

OTTAWA INTERNATIONALS SOCCER CLUB (OISC)

Development Soccer Program (DSP)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do we need to register early?

Soccer is the largest sport in the country with nearly 20% of young people playing the game. In the last decade our club has grown from 600 to more than 2,500 players, which has resulted in real growth pains. In addition, the city has not developed many new soccer fields especially in the former City of Ottawa. Due to our growth and the lack of new fields, we have had to set a cap for certain DSP sites as there are too many players for those locations.

2. What do I receive with the registration fee?

First, DSP has an early bird fee, which we encourage all to use since it is extremely helpful to have registrations received early so as to consolidate teams. Each player receives a new soccer ball at the first practice. There is also a team picture and individual picture included and these are taken at the first festival. The uniform kit – jerseys, shorts and socks – can be purchased using the registration form.

The player only has to supply cleats, shin pads and their own water container for each practice and game. Cleats and shin pads are mandatory since this is stated in the OSA insurance policy.

3. Are there any new fields this year?

We have added one new site for 2012. We have requested the permit for McNabb Park and will offer girls U7 and U9 on Tuesday/Thursday and boys U7 and U9 on Monday/Wednesday. McNabb Park is located at the corner of Bronson Ave. and Gladstone Ave will hopefully alleviate some of the demand for our more central field locations.

We are also offering girls U9 at Iona Park for the first time.

To facilitate those families that prefer to have one location that meets all their needs, we will continue to offer programs for both boys and girls for all age groups on the same night at Owl Park.

4. How are players assigned to teams?

Registrations must be received at the clubhouse (via mail or dropped off) with payment attached in order to be processed. As each registration is received and entered into our registration system, the player is given a date received and a sequential number. Players are assigned to teams by their receipt date as per their site request.

Players are assigned to teams along with volunteers. If a team has three coaches and a manager, we fill the team to the standard of 12 for U-7, 15 for U-9 and 16 for U-11. Our standard is to have one head coach, two assistant coaches and one manager on each team. If a team does not have a coach, we fill the team to three (3) players less than the limit and any parent/player that wishes to coach this team will skip the queue and the parent and child will be on the team.

If a team has no coaches or a very small number of registrants, we identify this as early as possible and contact the players and try to offer alternative placements at other sites.

5. What are the player ages for each group?

- U5 players born in 2007
- U7 players born in 2005 and 2006
- U9 players born in 2003 and 2004
- U11 players born in 2001 and 2002

6. Are all Site convenors and coaches assigned?

Some site convenors, coaches and managers do return from the previous season and offer to volunteer again. However, we always require many more site convenors, coaches and managers and it is important that parents volunteer for these positions since DSP is a volunteer driven program. Last year we had almost 940 players with over 320 parents who volunteered in some capacity. We are looking forward to your continued strong support, so please be a volunteer.

7. Once I register, when will I hear from the club again?

Within a few weeks, you will receive an email confirmation that your registration has been received and processed. The coaches will be supplied with the player's names by April 28th and they will contact the players. The coaches/managers will receive the team equipment, uniforms and balls on the weekend of May 5th and 6th. The season starts on May 16th, which is the first day that the field permits are valid.

8. Does DSP provide refunds to players?

All requests for refunds must be in writing (e-mail) to the VP DSP indicating the reason for such a request.

- Full refunds will be provided if we are not able to accommodate one of your three site selections and you do not want an alternate site
- Prior to April 15th, if you have been assigned to a site, a refund will be provided less a \$25 administration fee
- After April 15th, but before the season has started, a refund will be provided less a \$75 administration fee
- After the season has started, and prior to July 1st, only where a player suffers a season ending injury, a refund will be issued based on a prorating of time and less an administration fee of \$75
- No refunds will be issued for any reason after July 1st

9. My child would like to try-out for competitive but does not want to lose the DSP site. What should we do?

The club recommends both the DSP program and the Competitive program for player development. The club ensures open and fair try-outs for DSP players at the U-9, U-10, and U-11 competitive levels. For a DSP player that is interested in trying out for competitive, the DSP program recommends that your child register with DSP and indicate on the registration form that you wish to be contacted for the competitive program. This will ensure that the player is contacted for the competitive try-outs and will also hold the DSP spot at your site until the competitive teams are selected. If you return to DSP, you have a pre-assigned spot on a team. If you are selected for competitive, your entire DSP fee will be applied to your competitive fee and you will simply have to pay the difference. **Please note that the competitive try-outs start in early March, therefore early registration is important.**

10. Who referees the DSP festival games?

We use qualified and trained referees for the festivals. One of the goals of the DSP program is to develop young referees and our club offers referee training courses each spring. The club has an absolute zero policy on abuse, ridicule or any demeaning conduct towards our referees by coaches, players or parents. Since most of the DSP festival referees are recent graduates this behaviour can often discourage them from continuing as a referee. It is also not a good example for players of fair play or good sportsmanship.

11. What are the basic duties of a team manager?

- Work with the coaches so as to contact all the players concerning team information. Be the link between the site convenor and the coaches.

- Pick up or arrange for pick up of equipment, uniforms and soccer balls at the OISC clubhouse in early May.
- Organize a parents meeting at the first practice for the coaches and parents. One coach will usually work with the players while the other coaches attend and run the meeting.
- Make sure that each team member has submitted a complete health and consent form and that the coaches have read them and know of any concerns.
- Distribute balls and uniforms at first practice (remember to bring a black or coloured marker for balls).
- Confirm who will be participating in each festival and let the DSP festival coordinator know two weeks in advance if the team will not be able to attend.

12. What are the basic duties of a Site Convenor?

- Answers questions from coaches, managers and parents as a first-line resolution process.
- Forward questions or situations to the DSP VP or the DSP Administrator as appropriate.
- Inform coaches of relevant changes, upcoming training or meetings etc.
- Confirm teams and numbers for festivals.
- Assist the VP and Administrator that each team has a proper complement of coaches and a workable number of players with parental support and that the teams are set-up in a fair manner.
- Coordinate the best use of the site with a practice organization plan
- Prepare an emergency action plan for the information/use of all site teams.
- Ensure that each manager has collected a health and consent form from each player and made the results known to the coaches.
- Ensure that each team is prepared for each festival and that the managers have provided you with the team attendance in advance and any special requests.

13. What are the attendance commitments for a player?

All players should inform the team manager of their availability both for practices and festivals. For the U11 group, it is also very important to inform the manager of their availability for the interlocking game schedule.

14. When do practices start?

The City of Ottawa field permits start on May 16th and the program runs until the end of August with the last festival the weekend after the September long weekend. With the exception of U-5, all teams run on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The weekday permits start each night at 6:00 PM. We

ask the coaches to try and start practices between 6:00 and 6:30, although sometimes coach availability may affect this as well as limited field time such as at Brantwood forces us to have 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM shifts at this location.

15. When and where are the festivals?

There are four festivals starting with the June 9th and 10th weekend. Each age group only plays one day at the festivals.

June 9-10	Festival- Leitrum Park (Saturday U7, U11; Sunday U5, U9)
July 7-8	Brewer Park (Saturday U9; Sunday U7, U11)
August 11-12	Brewer Park (Saturday U7, U11; Sunday U9)
September 8-9	Rideau High School (Saturday U5, U9; Sunday U7, U11)

16. DSP Uniforms

DSP and REC have had the same uniforms for the last 11 years. A full uniform kit consists of a pair of black shorts, a pair of socks and two jerseys, one red and one white. When games are played in festivals or during the U11 interlocking games, the home team wears Red and the visiting team wears White. We encourage members to reuse and recycle these uniforms. Below is a conversion chart for the jersey sizes.

YS – same as size 6X-7

YM – same as 8-10

YL – same as 12-14

AS – same as 16-18

17. Gently used soccer equipment

DSP collects gently used soccer equipment and uniforms and provides these to needy groups. If you wish to donate, we collect these at all the DSP festivals or you can drop them off at the clubhouse.

18. Will I be able to get a Children's Fitness Tax Credit?

Your DSP registration qualifies against the \$500 Children's Fitness Tax Credit. We issue these receipts in January of the following year. They are e-mailed using the contact information provided when your child registered.