



Canada Soccer has previously issued new Grassroots Standards.

In consultation with Ontario Soccer, we have been advised that these new Grassroots Standards have not yet been made mandatory. To date, we are aware of only a few Districts implementing the same with more Districts likely to follow.

Some of the main changes in the new Grassroots Standards relate to Match Format as follows:

OLD (2024 Outdoor)

U8 – 5v5

U9 and U10 – 7v7

U11 and U12 – 9v9

U13 – 11v 11

NEW (2025 Outdoor)

U8 and **U9** - 5v5

U10 and **U11** - 7v7

U12 - 9v9

U13 – 9v9

(there will be NO option to play 11 v 11 at U13)

The introduction of the new Grassroots Standards requires each District to undertake its due diligence with respect to, amongst other things, field availability and other matters.

Therefore, for the 2025 outdoor season, the recommendation to our ECSA Board will be to follow the OLD grassroots standards.

Please accept this as your formal notice that the NEW standards will likely be implemented for the 2026 outdoor season after ECSA Board review and/or Ontario Soccer making the same mandatory.

Please advise your Clubs officials and coaches accordingly.

Regards,

Joe Barile, ECSA President