



Transitioning to the Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards – One-Pager

This one-pager outlines the key changes introduced in the new Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards compared to the previous Ontario Soccer Grassroots Standards. It is designed to help clubs, coaches, and parents understand what's changing and why these updates matter for grassroots soccer in Ontario.

Who This Is For: All Stakeholders!

Why It Matters: These changes align Ontario with a national vision for grassroots soccer that prioritizes player development, inclusion, and long-term engagement. By standardizing formats and expectations, Canada Soccer ensures that all young players across the country receive a consistent, high-quality experience.

Purpose: To clearly communicate the updates being implemented with the Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards, highlighting differences from the Ontario Soccer Grassroots Standards and supporting clubs in educating their members during the transition.

Key Changes at a Glance:

Area	Ontario Soccer (Previous) - Recommended	Canada Soccer (NEW) - Mandated
Match Day Roster Sizes	Max 8 (3v3), Max 10 (5v5), Max 12 (7v7), Max 16 (9v9)	Max 9 (3v3), Max 12 (5v5), Max 14 (7v7), Max 18 (9v9)
Retreat Line	Used up to U13	Removed at U12 and above
Game Formats	Districts could vary implementation	Standardized nationally across all provinces
Playing Time	Fair playing time encouraged	Fair Playing Time mandated (target 50%)
Open Rosters	Encouraged but not required	Required to allow regular player movement
Scores & Standings	No scores, standings, promotion or relegation	Still not recorded; reinforced with no scores and standings in tournaments U11 and below
Coach Education	Ontario-specific requirements	National Grassroots Coach Education Stream
Travel Guidelines	Recommended under 60 minutes	Mandated under 60 minutes each way
Festival Format	Recommended for U7-U9; U10-U13 can do either Festival or League format	Mandatory for U6-U9; U10-U13 can do either Festival or League format
Memorable Events	Max 2 per season for U8-U11; Max 4 per season for U12-U13	Max 2 per season for U8-U11; Max 3 per season for U12-U13

How to Use this Resource:

- Share with club staff, coaches, and parents to explain upcoming changes
- Post on club websites or distribute via email to support transparency and education

