
SSA TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING POLICY

Why do we have tournament sanctioning requirements and standards?

The Saskatchewan Soccer Association (SSA) is the governing body for soccer in Saskatchewan. In this role, the SSA is entrusted by the statutes of FIFA and the constitution of Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) with the mandate of governing, fostering, developing and promoting soccer in Saskatchewan. As an organization, the SSA is committed to the CSA's Long Term Player Development (LTPD) Model; Wellness to World Cup (W2WC) and [Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards](#). The underlying principles of LTPD are based heavily on providing developmentally appropriate sport through a player-centered approach. These principles commit the SSA and our Member Organizations and Entities running sanctioned tournaments to place the development, safety, enjoyment and well-being of the individual participant above all else when delivering these competitions.

In order to ensure all competitions within Saskatchewan observe these principles, the SSA has developed a series of standards for tournaments. These standards are designed to ensure participants have the opportunity to compete in a developmentally appropriate environment conducive to maximizing their potential and showcasing their abilities. While tournaments are valuable social events for participants and have become essential fundraisers to support the many high quality initiatives taking place, within the host MO/Entities this value cannot come at the expense of the participants. By applying for sanctioning, Tournament Organizers agree to abide by ALL SSA Tournament Sanctioning Policies and meet ALL SSA Required Tournament Sanctioning Standards. Tournaments that fail to meet these standards will be subject to discipline as outlined in this document and/or the [SSA Discipline Policy](#).

It is the belief of the SSA that all participants should have the opportunity to participate in developmentally appropriate Safe Sport within a Respectful Game Time Environment. SSA is committed to ensuring all competitive structures within Saskatchewan are aligned to these guiding principles.

Should you have any questions about Tournament Sanctioning, please contact:

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1.2 Process of Sanctioning Tournaments in Saskatchewan:

- 1.2.1 Tournament Organizers apply for sanctioning by completing the “SSA Tournament Sanctioning Form”.
- 1.2.2 The SSA Tournament Sanctioning Form must be approved by an SSA Member Organization through the signature of an authorized individual.
- 1.2.3 Member Organizations applying to host a tournament must be in good standing with the SSA. Entities applying to host a tournament must be in good standing with their Member Organization and the SSA.
- 1.2.4 Member Organizations cannot unreasonably deny the approval of an SSA Tournament Sanctioning Form to an Entity in good standing.
- 1.2.5 Following Member Organization approval, the completed SSA Tournament Sanctioning Form is submitted to the SSA. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
- 1.2.6 All tournament sanctioning applications must be accompanied by the tournament sanctioning application fee. The tournament sanctioning application fee is:
 - a. \$100.00 if submitted thirty days or more before the start of the tournament
 - b. \$250.00 if submitted less than thirty days before the start of the tournament
- 1.2.7 Sanctioning Applications will not be considered more than 10 months before the start of the tournament.
 - a. Should the sanctioning requirements and/or standards change between the time of sanctioning and the start of the tournament, the Tournament Organizer is responsible for ensuring the tournament meets the revised requirement and/or standards.
- 1.2.8 Following review of the tournament sanctioning application, the SSA will contact the applicant regarding any concerns, errors or omissions in the application.
- 1.2.9 Tournaments held the same weekend as an SSA Provincial Championship or Annual General Meeting (AGM) will not be sanctioned if conflicts are anticipated. Examples of conflicts include, but are not limited to, the availability of delegates for the AGM or players, officials, teams, volunteers and/or facilities for a Provincial Championship, media coverage and/or exposure of the tournament.
- 1.2.10 Upon approval of sanctioning, available tournament information will be posted on the SSA website.



- 1.2.11 Upon approval of sanctioning, Tournament Organizers may begin full promotion of the tournament. Promotion of a tournament prior to sanctioning is prohibited without permission of the SSA and may result in disciplinary sanctions, as outlined under “Article 1.6 - Compliance”.
- a. In recognizing that Tournament Organizers may wish to begin promotion more than 10 months before the start of the tournament, permission may be granted by the SSA for limited tournament promotion prior to sanctioning. Please contact the SSA for additional information or to request permission to promote a tournament prior to sanctioning.
- 1.2.12 A copy of the tournament schedule must be submitted to the SSA for approval at least 10 days before the start of the tournament. Failure to submit a tournament schedule will result in disciplinary sanctions, as outlined under “Article 1.6 - Compliance”.
- 1.2.13 Posting or distribution of a tournament schedule prior to approval is prohibited and will result in disciplinary sanctions, as outlined under “Article 1.6 - Compliance”.
- 1.2.14 The tournament schedule should be distributed to participating teams no later than five days prior to the start of the tournament.
- 1.2.15 The Tournament Organizer must submit the Tournament Follow up Report and Financial Statement as well as the Discipline Reports and any outstanding/unresolved Discipline matters within twenty business days of the conclusion of the tournament. Failure to submit the required documents by this deadline will result in disciplinary sanctions, as outlined under “Article 1.6 - Compliance”.
- 1.2.16 Copies of all rosters and game sheets must be submitted to the SSA upon request. Failure to submit rosters and/or game sheets if requested will result in disciplinary sanctions, as outlined under “Article 1.6 - Compliance”.
- 1.2.17 SSA must be notified of the intention to include the serving of alcohol during a sanctioned tournament. Should alcohol be served by the Tournament Organizer, they are responsible for ensuring compliance with all legal requirements. Failure to do so may void SSA insurance coverage.
- 1.2.18 SSA shall not be held responsible for any financial losses incurred by the Tournament Organizer in hosting a sanctioned tournament.



1.3 SSA Tournament Sanctioning Policies and Standards:

Administrative Policies:

1.3.1 All tournaments within jurisdiction of the SSA must be sanctioned by SSA.

- a. SSA Staff and/or Board Members are provided free entry to any sanctioned tournament.
- b. Entry into a sanctioned tournament in Saskatchewan is limited to teams that are properly affiliated with SSA or another Provincial, State or National Association.
- c. All participating teams from within Saskatchewan must be registered members in good standing with an SSA Member Organization and/or SSA.
- d. All participating teams from outside of Saskatchewan must be registered and in good standing with their District, Provincial, State and/or National Soccer Association.
- e. All participating teams from outside Saskatchewan must have a valid Travel Permit or other official written permission to participate from their Provincial, State and/or National Soccer Association.
- f. The Tournament Organizer must submit copies of all Travel Permits for teams from outside Saskatchewan to SSA prior to the start of the tournament. Failure to submit Travel Permits will result in disciplinary sanctions, as outlined under "Article 1.6 - Compliance".
- g. All participants (players, team personnel, match officials, organizers) from within Saskatchewan must be registered members in good standing with an SSA Member Organization and/or SSA.
- h. All participants (players, team personnel, match officials, organizers) from outside of Saskatchewan must be registered and in good standing with their District, Provincial, State and/or National Soccer Association.
- i. Any player wishing to participate as a "guest" or "permit" player (as defined and allowed under the tournament rules) must have written permission to participate from the Member Organization and/or Entity with whom they are registered.



1.3.2 Administrative Standards:

- a. All sanctioned tournaments must be overseen by a Tournament Organizing Committee. The members of this committee must be declared as a part of the sanctioning application.
- b. All sanctioned tournaments must observe the [SSA Discipline Policy](#) – Event Discipline Procedure with Sanctions for Misconduct as outlined section 5 of the [SSA Discipline Policy](#). As dictated by this policy, judicial processes for events must be overseen by a Tournament Discipline Committee. The members of the Discipline Committee must be declared as a part of the sanctioning application.
 - i. Modifications may be made to the *Event Discipline Procedure*, but modifications (and the reasons for those modifications) must be outlined in the tournament host's sanctioning application and approved by SSA prior to distribution in the tournament rulebook.
- c. Sanctioned tournaments **MUST** meet the following administrative standards to receive sanctioning:
 - i. An Emergency Action Plan is in place and supported through adequate training.
 - ii. A telephone is on-site at all fields and available for emergency calls
 - iii. A minimum of one First Aid and CPR trained individual is present or minimally on call throughout the tournament.
 - iv. Field Marshals are present at all fields and familiar with their role and responsibilities.
 - v. Adequate crowd control measures are in place, including the utilization of the *SSA Match Officials Procedure* (see Article 3 of the [SSA Discipline Policy](#): Spectator Misconduct Policy) or a tournament-specific policy that meets these standards.
 - vi. A room is available for meetings, discipline hearings and any other matter that requires privacy.
 - vii. A Tournament Rulebook is provided to participating teams and contains the following, as a minimum:
 1. Policy on refunds to participating teams in the event that all, or a portion of, the tournament is cancelled by the Tournament Organizer for any reason.
 2. Policies and/or provisions ensuring that the behavior of teams, players, team personnel, and spectators is appropriately controlled. These policies and provisions must be aligned to the Code of Conduct and the Discipline Policy.
 3. Tournament Discipline Policy that is aligned to the Event Discipline Procedure, and any approved modifications.
 4. Procedures for protests and appeals.



1.3.3 It is RECOMMENDED that sanctioned tournaments meet the following administrative standards in order to provide a successful tournament:

- a. Information packages are provided to participating teams and include information on accommodation, meals and playing facilities.
- b. An identified individual trained in First Aid and CPR on-site at every venue.
- c. Change rooms with showers.
- d. Game Results Board.
- e. Concession.
- f. Social events for participants.

1.4 Technical Policies

1.4.1 All tournaments must be played on outdoor fields or in indoor facilities with playing surfaces that meet SSA standards for safety (See [Risk Management Policy](#))

1.4.2 Tournament play may not commence prior to 7:00am and must be complete by 10:30pm for youth teams (Under 19 and younger).

1.4.3 Games kicking off between 7:00-8:00am are restricted to the involvement of teams that do not use a hotel. Generally, that would be considered as those teams registered within the hosting or approving Member Organization or located within 100km.

1.4.4 Sanctioned tournaments are required to have a minimum amount of time between the end of a game and the commencement of the next game for every participating team. **The amount of rest time between games MUST be a minimum of four times the length of the game.** Regardless of game length, the minimum rest time between games can never be less than 120 minutes or 2 hours. The following table outlines the specific requirements for the most frequent game lengths; however, the Tournament Organizer is responsible for ensuring the required rest time is accurately calculated and adhered to when scheduling.

Length of Game	Minimum Rest Time Between Games (in minutes)	Minimum Rest Time Between Games (in hours)
2 x 30 minutes	240 minutes	4 hours
2 x 25 minutes	200 minutes	3.33 hours
2 x 20 minutes	160 minutes	2.67 hours
2 x 15 minutes	120 minutes	2 hours



1.5 Technical Standards

1.5.1 Sanctioned tournaments MUST meet [Canada Soccer Grassroots Standards](#) and the following technical standards to receive sanctioning:

Criteria	Fundamentals		Learn to Train	
	U7	U8-U9	U10-U11	U12-U13
Match format	3v3	4v4 (no GK) or 5v5 (with GK)	7v7	9v9 (U12) 9v9 or 11v11 (U13)
Match duration (max)	30 minutes	40 minutes	50 minutes	70 minutes (U12) 80 minutes (U13)
Maximum playing time player/day (Youth player 1 team/event)	60 minutes	60 minutes	80 minutes	100 minutes
Maximum goal size	Pop-up Goals 3ft (0.91m) x 5ft (1.52m)	5ft (1.52m) x 8ft (2.44m)	6ft (1.83m) x 16ft (4.88m)	6ft (1.83m) x 18ft (5.49m)
Field Size	Width: 18-22m Length: 25-30m	Width: 25- 30m Length: 30- 36m	Width: 30-36m Length: 40-55m	9v9 Width: 42-55m Length: 60-75m 11v11 Width: 45-90m Length: 90-120m
Ball Size	3	3 or 4 (or 4 super light)	4 (or 5 light)	9v9: 4 (or 5 light) 11v11: 5 (or 5 light)
Game duration for events with multiple games per day	N/A	2x15 minutes	2x20 minutes	2x25 minutes
Number of memorable events (maximum)	N/A	2 / year	2 / year	4/year



Criteria	Soccer for Life	
	U15-U19	Adult
Match format	11v11 (including GK)	11v11 (including GK)
Match duration (max)	2x45 minutes	2x45 minutes
Maximum playing time player/day (Youth player 1 team/event)	120 minutes	Recommended 120-160 minutes (120 max up to U19 youth aged players); More if approved by Club/MO Technical Lead
Maximum goal size	8ft (2.44m) x 24ft (7.32m)	8ft (2.44m) x 24ft (7.32m)
Field Size	Width 45m-90m; Length 90m-120m	Width 45m-90m; Length 90m-120m
Ball Size	5	5
Game duration for events with multiple games per day	Max 2x30 minutes Recommended 2x25 minutes	Max 2x30 minutes Recommended 2x25 minutes
Number of memorable events (maximum)	4/year/ Additional approved by Club/MO Technical Lead	As approved by Club/MO Technical Lead



1.5.2 The following coaching standards are also required of all participating teams under the jurisdiction of SSA in order to receive sanctioning: [SSA Coaching Standards](#)

1.5.3 Additional explanations pertaining to the required technical standards are as follows:

- a. Playing Format = the maximum number of players on the field. Tournaments may utilize a playing format that involves fewer players on the field and adapt the squad size, field width and length and goal size; accordingly, however the maximum number of players on the field cannot be exceeded for any age group. Age groups format must adhere to the Canada Soccer LTPD requirements (no standings/playoffs results-based approach within the Grassroots Stream, etc)
- b. Squad Size = the maximum number of players participating in any given game. The squad size may exceed the maximum for training and the participating players can change between games and/or competitions; however, cannot exceed the maximum in any given game. The squad size standards are developed within the LTPD and are designed to encourage active participation from all players in game situations.
- c. Field Width and Length = the range of acceptable field sizes for each LTPD Stage and Age Group based on the playing format. Tournaments may adapt the playing format to involve fewer players on the field within each age group and adapt the field size; accordingly, however, the maximum field width and length cannot be exceeded for any age group.
- d. Goal Size = the maximum goal size permitted based on the playing format. Tournaments may adapt the playing format to involve fewer players on the field within each age group and adapt the goal size accordingly; however, the maximum goal size cannot be exceeded for any age group.
- e. Ball Size = at the Under 8 age group, tournaments may utilize either a size 3 or size 4 ball. All other age groups must utilize the size of ball outlined in the technical standards.
- f. Maximum Playing Game Time per Day = the maximum amount of time that a team can be on-field in any given day, regardless of the number of games in which they will participate. Tournaments with multiple games per day must adjust the length of these games to fit within these standards.
- g. Recommended Game Duration for Tournaments with Multiple Games per Day = tied to the maximum amount of playing game time per day, these are the recommended game durations for situations where teams are required to play multiple games in a single day.
- h. Maximum Game Duration = the maximum length of regulation play for any game.
- i. It is MANDATORY that all referees officiating in an SSA sanctioned tournament be certified through a Canada Soccer accredited refereeing course.



1.6 Compliance

1.6.1 Tournament Organizers that fail to meet the deadlines, follow the processes, comply with the policies and/or meet the required standards contained within SSA Tournament Sanctioning Policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions, according to the following table:

Infraction	Fine
Promotion of an unsanctioned tournament without SSA permission	\$250.00
Failure to submit a copy of the schedule 10 days before the start of the tournament	\$250.00
Posting or distribution of a tournament schedule prior to SSA approval	\$250.00
Failure to submit travel permits for all out of province teams before the start of the tournament.	\$250.00
Failure to submit travel permits for all out of province teams within 10 business days of the conclusion of the tournament.	\$1000.00 per team
Failure to adhere to an Administrative or a Technical Policy or to meet a required Administrative or Technical Standard	Up to \$5,000.00 and/or possible suspension of tournament
Failure to submit the Tournament Follow up Report and Financial Statement within 20 business days of the conclusion of the tournament	\$250.00
Failure to submit rosters and/or game sheets if requested	\$250.00

Any fine for failure to comply with the Tournament Sanctioning Policy will be invoiced to the Tournament Organizer following submission of the final report and must be paid before December 31st of the year in which the tournament took place. Failure to pay fines in a timely manner may result in the loss of sanctioning for future tournaments.



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