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INFORMATION BULLETIN

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May 6, 2026

To: Ontario Soccer; District Members and Associate Members
CC: Ontario Soccer Board of Directors, Staff
From: Matt Ferreira, Chief Technical Officer
Subject: Modified Corner Kick for Under-9 and Below

Ontario Soccer, after consultation with the Voting Members Council, is pleased to announce an adjustment to the [Adapted Laws of the Game](#) to include a **Modified Corner Kick** at the grassroots level from **Under-9 and below**. This modification is designed to create a more developmentally appropriate scenario for young players and better support player development, learning, and game flow in alignment with [Ontario Soccer's Technical Development Plan](#) and [Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards](#).

Background & Overview of the Modified Corner Kick

Effective for approved grassroots environments, the goal-kick only or traditional corner kicks will be replaced with a Modified Corner Kick to restart play. Instead of being taken directly from the corner arc, the ball will be placed five (5) yards down the touchline from the corner, and play will restart from that point with the player deciding to **either dribble or pass-in** the ball.

Why This Change Is Being Introduced

After two years of research and observation of Under-8 matches in collaboration with **Southwest Soccer and Peel Halton Soccer Association**, it was identified that both the goal-kicks only and traditional corner kicks at younger ages can result in:

- Extended stoppages and reduced ball-in-play time
- Congested restarts that limit decision-making options
- Increased adult intervention during set-play situations
- Deliberate kicking of the ball out of play at the end line to receive a goal-kick

The Modified Corner Kick:

- Encourages quicker restarts and continuous play
- Creates more attacking and defending decisions in open play
- Reduces crowding in the goal area
- Supports developmentally appropriate learning outcomes such as scanning, movement, passing options, and pressing

This change reinforces Ontario Soccer's commitment to player-centred, evidence-informed game design.

What Is Changing

Under the Modified Corner Kick:

- The restart is taken from **five (5) yards along the touchline** from the corner
- The ball must be stationary before the restart
- Opponents must retreat a minimum distance as outlined in the applicable Adapted Laws of the Game
- Normal restart rules, from a **Dribble/Pass-In** apply after the ball is put into play

All other Laws of the Game remain unchanged as per Ontario Soccer's Adapted Laws of the Game.

How it is being Implemented

- The Modified Corner Kick applies to any festivals, leagues, and or other competitions designated for Under-9 and younger players.
- Districts and Clubs are encouraged to share all relevant resources with their members – parent/guardians, coaches and match officials - as found [online here](#).
 - The Final Report, Summary Document, Infographics and Video Explainers are all currently available
 - Ontario Soccer will continue to provide additional education resources as required.

Questions or Further Information

For questions regarding the Modified Corner Kick or its implementation, please contact [Chandler McFall, Coordinator, Player Development](#).

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