Alabama Soccer Association
State Cup

"Rules & Procedures"

Updated November 2026

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I. Tournament Sanction and Officials

The Alabama State Championships is a tournament sanctioned and conducted annually by the Alabama Soccer Association (ASA) for competition among boys' and girls' teams in the 13U through 19U age groups. It serves as a qualifying event for the US Youth Soccer Regional and National Championships. All applicable ASA and US Youth Soccer rules apply, and the ASA State Cup is conducted under the direction of the State Tournament Committee.

II. Eligibility of Teams and Players

State Cup competition is open to ASA member teams in good standing. Rosters must comply with US Youth Soccer limits. Teams with a maximum of 18 players must have at least 9 consistent players between league and championship play, while 22-player rosters must retain 11. Roster freezes prohibit player additions, and only one State Cup entry per season is permitted per team. Violations result in forfeiture and disqualification.

III. Competition Fines, Deadlines/Withdrawals, & Forfeits

Teams must pay any fines before their next game, with charges posted in GotSport. Fines apply for lateness, failure to attend award ceremonies, forfeits, or withdrawals after the deadline. Forfeits are recorded as 4–0 losses. A $200 non-refundable deposit is required by December 10 for teams advancing to Regional or National events. For 2026, teams agreeing to attend the events for Southeast Presidents Cup and/or National Championships, will pay the entire team registration fee to attend.

IV. Scoring & Tiebreakers

If a bracket has agreed to the round robin format - Teams earn 3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, and 0 for a loss. Tiebreakers include: (1) head-to-head, (2) most wins, (3) goal differential (max +4 per game), (4) fewest goals against, (5) most goals scored (max 4 per game), and (6) penalty kicks. For more than two teams tied, a draw determines matchups for FIFA Kicks. Elimination games use penalty kicks only to determine winners.

Scoring for the games will be done by the winning coach via QR code on the game card with the opposing coach verifying the score. The referees will submit the game cards to the field official and/or the ASA office for final verification.

V. Game Sites

All play-in matches may be scheduled anywhere in Alabama based on the higher seed. Participation requires agreement to play at any designated location.

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VI. Club or Association and Team Obligations

State Cup games take precedence over all others. Dates are published in advance but remain subject to weather changes. Teams must be available for the full competition duration.

VII. Game Officials

Each match will have three officials assigned by a registered Alabama USSF Assignor. A fourth official may be used when available. The Tournament Director will coordinate official requirements with the State Youth Referee Administrator.

VIII. Rules of Play

All play is governed by FIFA "Laws of the Game," US Youth Soccer National Championship Rules, and ASA policies.

- Teams and spectators must adhere to ASA's Codes of Conduct.
- Home teams wear light jerseys; visitors wear dark.
- Spectators remain on the opposite sideline.
- Each team must present official ASA rosters and laminated player passes before each match.
    - Grace periods of 15 minutes apply for check-in and minimum player count.
    - Maximum 18 players are dressed for the game
    - Maximum 4 Club Personnel allowed in the bench area
- Games will use penalty shootouts (no overtime) in elimination rounds.
- Unlimited substitutions are allowed for all age groups..
- Ejected players or coaches are suspended from the next State Cup or Regional match.

Protests must be submitted within one hour of match end with a $250 cash fee to the ASA State Cup office on site.

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