

RULES & REGULATIONS

OF THE

ALABAMA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Article I. - General

3:01:01 Authority

1. The Rules and Regulations contained herein will govern all members of the Alabama Youth Soccer Association (hereinafter called AYSA or the Association) in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Charter, Constitution, and Bylaws of AYSA. All competition will be governed by the rules and regulations as stated herein unless the rules of a specific competition determine otherwise.
2. Member Organizations may deem fit to include rules and regulations more stringent than those included herein, but in no case may rules and regulations be less stringent. Member Organizations must submit their rules and regulations and any amendments for review and approval by AYSA.
3. Each team will assume responsibility for the conduct of its Players, Parents, Coaches, Managers, and Team Assistants and it is the responsibility of each team to insure that its actions on or off the field do not bring disrespect upon AYSA. Each member organization will be responsible for the conduct of those persons associated with its operations and it is the responsibility of each member organization to insure that its actions so not bring disrespect upon AYSA.
4. Falsification of records will be grounds for disbarment from future participation and/or membership in AYSA.
5. Any person found guilty of violating the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules & Regulations of AYSA may be asked to appear before the Board of Directors of AYSA in order to explain said violation.
6. A plea of ignorance of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules & Regulations of AYSA is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate action by the Board of Directors of AYSA.

3:01:02 Insurance

1. All registered AYSA member organizations whose team names are on file with AYSA and includes the names of their team members (up to age 19), coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers, for whom premium has been paid, will be covered under the established insurance program of AYSA.
2. The member organization's insurance representative will check the claim against player registration records and will forward all claim to the AYSA office for processing.

3:01:03 Application To Travel

Teams desiring to travel outside of the jurisdiction of this Association (outside Alabama or the United States) must request permission from AYSA. A properly completed "Application For Travel" form must be approved by the Board or the official to whom this responsibility may be delegated. These provisions will apply equally in those cases when a group of players travels as a team, for purposes other than playing the game of soccer. Appropriate action will be taken against teams or players who travel without permission.

3:01:04 Games With Non-Affiliates

Affiliated AYSA teams desiring to play exhibition or "friendly" games with (against) non-affiliated teams must obtain permission from their District Commissioner, in writing, with a copy of the permission form forwarded to the AYSA office.

3:01:05 Hosting Tournaments or Out-Of-State Teams

1. Teams, clubs, or other organizations wishing to host a tournament must request permission from AYSA in accordance with the procedures detailed in the USYSA "Travel and Tournaments Manual". (Available through the AYSA Office.)
2. Teams, clubs, or organizations desiring to host Out-Of-State Teams for exhibition or "friendly" games must request permission from their District Commissioner, in writing, with a copy forwarded to the AYSA Office.

Article II. - Registration Procedures - General Membership

3:02:01 State Registration

1. All players must register in the state in which he/she resides with his or her parents, or in the case of a student in residence at a boarding school, college, or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, or university is located.
2. All players or teams wishing to compete in a state other than the state in which they are registered, must receive written permission from:
 - a. The State Association where they are registered.
 - b. The State Association where they wish to play.
3. Written permission must be obtained each seasonal year (September 1 - August 31) and the USYSA Player Release/Transfer form must be used.

3:02:02 District Registration

1. Players must register in the district within which they reside.
2. All players wishing to compete on a team operating in a district other than the district in which they are registered must receive permission from:
 - a. The League where they are registered;
 - c. The League where they wish to play;
 - d. The District Commissioner where they are registered;
 - e. The District Commissioner where they wish to play;
 - f. The Board of Directors of AYSA.
3. All teams wishing to compete in another district with which they are not registered must receive written permission from:
 - a. The League where they are registered;
 - b. The League where they wish to play.
4. All players that are registering with "Classic" teams may cross district boundaries and register in the other district without obtaining permission. This is only for the initial registration of this player per seasonal year.
5. A decision by the districts, leagues, or commissioners may be appealed to the Appeals Committee of the AYSA Board of Directors.
6. These permissions must be obtained each seasonal year (September 1 - August 31) and the USYSA Player Release/Transfer form must be used.

3:02:03 Proof of Age

1. Players must verify upon initial registration their date of birth.
2. Proof of Age will consist of a birth certificate or birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age or a certificate of an American citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency.
3. Hospital, baptismal, religious certificates, driver's license, and/or Military ID cards will not be accepted as proof of age.

3:02:04 Dual Registration

Players, with the concurrence of their local association, at initial registration, may roster on two or more youth teams per seasonal year. The player must indicate his/her primary team at initial registration.

3:02:05 Team Registration

All teams participating in league play are required to submit an AYSA Team Registration Form (Roster). The submittal of the roster binds the player to that team for the Seasonal Year (September 1 - August 31) unless the player requests a transfer or is released in accordance with their local association's and AYSA's Rules and Regulations.

3:02:06 Team Formation Rules

The current definition of team formation is as follows:

A. Division I (Classic)

The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted. The Classic Division is an Inter-Club AYSA administered program in which no rule restricts the manner in which players may be rostered to participating team except those rules in Item D. below.

B. Division II (Recreational Plus, Intermediate Level, or Premier)

The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process (to bring participants from outside the registering organization) to roster players selectively to any team is prohibited. However, Division II Teams may be formed by evaluation of in-house (Intra-Club) players for the purpose of creating teams of comparably skilled players (i.e.: to group like talent with like talent) or to include teams where more than fifty per cent (50%) of the players have played together in the preceding year.

C. Division III (Recreational, Beginning, or Entry Level)

The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited. Division III Teams are formed by the draft system for the purpose of creating a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating or by blind draw. Each player is required to play at least one-half (Y_2) of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.

D. General Rules

The following rules (as directed by the Board of Directors) will apply to all divisions:

1. Rules that define and prohibit unethical recruiting behavior;
2. Rules that limit the participation of players previously rostered to another team;
3. Rules that define specific age requirements.

3:02:07 Team Names

Any teams which have the same name (e.g. Club's Name) must be identified by a numerical prefix/suffix or a different name. The same team name will not be used for more than one team in the same age division within a district or league.

3:02:08 Registration Responsibility

1. Each Member Organization will be responsible for insuring proper registration of their players, coaches, team managers, and teams, proper accounting of fiscal transactions, and accurate reporting to the AYSA Registrar.
2. Deadlines for submitting rosters and fees to AYSA are October 1 for the Fall playing season and April 1 for the Spring playing season.

Article III, - Age Limit Definition

3:03:01 Definition, “Youth”

1. The term “youth” as applied to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules & Regulations will mean an amateur player who has not attained his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday prior to August 1 immediately preceding the start of any seasonal year.
2. A player who reaches his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday on or after August 1st of the current seasonal year will be allowed to complete the seasonal year.

3:03:02 Limiting Age Groups

1. Players attaining the limiting age for any age group on or after August 1st are eligible to play the whole seasonal year.
2. TEAM AGE DIVISIONS

All member organizations, unless otherwise sanctioned by the Board of Directors of AYSA, will divide players among teams of equal age divisions who are:

- UNDER – 19 Player has not reached their nineteenth (19th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 18 Player has not reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 17 Player has not reached their seventeenth (17th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 16 Player has not reached their sixteenth (16th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 15 Player has not reached their fifteenth (15th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 14 Player has not reached their fourteenth (14th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 13 Player has not reached their thirteenth (13th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 12 Player has not reached their twelfth (12th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 11 Player has not reached their eleventh (11th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 10 Player has not reached their tenth (10th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 9 Player has not reached their ninth (9th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 8 Player has not reached their eighth (8th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 7 Player has not reached their seventh (7th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.
- UNDER – 6 Player has not reached their sixth (6th) birthday before August 1st of the Seasonal Year.

Article IV. - Rules of Play

3:04:01 Laws of the Game

The Rules of Play will be the “Laws of the Game” as published by FIFA with those modifications stated herein. All contests sanctioned by AYSA will abide by the “Laws of the Game” and the modifications as adopted by AYSA.

3:04:02 General

1. Players wearing orthopedic casts, air-splints, or metal splints will not be eligible to participate in any game without parental permission and prior inspection and approval of the officiating referee or senior referee at a tournament.
2. All players will be required to wear protective shin guards (to be worn beneath their game socks) at all times while actively participating in a game or practice. Such shin guards will be of the type and style of protective athletic equipment specifically designed to protect the player’s lower leg (shin bone).

3:04:03 Coaching from the Sidelines

Coaching from the sidelines (giving direction to one’s own team on points of strategy and position) by a coach or assistant coach is permitted, provided:

1. No mechanical devices are used;
2. The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue;
3. No coach, assistant coach, team manager, player, or substitute is to be anywhere but at their own bench area during the game. A team’s bench area will be that area one (1) yard

away from the touchline and extending to ten (10) yards both ways from the half-line to maximum of twenty (20) yards. If both teams locate their bench areas on the same side of the field, due to existing adverse conditions, then each bench area will be limited to that area one (1) yard from the touchline and extending to ten (10) yards, one way, from the half-line only.

4. No coach, assistant coach, team manager, player, substitute, parent, or spectator is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, players, substitutes, parents, or spectators.
5. No coach, assistant coach, team manager, player, substitute, parent, or spectator is to use profanity.
6. No coach, assistant coach, team manager, player, substitute, parent, or spectator is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.
7. The report of infraction and the disciplinary action by the appropriate organization will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee of the Board of Directors of AYSA for review and, where appropriate, possible further action.

3:04:04 Uniform colors

Where colors of uniforms are similar, the home team must effect a change to colors which are distinct from those of the opponent.

3:04:05 Length of Games & Ball Specifications

The length of the games, overtime periods, ball size, ball weight, and ball dimensions, for each age group, will be as follows:

DIV.	GAME LENGTH	OVERTIME PERIODS	BALL SIZE	BALL CIRCUMFERENCE	BALL WEIGHT
U-19	2-45 MIN HALVES	2-15 MIN HALVES	0.5	7' - 28"	14 - 16 OZ
U-18	2-45 MIN HALVES	2-15 MIN HALVES	0.5	7"-28"	14 - 16 OZ
U-17	2-45 MIN HALVES	2-15 MIN HALVES	0.5	7" - 28"	14 - 16 OZ
U-16	2-40 MIN HALVES	2-15 MIN HALVES	0.5	7" - 28"	14 - 16 OZ
U-15	2-40 MIN HALVES	2-10 MIN HALVES	0.5	7" - 28"	14 - 16 OZ
U-14	2-35 MIN HALVES	2-10 MIN HALVES	0.5	7" - 28"	14 - 16 OZ
U-13	2-35 MIN HALVES	2-10 MIN HALVES	0.5	7" - 28"	14 - 16 OZ
U-12	2-30 MIN HALVES	2-10 MIN HALVES	0.4	5" - 26"	11 - 13 OZ
U-11	2-30 MIN HALVES	2-10 MIN HALVES	0.4	5" - 26"	11 - 13 OZ
U-10	Modified rules Apply	Ties Will Stand	0.4	5" - 26"	11 - 13 OZ
U-9	Modified rules Apply	Ties Will Stand	0.4	5" - 26"	11 - 13 OZ
U-8	Modified rules Apply	Ties Will Stand	0.3	3" - 24"	11 - 12 OZ
U-7	Modified rules Apply	Ties Will Stand	0.3	3" - 24"	11 - 12 OZ
U-6	Modified rules Apply	Ties Will Stand	0.3	3" - 24"	11 - 12 OZ

In tournament play, if the game is still tied after overtime periods, FIFA “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

(AYSA may permit variances in Rule 3:02:05 Team Registration, Rule 3:03:01:01 Age Limit, Rule 3:03:02:02 Team Age Divisions, and Rule 3:04:03 Length of Game in the best interest of the development of the sport in Alabama.)

3:04:06 Conditions of Grounds

1. The home club will be responsible for the condition of the grounds, the proper field markings, and proper equipment. Nets and approved corner flags are required.
2. It will be the responsibility of both teams to have a proper game ball.

3:04:07 Substitutes

1. The number of substitutes will be unlimited unless superseded by directives from FIFA, USYSA USSF. and/or AYSA.
2. In any case, a substitute will not enter the field of play until he/she has been given a signal to do so by the referee.
3. Players may be substituted at the following times:
 - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor;
 - b. Prior to a goal kick by either team;
 - c. After a goal by either team;
 - d. After an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team;
 - e. At halftime;
 - f. When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game.

3:04:08 Referee's Game Responsibilities

1. A Referee Report Card must be filed for every game played.
2. Prior to the game, the referee will make sure that each player's equipment is in proper order.
3. The referee will verify the identity of the player with his/her player pass and Team Roster. The referee will collect the passes of those players who are to participate in the game. The referee must allow no player into the game for whom he/she has no pass or whose name does not appear on the Team Roster.
4. The referee will submit the player pass of any ejected player along with a supplementary disciplinary report to the proper authority.
5. Referees may, at any time, be called upon by the proper authority to explain their reports.

3:04:9 Game Report

The winning team is responsible for communicating with the proper authority in charge of the competition, immediately following the game (or within a reasonable time) and notifying said authority of the outcome. This procedure will also apply to forfeited games.

3:04:10 Delaying the Start of the Game

1. Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game by more than fifteen (15) minutes, without the sanction of the proper authority, will forfeit the game to the opponent by a score of 3-0.
2. In the event both teams do not show up for a scheduled game, and the referee rules the ground playable, then both teams will be assessed with a loss.
3. Referees responsible for a late start of a game may be disciplined by the proper authority.

3:04:11 Referee's Authority

The referee's judgment with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the game, and those prerogatives granted to him/her by the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA will not be challenged.

3:04:12 Ejection Procedure

If a player or coach is ejected from the game, then the referee will deliver or mail the player's or coach's pass to the appropriate authority along with the referee's game report. That player or coach is ineligible until the player's or coach's pass is returned to the player or coach.

Article V. - Punitive Measures

3:05:01 Minimum Disciplinary Measures

1. For the commission of the violations noted herein, certain minimum disciplinary actions are

to be imposed, they are the following:

A. Red Card Ejection:

Minimum one (1) game suspension from participation in the next regularly scheduled league, tournament, and /or State Cup game for a red card ejection;

B. Minimum one (1) game suspension from participation in the next regularly scheduled league, tournament, and for State Cup game for any player receiving four (4) cautions (yellow cards) within a season, Fall or Spring;

C. Minimum two (2) game suspension from participation in the next regularly scheduled league or State Cup game for players determined to be guilty of:

1. Insulting or molesting the referee(s);
2. Attempting to fight or striking at another person;

D. Minimum three (3) game suspension from participation in the next regularly scheduled league or State Cup game for players determined to be guilty of physically pushing, striking, or spitting on any other player either before, during, or immediately after a game;

E. Minimum one (1) year suspension for:

1. Any act of physical violence or personal attack upon official linesmen, coaches, or club, league, or organization officials;
2. Any act of physical violence or personal attack upon a referee, his equipment, or property (including his vehicle) and the threat of assault by raising a clenched fist or hand holding any object that could be used as a weapon or by verbally threatening a referee, or any member of his family;
 - a. Physical Violence and Personal Attack - Will include, but not be limited to, such things as hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing a referee's personal equipment such as red or yellow cards, notebook, or whistle, or knocking any such items out of his/her hand; and the act of throwing any object at a referee, such as rocks, dirt, a stick, pipe, can, shoe, or throwing or spewing any beverage at or on a referee, or in his/her vehicle;
 - b. Verbal Threat - Remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm and therefore cannot be ignored or overlooked by any official concerned with his/her own or his/her family's personal safety.

3:05:02 Increase of Penalties

The above penalties are intended as guidelines, however, in extreme situations or in cases of repetition by the same individual, the Disciplinary Committee may increase the penalties imposed.

3:05:03

Coaches and other team officials, such as assistant coaches, team managers, parents, spectators, etc., are also subject to the same penalties as players.

Article VI. - Protest and Appeals Procedure

3:06:01 Protestable Actions

Only violations of the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules & Regulations of AYSA, misapplication of the "Laws of the Game", or violations of League or Organizational Rules & Regulations, provided the latter are within the framework of the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules & Regulations of AYSA, will be proper subjects to be considered for action.

3:06:02 Jurisdiction

In all league or member organization matters, the management within each district will provide procedures for protests and hearing of an appeal and not until that procedure has been completed and an adverse decision rendered on the matter in question will it be forwarded to the Protest and Appeals Committee of AYSA. Upon rendering a decision, the member organization or league will forward a copy of its evidence, findings, and decision to the office of AYSA for future reference. All pertinent data must be forwarded within fourteen (14) days of the league or member organization's decision.

3:06:03 Communication of Appeal

Should any person, team, or organization desire to appeal any adverse decision, the communication will be from the organization having jurisdiction to the District Commissioner; from the District Commissioner to the AYSA Protest & Appeals Committee; and from the AYSA Protest & Appeals Committee to the AYSA Board of Directors.

3:06:04 Next Higher Authority

1. Should any hearing body choose not to hear a protest or appeal, that body may, if they desire, refer the matter directly to the next higher authority.
2. Upon receipt of any adverse decision, appeal may be made to the next higher authority.

3:06:05 Protest or Appeal Administration

1. Protests or Appeals are to be in writing and delivered to the District Commissioner or League within seven (7) calendar days (Sundays Holidays excluded) following the date of the disciplinary decision being protested or appealed.
2. The proper fee must accompany the written protest or appeal;
 - a. The protest or appeal fee will be established at fifty dollars (\$50.00) for items arising before the AYSA Protest and Appeals Committee.
 - b. The protest or appeals fee will be returned if the protest or appeal is upheld. This fee will be retained if the protest or appeal is denied, unless the Protest and Appeals Committee is overruled by a higher authority.
3. The Protest and Appeals Committee of AYSA will consider all pertinent information arising out of an appeal of a league or member organization disciplinary action.
4. The decision of the Protest and Appeals Committee of AYSA will be conveyed, in writing, to the party initiating the appeal and a copy of the decision along with all pertinent information and findings will be filed with AYSA and the involved league or member organization.

3:06:06 Appeal to the Board of AYSA

1. Any decision rendered by the Protest and Appeals Committee of AYSA may be appealed to the full Board of Directors of AYSA.
2. Such appeal must be postmarked or delivered within forty-eight (48) hours to the office of AYSA after receipt of the decision of the Protest and Appeals Committee of AYSA being appealed.
3. No additional fee will be required at this point.
4. AYSA will set a date, with the concurrence of the President of AYSA, for the hearing of the appeal to the Board of Directors of AYSA. Such date will be within forty-five (45) days of the date of the decision rendered by the Protest and Appeals Committee of AYSA.
5. At the hearing by the Board of Directors of AYSA, the Chairman of the Protest and Appeals Committee of AYSA will present the findings of the Committee to the Board of Directors of AYSA. The parties involved will have the opportunity to present their case.
6. The decision of the Board of Directors of AYSA will be conveyed, in writing, within seven

(7) days of the decision.

3:06:07 Litigation Prohibition

No State Association, District Commissioner, Official, League, Member Organization, Team, Referee, Player, Parent, or Representative thereof, may invoke the aid of any-lawyer-or the courts of any States of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the body of organized soccer (i.e. State Youth Associations).

Article VII. - American Festival Rules & Organization

See the Rules for the “American Festival” as approved by the Board.

Article VIII. - Governor’s Cup Rules & Organization

See the Rules for the “Governor’s Cup” as approved by the Board.

Article IX. - Snickers State Youth Cup Rules & Organization

See the Rules for the “Snickers State Cup” as approved by the Board.

Article X. - Districts

3:10:01 Districts

The Board of Governors of AYSA or the Executive Committee may create and/or modify geographical sub-divisions within the territory. These sub-divisions will be known as “Districts”. Each District may be further sub-divided into two or more Sub-Districts.

3:10:02 Current Districts

There are currently four (4) Districts in The Association comprised of the following counties:

North District

Blount, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Winston

North Central District

Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Fayette, Jefferson, Lamar, Pickens, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, Walker

South Central District

Autauga, Bibb, Bullock, Chambers, Chilton, Coosa, Dallas, Elmore, Greene, Hale, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Russell, Tallapoosa

South District

Baldwin, Barbour, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Mobile, Monroe, Pike, Sumter, Washington, Wilcox