

2026 East and West Developmental Festival Rules

One day Festival open to Girls and one day festival open to Boys from U8 to U13.

Mixed teams can play in the Boys Festival. Teams will be guaranteed 3 games.

In keeping with Ontario Soccer's (OS) A Guide to Festivals in Ontario, there will be no game sheets, scores and standings will not be kept and no winners will be recorded. No trophies will be presented but all players may receive a memento of the Festival. OS LTPD Development Matrix will be used.

Girls U9, U11 and U13 play July 18th 2026

Girls U8, U10 and U12 play July 19th 2026

Boys U9, U11 and U13 play July 25th 2026

Boys U8, U10 and U12 play July 26th 2026

The following additions will be in effect:

Eligible Teams

The East and West Festival is open to Girls and Boys Teams from U8 to U13. Mixed teams can play in the Boys Festival.

The Festival is classified as Inter-District which means that teams from anywhere within the Province of Ontario are eligible to apply. The Festival qualifies as a Memorable Event, which means that LTPD travel restrictions can often be waived. All teams from outside the ECOSA district are required to submit a Travel Permit (ATF) approved by their District Association at least two weeks prior to the festival.

We welcome clubs to submit multiple teams in the same age division – we will ensure that the teams do not play against each other. Due to scheduling constraints, it is possible that the teams will be scheduled to play at the same time on different fields. Therefore it is essential to have a separate coach or team official available to manage each team.

A player can play for only one team in the festival.

Game Format

U8-U9 teams will play four games of 20 minutes duration (5 v 5 with GK, no half-time)

U10-U11 teams will play four games of 25 minutes duration (7 vs 7, no half-time);

U12-U13 teams will play four games of 30 minutes duration (9 vs 9, 5 minute half-time).

Age Specific Rules

All Games will be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game as observed by Ontario Soccer, except as modified herein to support festival specific requirements. Games will be played in accordance with the DRSA guides and rules.

- a. Throw ins: U8-U11 will use dribble in and pass ins
U12-U13 will use throwing
- b. Offside: U8-U11 will not play with offside
U12-U13 will play with offside
- c. Substitutions: U8-U9 unlimited (on the fly or at designated stoppages)
U11-U13 unlimited substitutions (at any stoppage or Referee's discretion)
Example of stoppage in play
- When a goal is scored
- At a goal kick for either team
- On own kick-in or throw-in - piggy back will be allowed
- For an injured player at the referee's discretion.
- d. Field number U8-U9 teams will play 5 vs 5 (including the goalkeeper).
A maximum of 12 players can participate (or be on the bench) in a game.
- U10-U11 teams will play 7 vs 7 (including the goalkeeper).
A maximum of 14 players can participate (or be on the bench) in a game.
- U12-U13 teams will play 9 vs 9 (including goalkeeper)
A maximum of 18 players can participate (or be on the bench) in a game.

General Rules

- U8-U9 Size 3 ball shall be used for all games.
- U11- U12 Size 4 ball shall be used for all games
- U13 Size 5 ball shall be used for all games
- Coaches are required to give fair playing time to all players and ensure that no player exceeds the permitted maximum of minutes per day.
- Northumberland United soccer club will ensure teams get a minimum of 20 minutes rest between games.

Registration

- All teams must present proof of registration with their District Association
- All teams from outside the East Central Ontario Soccer Association (ECOSA) District must supply, no later than one week before the Festival date, a permission to travel form from their home District

- All teams must register the day of the festival at the Northumberland Soccer Office 700 D'Arcy Street, Cobourg at least one hour before their first game
- Registration hours will be between 8:00am-1:00pm. The following documents must be presented at registration:
 1. Team Master Roster
 2. OS approved roster
 3. OS Team Officials documentation
 4. Approved Travel Permit (NON ECOSA teams)
- Players are not required to attend registration
- Only the team officials on the Master Roster are allowed on the bench

Equipment

- The festival organizing committee will be responsible for nets and corner flags.
- The home team of each game will be asked to supply the game balls.
- The home team will be asked to change their jerseys if two teams have identical or similar team colours.

Behaviour

- Coaches are responsible for the parents behaviour
- No alcohol allowed on public premises
- Smoking / Vaping will not be permitted on the sidelines - be respectful to all members
- REMEMBER that our officials are kids and are learning. The best way for individuals to learn is in a safe and positive environment.

If you have any questions please email info@northumberlandsoccer.com