



Alabama Soccer Association

“General Membership Rules”

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As of May 2019

Section 1: General

1.1 Purpose

The Rules and Regulations contained herein shall govern all classifications of youth and adult members of the Alabama Soccer Association in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the Alabama Soccer Bylaws. The rules of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), the US Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer) and the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) supersede these rules.

1.2 Amendments

These rules and regulations may be changed or amended by a majority vote of a properly constituted meeting of the General Membership, or Board of Directors.

1.3 Members Organization's Prerogatives to Set Rules

Member Organizations may deem fit to include rules and regulations more stringent than those included herein, but in no case may their rules and regulations be less stringent.

1.4 Pleas of Ignorance

A plea of ignorance of the Bylaws or Rules and Regulations is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate action by the board of directors of this Association.

1.5 Matters not provided for

Any matters not provided for in these rules will be determined by the board of directors of ASA.

Section 2: Administration

2.1 Risk Management Program

The ASA will establish a Risk Management Policy and shall maintain a Risk Management program to ensure the safety of its members. The Risk Management Program will meet certain minimum criteria established by the United Soccer Federation (USSF).

2.2 Insurance

ASA provides Commercial General Liability and Excess Accident Participant Medical coverage for its member organizations while participating in ASA sanctioned and approved activities. Sanctioned and approved activities include participating in scheduled tryout sessions, scheduled team practice sessions, scheduled games, participation in local or national US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments, and other ASA sponsored activities under the direct supervision of a team official.

The Commercial General Liability policy provides liability protection for ASA and their member associations, leagues, and clubs for the alleged or actual acts of civil negligence arising out of their participation in covered activities sanctioned and approved by ASA.

The Excess Accident Participant Medical policy provides medical expense coverage for registered team members, coaches, referees, officials, and volunteers injured while participating in an ASA sanctioned and approved activity. The policy is excess / secondary over any primary insurance coverage available to the injured person.

2.3 Permission to Travel

Teams that wish to travel out of Alabama to play game must request permission from ASA in accordance with procedures detailed in the US Youth Travel Policy.

2.4 Permission to Host Foreign and Interstate Teams

Teams that wish to host teams from another state or another country must request permission from ASA in accordance with procedures detailed in the US Youth Soccer Policy.

2.5 Sanctioning of Tournaments

The Association has the sole right to sanction Member Organization tournaments, as will only sanction those tournaments host by Member Organizations. The Member Organization must request to have a sponsored tournament sanctioned by submitting:

- A. A completed Request to host a Tournament or Game Application
- B. A Host Agreement
- C. A copy of the tournament rules
- D. A post tournament Report must be filed with ASA within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the tournament along with the appropriate fee (\$5.00 per team)

2.6 Professional Status

- A. Any player signing a "letter of intent", a professional contract, or playing with a professional team without the permission of the board of directors shall be declared a professional

- B. Only the board of directors may grant youth amateur players permission to play in benefit or exhibition games where professional players are involved.
- C. No player who has signed a “letter of intent”, a contract, or played in any game where professional players are involved without the permission of the board of directors will be permitted to be reinstated to a youth amateur status.

Section 3: Registration

3.1 Seasonal Year

- A. The Seasonal year shall be from August 1 through July 31 as defined by the United States Youth Soccer Association
- B. The Birth Year is not concurrent with the Seasonal year. The birth year shall be from January 1 through December 31.

3.2 Attaining Age Limit

Players attaining the limited age for any age group on or after January 1 will be eligible to play for the full seasonal year.

3.3 Age Groups

All member organizations shall divide play among teams as listed below. Age groups shall consist of player who on the first day of January preceding the current seasonal year are:

19U and younger	14U and younger	9U and younger
18U and younger	13U and younger	8U and younger
17U and younger	12U and younger	7U and younger
16U and younger	11U and younger	6U and younger
15U and younger	10U and younger	5U and younger
		4U and younger

3.4 Proof of Age

Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, a birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency or board of health records, a passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver’s license, an unexpired federal, state, or local government identification card (if documentation

of date of birth is required), or a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal, or religious certificates will not be accepted.

3.5 Maintaining Youth Eligibility

A youth player shall be permitted to play an unlimited number of amateur (adult) games with USASA affiliated teams without losing youth eligibility, providing that the youth player:

- A. Obtains written permission from his or her youth coach or team representative
- B. Receives written eligibility clearance from ASA

3.6 Levels of Competition/Participation

ASA sanctions play at five (5) distinct levels

- A. In-house Recreation (Division 4): is intended to provide the opportunity for all players to participate in and enjoy the game of soccer without regard for ability or soccer skills. Recreational soccer is a learning program for youth players organized within ASA Affiliate Member Clubs.
- B. Recreation Plus (Division 3): Recreation Plus wraps itself around the Recreation Program philosophy of participation and fun, but also provides the opportunity for players to compete against other clubs in Rec Plus games, festivals and invitational tournaments.
- C. Select/Youth Academy (Division 2): Select soccer programs are intended to provide players with advanced skills and a desire to experience a level of competition beyond recreation.
- D. Elite (Division 1): is the most competitive level and is designed for the most committed and skilled player
- E. Adults: Opportunity for men and women over nineteen (19) years of age to continue playing the game of soccer through ASA sanctioned leagues.

3.7 General Registration

- A. Registration – All youth and adult players must register with their own member organization. The player is registered to the State Association the moment the player or the player’s parent or guardian signs the registration form and pays the appropriate fees. Each member organization is responsible for ensuring proper registration of the players and teams, proper accounting of fiscal transaction and accurate reporting via the ASA online registration system.
- B. Obligation – Division 1, Division 2, and Academy level players shall submit and sign a Player/Parent commitment form, binding the player to that team for the seasonal year. They are committed to the full term of the obligation as specified in writing by the member organization unless the member

organization agrees to a request for a player transfer or release from the club. The player family may also make the request for a release or player transfer.

- C. Rostering – Rostering means assignment of a registered player to a team. Initial rostering shall commence no later than the player’s first participation in a competition sanctioned by Alabama Soccer. Rosters may change by only with the approval of the club registrar, and in accordance with Member Organizations, Adult Leagues, Alabama Soccer, US Youth Soccer, USASA, and USSF rules.

3.8 Roster Sizes and Per Side Sizes

Age Division	Game Format	Roster Limit (Minimum)	Roster Limit (Maximum)
6U & Younger	4v4	4	6
7U & 8U	4v4	4	6
9U & 10U	7v7	6	12
11U & 12U	9v9	6	16
13U – 19U	11v11	8	22

- A. When the Academy model is utilized, roster maximum may exceed the numbers noted in the chart above

3.9 Tryouts for Division 1 and 2

- A. Tryouts for ASA affiliated member teams may be conducted anytime during the ASA designated tryout period. Tryouts being conducted prior to the start of the tryout window are an illegal recruitment violation for each team conducting an early tryout.
- B. Players must complete an ASA Player and Parent Commitment Form to indicate their decision to play for a specific team.
- C. The period of player commitment is defined as the time from the date the ASA Player and Parent Commitment Form is correctly executed up to the day prior to the start of the tryout period for the next seasonal year.
- D. Open recruitment can occur during the tryout period.
- E. The ASA Player and Parent Commitment Form cannot be executed prior to the tryout period.

- F. New team formations comprised of players not previously registered and rostered to another team can be added at any time during the seasonal year.
- G. Any individual player not previously registered and rostered to another team can be added at any time during the seasonal year.
- H. Tryout Advertise: General tryout advertisement may occur beginning February 1st for the upcoming tryout period. Tryout advertisement may contain:
 - 1. Team and or Club Name, age group(s) and association affiliation;
 - 2. Geographical area served;
 - 3. Dates, times, and location;
 - 4. Coach or contact person's name and phone numbers;
 - 5. What to bring (i.e. water, ball, shin guards, etc.);
 - 6. Club/Team fact sheet/information;
 - 7. Coaches' resumes/bios;
- I. Distribution of tryout advertisement:
 - 1. Advertisement is defined as but not limited to, any notification of tryouts on television, radio, and periodical, newspaper articles, notices posted in public places, social media posts, flyers, mass mailers, circulars, or emails.
 - 2. Flyer/mailers can be sent to individual players, but can only have a specific name on the outside of the envelope. All information in the envelope must conform to the above rules, and may not be addressed to any specific player. Beyond the address envelope, there may be no personalized information for the receiving player.

3.10 Player Transfers and Releases

- A. Transfers between competitive teams may take place under the following circumstances:
 - The player's family moves to another geographical area more than 50 miles (no fee required)
 - A team on which the player is currently roster disbands (no fee required)
 - When the club of the releasing team and receiving team agree to the transfer (fee required)

1. All requests for transfers shall be submitted to the ASA Executive Director. The form may be mailed, emailed, faxed to the ASA State Office.
 2. All transfer requests will be reviewed and final approval will be determined by the ASA Executive Director within five (5) working days of the request.
 3. Any contested transfer shall be submitted to the ASA Appeals and Discipline Committee (A & D) for adjudication along with fees based upon on the ASA fee schedule. The decision of the A & D Committee shall be communicated in writing to the player, and the complainant. The committee's decision is final and cannot be appealed.
 4. A team may accept an unlimited amount of transfers; however, at the time a team names its roster for the US Youth National Championship Competitions (State, Regional, National), a team may not have more than five (5) previously rostered players.
 5. A player whose team has participated in a US Youth Soccer National League, US Youth Soccer Regional Premier League, State Cup or State League may transfer. However, they are not permitted to play for a different team in the same competition during the same seasonal year.
- B. Release is defined as a player who no longer wants to play for their registered team and/or member organization. The member organization or the player family may request a release and use the same policies and guidelines as the above Transfer Rules.

3.11 Guest Playing

- A. The head coach desiring the participation of a player must direct a request in writing, phone call, or email to the head coach of the team that the player is currently rostered, or to the Director of Coaching of the player's club. (This applies to guest players from *outside* the team's club/association)
- B. The individual contacted must grant approval for participation prior to the player partaking in any event or activity. If the players current coach or Director of Coaching does not grant approval, the player is not permitted to participate.
- C. Non-compliance with the guest playing provision either by the coach or player shall be deemed unethical and subject to disciplinary action.

3.12 Player Loan Form

If a player's team does not re-form and a player selects to play with another team not from the same club, the player must complete the Player Loan Form. The form must be signed by all parties granting permission. This form must be submitted to ASA for approval after all proper signatures have been received.

3.13 Illegal Recruiting

- A. Illegal recruiting is defined as any intentional act whereby an individual contacts a player, outside of their competitive club, that has appropriately executed a ASA Player and Parent Commitment form or

registered with another competitive team and invites that player to join his or her team without the current team's coach and/or Director of Coaching's permission.

- B. Illegal recruitment may include, but not limited, to the following: personal contact, initiating of phone calls, invitations to training/games/team activities, and actual participation in training/games/team activities.
- C. ASA coaches, administrators, and other official members who represent both an ASA affiliated organization and a USYS non-affiliated, US Soccer organization, within the same calendar year must abide by the rules regarding illegal recruiting of ASA players for the purposes of participation in a non-ASA game, event, or team activities
- D. Sanctions: If a coach, team official, player, parent of a player, or anybody acting on behalf of the team is found guilty of illegal recruiting, the sanctions may include, but are not limited to the following: warning, coach suspension, tournament play restrictions, team advancement restrictions, coach dismissal, and team suspension.

Section 4 – Rules of Play

4.1 FIFA Rules

The rules of play shall be current "Laws of the Game", as published by F.I.F.A., providing there is no ASA rule to the contrary.

4.2 Rules of Competition

- A. All teams playing in competitions directly hosted by ASA must play as described within these playing rules and as described below.
 - 1. Alabama State League (ASL)
 - 2. ASA State Cup – Division 1 & 2
- B. Coaching Requirements - please review www.alsoccer.org

4.3 Modifications

Players 5U –12U shall play by the modified Rules for Small Sided Games as published by US Soccer and US Youth Soccer unless otherwise approved by the ASA Board of Directors.

4.4 Field of Play

The following indicates field dimensions by age group. Refer to the US Soccer standards chart: http://www.alsoccer.org/asa_administrative/us_soccer_initiatives/

Age	Field Size (yards)	Ball	Maximum Goal Size (feet)	Penalty Area	Build Out Line
13U-19U	Length: 100 - 120 Width: 65 - 80	Size 5	8 x 24	18 yards	No
11U-12U	Length: 70 - 80 Width: 45 - 55	Size 4	7 x 21	14 yards	No
9U-10U	Length: 55 - 65 Width: 35 - 45	Size 4	6.5 x 18.5	12 Yards	^ Yes
5U-8U	Length: 25 - 35 Width: 15 - 25	Size 3	4 x 6	N/a	No

^ Build out lines should be equidistant between the penalty area line and halfway line

4.5 Code of Conduct

Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein and as published by US Soccer, including caution, ejections, and standard suspensions. All member organizations shall be familiar with the ASA Code of Conduct.