



ONTARIO SOCCER
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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Administrators

FROM: Matt Ferreira, Chief Technical Officer

CC: Voting Members Council, Patty Forbes, Chief Corporate Officer

DATE: July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Temporary Flexibility for Grassroots Soccer due to Weather-Related Disruptions

As we continue through the outdoor season, we recognize the significant challenges that weather-related concerns have created for the districts, league operators, clubs, and, ultimately, the participants. Specifically, the poor air quality resulting from wildfire smoke and prolonged periods of extreme heat have impacted the ability to consistently deliver scheduled festival/league programming while maintaining a safe environment for players, coaches, officials, and spectators alike.

After consultation with Canada Soccer, to support districts in managing these disruptions and ensuring participants continue to receive meaningful playing opportunities, we have developed a reporting process that allows for temporary deviations from the current Grassroots Standards related to festival/league administration.

To access this deviation, the districts must submit their original and proposed adjusted festival/league schedule that would permit teams to play two games per week, consisting of:

- Option A – if standard play is on the weekend
 - One weekend match, and
 - One weekday match
- Option B – if standard play is on weekdays
 - One weekday match, and
 - One weekend match

This temporary adjustment is intended to support the districts/leagues recover from weather-related cancellations, maintain season objectives, and safeguard programming offers while minimizing the need for extensive season extensions.



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As part of this approach, the recommendation is that the additional weekday/weekend match, depending on pursued option, serve as a replacement for one scheduled training session during that week. This will help balance player workload while preserving opportunities for game-based development and competition. In addition, this approach can support club operations by reducing weekly training demands and providing greater flexibility for the predominantly volunteer-based coaches to effectively manage their time and commitments.

Districts interested in utilizing this flexibility are encouraged to complete the online form for review which upon completion will generate an approval. Submissions will be reviewed and considered based on local circumstances, schedule impacts, and participant welfare considerations. The request form can be found [here](#).

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of our districts and clubs in adapting to challenging conditions while continuing to prioritize safe, enjoyable, and development-focused experiences for all participants.

