

2023 Tournament Rules - Alabama State Games

General

- These rules apply to the Alabama State Games Soccer Tournament for June 9-11, 2023 (**competition dates are June 10-11, 2023**) **OPENING CEREMONY IS JUNE 9, 2023.**
- Tournament fees must be paid before any team is declared eligible for the tournament. Fees will be paid online through Sinc Sports/Soccer in College website. A link will be provided to the tournament page. You can also search for “Alabama State Games” on the soccerincollege.com website. The Sinc Sports app is also available for download on your smart phone.
- All participants, (including players, coaches, and any team official) must complete a waiver to the ASF Foundation by the deadline published for online check-in.
- All teams will be checked in prior to the tournament. **ONLINE** Check-in will verify:
 1. Fees Paid
 2. All players registered and waivers signed by a parent/guardian.
 3. All players registered are eligible for their respected age bracket.
 4. Coaches and team officials (if any) have produced signed waivers.

I. Final Team Check-In

Team Check-in Options

1. Check in Online - \$20 - YOU CAN GO STRAIGHT TO FIELDS SATURDAY

II. Guest Players and Club Pass Players

- NA

III. Housing

All teams are responsible for setting up and paying for their own housing as stated on the main event website. Please review the site for event specific housing options. WE ARE NOT STAY TO PLAY.

IV. Eligibility

- This event is open to all boys’ and girls’ teams from **Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana teams** who are registered and in good standings with their FIFA affiliated association.
- Teams will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Once the event fills, teams will be placed on a waiting list.
- If an age group does not have enough teams; teams registered will be given the opportunity to play up an age group if applicable.
- National Teams are not eligible.

V. Game Format

7v7 - One referee per game. No linesman. Offside is in effect. **Max Roster of 14.** NO PUNTING - If a player punts the ball on accident they will get to repossess and restart. ENGAGEMENT LINES WILL BE USED. If not painted, then we will use midfield. **NO HEADING.**

Starting at the U-9 level, games will use build-out lines. A horizontal line drawn from sideline to sideline 14-yards in front of each goal, build-out lines will encourage possession and playing the ball out of the back. When a goalkeeper has the ball in hand or takes a goal kick, the opposing team remains behind the build-out line until the ball is put into play. This line also indicates where offside can be called, as teams cannot be called for offside between the midfield and build-out line.

9v9 - Three-person referee crew per game. Offside is in effect. **Max Roster of 18.** Heading allowed. Coaches are responsible for making sure no U11s head the ball if playing in a U12 bracket.

9v9 - Adult Division - All adult players are required to show picture I.D. to the referees before each game they play. A player must be at least **18** years of age to compete on an adult roster.

NEW HEADING RULES PER US SOCCER

DO NOT GIVE REF A HARD TIME ABOUT THIS NEW LAW

7.11 Heading

7.11.1 Deliberate heading is not allowed in U11 and under games

7.11.2 If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.

7.11.3 If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred

7.11.4 Heading is allowed in U12 games without limitations.

VI. Players and Reserves

- Girls may roster on boys' teams; boys may not roster on girls' teams.
- Shin Guards must be worn by all players.
- Hard casts are permitted as long as the head referee approves. If permitted, all hard cast must be wrapped in 1/2-inch slow recovery padding. Neoprene or foam rubber. Not bubble wrap.
- Soft casts must have the approval of the Center Referee.
- No jewelry will be allowed.

VII. Player Passes

- NA

VIII. Substitution Procedure

All teams are allowed unlimited substitutions with their entire roster. Unlimited substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee at the following times:

- Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- After a goal by either team.
- After an injury by either team when the referee stops play.
- Half Time
- Prior to a throw-in the team in possession. Both teams can sub if players are ready on the sideline.

IX. Team Jersey Requirements

- The first team listed on the schedule is the home team. The **home** team should wear their light color and the **away** team should wear their dark color.
- The **team that isn't following the above rule will need to change.**
- Team jerseys must match with unique numbers for each player as submitted on the Official Tournament Roster. Exceptions can be made if communicated to the event director

X. Length of Game

Age	Half Length
7v7	25 Min Half
9v9	30 Min Half

XI. Schedules, Results, and Standings

After every game the referee will complete a game card to report the score. The winning coach must verify both scores on the game card after the game.

XII. Game Balls

The home team provides each match an official game ball to be used in all matches. It is the responsibility of both teams to have their tournament game balls at all tournament games and make every effort to ensure that this ball remains in play. The home team shall provide two game balls to start the game. If additional balls are needed, they may be provided by either team.

- ***U9-U10 (7v7) teams use a size 4 ball.***
- ***U11-U12 (7v7) teams use a size 4 ball.***
- ***U13+ (9v9) teams use a size 5 ball.***

XIII. Placement of Teams and Spectators

- Coaching may only occur on the team's half of the sideline from the centerline to within 30 yards of the end line.
- Spectators for both teams will be positioned on the opposite side of the field from the teams. Spectators should sit directly opposite of their team
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for supervision of their children at all times.
- In the event that a child is lost, immediately notify any facility or tournament staff.
- Found children will be brought to Tournament Headquarters to be reunited with parents/guardians.

XV. Tournament Officials

- Referees are assigned for all matches; however, teams must be prepared to provide a Club lines person, if necessary.
- **No referee abuse/ harassment is permitted. If it is determined by tournament staff that abuse/ harassment is taking place then the party responsible will be removed from the facility for the duration of the tournament.**

XVI. Facility

- The Law prohibits the use of drugs and alcohol at any facility. Players/Parents in violation will be ejected from the tournament.
- This tournament is committed to promoting an environment that is free from harassment and violence in any form: verbal or physical intimidation; vandalism; drug, alcohol or tobacco use; gambling and inappropriate language. These policies apply to all players, coaches, referees and spectators.
- Pets are not permitted on the game fields.

XVII. Unsportsmanlike Behavior

- Zero tolerance for fighting or heckling. Persons exhibiting these behaviors will be asked to leave the premises.
- Any player, coach, spectator or participant who is ejected from a game or participates in any misconduct may result in a warning, game forfeit, tournament disqualification or other action if necessary.

XVIII. Field Marshals

- A field marshal system is utilized to keep the games on time, and as a first line of communication in the event of a problem.
- There will be one field marshal for every two to six fields.

- Each field marshal will have the ability to communicate with soccer central.

XIX. Red Cards

Red cards will be administered as per FIFA laws of the game.

- A player sent off will not be allowed to play for the remainder of that game and the next game at a minimum. Violent Conduct may result in more than a one game suspension.
- After the suspension is served, the coach may pick up the pass in Tournament Headquarters.
- If a coach is Red Carded, he/she will serve an automatic mandatory one-game suspension for his/her team affected and will not be allowed on the premises during the suspension. A carded assistant coach/manager must be available or the ensuing match will result in a forfeit.
- ***All red cards (players and coaches) are reviewable by the tournament staff.***

XX. Protests

No protests will be heard.

XXI. Scheduling

- We do our best to meet all requests but make no guarantees that we can honor each of them, please be prepared to have an assistant coach available in the event the coaches games overlap.
- If you have any questions about schedules and potential conflicts please reach out to the tournament director pre-event.

XXII. Scoring and World Cup Group Ranking

- All Semi-Final and final games will go straight to PK's if both teams are tied at the end of regulation.
- Teams will be awarded three points for a win and one point for a tie.
- A forfeit score will be recorded as a 4-0 victory.

TIES IN BRACKET STANDINGS AT END OF PRELIMINARY ROUND OF PLAY.

In the event of a tie within a bracket after preliminary games are complete, the following tiebreakers will be used to determine the winner of the bracket:

1. Winner of head to head competition, if only two teams are tied in the bracket. If more than two teams are tied in the bracket, go to rule 2.
2. Points for Goal Differential: Up to six per game.

3. Most goals scored by a team during the preliminary round of play. Maximum of six goals counted per match.
4. Most matches won by shutout in the preliminary round of play.
5. Fewest Goals Allowed in preliminary round of play.
6. If we are able eliminate one team from a three team tie using the first five tiebreakers then head to head will decide the tiebreaker for the remaining two teams. This is only used if the two teams are still tied going into PK tiebreaker.
7. Penalty kicks between the teams in question, taken using FIFA rules. (Coin Toss desired by both coaches)

If 3 or more teams are tied after step 5, the event director will advise

XXIV. Awards

All brackets will have awards for the first, second, and third place teams.

XXV. Weather Provisions

If weather or the condition of fields makes it impossible to carry out the tournament to its full extent, the tournament director will make the necessary decisions concerning the rearrangement or cancellation of games for any reason. Every effort is made to play all games in their entirety. Fees are non-refundable, if games or the tournament are canceled for any reason.

If any weather delay happens during a game and the game is at, or past half time, the score will be final. If the game is delayed before half then the game will continue after the delay.

The tournament officials have the right to:

- Relocate or reschedule any game(s).
- Change the duration of the match(es).
- Cancel any preliminary game(s). Canceled matches may be decided by a shootout. The game is scored 1-0 for points determination.
- Preliminary games terminated by game or tournament officials may be considered official as of the termination time. The game may be considered complete and the score at termination will be final and used for point's determination.

XXVI. Injuries

- Coaches are considered guardians for underage participants when the parents are unavailable, and for all players regardless of age, when impairment of mental status renders the player incapable of making an informed decision. As such, they have a responsibility to make decisions in the best interest of the health and safety of the player.

- A coach's decision to allow a participant to play, contrary to the recommendation of the medical staff, may leave the coach open to legal liability.
- If the coach is under the legal age; the team is required to have an official representative of legal age at the field who will serve as the legal guardian.
- Coaches/Managers are responsible for having emergency medical information for all players in their possession at all games.
- Referees are responsible for summoning the coach and first aid personnel onto the field, in the event of an injury.
- The injured player will first be evaluated on the field by first aid staff.
- If further evaluation is warranted, the injured player will be moved to the sideline when medically safe, according to emergency medical protocol.

Field Coordination

- **Teams should be at the field and ready to play 15 minutes prior to game time.**
 1. Referees will check roster before each game.
 2. Verify that all adult players show their picture I.D. before the game.
 - Picture I.D. has to be current state driver's license -OR-
 - Picture I.D. has to be current state college I.D.
 3. Verify players' equipment and uniforms conform to tournament rules. (The final decision of player equipment or uniform confirmation rests with the Tournament Referee Administrator.)
 4. Referee will retain the proper game card for the scheduled game.
- At the conclusion or termination of the game, the referees will return the game ball to its team and all completed game cards to the field coordinator. Both coaches must sign the game card. Coaches are responsible for confirming score before signing game card. No disputes will be heard after game cards have been signed.

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

No smoking is allowed at the fields. Artificial noisemakers are PROHIBITED. No pets are allowed at the venue. No alcoholic beverages are allowed at the fields.

-Tournament Director has final say on any matter during the event.