



# Ottawa TFC 2019 Winter Classic OPDL Festival Rules

**Note: The Festival will be run in accordance with Ontario Soccer’s Grassroots Festival Guide, Game Format and Development Matrix and accordance with Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association (EODSA) published rules and FIFAs Laws of the Game.**

## 1. Team and Player Eligibility

### U12 – Born January 1, 2007 or later

All participating teams **MUST** be currently registered with their club, local district and Ontario Soccer. Governing clubs **MUST** be a registered member with the Ontario Player Development League (OPDL). All teams from outside the jurisdiction of the Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association must present an approved travel permit; (Application to Travel Form - ATF) from their governing association.

Participating teams are required to provide a validated team roster report (TRR) and three (3) completed OPDL Festival Game Sheets per match in which the team is participating.

District validated player & team official identification books or card, complete with photograph, are to be presented to the Festival Organizing Committee at registration. **Player cards/books must be available at each game.** In the event of a dispute concerning player eligibility, the Tournament Organizing Committee’s decision shall be final with no appeal rights.

### **The 2019 OTFC Winter Classic is open to teams:**

#### Under 12 - Born on or after January 1, 2007

All players on a team must meet the age and date of birth requirements for the age group for which the team is registered. Teams must provide proof of age for each player. Under no circumstances will players older than the age group level be allowed to play in that age group. Teams violating this rule will be expelled from further Festival play, their entry fee will be forfeited, and this violation will be reported to Ontario Soccer, which may exercise their authority to levy additional disciplinary action against the offending team.

**Registration  
&  
Travel Permits**

**Player/ Team  
Official ID**

**Age Groups**



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### 2. Insurance/Liability

Ottawa TFC will provide Trained Medical Staff on site to players however, The Committee and host club will not be held liable for any injuries to any participant in the Festival on or off the fields. All teams must carry and supply proof of personal injury liability insurance while participating in the event.

**Injuries**

### 3. Roster

U12 teams may register, dress and play a maximum of sixteen (16) players and a minimum of eight (8) players.

**Number of  
Players**

At all games, a maximum of four team officials, sanctioned and approved by the teams governing body will be allowed on the player side of the field (Example: Coach, Assistant Coach and Manager).

**Number of Team  
Officials**

### 4. Additional Players

A team may include:

- a) three (3) registered guest players including play up players from its own club provided the players meet the age eligibility requirements of the Festival; and
- b) up to an additional (3) registered players from another team, from any Club (including its own Club) as guest players, providing that each player meets the age eligibility requirements of the Festival.

**Guest Players  
and Play Up  
Players**

Guest players and play up players may not appear on the official team roster (TRR) required for Festival registration. The following documentation is therefore required for these players:



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- (1) Guest players from another club require a Temporary Eligibility Permit as well as their player card/book.
- (2) Play up players require their player card/book indicating they are registered to a lower age division within the same club and require a validated Ontario Soccer Team Roster Report or equivalent to verify current registration information.

Players without proper documentation or, documentation that is suspect will not be permitted to play.

**Documentation**

### 5. Festival Check-In

Team officials and players for all teams are required to check-in with the Festival Committee at the Russell Dome (150 Sportsplex, Embrun, ON K0A 1W1) **a minimum of one and a half (1.5) hours prior to their first scheduled game.**

**Check-in**

At that time, team officials are to present the following for Festival Committee review:

- (1) District validated player & team official identification books or cards
- (2) A District validated team roster report (TRR).
- (3) Three (3) completed OPDL Festival Game sheets per match in which the team is participating.
- (4) If the travel permission form (Application to Travel Form -ATF) was not submitted with the Festival application, it must be presented at check-in. Failure to provide the permit will result in the team not being permitted to play.
- (5) Applicable documentation as stated in Rule 6
- (6) All teams will receive a welcome package with schedule and Festival information

**Check-in Documents**



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From these documents, the Official OTFC Winter Classic Festival Roster will be certified at check-in. This Festival roster will consist of any/all players eligible to participate in the OTFC Winter classic on that day only. Eligible players will receive a coloured wristband to participate in the Festival. Player must not remove the wristband and anytime. Only players whose names appear on the Official OTFC Winter Classic Festival Roster and are wearing a wristband will be allowed to participate in the Festival. A maximum of four (4) Team Officials will also receive a wristband and will be eligible to enter the field area/team bench during Festival play.

**Festival Team Roster**

## 6. Pre-Game Check-in

The Festival Committee reserves the right to conduct random carding of any team prior to subsequent games. Should a team be selected for random card verification, the Field Coordinator will randomly select 3 to 5 players from the Festival Game Sheet and those players must report to the Field Coordinator for card verification. Teams that refuse to participate in the random carding will forfeit the game

**Card Verification**  
**Random Carding**

Coaches who may suspect that another team is gaining an unfair advantage by fielding improperly registered players should report their suspicions to a Festival Official.

Any team found to be in violation of the Official OTFC Winter Classic Festival Roster will be subject to discipline action up to dismissal, without refund, for the remainder of the Festival. Furthermore, any violations will be formally reported to Ontario Soccer.

**Carding Violations**

All teams will arrive at their scheduled field of play no less than **30 minutes** prior to their **first game**.

At the beginning of each game the coach or manager will report to the Field Coordinator with the completed OPDL Festival Game sheet, stamped by Festival Committee.

**Pre-Game check-in**

Only players and team officials with a bracelet are permitted on the fields of play and sideline bench.

All teams must be at the scheduled field of play no less than 30 minutes prior to the start of each subsequent game. At that time the coach or manager will report to the Field Coordinator with Festival Game sheet stamped by the Festival Committee

**Subsequent Game Check-in**



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### 7. Divisions

There are no division in Festival play

The Festival Organizing Committee reserves the right to accept or to refuse the entry application of any team's participation in the Festival, depending upon the number of entries that are received for this Festival. In such cases teams will be contacted prior to effecting the change.

**Team  
Assignments**

### 8. Festival Standings

No scores will be recorded for Festival games.

**Win  
Tie  
Loss**

### 9. Mercy Rule

No scores will be recorded in Festival games. Coaches are reminded that in the spirit of fair play, they are to remain respectful and ensure their players abide by the spirit of the law.

**Mercy Rule**

### 10. Forfeits

If a team is unable to field at least six (6) players, ten (10) minutes after starting time, the game shall be forfeited.

A team failing to appear, without valid reason, shall be assessed a \$100.00 fine which shall be payable to "CUSC" within thirty (30) days. In the event the fine is not paid, the appropriate district association and the Ontario Soccer Association shall be notified of the team's performance and appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken.

Failure to appear, without valid reason, may also result in the expulsion of the team(s) from the remainder of the Festival and for the forfeiture of the team's or teams' entry fee(s). In these instances, the Festival Discipline Committee will be the sole judge as to whether the team or teams should be expelled from the remainder of the Festival.

**Forfeits  
Fines  
Expulsion**



## Game Play

### 11. Throw ins & Free Kicks

The FIFA Free Kick Law (Law 13) is in effect for all games.

Play will restart with a throw in (FIFA Law 15) when the ball has gone out of play either in the air or on the ground by passing the touch line.

**Throw ins  
&  
Free Kicks**

### 12. Offside

The FIFA offside rule (Law 11) is in effect for all games.

**Offsides**

### 13. Retreat Line

Retreat line will be enforced at for all games; one third (1/3) of the field.

**Retreat Line**

### 14. Substitutions

- (1) There is no limit to the number of substitutions that may be made during a game.
- (2) Substitutions in Festival games may be made at any stoppage.

In the event of an injury, substitution will be allowed for the injured player only. A player who is bleeding must leave the field for treatment and will not be allowed to resume playing until after the Referee and Medical Staff has verified that the area of the body (other than the inside of the nose or mouth) from which the player was bleeding has been properly covered and that the bleeding has stopped. In the case of a nose-bleed or an internal mouth injury, it will be sufficient for the Referee Medical Staff to ascertain that the bleeding has stopped in order for the player to be allowed to re-enter the game.

**Substitutions**



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### 15. Game Reports

A Field Coordinator will ensure that each team has submitted a properly stamped Festival Game Sheet and will hand it to the Referee prior to the commencement of the game. It is to be signed by the team's Coach or Manager prior to being submitted. This becomes the Game Report.

The Game Report will remain with the Referee from the start of the game and will be returned to the Field Coordinator at the end of the game.

The Referee indicates all cautions and ejections on the Game Report. The Referee will also describe and explain all Cautions and Ejections on the appropriate Ontario Soccer Caution and Dismissal Forms. The Referee will verify the correctness of the Game Report by signing it at the end of the match. Misconduct reports will be forwarded to EODSA within 48 hours of the completion of the game.

**Game Reporting**

### 16. Fields and Position of Teams

The Festival will be held at Russell Dome (150 Sportsplex, Embrun, ON K0A 1W1). The Festival Schedule including location of field will be posted prior to the Festival by the Organizing Committee at the Ottawa TFC website address listed below and in the registration package.

Teams (players, coaches and managers) will take position on the same side of the field within the marked technical areas. Only those with a bracelet will be permitted on the field. There shall be no more than a maximum of four team officials permitted on the player side of the field (Example: Coach, Assistant Coach, Trainer and Manager). Teams shall restrict their movement within this technical area along the touchline. All spectators will take up position on the opposite side of the field across from their respective team. All players, coaches, managers and spectators shall remain two (2) metres back from the touchline during play.

**Field and  
Schedule  
Information**

**Spectators  
Technical Areas**

### 17. Playing Equipment

Each team should have two sets of different coloured jerseys. In the event of a conflict of jersey colours, the home team listed on the schedule shall be required to change. The goaltender's jersey must be distinct from those of his team, the opposing team and the referee. All players must wear shoes which conform to the requirements of FIFA (Law 4). Shin guards are mandatory.

**Team Uniforms  
Ball Size**



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All games shall be played with a size four (4) ball.

### 18. Referee and Assistant Referees

**One Central Referee will be assigned by Ottawa TFC for all games.**

Assistant referees will not be assigned to games at this level and only the Central Referee assigned will call any stoppage of play.

**Referee  
Assignments**

### 19. Duration and number of games

#### One day festival

- ❖ U12 – 2 x 50 games (2 x 25 min halves).
- U12 - not to exceed 140 minutes of play per competition day
- There will be a minimum of 30 minutes between each game played by any team and a maximum of 120 minutes.

**Number of  
Games & Game  
Duration**

In all games, each team shall be entitled to a five-minute rest period at half time. The referee is the only timekeeper of the game.

**Half Time  
Duration**

### 20. Awards/Mementos

Mementos will be given to all players participating in the Festival as part of their welcome package at check -in.

**Participation  
Memento**

### 21. Weather

Due to the possibility that severe freezing rain/snowstorms/ice storms during the Festival, it is necessary that all attending teams understand the procedures to be followed.

**Hazardous  
Weather**

Only the referee and/or the Festival Organizing Committee are authorized to suspend, postpone, or cancel a game.

**Authority**

In the event that weather conditions may be hazardous to the players and spectators (i.e, delayed arrival to venue due to weather), the referee or the Festival Organizing Committee reserves the right to shorten the length of any game to ensure that all games are played. Further, if necessary due to extreme weather conditions, the Committee may cancel any game.





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### 22. Conduct of Festival

#### Decisions

The referee's decision in matters concerning the application of the rules of the game, and the decision of the Festival Organizing Committee regarding conduct of the Festival shall be final and with no appeal rights.

Referee  
Decisions

#### Hearings

Hearings will be heard where warranted and all players have the right to request a hearing by written request within 10 minutes of the completion of the game. Decisions by hearing can be appealed to the EODSA. All requests must be accompanied by a \$50.00 bond, which will only be refunded if the player is found not guilty.

Hearings

#### Protests

All protests must be in writing and submitted to the Festival Headquarters (as designated by the Festival Organizing Committee) together with a cash fee of \$100.00 within one hour of the game to which the protest relates. No protests on the referee's decision shall be entertained, protests are not appeals. Fee will be refunded only where a protest is upheld.

Protests

#### Discipline

The Ontario Soccer Published Rules on Discipline at Festival s will apply. Discipline for player misconduct will be done by Discipline by Review (and Discipline by Hearing where necessary or requested).

\*Players and Team Officials (Coach, Assistant Coach, Trainer or Manager) that are dismissed during Festival play shall serve a mandatory minimum one game suspension immediately following the game in which the dismissal was issued.  
\*

Game  
Suspensions

**In cases of "game official assault", the player, team official, or administrator alleged to have committed "game official assault" shall be immediately suspended from all soccer activities and the discipline shall be handled by an EODSA Discipline Hearing Panel, in accordance with the Ontario Soccer Published Rules.**

\*All Misconduct Reports involving player dismissal will be dealt with by the Discipline Board in accordance with OSA Published Rules. Further game suspensions may be issued depending on the ruling of the Board. Where permitted, requests for hearing will be accepted within 15 minutes of the completion of the game. In accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules

Discipline  
Consequences



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all decisions made by review are final. All Decisions made by hearing can be appealed to the EODSA.

## Behaviour

The Festival Organizing Committee relies upon the coaches and team officials to set an example of conduct and sportsmanship and to exercise all the necessary control over their players and associated parents and spectators.

Misconduct Reports

The Festival Organizing Committee reserves the right to eject ANY person (player, coach, team official, parent or spectator) exhibiting inappropriate behaviour from the immediate playing areas.

Festival Ejection

## 23. Festival Organizing Committee

The Festival Organizing Committee will be responsible for all matters pertaining to the organizing and running of this Festival. With respect to any question relating to the interpretation of these Rules and Procedures (other than matters that fall exclusively within the coverage of the Festival Discipline Committee) or for any matter not specifically addressed by these Rules and Procedures, the Festival Organizing Committee will, upon hearing a representation of no longer than five minutes duration from each of the teams that is affected by the issue at hand, make a final and binding decision. There will be no appeals from this decision.

Rule Interpretation

## 24. Festival Cancellation

Ottawa TFC, the Festival Organizing Committee, the Festival Discipline Committee and the Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association will not be responsible for any expenses that are incurred by any team or any person, if the Festival is cancelled in whole or in part.

Incurred Expenses

If the Festival is cancelled in its entirety, the Festival will refund each team's paid entry fee. Teams that of their own accord withdraw from the Festival within 21 days of the Festival date, will not be granted a refund.

Refunds

**Unless otherwise indicated within these rules, all FIFA laws apply.**