



## Ottawa Carleton Soccer League

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### Ottawa Carleton Soccer League Grandmasters 2026

December 9, 2025 @ 11:00AM via Zoom

**Meeting Purpose:** Finalize the structure for a new OCSL senior soccer division.

#### Key Takeaways

- New Division Approved: A new "Grandmasters" division will launch in 2026 as 11v11, starting at 55+ to ensure viability.
- Progressive Age Rule: The minimum age will increase by one year annually (e.g., 55+ in 2026, 56+ in 2027) to protect aging teams and grow the division toward a 60+ core.
- Viability Threshold: The division requires a minimum of six teams to launch
- Immediate Action: An informal registration will begin to confirm team commitments, allowing for a formal league announcement before the AGM.

#### Topics

##### The Challenge: Viability of a 60+ League

- Goal: Create a 60+ league for players seeking a slower pace than the 50+ division.
- Initial Data: Interest was insufficient for a strictly 60+ league.
  - Confirmed Teams: FC Gatineau, Falcons, West Ottawa Gators (18 players 60+) and OSU (14 players 60+)
  - Potential Teams: Gloucester (requires 6-team minimum, some flexibility w players almost of age), Arnprior (potentially if 55+, but a handful of players 50-55), Ottawa Internationals (a lot of players >55, albeit not the entire team), Des Collines (8 players interested in 2025, potentially a few more in 2026), Ottawa City (9-10 players interested in 2025, potentially more in 2026).
- Format: 11v11 was strongly preferred over 7v7 to maintain a traditional soccer experience.

##### The Solution: A Progressive 55+ Division

- Decision: Launch the division at 55+ to meet the 6-team viability threshold.
- Rationale: This strategy ensures a strong start while creating a clear pathway for aging players to move up from the 50+ division.
- Progressive Age Rule:
  - 2026: 55+ (players born 1970 or earlier).
  - 2027: 56+ (players born 1971 or earlier).
  - Goal: Continue this progression until the division naturally becomes a 60+ league.
- Call-ups: In 2026, only players born in 1970 or earlier
- Game Length: Standard game length will be maintained. Team managers strongly encouraged to ask the referee for water breaks. Referees will be advised to accommodate any water break requests made by team managers



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### Next Steps

#### Elliot:

- Draft and distribute formal minutes to the committee this week.
- Announce the new division to all managers next week, before the AGM.

#### Team Managers:

- Confirm team interest in the 55+ division with Elliot [manager@ocslonline.ca](mailto:manager@ocslonline.ca)
- Miguel: Consult team on the 55+ decision and report back.
- Gary: Contact Chelsea (Des Collines) players to gauge interest.
- Bill: Connect West Ottawa with Almonte women's players.