

## OHTSL Fall 2026 Policy Changes

1) **Age divisions** will follow the [US Club Soccer matrix](#) (Aug 1 - July 31). The only exception is a U14/15 age group will be a single division (U15 in GotSport), only U15 players not in high school (trapped 8th graders) can play in this division.

2) **Non-competitive U8 division** will be offered with no reported scores or champions. The division will use regional brackets and standard 7 v 7 rules, with flexibility to adjust formats or share players as needed to ensure games are played. The focus is on player development rather than game results. Fees will be \$20 less than those for U9 - U14 teams. Communities may place U8 teams in the U9 competitive division; however, they will be bracketed and compete without any age-based consideration. *Note: Declared U8 teams (especially those in outlying communities) may need to be placed in U9 if there are not enough teams (less than 30 min travel) to form a bracket in that local region.*

3) **Referee fees** will increase for 9v9 and 11v11 games (no change for 7v7). New fees: 9v9 = \$55; 11v11—one referee: \$70; two referees: \$60/\$40 (CR & AR); three referees: \$60/\$40/\$40 (CR & 2 AR).

4) **Team Check in Policy:** Referees will be responsible for checking in both teams' official rosters (paper or digital) before each game. Any player or coach not on the roster must go to the spectator sideline and may not participate. Games will not begin until both teams have provided a roster to the referee. If only one team provides a roster, the team without a roster will forfeit the match. If neither team provides a roster, the game will be recorded as a no game. Games will not be rescheduled or allowed to play because a team did not provide a roster. *Referees will be paid, by the league, if a game is not played due to missing rosters after they submit a report. Communities not providing a roster will be billed for referee fees.*

5) **No Referee Policy:** If no referee shows, the home team must initiate the check in process and may use a Lindsay Law/Concussion certified person to officiate the game if the visiting team is informed and agrees to this. The visiting team may choose to not play the game and instead reschedule. *Note: If a non-licensed referee issues a red card to a coach, OHTSL will stand by the decision only if the coach agreed to use a non-licensed referee. If the coach was unaware the referee was not licensed then the red card will not be enforced by the league.*

6) **Out of Community Players:** Players that live in communities that do not have an OHTSL program (at any age) will not count towards the OOC player limit (max of 3). Players that live in a community with an OHTSL program, but not a program in their age group, will count towards the OOC player limit. *Note: The board will consider special cases when there is a need for communities to combine players at a specific age group to roster a team.*