



ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION
The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta

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TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING

All soccer events taking place within Alberta must be sanctioned by Alberta Soccer to ensure safe participation for teams outside of your district and the Province and ensure all participating players, coaches and referees are protected under Alberta Soccer's insurance policies.

Do I need Alberta Soccer sanctioning for my Event?

An event is considered a soccer event requiring Alberta Soccer sanctioning if:

- 1) It involves organized soccer games
- 2) Between four (4) or more teams AND
- 3) At least one (1) team is from outside the host District.

If your event does not meet these criteria, Alberta Soccer sanctioning is not required for your event.

If sanctioning is required, sanctioning fees are dependent upon the type of event being sanctioned, depending on its size:

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

And whether it's been sanctioned before:

- 1) Renewal: your event 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: your event was not sanctioned by Alberta Soccer in the immediately previous calendar year.

Provided you continue to renew your event annually, your event will hold priority status on your date(s).

Team and Player Eligibility

Teams and players from outside Alberta must have written permission from their respective Provincial, State or National Soccer Association to travel to Alberta and participate in your event.

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.

To facilitate participation by non-registered players, a [Guest Player Form](#) can be completed to temporarily register the player with Alberta Soccer so they can participate in your event.



Timelines

Previously sanctioned events renewing for the same dates as in the prior year can seek sanctioning up to one year in advance of the event date. To retain priority status for your existing event dates, your sanctioning request must be submitted to Alberta Soccer by:

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

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

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

Conflict Checking

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

Alberta Soccer will not sanction new events 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 events, EXCEPT:
 - For levels of play of Tier 2 and lower, events that are outside a 100 km radius from the existing event may be sanctioned.
 - If the host of the existing event provides written notice to Alberta Soccer that the new event may proceed in conjunction with their existing event.

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, PDP

- Due to their nature, invitational events may be considered for conflicts separately from other events.
- PDP (Provincial Development Program) is considered the highest level of youth play (higher than Tier 1)
 - PDP events will not be considered in conflict with Tier 1 events.

Event dates are considered based on the relative time of year the event is sanctioned. Events scheduled around a particular holiday or weekend date will be renewed for the same relative time each year. For example, an event 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 events employing the following rules and regulations:

1. Events 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 at 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 your event must be submitted to Alberta Soccer for consideration along with your event 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 event. Alberta Soccer will provide event organizers with a list of current eligible officials in their area, upon request.

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

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

If you are not an Alberta Soccer Member District, you must:

- a. Contact programs@albertasoccer.com at least five (5) weeks ahead of your tournament date to discuss referee requirements;
- b. Submit a full list of all match officials scheduled to participate at your event at least one (1) week ahead of your tournament; and
- c. Submit a full list of all match officials actually used at your event within one week of the conclusion of your event.



Process for Sanctioning your Event

1. Complete the tournament sanctioning request form [found on our website](#).
 - 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](#)
 - ii. [Tournament Sanctioning Application Form – Independent or Charity \(non-registered member of Alberta Soccer\)](#)
2. Submit:
 - a. Your completed application form;
 - b. Details of any exemptions or changes to the Laws of the Game that will be applicable at your event; and
 - c. The required sanctioning fee to the Alberta Soccer Regular Member District operating in the location your event is taking place.
 - a. If your event is taking place in a location where multiple Districts operate, you may approach any single District for endorsement.
 - a. For a detailed listing of Alberta Soccer Member Districts, see the [Member Listing map](#) on our website.