Developmental Player (DP) Process

The Developmental Player (DP) pathway provides an opportunity for players who demonstrate high potential for future OPDL participation but are not yet ready to fully commit to its demands. Below is an overview of the process and key details regarding DP status:

---

1. Definition of a Developmental Player (DP):

- A DP is registered with the Toronto High Park Football Club as a full time player in the Development or Competitive Team within THPFC.
- DPs train and play regularly with the THPFC Development or Competitive team.
- DPs train with the OPDL team once a week.
- DPs may be called up to participate in OPDL games but this is not guaranteed.

---

2. Eligibility for the Developmental Player Roster:

Players eligible for DP status include:

- **U17:** Players born in 2008, registered with a U17 regional team.
- **U16:** Players born in 2009, registered with a U16 regional team.
- **U15:** Players born in 2010, registered with a U15 regional team.
- **U14:** Players born in 2011, registered with a U14 regional team.
- **U13:** Players born in 2012 or 2013, registered with a U13 regional team or U12 development team.

Special Consideration: If regional competition is unavailable for a specific age group, a request must be submitted to OPDL for approval.

---

3. Characteristics of a Developmental Player:

- DPs demonstrate strong potential for the future but benefit more from regular game time with a development or competitive team.
- *Example:* A player may gain more development by playing 60 minutes weekly with a competitive team rather than limited minutes (e.g., 30 minutes or less) with an OPDL team.

4. Game Participation Rules for DPs:

- DPs may participate in up to **six (6) OPDL games per season.**
    - Participation is defined as being listed on the game sheet and rostered for the match.
    - Additional games may be allowed by Ontario Soccer in special circumstances.
- **U12 players** are restricted to a maximum of three (3) OPDL games.
- **Goalkeeper Exception:** Teams with only one full-time goalkeeper may use one DP goalkeeper, with the number of games determined by OPDL policies.

---

5. Limitations for DPs:

- DPs are not eligible to participate in:
    - OPDL Cup, Playoffs, or Gary Miller Charity Shield matches.
    - OPDL games under a Playing Up Permit (PuP).
- DPs may transition to full-time OPDL status only once per season and cannot revert to DP status afterward.

---

6. Responsibilities of Developmental Players and Licence Holders:

- DPs are selected for OPDL participation at the discretion of the Technical Lead or Head Coach, based on team needs.
- DPs must sign an OPDL Commitment Letter with THPFC.
- DP fees are **$329**.
- DPs will be provided home or away jerseys if they are called up to play in a game.
- Training with the OPDL team can be done in a Competitive Team kit. The day of practice is determined by the Head Coach and Player to avoid conflicts with the Competitive Team's schedule.
- DPs are bound by all OPDL Policies and Procedures for games, training sessions, and associated activities.

The Developmental Player pathway allows players to train at an advanced level while balancing their developmental needs and competitive opportunities. This pathway serves as a stepping stone for future full-time OPDL involvement.