

LISL “March Madness” Festival

Rules and Regulations

2026

Youth Indoor Soccer

General

The Festival will be played based on Ontario Soccer’s Game Organization Guide and/or Festival Guide and are subject to the Development Matrices.

Eligibility (as per OS)

Squad Eligibility:

- a) All squads must be registered with Ontario Soccer
- b) When applying to take part in a festival, each squad must attach to the festival application form (FAF) written proof of “Permission To Travel” duly authorized by its governing Association, when the squad is travelling from its District Association.
- c) A squad may only use players who are registered with an Ontario Soccer club. There are no TEP or TRPs permitted with grassroots teams.
- d) Registration is limited and will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The fee must accompany registration form in order to confirm your spot in the Division.
- e) All players and coaches agree to abide by the facility policies set out by London Optimist Sports Centre, BMO Centre.

Equipment

All players must wear shin pads satisfactory to the presiding referee. Each player of the team shall have a different number clearly displayed on the back of his/her jersey and this number shall correspond with that on the Team Roster.

Each team shall have 2 different distinctive coloured sets of shirts. The Keeper’s shirts shall be distinct from the shirt of those players on his team, the opposing team and the referee.

Home and Away Teams

The home team is the team designated as such on the game schedules. The home team shall:

- a) Supply the game ball

The visiting team shall:

- a) Start each game by kicking off.
- b) Be required to change shirts in the event that the referee determines that the shirt colours are too similar.

Duration of Games

Games will be 20-25 minutes in length depending on the number of teams.

Number of Players Dressed in Each Game Day Roster

The following number of players may dress and play in each Game Day Roster of the festival:

- U8 – U9: Maximum of 12 players and will play 5v5
- U10 – U11: Maximum of 14 players and will play 7v7
- U12 – U13: Maximum of 18 players will play 7v7

Festival Rules will Include:

- a) No offside (U8 to U13)
- b) (U8 – U9) Kick-ins or dribble-ins: A player can dribble in from a corner kick or sideline but cannot score
- c) (U10 – U11) Kick-ins or dribble-ins: No dribble-ins from the corners, only from the sidelines
- d) (U12 – U13) Kick-ins: No dribble-ins permitted for this age group
- e) A retreat line as per O.S.
- f) No slide tackles allowed.**
- g) All free kicks are indirect. A penalty kick is the only exception. All players must be 5m away from the ball for every free kick.
- h) No outdoor cleats or metal cleats are permitted on the field of play**
- i) U8 – U11: No scores or standings will be recorded
- j) U12 – U13: Scores and Standings will be recorded
 - 1) Wildcard playoff spots will be determined by the tournament coordinator prior to all playoff games.
 - 1.1) Head to head play *Notes: if three teams are tied, head to head play will not be considered in the tiebreaker
 - 1.2) Goal Differential (goals for minus goals against)
 - 1.3) Most goals scored
 - 1.4) Least goals against
 - 1.5) Penalty kicks (if more than 2 teams are tied for 1st/2nd place in their group, position will be determined by best of three penalty kicks. The order of kicks will be determined by a coin toss.

Discipline

Any player receiving 2 yellow cards or 1 red card a game shall be suspended for the balance of that game and from the next game in the festival in which his or her team is scheduled to play. Yellow cards are cumulative and will be carried over from each game played. 3 yellow cumulative will result in suspension from the next game in the festival. Coaches, assistants and managers may be warned verbally for their conduct. Conduct detrimental to the game may result in ejection. Team officials ejected are not eligible to participate in the next scheduled festival game.

Schedule Changes

Schedule changes can be made at the discretion of the Festival Committee as required under appropriate circumstances. All efforts will be made to inform a coach of any changes relating to his team, however, it is the responsibility of the coach to check the website for any changes that might affect his/her team.