

## Request for Decision (R.F.D.) September 2010

R.F.D. # 2010-024  
Revision Date: 08/02/2010  
Subject Title: Senior Teams Playing Outside Ontario  
Submitted by (name of person authoring RFD form) Walter Eadie on 08/02/2010  
Organization Submitting RFD: League Management Committee  
Programme Area: League Management  
Secondary Programme Area(s)  
Present Situation:

The criteria to be considered when a team applies to play outside Ontario are contained in [League Policy 25.0](#).

The relevant section is 25.5:

*The criteria to be considered by The OSA shall include, but not be limited to, the following:*

- a) the club must indicate the benefits of playing in a league outside of Ontario*
- b) the club must indicate that the level of play is suitable for the team in question*
- c) the Board of Directors may limit the number of teams granted approval to ensure the viability of the established Pyramid for Play within the province is not adversely affected.*

The League Management Committee and the Level 1 leagues in the province believe that these criteria are not sufficiently stringent, particularly 25.5 b). Senior teams can spring up overnight it seems and be granted permission to play in the USL PDL or W-League with no history at all in Ontario. There is no onus on the club to prove that the level of play is suitable for the team in question. There are some poor examples of performance (e.g. Sudbury, Windsor) which do not reflect well on Ontario.

The LMC position is covered in more detail in the [Discussion Paper](#) issued to the Board of Directors in September 2009.

The main proposals in the Discussion Paper were:

- OSA to negotiate with USL (and any other league as required) to ensure that **prior** approval from OSA is added as a necessary condition of any application to that league.
  - New organizations with no track record and no competitive history should not be given automatic permission to play out of Ontario.
  - New rules should be put in place effective January 2011 which will require any senior amateur team wishing to play outside of Ontario (in USL, W-League, PDL, Super-20 or any other league) to have met specific criteria in advance.
- Until such policies are in place, and a communications forum set up with USL, a moratorium should be placed on new applications to play in the USL.*

As a consequence of that Discussion Paper, the Board of Directors approved [RFD 2009-037](#) in November 2009

The RFD authorized:

1. *Approval 'in principle' of the LMC proposal that specific criteria be put in place to better clarify the current requirement of League Policy 25.5 "b) the Club must indicate that the level of play is suitable for the team in question"*
2. *Direction to the League Management Committee to develop the specific criteria for Policy 25.5 b) and to submit them as 'part 2' of this RFD within the next 12 months.*
3. *A 12 month moratorium on approval of new applications from clubs to enter senior teams (Men, Women, U23, U21, U20) in leagues outside of Ontario in order for OSA to review and revise policies on such .*

The League Management committee has further discussed this issue at its meetings in Jan. and Apr. 2010 and makes the proposed changes to League Policy 25.0 below:

Specific Decision Requested:

To approve the following changes and additions to League Policy 25.0

*Note: these changes to League Policy 25.0 apply to new applications from senior teams to play in the USL PDL (Men) or W-League (Women).*

*It does not affect existing teams with playing out permission. The process for renewal of existing permissions will not change.*

## Section 5.0 - Leagues

### Policy 25.0 - CLUB APPLICATION TO ENTER TEAM IN LEAGUE OUTSIDE ITS NORMAL JURISDICTION

25.1 A Club shall apply annually to its governing organization(s) to enter a team in a league outside its normal jurisdiction.

25.2 Each application must include:

- a) **"Full Team Identification"** for the team entering the league outside its normal jurisdiction:
- b) proof that the league is affiliated to a governing organization;
- c) a copy of the league's Constitution if a copy of the current constitution is not on file with the governing organization considered;
- d) a copy of the league's Executive Committee, complete with names, position titles, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers;
- e) a copy of the written approval for the applying team to participate provided by the league's governing organization, **plus, for all leagues, a written acknowledgement from the league that participation by the team cannot begin until the OSA criteria for play-out have been met.**

25.3 A Club may apply to play in a league governed by another Provincial Association, in accordance with the following procedures:

- a) it must apply to, and obtain permission from, its own governing organization to "Play-Out";
- b) after completion of a), it must apply to the O.S.A. for permission to "Play-Out" of Ontario, and the application must be submitted to the O.S.A., by no later than 60 days prior to the Board meeting at which it wishes its application to be considered;
- c) the application must be accompanied by all of the required items specified in Policy 25.2, **plus the Club's rationale for why the OSA Pyramid for Play cannot meet its team's competitive needs.;**
- d) the applicable League Management Committee shall review the application and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors;
- e) the Board of Directors may approve such an application, at its discretion, even when the specified timelines have not been met;
- f) the Executive Committee may act on behalf of the Board of Directors in these matters between meetings of the Board; and
- g) proof of insurance must be provided by the Club naming The OSA, District Association and the Ontario Club as additional insured parties.

25.4 A Club may apply to play in a league governed by a foreign association, in accordance with the following procedures:

- a) it must comply with the requirements of Policy 25.3; ~~and~~
- b) it must obtain the approval of the Canadian Soccer Association in accordance with its published rules.
- c) the club must advise OSA in advance of its intention to apply to join a foreign league; and**
- d) a senior men's or senior women's team applying for the first time must meet the criteria defined in Policy 25.5.**

25.5 The criteria to be considered by The OSA shall include, but not be limited to, the following **be as follows:**

- ~~a) the Club must indicate the benefits of playing in a league outside of Ontario;~~
- ~~b) the Club must indicate that the level of play is suitable for the team in question;~~
- ~~e) the Board of Directors may limit the number of teams granted approval to ensure that the viability of the established Pyramid is not adversely affected~~
- a) the Club shall provide evidence that the team has the operational, financial and discipline performance, and coaches properly represent Ontario while participating in a foreign league**
- b) the Club shall provide evidence that the team has a competitive record in the OSA Pyramid for Play which justifies playing in a league governed by a foreign association, as follows:**
  - i) a senior men's team applying to play in the USL PDL league (or other senior men's league) must have placed first, in the OSL Level 1 (Provincial) U-21 league in the year prior to its application**
  - ii) a senior women's team applying to play in the USL W-League (or other senior women's league) must have placed first, in the OWSL Level 1 (Provincial) league in the year prior to its application**
- c) "graduating" youth Super-Y league teams will be given permission to play-out into the USL Super-20 league but teams that do not play-out into the Super-20 league will be considered**
- d) where a Club believes that its specific circumstances (e.g. geography) will prevent it from meeting the criteria above, it may apply to the OSA under the provisions of Policy 25.4 a), b)**

**25.6 A Club which has advised the OSA in advance of its intention to apply for playing out permission as above may be permitted to play in an OSA senior league at L3 rather than the normal entry level (if lower than L3) on payment of a \$5000 bond to the league, subject to the OSA, when the team meets the playing out criteria above or, failing that within 3 years, agrees to be relegated to the normal entry level.**

~~25.6~~ Where approval is granted by The OSA and the league is one of:

**25.7**

1. W-League (USL)
2. PDL (USL)
3. Super 20 League (USL)
4. Super Y League (USL)

- a) the team shall:
  - i) not be eligible to enter the Ontario Cup;
  - ii) not be eligible to enter the National Club Championships;
  - iii) be granted an exemption from the four youth team and/or mini-soccer team minimum requirement as required by Registration Policy 5.11; and
  - iv) be granted an exemption from the residency rule requirement as required by Registration Policy 5.11; and
  - v) register players in accordance with Registration Policy 5.28.
- b) in the case of the Super Y League, The OSA shall:
  - i) only approve teams in the Under-14 age classification and older to play in that league;
  - ii) approve no more than four boys' teams of the same age classification to play in that league;
  - iii) approve no more than four girls' teams of the same age classification to play in that league;
  - iv) only approve a Club in the USL First Division, USL Second Division or PDL League to operate boys' teams in the Super Y League;
  - v) only approve a Club in the W League to operate girls' teams in the Super Y League.

~~25.7~~ Notwithstanding Policy 25.1, The OSA may grant approval for more than one year subject instead to an annual review of the team's performance. **25.8** more than one year may be revoked by The OSA, subject to a formal review hearing at which the league shall be entitled to represent the team.

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Budget Requirements (Change if any): This year: **\$0.00**  
Availability of Funds if not included in this year's budget: **None**

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Advantages:

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Possible

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Objections:

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Alternatives:

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Attachments: **None**

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Decision **Approved**

Date **18-September-2010**

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