



2026  
U8/U9 Festival Guidelines

## Contacts

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## 2026 Festival Important Dates

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| Festival Dates | Division |
|----------------|----------|
| 23-May         | U8       |
| 24-May         | U9       |
| 30-May         | U8       |
| 06-Jun         | U9       |
| 07-Jun         | U8       |
| 13-Jun         | U9       |
| 27-Jun         | U8       |
| 04-Jul         | U9       |
| 05-Jul         | U8       |
| 11-Jul         | U9       |
| 18-Jul         | U8       |
| 19-Jul         | U9       |
| 25-Jul         | U9       |
| 26-Jul         | U8       |
| 15-Aug         | U8       |
| 16-Aug         | U9       |
| 22-Aug         | U8       |
| 29-Aug         | U9       |
| 12-Sep         | U8       |
| 19-Sep         | U9       |

## Club Participation

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All Toronto Clubs are invited to U8 & U9 Festivals.

These festivals are for players born in 2018 (U8) & 2017 (U9).

- U7 players are permitted to be on a U8 Roster provided the player has been evaluated using the appropriate [Ontario Soccer Fast Tracking & Player Development Document](#) and subject to OS limits.

## Registration & Rosters

Teams must be pre-registered with TOSL. Registration includes an application and a registration fee and must be completed prior to March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Clubs must confirm the number of teams participating *by stated* deadline. All players must be registered with Ontario Soccer. Please note that boys, girls, and mixed teams can participate. All players must be registered with Ontario Soccer and input in E2E by the club.

## **Scheduling & Scoring**

The schedule will be set by the TOSL and sent to participating clubs approximately two weeks prior to the festival date. Please be aware that revisions can occur!

No scores or standings are maintained; the spirit of the festival is fun!

## **Host Club Responsibilities**

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The host club is responsible for ensuring that appropriate equipment, staffing, and facilities are provided for the event and shall coordinate with TOSL regarding event schedule. This includes:

- Fields and secured nets with complete mesh
- Multiple sets of coloured pinnies or bibs
- Accessible washrooms or portable toilets
- Administration area / tent
- First Aid Kit
- Provide location map for TOSL to share with attending clubs (i.e., field locations, parking etc.) if necessary
- Clubs may have food vendor or canteen for purchase on-site at their discretion

## **Game Information & Field Layout**

### **U8/U9:**

Fields must be set up at a width of approximately 25-30 m and a length of 30-36 m. The goal area may or may not be outlined. Nets will be 1.52m (5ft) x 2.44m (8ft).

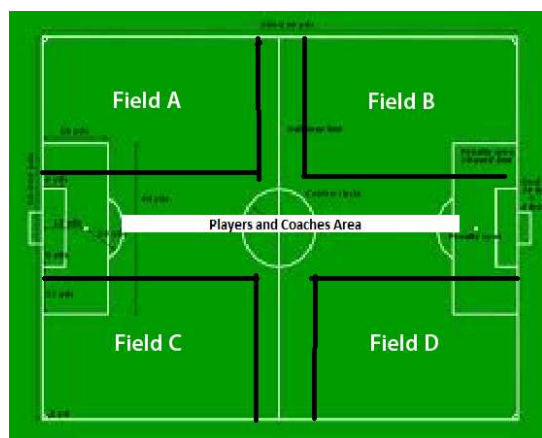
Each team must have 5 players aside. A retreat line is also utilized. Throw-ins are NOT used. Instead, the ball must be passed or dribbled in. In-direct kicks may be awarded.

Games are two twenty-minute halves with a five-minute half time. Games will be approximately every 45 minutes.

### **Key Points:**

| Format             | U8/U9   |
|--------------------|---|
| Number of Players  | 5 vs 5  |
| Game Duration      | 2 x 20 minutes  |
| Offside/Free Kicks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Offsides</li> <li>Indirect Kicks Permitted</li> </ul> |
| Field Layout       | Width: 25-30 meters<br>Length: 30-36 meters   |

The host club will facilitate field rentals with local provider for the event. The provided playing area for U8 will ideally be able to accommodate 8 5v5 sized fields, plus a warmup area, as shown in the example below.



Please Note

- Players' and coaches' area are on the interior sideline of a full-sized field

## Volunteers & Referees

To help facilitate the event, a minimum of 1 club representative must be present throughout the event, however, multiple volunteers are recommended.

The TOSL will provide referees unless otherwise specified by the host club.

*Lastly, the host club shall complete a report and distribute it the TOSL and participant clubs within 7 days following the event.*

## TOSL Responsibilities

TOSL will manage the host club application process, invite clubs to apply for hosting, and establish a rotation of hosts. TOSL will also provide a funding reimbursement up to \$1750 per festival. TOSL will notify clubs of festival dates & locations well in advance. Other duties

include:

- Receive club entries by the deadline date
- Distribute information for visiting clubs/teams prior to festival (i.e. schedule, rules, maps etc.)
- Provide TOSL support at the event to assist host club as needed
- Liaison with host club to determine the schedule and distribute it to clubs/teams (ideally 14 days prior to the event)
- Ensure each team has appropriate breaks between games
- Liaise with the referees on site

## **Club/Team/Coach Responsibilities**

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Coaches are responsible for maintaining a friendly environment at the festivals and monitoring parental behaviours.

Additionally, clubs/teams are responsible for registering for the festival by the respected deadline. Late entries may not be included.

Withdrawal from the festival following a confirmed entry is subject to a fine of \$200 to the club. Withdrawal from a festival less than 72 hours before the festival date will be subject to a fine of \$500 to the club.