



FOOTBALL ONTARIO
NATIONAL EVENT HOSTING

CALL FOR BIDS
2027 – 2028 – 2029

2027 U18 Women's National Tackle Championship	2028 U16 Eastern Challenge	2029 U18 Canada Cup + U16 Eastern Challenge
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Issued by Football Ontario
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Bid Submission Deadline: June 12, 2026

1. Executive Summary

Football Ontario invites municipalities, tourism organizations, universities, and sport facility partners to submit a bid to host one or more of the following national tackle football events:

Year	Event	Duration	Month
2027	U18 Women’s National Tackle Championship	9 Days	July 2027
2028	U16 Eastern Challenge	6 Days	July 2028
2029	U18 Canada Cup + U16 Eastern Challenge	9 Days	July 2029

Football Ontario is the largest football Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) in Canada, overseeing tackle and flag football programming for 30,000+ participants across Ontario. As the awarded host province for these Football Canada national events, Football Ontario is seeking a host community partner to provide the venue, accommodation, and tourism infrastructure necessary to deliver a world-class sport experience for athletes, coaches, volunteers and spectators.

Football Ontario will deliver full event operations, equipment, and staffing - significantly reducing the burden on the host community while maximizing the economic, tourism, and community benefits for the chosen city.

Combined estimated economic impact across all three events: \$3.1M – \$4.4M. Total estimated room nights: 4,300 – 5,500. Total estimated participants and spectators: 6,000 – 8,000 across the three-year cycle.

Hosting Options

Football Ontario is accepting bids for:

- Option A – Single-Event Hosting: A municipality may bid on one event in any given year (2027, 2028, or 2029).
- Option B – Multi-Year Partnership: A municipality may bid to host all three events across the 2027–2029 cycle, maximizing economic impact and long-term community legacy.

2. About Football Ontario

Football Ontario (FO) is the recognized Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) responsible for the governance, development, and delivery of amateur football in Ontario. With the largest football participation base in Canada, Football Ontario plays a leading role in the national football landscape.

Key Facts

Participants	30,000+ registered participants across Ontario
National Events Delivered	Women's Tackle National Championship (2023), Elite Flag National Championships (2024-2026), Club Flag National Championships (2024-2026)
National Partnerships	Football Canada, NFL Canada, CFL, Detroit Lions, Buffalo Bills, MLSE/Toronto Argonauts, Hamilton Tiger Cats, Ottawa RedBlacks, TeamLinkt, BioSteel, Area 51 Sports

Football Ontario's proven track record in hosting large-scale multi-day events, combined with its extensive volunteer base and equipment inventory, makes it uniquely positioned to deliver these national championships with minimal reliance on host community infrastructure.

3. Event Overviews

2027 – U18 Women’s National Tackle Championship

The U18 Women’s National Tackle Championship is a Football Canada national championship event bringing together the top provincial women’s tackle football teams from across Canada. Athletes range from 15-17 years old and compete in 6v6 tackle football. Established in 2022, the championship has grown rapidly into a cornerstone of Football Canada’s high-performance calendar, and the 2027 edition will be the sixth instalment of the event. The championship has historically attracted national partnerships, including NFL Canada and provincial tourism boards, and aligns with broader women-in-sport initiatives. Previous host locations include Calgary, Alberta (University of Calgary), Fredericton, New Brunswick (University of New Brunswick), Ottawa, Ontario (Carleton University), and Regina, Saskatchewan (University of Regina). Team Ontario previously won gold at the Championship in New Brunswick, in 2025.

Event Parameter	Details
Teams	8 provincial / territorial teams (6-8 teams)
Athletes per Team	22 athletes
Delegation per Team	~33 (athletes + coaching staff)
Total Accredited Participants	~250-300
Game Days	3
Total Games	12
Event Duration	9 days (July)
Officials Required	14–18 certified officials
Estimated Spectators	1,200–1,500
Estimated Room Nights	1,100–1,400
National Sponsor Precedent	NFL Canada (2025 edition)
Estimated Economic Impact	\$700,000 – \$1,000,000

2028 – U16 Eastern Challenge

The U16 Eastern Challenge is a Football Canada event for under-16 athletes representing Eastern Canadian provinces - Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. It serves as a critical developmental platform, introducing elite youth athletes to national-level competition on the pathway to the Canada Cup and beyond. The centralized university residence model is the established standard for this event, with recent editions hosted at Bishop's University (2026) and St. FX University (2025), confirming the venue model Football Ontario is proposing.

Event Parameter	Details
Teams	4 provincial teams
Athletes per Team	40 athletes
Delegation per Team	~50 (athletes + coaching staff)
Total Accredited Participants	~200–250
Game Days	2
Total Games	4
Event Duration	6 days (July)
Officials Required	10–12 certified officials
Estimated Spectators	1,000–1,300
Estimated Room Nights	700–900
Estimated Economic Impact	\$600,000 – \$900,000

2029 – U18 Canada Cup + U16 Eastern Challenge

The 2029 event year is the largest hosting opportunity in this cycle, combining the premier U18 Canada Cup with the Eastern Challenge. Established in 1995, the Canada Cup is Football Canada's flagship national championship — the premier pre-university football tournament in Canada. The event is a critical showcase for USports recruitment, with university coaches and scouts attending to evaluate Canada's top under-18 talent — making a university campus an especially compelling hosting environment.

Ontario was the winner of the 2025 Canada Cup and has made it to the Gold Medal Game in both the Eastern Challenge and the Canada Cup in each of the past two years.

Event Parameter	Details
Canada Cup Teams	8 teams
Eastern Challenge Teams	4 teams
Athletes per Team	40 athletes
Total Accredited Participants	~650–700
Game Days	5
Total Games	16
Event Duration	10-14 days (July)
Officials Required	20–24 certified officials
Estimated Spectators	2,000–2,500
Estimated Room Nights	2,500–3,200
Estimated Economic Impact	\$1,800,000 – \$2,500,000

4. Economic Impact Summary

The following projections are based on Sport Tourism Canada benchmarks (average overnight visitor spend of approximately \$225/day) and comparable national football events hosted in Alberta in 2025.

Event	Participants + Spectators	Est. Room Nights	Est. Economic Impact
2027 – U18 Women’s Nationals	1,450–1,800 (8 teams confirmed)	1,100–1,400	\$700K–\$1.0M
2028 – Eastern Challenge	1,200–1,550	700–900	\$600K–\$900K
2029 – Canada Cup + Eastern Challenge	2,650–3,200	2,500–3,200	\$1.8M–\$2.5M
3-YEAR TOTAL	5,300–6,550	4,300–5,500	\$3.1M–\$4.4M

Note: Row totals use the low-end and high-end of each range. All impact figures use Sport Tourism Canada standardized methodology. A host city may request a customized economic impact report for grant applications.

National Broadcast & Digital Exposure

All Football Canada national events are livestreamed via Football Canada TV on YouTube, providing meaningful national digital exposure for the host community:

Platform / Metric	Estimated Range
Live viewers per game	1,000–3,000
Total per event YouTube views	20,000–60,000+
Social media impressions	2,000,000+
Provinces represented (2029)	8 provinces

5. Host Community Requirements

Prospective host communities must demonstrate the ability to fulfill the following requirements. These represent the minimum standards necessary to deliver a national-level championship event.

5.1 Competition & Training Facilities

- One (1) stadium-quality football field (natural grass or artificial turf)
- Scoreboard with functioning game-clock capability
- Broadcast infrastructure: hardwired internet access and camera positioning for livestream production
- Adequate seating or spectator areas for 1,000–2,500 attendees (event dependent)
- Two (2) practice fields available throughout the event duration
- Locker rooms and dedicated team meeting rooms for participating teams
- Medical / athletic therapy space accessible to all teams
- Press box or broadcast area

5.2 Accommodation

- University or college residence preferred for centralized team housing
- Capacity requirements by event year:

Event Year	Required Bed Capacity
2027 (U18 Women's Nationals)	300–500 beds
2028 (Eastern Challenge)	300–500 beds
2029 (Canada Cup + Eastern Challenge)	500–700 beds

- Accommodation must house all athletes, coaches, and officials in a centralized environment
- Meal service or cafeteria access on-site or within walking distance
- Proximity to competition and practice fields is strongly preferred

5.3 Transportation

- Walking distance between residence, competition field, and practice fields is strongly preferred
- If not within walking distance, the host community must provide (or co-fund) a reliable shuttle system between:
 - Residence → competition venue
 - Residence → practice fields

- Football Ontario will coordinate transportation logistics; host community provides or assists in securing vehicle/transit resources

5.4 Financial & In-Kind Contribution

Football Ontario is seeking a host community financial contribution to support event delivery. The following ranges are targets based on comparable national sport event hosting models:

Event Year	Target Financial Contribution
2027 (Single Event)	\$75,000 – \$125,000
2028 (Single Event)	\$75,000 – \$100,000
2029 (Combined Events)	\$125,000 – \$200,000
Multi-Year (All 3 Events)	\$275,000 – \$425,000

Eligible funding sources include (but are not limited to):

- Ontario Sport Hosting Program (OSHP) – Stream 1 (Football Ontario as PSO) or Stream 2 (host municipality / university). National events are eligible for up to \$100,000 per event.
- Destination Ontario / Regional Tourism Development funds
- Municipal tourism grants and Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) contributions
- Federal sport hosting support programs
- Local corporate and in-kind sponsorship contributions

Important OSHP Note: Applications must be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Sport through Transfer Payment Ontario. The event's start date must fall within two years of the application date, so Football Ontario and the host community should plan OSHP applications accordingly for each event year. Football Ontario (as a recognized PSO) is eligible to apply under Stream 1; municipalities and universities may apply under Stream 2. Both streams require endorsement letters from the relevant sport organization.

In-kind contributions (facility access, accommodation subsidies, transportation support) are also welcomed and valued as part of the overall bid assessment.

5.5 Medical Requirements

The host community must support the following minimum medical provisions for all game days:

- Certified Athletic Therapist(s) on-site throughout the event duration (Football Ontario will provide certified ATs)
- Ambulance or EMS unit available for all game days
- Dedicated medical / athletic therapy room accessible to all teams throughout the event

5.6 Spectator Hotel Room Block

The host community or its tourism partner is required to negotiate and secure a dedicated spectator hotel room block to accommodate visiting family members, fans, and guests. This is a requirement of the bid and will be evaluated as part of the financial and tourism partnership assessment. Football Ontario is currently partnering with HTG to secure event rooms.

- Minimum room block: 200 rooms (2027/2028) / 400 rooms (2029)
- Preferred rate negotiated with one or more local hotel partners
- Block must be held for a minimum of 60 days prior to each event
- Host community tourism office or Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) should confirm the hotel partnership in writing as part of the bid submission

5.7 Concessions & Food Service

Concession services must be available at the competition venue on all game days. Football Ontario and the host community may jointly determine the most appropriate operational model:

- Option A – Host-Operated: Host community or venue operator provides and operates concessions
- Option B – Football Ontario-Operated: Football Ontario operates concessions with host community support
- Option C – Third-Party / Local Vendor: A local food vendor or caterer is contracted to provide services

Regardless of model, concessions must be operational during all spectator attendance windows. Proceeds and revenue sharing arrangements will be defined in the Host Agreement.

5.8 Insurance & Liability

Football Ontario and Football Canada carry the required event liability insurance for all sanctioned national events. Details will be confirmed during the Host Agreement negotiation process.

6. Football Ontario Obligations

Football Ontario and Football Canada will serve as the Rights Holder and primary event operator for all three events. The following commitments are provided by Football Ontario and reduce the operational burden on the host community; Football Ontario would ideally work with a location that could assist in providing support in the following:

6.1 Event Operations

- Full event management and logistics staffing (Football Ontario + Football Canada operations staff on-site throughout each event)
- Game scheduling, format management, and competition structure (in coordination with Football Canada)
- Volunteer recruitment, coordination, and management
- Team liaison and delegation services
- Credential management and accreditation

6.2 Equipment & Infrastructure

- Event tents, canopies, and outdoor infrastructure
- Signage, banners, and event branding
- Field equipment (pylons, chains, down markers, sideline equipment)
- General event supply inventory

6.3 Football Canada Coordination

- All event coordination with Football Canada including technical rules, officials' assignment, and national event standards
- Coordination of provincial team participation
- Liaison with Football Canada for all broadcast and digital content

6.4 Volunteer Structure

Role	2027	2028	2029
Organizing Committee	8–10	8–10	10–12
General Volunteers	55–70	40–55	90–110
Total Volunteers	~70–80	~50–65	~100–120

7. Bid Submission Requirements

All prospective host communities are required to submit a complete written bid package addressing each of the following components. Incomplete submissions may not be evaluated.

7.1 Required Submission Components

#	Section	Required Information
1	Municipality / Organization Overview	Name of lead organization, municipality, tourism board, or post-secondary institution. Primary contact information. Brief description of the community and its sport hosting experience.
2	Hosting Option	Clearly indicate whether your bid is for Option A (single event) – specify year, or Option B (multi-year partnership – 2027, 2028, 2029).
3	Competition Venue	Name and address of proposed stadium. Field specifications (natural/artificial turf, dimensions). Scoreboard and broadcast capability. Seating / spectator capacity. Locker room and meeting room availability.
4	Practice Facilities	Number of practice fields available. Distance from competition venue and residence. Surface type and availability during event duration.
5	Accommodation	Proposed residence facility (name, address). Total bed capacity. Distance from competition venues and practice fields. Meal service availability. Nightly rate per participant (if applicable).
6	Transportation Plan	Describe walking access or proposed shuttle logistics. Estimated transport time between residence and competition venue. Transportation provider or commitment.
7	Financial Proposal	Total financial contribution is proposed. Breakdown by source: municipal grants, tourism funding, in-kind contributions, other. Confirmation of funding pathway (e.g., OSHP application, tourism board agreement).
8	Letters of Support	Letter from the municipality or city council. Letter from the tourism office or destination organization. Letter from post-secondary institution (if applicable). Any additional partner letters of intent.
9	References	References from previously hosted provincial or national sport events.

7.2 Site Visit

Football Ontario reserves the right to conduct a site visit to shortlisted bid communities prior to final selection. Site visits will be coordinated directly with the primary contact identified in the bid.

8. Evaluation Criteria

All bids will be evaluated by Football Ontario's Hosting Selection Committee using the following weighted criteria:

Criterion	Weight	Max Score
Facility Quality (competition field, practice fields, broadcast)	25%	25
Accommodation (capacity, proximity, quality, cost)	20%	20
Financial Contribution (total value, funding confirmed)	20%	20
Transportation (walking access or shuttle logistics)	10%	10
Community & Tourism Support (letters, partnerships, engagement)	10%	10
Previous Hosting Experience	10%	10
Multi-Year Hosting Preference (Option B)	5%	5
TOTAL	100%	100

9. Process & Timeline

Call for Bids Issued	Football Ontario distributes this document to prospective host communities and municipalities.
Bidder Information Session	Optional virtual or in-person briefing session for interested municipalities. Contact Tyler McNicholl.
Bid Submission Deadline	[JUNE 12, 2026] – All submissions must be received by 5:00 PM EST.
Evaluation Period	Football Ontario’s Hosting Selection Committee reviews all submissions.
Site Visits (if applicable)	Shortlisted communities may be invited for a site visit.
Host Announcement	[AUGUST 2026] – Football Ontario announces the selected host community(ies).
Host Agreement Executed	Football Ontario and host community execute a formal hosting agreement.

10. Contact & Submission Information

All bid submissions and inquiries must be directed to the Football Ontario contact below. Bids submitted after the deadline or alternate contacts will not be accepted.

FOOTBALL ONTARIO

Director of Operations

Tyler McNicholl

tmcnicholl@footballontario.net

www.footballontario.net

Bids may be submitted by email. Please include “Football Ontario Hosting Bid – [Year/Event]” in the subject line. All submitted materials will be treated as confidential by Football Ontario.

Football Ontario thanks all prospective host communities for their interest in delivering national football in Ontario. Football Ontario will follow up for further information, but not every group that applies may be contacted depending on the strength of the bid.