TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING POLICY

No team registered with the ASA shall compete in any tournament in Alberta unless that tournament has been sanctioned by the ASA.

A tournament is defined as a contest involving a number of teams who play against each other in a series of games and will require ASA sanctioning prior to taking place in the province.

A tournament requires Alberta Soccer sanctioning if:

1) Tournaments involve organized soccer games.
2) Games between four (4) or more teams AND
3) At least one (1) team is from outside the host District.

Sanctioning fees are dependent upon the type of tournament being sanctioned, depending on its size:

1) Small tournament: 4 – 10 participating teams
2) Large tournament: 11+ participating teams

Fees are determined if the tournament has been sanctioned before:

1) Renewal: the tournament was held for the same age group(s), gender(s) and level(s) of play, on the same date(s) in the last calendar year.
2) New: the tournament was not sanctioned by Alberta Soccer in the immediately previous calendar year.

If the tournament is approved annually, the tournament will hold priority status on the date(s).

Team and Player Eligibility

Teams and players from outside Alberta must have and approved travel permit from their respective Provincial, State or National Soccer Association to travel to Alberta and participate in the tournament.

Tournament hosts failing to verify travel permits will result in a $100 fine per team.

All participating players and teams must be duly registered and in good standing with an Alberta Soccer regular member District or their respective Provincial, State or National Soccer Association.

Timelines

Tournaments renewing for the same dates, as in the prior year, may seek sanctioning up to one year in advance of the tournament date. To retain priority status for the existing tournament dates, the sanctioning request must be submitted to Alberta Soccer by:

- October 1 for tournaments taking place between May 1 – September 30
- March 1 for tournaments taking place between October 1 – April 30

Failure to submit sanctioning applications by these dates will result in loss of priority status for an existing tournament.

New tournaments will be sanctioned a maximum of six (6) months ahead of the tournament date, unless the dates present no conflict with existing, recurring tournaments, in which case they may be sanctioned upon receipt of the completed request form.

Conflict Checking

To ensure the best chances of success for all tournaments taking place in Alberta, Alberta Soccer limits the number of tournaments that take place at any one time.

Alberta Soccer will not sanction new tournaments offered to the same age group, gender and level of play to take place on the same dates as:

1. Provincial, National or Multi-Sport competitions, OR
2. Existing Alberta Soccer-sanctioned tournaments, EXCEPT:
    - For levels of play of Tier 2 and lower, tournaments that are outside a 150 km radius of the existing tournament may be sanctioned.
    - If the host of the existing tournament provides written notice to Alberta Soccer that the new tournament may proceed in conjunction with their existing tournament.

Age groups can be: U5, U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U17, U19, Senior Open Age, Masters (35+, or any other minimum age limit)

Genders offered can be Male, Female, Coed (Mixed), or any combination thereof.

Levels of Play can be Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, etc. generally through Tier 9; Recreational, Invitational,

- Due to their nature, invitational tournaments may be considered for conflicts separately from other tournaments.

Tournament dates are considered based on the relative time of year the tournament is sanctioned. Tournaments scheduled around a particular holiday or weekend date will be renewed for the same relative time each year. For example, a tournament sanctioned on the:

- Second weekend in August will be considered renewed on the weekend following the August Long weekend, each year.
- Mother's Day weekend will be considered renewed on the Mother's Day weekend each year.

Rules and Regulations

Alberta Soccer will only sanction tournaments employing the following rules and regulations:

1. Tournaments for U5 to U7 players must be compliant with Long Term Player Development (LTPD), festival style with no results and no standings.
2. All soccer games must follow the currently published Laws & Rules found on our website.
    a. Outdoor games must follow "IFAB Laws of the Game."
    b. Futsal games must follow "FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game."
    c. Boarded indoor games must follow "Alberta Rules of Indoor Soccer (Boarded)"
    d. Boardless indoor games must follow "Modified Boardless Indoor 7v7, 8v8, 9v9 Rules."
3. Soccer games for the following age groups must follow the maximum number of players per side:

Age Group	Maximum # of players per side
U5	3
U7	4
U9	7
U11	8
U13+	11

4. The Laws and Rules above may only be modified in any of the following ways:
    - Size of the field of play
    - Size, weight, and material of the ball
    - Width between the goalposts and the height of the crossbar from the ground
    - Duration of the periods of play
    - Substitutions

Deviations from these published rules that will be employed at the tournament must be submitted to Alberta Soccer for consideration along with the tournament sanctioning request.

Referees

Where match officials are used, only those officials published on Alberta Soccer's current list of eligible officials may participate in an Alberta Soccer-sanctioned tournament. Alberta Soccer will provide tournament organizers with a list of current eligible officials in their area, upon request.

Match officials must be appropriately certified to participate in sanctioned tournaments:

Game Format	Referee Minimum Qualifications	Assistant Referee Minimum Qualifications	Eligible List Available
Outdoor – U9 and younger (7v7)	Any referee on the current eligible outdoor list	N/A	On District Ref Centre account
Outdoor – U11 and older (8v8 or 11v11)	Any referee on the current eligible outdoor list, except mini-referees		
Indoor – U9 and younger	Any referee on the current eligible indoor list		
Indoor – U11 and older	Any referee on the current eligible outdoor list, except mini-referees		
Futsal	Any futsal-qualified referee	N/A	From Alberta Soccer upon request

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Process for Sanctioning the Tournament

1. Complete the tournament sanctioning request form found here
    a. Choose the right form depending if you are currently affiliated with Alberta Soccer or not.
        i. Tournament Sanctioning Application Form – For Alberta Soccer District, Member Association or Club
2. Submit:
    a. The completed application form.
    b. Details of any exemptions or changes to the Laws of the Game that will be applicable at the tournament; and
    c. The required sanctioning fee to the Alberta Soccer Regular Member District operating in the location where the tournament is taking place.
    d. If the tournament is taking place in a location where multiple Districts operate, you may approach any single District for endorsement.
        i. For a detailed listing of Alberta Soccer Member Districts, see the Member Listing map on our website.
    e. Prior to submitting tournament requests to the ASA, all requests must be approved by the Local District.
    f. Approved tournaments requesting changes to dates or add divisions will be subject to a change fee
    g. All tournaments are to have a Discipline Chair and Referee In Chief named to the ASA at least seven (7) days prior to the tournament. ***Failure to supply the designates will result in a $100 fine per role.***
    h. As per Alberta Soccer Rules and Regulations, only eligible Alberta Soccer registered referees may officiate the tournament matches.
    i. The list of the referees hired must be submitted to tournaments@albertasoccer.com at least seven (7) days prior to the tournament. ***Failure to supply will result in a $100 fine.***

Your compliance with these conditions is appreciated to help ensure a consistent, positive soccer experience across the province. Any deviation from requirement will result in the event being unsanctioned and uninsured.

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