

CENTRAL ALABAMA SOCCER LEAGUE

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Questions and Answers about Tournaments

Does CASL offer a tournament?

No but, we do offer an end of the season festival during the spring. In the future, CASL expects to offer league events in conjunction with the member clubs' established tournaments and possibly assist in hosting additional festival activities like the Kohl's American Cup.

If my team is playing in CASL, what tournaments can we enter?

Your CASL team is registered as an "AYSA Division III" team through your club and the state association. Division III teams are eligible to play in any AYSA-sanctioned tournament except for the Division I and II State Cups. The principle state tournament that caters to AYSA Division III teams is the AYSA Governor's Cup, which is held in the fall each year. Clubs such as Birmingham United, Hoover, Trussville and Vestavia have offered Division III tournaments in the central Alabama area. Other clubs in the state offer similar tournaments throughout the year.

Can we play in an out of state tournament?

Sure, as long as it's a tournament sanctioned by a US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) state association like AYSA or another US Soccer affiliate. All you have to do is conform to the travel notification rules established by AYSA, which basically boil down to filing an AYSA "intent to travel" form by email for USYSA-sanctioned tournaments within Region III (which includes Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Florida among others), or a US Youth Soccer "travel permit" for tournaments outside Region III or tournaments sanctioned by other US Soccer affiliates.

What about non-sanctioned tournaments?

There are a number of non-sanctioned events every year, including some of the "3v3" tournaments and indoor events. Note that the term "non-sanctioned" does not mean "illegal" – it merely refers to the lack of formal approval of the event by AYSA and USYSA. This approval establishes a level of expectation regarding scheduling, organization, refereeing, and playing rules; but most importantly it guarantees that you and your players are covered by the state association's medical and liability insurance when you participate.

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There is nothing stopping you or your players from participating in non-sanctioned tournaments, and in fact there are some good reasons to do so: for example, 3v3 is a fun diversion from the regular game, and playing indoor is better than not playing at all during the winter. If you choose to do so, though, remember:

- You cannot participate as an AYSA registered team,
- You cannot use your AYSA roster as your team roster,
- You cannot use your AYSA player cards as player identification, and
- Your participation is not covered under the insurance that your AYSA registration provides.

Before agreeing to participate in a non-sanctioned event, you should make sure that the hosting organization is offering suitable insurance coverage for you and your players, or that you and your team's parents are prepared to handle the risk yourselves through your own insurance.

What is CASL's position regarding whether my team participates in a particular tournament?

CASL, as a member of AYSA and US Youth Soccer, supports AYSA's state tournaments like the Governor's Cup and AYSA/USYSA sanctioned events. As such, CASL encourages you to consider these tournaments if you are looking for additional playing opportunities for your players. CASL really has no position one way or another on whether you and your players should participate in non-sanctioned tournaments – they are outside CASL's scope of authority and influence.

As an AYSA member, you should avoid participating in events that conflict with AYSA sanctioned activities whenever possible. Events not hosted under AYSA approval may be scheduled for weekends in which AYSA is hosting major activities like ODP or state tournaments, and AYSA members are committed to support those activities. In addition, AYSA has specifically enjoined its members from participating in sanctioned play during the weekends of the three state tournaments, Governor's Cup, DII State Cup/DI State Cup Preliminaries and DI State Cup Finals.

Your club might have other reasons for preferring or discounting participation in various events. For example, your club may subscribe to a developmental philosophy that does not align with the format of play or objectives of a particular event. As with anything, you should consult with your club's officers and directors if you have any questions about their positions on a given activity or event.

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