

# Aurora FC Technical Director Report

## 2025 Season

### Club Purpose

Aurora FC strives to create an environment where members of the soccer community can play, develop, and enjoy the game for life. Our goal is to be recognized as one of the leading clubs in Canada by producing high-quality players while providing a positive and enjoyable platform for players, coaches, referees, and volunteers to succeed.

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### Key Club & Player Accomplishments

- Aurora FC had 20+ OPDL players (U14–U17) identified for Provincial Screening Events for the 2024 season held in 2025.
  - 2010 player Isabella Noce was selected to the Ontario U15 Girls Provincial Team.
  - 2011 player Kiana Dumitra was selected to the Ontario U14 Girls Provincial Team.
  - 2011 player Mark Kaldas was selected to the Ontario U14 Boys Provincial Team.
  - 2010 Boys OPDL reached the OPDL Cup Final.
  - Aurora FC had all 10 age groups represented in the 2025 OPDL season
  - Aurora FC had full representation in the YRSL (U8–U12), with most age groups fielding 1st and 2nd Division teams.
  - Aurora FC fielded 6 U13+ competitive teams in the I-Model (Regional) and 3 teams competing in the YRSL (District).
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### Technical Staff Structure

Aurora FC made minor adjustments to the technical staff structure for the 2024/25 season:

- Dave Diplacido – Technical Director
- Marco Ciampa – Assistant Technical Director (Grassroots U7–U12)
- Pat McMurray – House League Head Coach / Recreational Programming Lead
- Don Ferguson – Head Goalkeeper Coach
- Jake Ratcliffe – Assistant Goalkeeper Coach (*New*)
- Shengyang Song – U7–U8 Boys Program Manager
- David Caldwell – U7–U8 Girls Program Manager
- Johnny Borsellino – OPDL Technical Manager / Men’s High Performance Manager

Age Group Lead Coaches continue to oversee player development within each age group, ensuring the use of open roster principles and consistent development standards across teams.

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## **High Performance & OPDL**

Aurora FC continues to support a strong High Performance pathway for players.

### **OPDL Program**

- Full complement of 10 OPDL teams in 2025.
- 2012 Boys and Girls OPDL teams selected for the 2025 season.

### **League1 Reserve**

- Aurora FC operated U20 Men's and Women's League1 Reserve teams, providing an additional development pathway for high-level players transitioning toward senior soccer.

Special thanks to Virgilio Persico for his leadership in overseeing the High-Performance program.

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## **Player Development Programs**

### **Individualized Training Hub**

Aurora FC continued its small-group training program for OPDL players (U13–U17) during the fall and winter. With an 8:1 player-to-coach ratio, the program provides focused individual development. The program is led by Johnny Borsellino.

### **Skillz Development Program**

This small-group training program supports U7–U12 competitive players, offering individualized feedback and targeted skill development within a specialized training environment.

### **Futsal Program**

Aurora FC continued implementing weekly futsal sessions for competitive teams during the winter months in school gymnasiums. The program supports technical development and faster decision-making in small-sided environments.

### **Skills & Scrimmages**

Weekly Saturday Skills Clinics were offered throughout the summer, fall, and winter, serving players U5–U12+. The three-hour block format promotes a strong community environment while providing additional training and gameplay opportunities.

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## **Camps & Grassroots Development**

### **Summer & March Break Camps**

Aurora FC hosted four weeks of Summer Camps in July for players ages 6–16, open to both House League and Competitive players. Camps focused on technical skill development, small-sided games, and fun competition in a positive learning environment.

A half-day March Break Camp was also offered for recreational and competitive players, focusing on skill development and confidence building.

### **Soccer 4U**

The Soccer 4U program, led by Pat McMurray, continued to see strong participation. The program is designed for players under 4 years old and focuses on motor skills, social development, and introducing young players to the game in a fun environment.

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## **House League**

The Aurora FC provides opportunities for boys and girls to participate in the House League program from ages 5-18. Players participated in weekly games and practices, as well as an opening and closing tournament. Many thanks to Mark Jarrett for overseeing the program and Sandy Porter, staff & convenors for their tremendous work.

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## **Competitive Program**

Many thanks go out to Christopher Edwards for overseeing the competitive program. Players from the ages of U-8 to U-18 are involved in the competitive program, practicing 2-4 times a week, as well as a game a week. Players train all year round representing the Aurora FC in league, tournament, Provincial championships and Showcase events.

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## **Goalkeeper Development**

Goalkeeper training continued to be led by Head GK Coach Don Ferguson.

- Weekly goalkeeper clinics were offered for U8–U10, U11–U14, and U15+ age groups throughout the Fall, Winter, and summer seasons.
  - OPDL goalkeepers trained twice per week year-round, including game-day assessments.
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## **Strength & Conditioning / Sports Therapy**

Aurora FC continued its partnership with Game Day Sports Therapy and Dr. Milad Mohib, who supports the club's OPDL strength and conditioning programming.

Key initiatives included:

- Age-specific strength and conditioning training for OPDL teams
  - Securing a fitness training facility for winter conditioning, allowing additional indoor field space for competitive teams.
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## **Club Curriculum & System of Play**

Aurora FC continued implementing a club-wide system of play based on a 4-3-3 formation, ensuring consistency in teaching the principles of the game from 4v4 through 11v11.

Prior to the outdoor season, a coaches meeting was held to review the club curriculum and system of play for U8–U18 teams, with coaches receiving age-appropriate training guidelines and sample sessions.

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## **Community Programs**

### **Stinger Stars – Special Needs Program**

The Stinger Stars Program continues to provide soccer opportunities for players ages 6–16 with physical or intellectual disabilities. Sessions run weekly during both the outdoor and indoor seasons.

Special thanks to the Aurora FC players who volunteer with the program and to Pat McMurray for his continued leadership.

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## Referee Development

Aurora FC referees are led by Head Referee Everton Lake, who continues to support referee recruitment and mentorship.

Players 12 years of age and older are encouraged to become referees, with advancement opportunities available for those who meet the required standards.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dave Diplacido*

Dave Diplacido  
Executive Director/ Technical Director  
Aurora FC

*Marco Ciampa*

Marco Ciampa  
Technical Director/ Executive Director  
Aurora FC