

Oakville Soccer Club

U13 (2013) League/Pathway Transition Information



Transition to 9v9 and League Pathway Updates for U13 Players

In accordance with Ontario Soccer's updated framework effective Fall 2025, Oakville Soccer Club will implement the following changes for the U13 pathway.

What's Changing at U13?

As players born in 2013 move into the U13 age group, they will continue to play 9v9 instead of transitioning to 11v11, in line with Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards. This change will take effect in Ontario starting with the Indoor 2025/26 season.

At OSC, players born in 2013 will participate in the 9v9 format, focusing on development through both the OPDL and ADP programs. OSC will fully meet all Ontario Soccer standards, providing structured league play both indoors and outdoors.

Understanding the League Pathways

1. OPDL (Ontario Player Development League)

- Ontario's high-performance league based on stringent standards
- Focus on player development and long-term potential
- Players selected through an intake and assessment process
- 16-18 player pool per gender
- Year-round training
- Indoor festival competition
- Outdoor OPDL competition
- All games recorded for analytical purposes
- Includes travel across Ontario
- Development-focused (no standings or playoffs)

2. Festival / Peel Halton Development League (PHDL)

- Regional league structure with local travel
- Players selected through an intake and assessment process
- Players will be tiered based on technical ability, as this is an annual program players will have opportunities to move within tiering based on coaches' observations. (Target and Development)
- 16-18 player pool per gender
- Open to a broader range of developing players
- Emphasis on continued development, teamwork, game experience with a focus on skill building and enjoyment.
- Year-round training
- Indoor festival competition
- Outdoor PHDL festival competition (Peel Halton Region)
- Development-focused (no standings or playoffs)

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Program Streams Overview

- **OPDL:** For players selected through assessments and seeking a high-performance environment, aiming for provincial/national level play.
- **Festival and PHDL:** For players selected through assessments who want to continue their development in a more balanced, local setting, focusing on skill development and enjoyment while maintaining competitive play. *Throughout the program players may be invited to participate in OPDL game day experiences. This will be at the discretion of the High-Performance Manager and OPDL Head Coach.

Player Assessment Information and Registration

All participants must register online for assessments. Existing OSC players can log into their registration and non-OSC players can create an account by [clicking here](#).

IMPORTANT – it is imperative that you regularly check the email address linked to your registration account. All communication will be sent to the email address associated with your registration account. Email addresses can be updated in your account under the profile section.

Please [click here](#) for the assessment schedule.

Please [click here](#) for OSC's Assessment FAQ document.

Key Reminders

- All U13 teams at OSC will compete in the 9v9 format across both league pathways.
- Both pathways offer qualified coaching, skill development, and growth opportunities.
- Emphasis remains on player development, continued growth, and a love for the game.
- Detailed program outlines, including program price-points, will be available the first week of August.

For questions regarding the pathway and assessment process, please contact Chris Grierson, Senior Technical Director, and Jordan Cardinale, High Performance Manager, at technical@oakvillesoccer.ca.