottawa Cup Discipline Committee shall be responsible for handling all cases of game-related misconduct, except for cases "game official assault".

2. All Discipline shall follow the Ontario Soccer and OCSL Discipline policy.

3. Responsibilities

a. It is the responsibility of the player/team/Club official to ascertain the status with regard to discipline matters such as the date when the individual becomes eligible to participate or the number of cautions (yellow cards) accumulated, etc.

b. The coach of any team having a player serving a suspension, either automatic or imposed, will be required to include that player's name on the game sheet with the notation "Under Suspension" beside the name.

c. Suspensions and/or the accumulation of red & yellow cards incurred during OCSL League play will not carry over into Ottawa Cup games, and suspensions incurred during Ottawa Cup play will carry over into OCSL League play if all Cup games have been played.

d. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that coaches and players are made aware of this information. They must also be aware of this information and the discipline status of their players and other Club officials.

e. Each Club is responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, and spectators.