MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA 2026

TO SOCCER

Outline

- New membership criteria
- Proposal and Required Material
- Assessment

New Membership Criteria

Demonstrated ability to run a soccer club

Offers a high-quality and consistent soccer experience

Proposed contribution to the soccer community

Proposal and Required Material

Demonstrated ability to run a soccer club

- Experience operating a soccer club
- Existing registrations by age and gender over past two years
- Administrative staff
- Financial statements and current Board of Directors (not-for-profit only)

Offers a high-quality and consistent soccer experience

- Existing coach certifications
- Existing field permits or facility leases
- Role and use of volunteers
- Demonstrate commitment to Canada Soccer Standards for Quality Soccer requirements
- Disclosure of past discipline issues for club or key individuals
- Match official or coach development program

Proposed contribution to the soccer community in Toronto

- Mission, vision and values and proposed contribution to Toronto soccer community
- Reason for seeking membership
- Profit or Not-for-Profit status
- Financial assistance program (if any)
- Name of club (must not conflict with existing organization)
- Commitment to registering all players over the ages of 4

Assessment

- Once a proposal is received, an assessment will be completed by a committee with a minimum of three individuals as appointed by TO Soccer Board.
- Additional information or an in-person meeting may be requested (as required)

Canada Soccer Standards for Quality Soccer

Organizations applying for recognition as a Canada Soccer Quality Soccer Provider must submit the following information to Canada Soccer:	
1	Organization Name
2	Location
3	District/Region (if applicable)
4	Province/Territory
5	Membership Status
6	President — Name, Contact Information (phone and email)
	Program Information:
7	Stream(s) of Participation (Grassroots, Community, Competitive, Development, Performance)
8	Stage(s)/Age(s) of Participation
9	Gender(s) of Participation
10	Club Infrastructure Form — Facilities

Organizations applying for recognition as a Canada Soccer Quality Soccer Provider must meet the following criteria:	
Safe:	
11	Adheres to Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics
12	Has a Code of Conduct to Protect Children
13	Has Guidelines for Appropriate/Inappropriate Conduct between Adults/Adolescents and Children
14	Has a Policy requiring that any suspicion of child abuse is reported to law enforcement
15	Has a Policy outlining what to do if you witness inappropriate conduct that is provided to parents, coaches, and team personnel
16	Provides an environment that supports participant's physical and emotional safety (free of bullying, discrimination, etc.)
	Supports the Coaches Association of Canada Responsible Coaching Movement:
17	Has a Rule of Two Policy on which it educates players, parents, coaches, and team personnel
18	All coaches and team personnel have completed Respect in Sport Activity Leader training
19	All coaches and team personnel have completed proper Background Screening, including a Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) or Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) within the last 3 years
20	Facilities and equipment are safe, well-maintained, and in good condition

Enjoyable:	
21	Is committed to providing an enjoyable soccer experience for all participants
22	Is focused on long term participation
Developmentally Appropriate:	
23	Programming considers Long Term Player Development (LTPD) stage-appropriate principles
	Playing Formats are aligned to Canada Soccer Guidelines:
24	Number of players on the field and on a team
25	Size of ball, goals, and field
26	Length of game
27	Coach to Player Ratio
28	Coaches are trained and/or certified appropriately for the program in which they coach

Accessible, Inclusive, and Welcoming:	
29	Provides programming that targets underrepresented groups as outlined in the Canada Soccer Guide to Accessibility and Inclusion
30	Has programs, partnerships, and/or other mechanisms to reduce barriers to participation
31	Appreciates diversity to ensure everyone feels safe and that they belong regardless of ability and background
32	Coaches are culturally sensitive and programs include culturally appropriate activities
33	Facilities are accessible to participants of all abilities
Meets the Expectations of Membership with its Governing Organization(s):	
34	Is a Member in Good Standing with its governing organization(s)
35	Is compliant with the by-laws, policies, and directives of its governing organization(s)
36	Registers all participants with its governing organization(s)
37	Does not interact with non-member organizations unless approved by governing organization(s)

Appendix

FAQ

Q: What are the minimum number of registered players required?

A: Overall, TO Soccer wants to ensure that you can offer a high quality and consistent soccer experience to your players, that there is a demonstration of ability to run a soccer club and an intention to make a sustained contribution to the soccer community in Toronto.

In general, that would require anywhere between 40 to 100 players for the club to be successful over the long-term. Even at that size, clubs may still struggle to field teams or run programs on a regular basis.

TO Soccer will make its decision on new members based on the overall strength of the proposal and some element of judgement will require by the review panel in making its recommendation. Meeting a perceived minimum requirement will not guarantee membership.

Q: What coach certifications are needed?

A: Clubs will need to demonstrate compliance with Ontario Soccer requirements and recommendations on certifications for each age level and gender. In addition, clubs should also demonstrate a technical leadership capacity exists that is more than those minimum requirements. TO Soccer will make its decision on new members based on the overall strength of the proposal and some element of judgement will require by the review panel in making its recommendation. Meeting a perceived minimum requirement will not guarantee membership.

Q: How long will it take to process an application? Is there a deadline to apply?

A: Once a proposal is received, TO Soccer will inform the applicant of a reasonable review period based on the availability of panel members. TO Soccer will accept proposals as they come in.

Q: Is it possible to play in the league immediately if accepted as a new member?

A: The new membership review process does not supersede league application timelines for teams. Potential applicants should factor that timing in when developing their proposal.