

= Toronto FC =

Toronto FC (TFC) is a Canadian professional soccer club based in Toronto , Ontario that competes in Major League Soccer (MLS) , in the Eastern Conference of the league . The team plays their home matches at their BMO Field , located in Exhibition Place along the western part of the Toronto lake shore .

Toronto FC was MLS 's fourteenth , and first Canadian , franchise in the league . The team is coached by Greg Vanney and operated by Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment , which also operates the NHL 's Toronto Maple Leafs , the AHL 's Toronto Marlies , the NBA 's Toronto Raptors (and the NBA Development League 's Raptors 905 by extension) and the USL 's Toronto FC II .

Toronto FC are five @-@ time Canadian Champions , and its most significant achievement to date is reaching the semifinals of the 2011 ? 12 CONCACAF Champions League .

= = History = =

= = = Expansion = = =

Toronto was awarded an expansion team in 2005 , with team owner Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd . (MLSE) paying \$ 10 million for the team . The name of the club was officially announced on May 11 , 2006 . The " FC " in the team 's name is the conventional initialism for Football Club .

The announcement followed an online consultation in which the public was invited to vote on the name during a limited period . The voting options were " Toronto Northmen , " " Inter Toronto FC , " " Toronto Reds , " and " Toronto FC . " MLSE 's strategy in choosing " Toronto FC " following this process was based on two reasons . Firstly , over 40 percent of the online vote supported the simplified Toronto FC name during the consultation ; secondly , MLSE hoped that the fairly generic name would help the new club earn a more organic nickname from the Toronto fans rather than having one imposed upon the club . The team has been called " TFC " and " the Reds " by the media and the club .

= = = Early years (2007 ? 2010) = = =

Despite a long scoreless streak to start the team 's history , Toronto FC quickly began to establish itself as a club with significant fan support . The club 's first win on May 12 at BMO Field saw Danny Dichio score in the 24th minute , which prompted the sellout crowd to toss promotional plastic seat cushions onto the field in celebration . Though TFC would slip to the bottom of the MLS standings with a record of 6 ? 17 ? 7 , the club built a foundation as the first Canadian team in MLS . In the club 's second season in 2008 , Toronto hosted the 2008 MLS All @-@ Star Game . The team finished last in the Eastern Conference with a record of 9 ? 13 ? 8 , but the enthusiastic fan base continued to fill BMO Field to capacity . To determine the Canadian Soccer Association 's representative in the CONCACAF Champions League , Toronto FC played in the inaugural 2008 Canadian Championship competing for the Voyageurs Cup . TFC were the favourites to win the championship in its first year , but the Montreal Impact prevailed .

The last @-@ place New York Red Bulls defeated Toronto FC 5 ? 0 in the final 2009 regular season game , leaving TFC one point out of the playoffs . Despite bringing in some high profile talent , the Reds could not seem to field a consistent side . Dwayne De Rosario became an immediate scoring influence and Amado Guevara was a strong playmaker and established MLS veteran , but the Honduran 's future at the Canadian club seemed murky with looming 2010 FIFA World Cup duties . Rookie goalkeeper Stefan Frei quickly replaced Greg Sutton as a regular starter and immediately became a fan favourite . TFC only scored 2 goals in the final 15 minutes of games all season (last in MLS) . During the same 15 @-@ minute period they gave up 16 goals (most in MLS) , thus creating a ? 14 goal differential during the final 15 minutes .

In the 2009 Canadian Championship , Toronto FC required a four @-@ goal victory over the Montreal Impact in the final game of the competition to nullify the Vancouver Whitecaps ' + 4 goal differential . Anything less would result in Vancouver winning the championship . Toronto FC went down 1 ? 0 early , but overwhelmed an under @-@ strength Impact side 6 ? 1 on the back of a hat @-@ trick by De Rosario . Guevara added two , scoring in the 69th and 92nd minute . Chad Barrett scored the decisive goal in the 82nd minute , which gave TFC the lead over Vancouver . The unlikely victory was dubbed by fans and media as the Miracle in Montreal . Toronto FC subsequently participated in the 2009 ? 10 CONCACAF Champions League , but lost 1 ? 0 on aggregate to the Puerto Rico Islanders in the preliminary round of the tournament .

After failing to qualify on the final day of the 2009 campaign , Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment said anything short of a playoff spot in 2010 would be unacceptable . With that directive , former director of soccer Mo Johnston hired Preki and made wholesale changes to the roster to reflect the US Hall of Famer ' s plan to play a tough , defensive style . Despite scoring troubles , TFC played well at the start , going undefeated in seven games at one time . The team struggled following the World Cup break . Sensing problems in the locker room and to try to salvage the season , MLSE dismissed both Johnston and Preki on September 14 , naming Earl Cochrane interim director of soccer and Nick Dasovic interim coach . The players responded to Dasovic 's more open , flexible style , but it wasn 't enough as the club was eliminated from playoff contention with three games left in the season . Off @-@ field issues with season @-@ seat holders over the 2011 season ticket package added to the fans ' frustrations , forcing MLSE to hold a series of town hall meetings .

Toronto FC played C.D. Motagua in the preliminary round of the 2010 ? 11 CONCACAF Champions League . TFC won 1 ? 0 in the first leg on a goal by Chad Barrett , and tied 2 ? 2 in the second leg on goals by De Rosario and Barrett , qualifying for the group stage . Toronto FC won their first ever group stage match 2 ? 1 against Cruz Azul on August 17 , 2010 . However , the team failed to qualify for the championship round after finishing in 3rd place behind group winners Real Salt Lake and 2nd place Cruz Azul .

= = = Highs and extreme lows of Ajax culture (2011 ? 2012) = = =

On November 3 , 2010 , MLSE formally announced the hiring of former German international and coach Jürgen Klinsmann , and his California @-@ based company , SoccerSolutions , to fix the club 's game . Over the next six months , Klinsmann assessed the club , identifying a playing style and recommended a candidate for the director of soccer position . On January 6 , 2011 , the new management team for Toronto FC was announced . Aron Winter was hired as Head coach with his compatriot , Bob de Klerk named First Assistant coach . Paul Mariner was named as Director of soccer . Winter was selected to bring the Ajax culture , possession and 4 @-@ 3 @-@ 3 system to Toronto FC . Management made wholesale changes to the roster before and during the 2011 season , trading numerous players and eventually their captain and Toronto native De Rosario .

Toronto FC used its remaining two designated player slots on two notable European players , signing Torsten Frings and Danny Koevermans to 2 @.@ 5 year contracts . The team went on to set a record for most players used in a MLS season with 39 . Despite a strong finish to the season with only 2 losses in their last 12 games , TFC missed the MLS playoffs for a fifth straight year . Nonetheless , they earned a win in their final group stage match of 2011 ? 12 CONCACAF Champions League at Pizza Hut Park against FC Dallas , securing a berth in the knockout stage versus LA Galaxy . After a 2 ? 2 draw in Toronto before 47 @,@ 658 fans at the Rogers Centre , Toronto FC defeated the Galaxy 2 ? 1 in Los Angeles to reach the CONCACAF Champions League semifinals , the first Canadian team to do so . They were defeated by Santos Laguna in their semifinal .

On June 7 , 2012 , Aron Winter resigned from the club upon refusing to be reassigned from his Head coaching role after the team started the season with a nine @-@ game losing streak , setting an MLS record for worst start to a season . Under Winter in 2012 , the club 's league record was 1 ? 9 ? 0 and in all other competitions was 3 ? 1 ? 4 , including a fourth @-@ straight Canadian Championship . He was replaced by Paul Mariner , but TFC continued to struggle finishing with a 4

? 12 ? 8 record in league play under him . Toronto FC also failed to advance in the CONCACAF Champions League , finishing second in its group with a 2 ? 2 ? 0 record . Overall , they finished the MLS season on a 14 @-@ game winless streak and ended up in last place , with just 5 wins and 23 points (both franchise lows) .

= = = New levels of ambition , first playoffs (2013 ? present) = = =

It was announced Kevin Payne would be leaving D.C. United for the general manager position at Toronto FC on November 27 , 2012 . First @-@ time coach Ryan Nelsen replaced Mariner as of January 7 , 2013 . On April 25 , 2013 , Payne signed the first ever young designated player in MLS , Matías Loba . On July 9 , Payne controversially traded Luis Silva to D.C. United for an undisclosed amount of allocation money . The club fired Payne on September 4 . Following the removal of Payne , recently appointed MLSE president Tim Leiweke reasoned that there were philosophical differences between the two as to how Toronto FC should move forward into 2014 and beyond . Leiweke , who brought David Beckham to the LA Galaxy in early 2007 , quickly revealed that he intended to make TFC more competitive with similarly ambitious , blockbuster signings . On September 20 , Toronto FC announced that the vacant general manager position had been filled by Tim Bezbatchenko .

Under Bezbatchenko , Toronto FC made several high profile moves during the 2013 ? 14 off season . Among the transfers were MLS veterans Justin Morrow and Jackson ; Brasileiro star Gilberto , United States international Michael Bradley of A.S. Roma , and the return of Toronto FC leading goal scorer De Rosario . On January 10 , 2014 , Tottenham Hotspur announced they had agreed a deal with the club over the transfer of England international Jermain Defoe for a reported fee of £ 6 million , as well as an Advertising Rights Agreement with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd . This would see Defoe earn a reported £ 90 @,@ 000 a week , making him the highest earner in MLS . These moves required the trade of Matias Loba to Vancouver , to comply with MLS 's maximum of three designated players per team . On February 7 , 2014 , Brazil national team keeper Júlio César joined on loan from Queens Park Rangers . The team started the year with promise , but much like 2010 , they floundered after the World Cup break . On August 31 , Nelsen was fired by Bezbatchenko a day after a 0 ? 3 defeat to the New England Revolution at BMO field , where Nelsen criticized Bezbatchenko in his post @-@ match press conference for putting the players under needless pressure in the media . The head coaching position was filled by former American international and Chivas USA assistant , Greg Vanney . Although the club won the most games in its history , it failed to reach the playoffs for the eighth consecutive year .

After completing only 11 months of his four @-@ year contract with TFC , Defoe joined Premier League club Sunderland on January 16 , 2015 , as part of a player exchange sending Jozy Altidore in the other direction . Three days later , the club signed Italian international Sebastian Giovinco on an annual salary of \$ 7 million . On September 26 , Giovinco scored and assisted in a 3 ? 2 win over Chicago , putting him on 35 points for the season , breaking Chris Wondolowski 's league record . Toronto FC clinched a playoff berth on October 14 , for the first time in franchise history , and Giovinco 's totals of 22 goals and 16 assists made him the first TFC player to win the MLS Golden Boot . The team were eliminated in the knockout round of the 2015 MLS Cup Playoffs by a 3 ? 0 loss at 401 Derby rivals Montreal Impact . On June 29 , 2016 , Toronto FC won its fifth Canadian Championship , as they beat Vancouver 2 ? 2 on aggregate , winning on away goals . Giovinco scored a hat @-@ trick against D.C. United , on July 23 , 2016 , in a 4 ? 1 home win , surpassing De Rosario 's previous all @-@ time record as Toronto FC 's top scorer by two goals to 35 goals .

= = Stadium = =

BMO Field ; Toronto , Ontario (2007 ? present) [primary venue]

Rogers Centre ; Toronto , Ontario (2012 ? present) [early season and marquee @-@ game venue]

Before the 2007 Major League Soccer season , construction was completed on a new stadium at

Exhibition Place in Toronto at a cost of \$ 62 @. @ 5 million . On September 20 , 2006 , MLS 's official website announced that BMO Financial Group had officially purchased the naming rights for the new stadium . It is the largest soccer @-@ specific stadium in Canada . It is owned by the City of Toronto , while MLSE , the team 's owner , operates it .

As the National Soccer Stadium , it served as a major venue for the 2007 FIFA U @-@ 20 World Cup , including hosting the opening and final matches . In 2008 , it played host to the 2008 MLS All @-@ Star Game . BMO Field has also hosted various high profile teams in international friendlies such as Real Madrid in 2009 . It was chosen as a neutral venue to host the 2010 MLS Cup in November 2010 . It also holds other sports , such as Rugby Sevens during the 2015 Pan American Games and beginning in 2016 , the Toronto Argonauts Canadian Football League team .

Following criticism of BMO Field 's use of FieldTurf and its rapid deterioration , MLSE agreed to a deal with the city to replace it with a natural grass surface in time for the 2010 MLS Season . Along with the grass , a heating and drainage system was also installed at a cost of \$ 3 @. @ 5 million to MLSE .

In March 2012 , TFC played its first @-@ ever match in the Rogers Centre , the 49 @, @ 982 @-@ capacity home of Major League Baseball 's Toronto Blue Jays and former home of the Argonauts , hosting the LA Galaxy in the home leg of the 2011 ? 12 CONCACAF Champions League Championship Round . The retractable @-@ roof stadium was also the venue for a friendly against Liverpool of the English Premier League in July of that year .

= = = Expansion = = =

Expansion to the north end that cost \$ 2 million and added 1 @, @ 249 seats was completed for the start of the 2010 MLS Season . A \$ 120 million renovation to the stadium was officially announced September 23 , 2014 . It includes a second tier of seating that would add 8 @, @ 400 seats , raising the capacity of the stadium to 30 @, @ 991 . New suites , washrooms , concourse and a roof would also be added . Construction began in September 2014 and would be divided into two phases , with the completion of the project set for May 2016 . The expansion would accommodate a Canadian football field with artificial turf end @-@ zones when the Toronto Argonauts move to BMO Field in 2016 .

= = Club culture = =

= = = Supporters = = =

Toronto FC 's initial seasons saw TFC fans set the standard for MLS fan support , selling out its first three seasons . Referred to as the model franchise off the field by MLS commissioner Don Garber , the club was credited for starting " MLS 2 @. @ 0 " for their embrace of supporters ' culture . Lack of on @-@ field success caused frustration among the fanbase , spurring fan protests against ownership . In response , MLSE acknowledged the lack of quality on the on @-@ field product , lowering ticket prices in 2013 to 2007 levels . Following a resurgence of interest in the club due to the major signings of Jermain Defoe and Michael Bradley , the club capped season tickets at 17 @, @ 000 for the 2014 season .

Toronto FC 's recognized supporters ' groups are the Red Patch Boys , U @-@ Sector , Inebriatti , Kings in the North , Tribal Rhythm Nation and Original 109 .

= = = Mascot = = =

The official mascot for Toronto FC is Bitchy the Hawk .

= = = Rivalries = = =

Toronto FC 's biggest rival , Montreal Impact , joined MLS in 2012 . In the years leading up to this , they emerged as fierce rivals during the Canadian Championship . The proximity of the two cities and the fact that Toronto and Montreal are long @-@ standing rivals in NHL ice hockey contributes to these meetings being combative . Since both teams have joined MLS , the rivalry has intensified and the matches have become a Canadian soccer classic , which has also been named the 401 Derby , named after Ontario Highway 401 linking the two cities . On March 16 , 2013 , Toronto FC fans set an MLS record for travelling support with 3 @, @ 200 away fans in Montreal to watch TFC lose 2 ? 1 , eclipsing their own record of 2 @, @ 400 at Columbus Crew in 2008 .

Columbus Crew and Toronto FC have competed for the Trillium Cup since 2008 . Although a manufactured rivalry , the meetings have since sparked bitterness . On March 28 , 2009 , approximately 1 @, @ 700 Toronto FC supporters travelled to Columbus Crew Stadium and witnessed a 1 ? 1 draw , during which they lit a number of flares and allegedly committed vandalism . Following the game some altercations broke out between the two supporter groups . Overwhelmed security called police who ended the melees and made arrests , at which time a TFC fan was tasered while being subdued . The first rematch back in Columbus Crew Stadium following the incident was boycotted by Toronto FC supporters in wake of restrictions imposed on them by Crew officials .

Toronto FC also have a rivalry with Vancouver Whitecaps FC .

= = = Colours = = =

The official team colours include red as the primary colour , with black , grey and white as secondary colours .

The primary kit (jersey , shorts and socks) is red with black trim , whereas the secondary kit includes white jerseys with a large red stripe below a smaller blue stripe across the chest and blue and red trim , white socks with blue trim , and with either red or blue shorts (the choice of which is subject to the opponent kit) . In its first three seasons , Toronto FC 's secondary kit colours were light and dark grey . The following four seasons saw white secondary kits , whereas in 2014 , the secondary kits were changed to onyx . As with all MLS teams , the kits are produced by Adidas . In 2013 and 2014 , a shadow @-@ print maple leaf was featured on Toronto FC 's primary jerseys .

Since the club 's formation in 2007 , it has been sponsored by the Bank of Montreal (BMO) . The sponsorship was initially worth \$ 1 ? 1 @. @ 5 million per season , but in 2010 , a new five @-@ year deal worth \$ 4 million per season was signed . In February 2016 , it was announced that BMO had extended its sponsorship agreement through 2016 .

= = Ownership = =

Toronto FC are operated by Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd . , who also own and operate the Toronto Maple Leafs , the Toronto Raptors and the Toronto Marlies , along with sports ventures like Leafs TV , NBA TV Canada and GoITV Canada . The company is also involved in real estate and property management , owning such sports venues such as the Air Canada Centre and being a partner in the development of Maple Leaf Square . The partners of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment are Larry Tanenbaum and rival media outlets Rogers Communications and Bell Media ; Rogers and Bell own each of the primary sports television outlets in Canada (Sportsnet and TSN respectively) , while Tanenbaum and Bell share ownership of the Toronto Argonauts , who share BMO Field with Toronto FC beginning in 2016 .

= = Players and staff = =

= = = Current roster = = =

Where a player has not declared an international allegiance , nation is determined by place of birth .

Squad correct as of March 1 , 2016 .

== Current staff ==

As of October 2015

== Head coaches ==

As of March 6 , 2016

1 . ^ Includes league , playoff , Canadian Championship and CONCACAF Champions League games .

== Youth development ==

== Toronto FC II ==

Toronto FC II was established in November 2014 and is the farm club of Toronto FC . Toronto FC II competes in the United Soccer League , the third division of the American and Canadian soccer league system . The team serves as a reserve team for TFC and a bridge between the Academy and First Team . The team began play in March 2015 . Their home stadium is the newly constructed 3 @, @ 500 seat stadium at the Ontario Soccer Centre in Vaughan , just north @-@ northwest of Toronto . Jason Bent is the team 's first head coach .

Previously , Toronto FC had a one @-@ year partnership with the Wilmington Hammerheads of the USL .

== TFC Academy ==

TFC Academy is the youth academy and development system of Toronto FC that was established in 2008 . The academy consists of multiple teams spanning different age groups , from U10 to U19 . The academy currently plays in League1 Ontario .

In June 2012 , TFC academy moved to their new KIA Training Ground in Downsview Park , located in North York . Built at a cost of \$ 21 million to MLSE , the facility has seven pitches : three full @-@ sized grass pitches and four artificial turfs with two capable of being bubbled for year @-@ round use . The 36 @, @ 000 square foot facility also contains first team facilities , gym , kitchen , and offices .

== Broadcasting ==

Toronto FC games are exclusively broadcast by either the TSN or Sportsnet families of channels . Games that are not covered under national broadcast contracts with MLS or other competition organizers are divided evenly between the two broadcasters , pursuant to agreements between their parent companies (Bell Canada and Rogers Communications respectively) in connection to their joint 2011 purchase of MLSE .

TSN holds the national broadcast contract with MLS from 2011 to 2016 , including rights 30 games per season involving Canadian teams , of which (in 2013) 12 feature Toronto FC . It also holds 11 of the team 's 22 " regional " MLS broadcasts . In both cases , games may air either on TSN 's main channel or TSN2 , and are usually called by Luke Wileman (play @-@ by @-@ play) and Jason de Vos (colour) .

Sportsnet has broadcast rights to Toronto FC 's remaining 11 MLS games ; it also owns the rights to both the Canadian Championship , in which TFC participates annually , and the CONCACAF Champions League , in which TFC may compete depending on the results of that year 's Canadian Championship . Such games may air either on Sportsnet 's regional channels , Sportsnet 360 , or

Sportsnet One . Games on Sportsnet involving TFC are generally called by Gerry Dobson (play @-@ by @-@ play) and Craig Forrest (colour) .

GoITV Canada , acquired by MLSE in 2009 , carried several live Toronto FC games each season from 2009 to 2012 , normally commentated by Wileman . The channel continues to carry repeats of TFC games and other ancillary coverage of the team . Other previous broadcasters for the 2007 to 2010 seasons included The Score and CBC Sports (through CBC Television and Bold) .

Similar to the TV rights , radio broadcasts are divided between Sportsnet 590 and TSN Radio 1050 ; Dan Dunleavy calls the games , while Bob Iarusci joins him as colour commentator for home games .

= = Honours = =

Canadian Championship

Winners (5) : 2009 , 2010 , 2011 , 2012 , 2016

Runners Up (2) : 2008 , 2014

Minor Trophies

Trillium Cup (2) : 2011 , 2014

= = Record = =

= = = Year @-@ by @-@ year = = =

= = = Team records = = =

= = = = Most goals = = = =

As of July 23 , 2016

MLS Regular Season , MLS Cup Playoffs , Canadian Championship and CONCACAF Champions League

Bold indicates player still active with club .

= = = = Most appearances = = = =

MLS Regular Season , MLS Cup Playoffs , Canadian Championship and CONCACAF Champions League

As of July 23 , 2016

Bold indicated player still active with club .

= = = = Club captains = = = =

= = = = International results = = = =

= = = Players of the year = = =

= = Attendance = =

Average attendance

The largest attendance for a Toronto FC game at the team 's home stadium , BMO Field , was on May 10 , 2015 , when they hosted the Houston Dynamo in front of 30 @, @ 226 . The highest overall attendance for a home game was on March 7 , 2012 , when they hosted the Los Angeles Galaxy in the 2011 ? 12 CONCACAF Champions League quarterfinals at the Rogers Centre in front of 47 @, @ 658 .