

Sanatan Sports & Cultural Society of AB

**2026 Sanatan
Soccer
Tournament**

Hosted by

Sanatan Sports & Cultural Society of AB

Laws of the Game

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2026 EDMONTON SANATAN TOURNAMENT
HOST: Sanatan Sports & Cultural Society of Alberta

TOURNAMENT VENUE: Mill Moods Recreation Centre - 7207 28 Ave NW, Edmonton AB.

TOURNAMENT DATES: June 20th & 21st

1.0 EXECUTIVE AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEES

1.1 The 2026 Executive Committee

The 2026 Executive Committee is the Board consisting of the President, Vice President, other board members and the Chair of the Organizing Committee.

1.2 The 2026 Organizing Committee

1.2.1 Sanatan Sports and Cultural Society of Alberta (the host) shall structure its Organizing Committee as it sees fit for proper and successful delivery of the 2026 Sanatan Soccer tournament festival program.

1.2.2 The Organizing Committee shall keep the Executive Committee informed of policies, rules, any special arrangements, and all requirements relating to the 2026 tournament. The Executive Committee shall ensure that the policies and rules are fair and practical to all participants.

1.2.3 The organizing committee shall communicate the approved game rules to the manager and/or the contact person of all participating teams at least one month before the tournament start date.

1.2.4 The Organizing Committee will determine the award of cash prizes to the tournament winner and runner up teams.

1.2.5 The President of the Society, in conjunction with the VP and the Organizing Committee Chairperson, will present the trophies, prizes and awards to the winning team and the runner up team.

2.0 TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

2.1 The teams eligible to participate in the 2026 Edmonton Sanatan Soccer Tournament are teams from Canada and the United States.

2.2 This is a SANATAN DHARAM tournament and therefore only players and officials of Indo Fijian origin, or those that have become part of the family by being legally married into Fijian Heritage, and who follow and practice SANATAN DHARAM will be allowed to participate. The honors are on the team manager to ensure the rules are followed. In case of a request to provide proof, it would be incumbent of the player and team manager to provide necessary evidence. Ultimately the organizing committee will make the decision.

In the case of a protest, the Disciplinary Committee (composed of the Executive Committee) is allowed to use any appropriate method of determining the authenticity of the protested player in making a decision.

2.3 If a team is found guilty of misrepresenting a player's eligibility, providing a false name, providing fake identification, or misleading the Organizing and Executive Committees, the team will incur a financial penalty of three hundred dollars (**C\$300.00**), forfeit all points and games which such a player had played and the opposing team will be granted three goals and three points.

3.0 TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 3.1 All participating teams must register their teams and players with the 2026 Organizing Committee by June 1st, 2026 on forms prescribed by the 2026 Organizing Committee.
- 3.3 A late entry may be accepted with acceptable reason by the 2026 Organizing Committee, but may incur an additional late-entry fee.
- 3.4 A team may register up to seventeen (17) players in the tournament on a form prescribed by the 2026 Organizing Committee.
- 3.5 All players must produce government-issued photo identifications for registration purposes at least one hour before the game start time. No such photo identification, no game.

4.0 ENTRY FEE

- 4.1 All teams participating in the 2026 Edmonton Sanatan tournament are required to pay an entry fee of five hundred Canadian dollars (**C\$500.00**) in full by the registration deadline.

5.0 TEAM COLOURS

- 5.1 All participating teams must register and carry two sets of uniforms for the 2026 tournament.
- 5.2 Each registered team must use the team's primary or alternate uniform colour to clearly distinguish the competing teams on the playing field.
- 5.3 All jerseys must be numbered.
- 5.4 Goalkeepers must wear colours that clearly distinguish them from the players on the field for easy identification by the game officials.
- 5.6 Where the uniform colours of two competing teams are similar, the Executive Committee will decide which team needs to change and their decision will be final.

6.0 RULES OF THE GAME

6.1 FIFA Laws

- 6.1.1 The FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) laws of game and the Decisions of the International Football Association Board shall apply to the 2026 Edmonton Sanatan tournament games.

6.2 Competition Structure and Method of Scoring

- 6.2.1 The games will be played on a pool-and-point system.
- 6.2.2 The number of pools and the number of teams in each pool will be determined by the 2026 Organizing Committee.
- 6.2.3 The pool winner will be determined by adding up the points of individual teams in the pool and the team scoring the highest points will be the winner in that pool.
- 6.2.4 The points shall be awarded as follows:
 - (a) Three points for a win;
 - (b) One point each for a draw; and
 - (c) Zero point for a loss.
- 6.2.5 If two or more teams in the same pool score an equal number of points, the team with the best "goal difference" shall be the winner.
- 6.2.6 If the "goal difference" is the same for two or more teams, the "team scoring the highest number of goals" shall be the winner.
- 6.2.7 If two or more teams are still equal in points after applying the rules in 6.2.5 and 6.2.6 above, the winner will be determined by a shootout.
- 6.2.8 The top two (2) teams from each pool shall qualify to advance to the next round.

6.3 Player Substitution

- 6.3.1 A team may substitute up to a maximum of **six (6)** players in each match. The International Sanatan Soccer Tournament qualifies as “Other Matches” under the FIFA law # 3 (The Number of Players) which allows up **to six (6)** substitutions in such matches.
- 6.3.2 Each team may substitute any number of players at a time upon ref’s discretion with the focus being to minimize disruptions while allowing teams to make substitutions. The referee will make this clear before the game.
- 6.3.3 The substitution shall be from the six (6) “reserve players” listed on the team list and seated on the reserve bench. The total number of substitutions includes the goalkeeper.
- 6.3.4 All substitutes must enter and leave the field through the fourth official of the game. Any team violating this rule will face disciplinary action.

6.4 Game Officials

- 6.4.1 The Game Officials shall comprise the Games Controller(s), the referee, and other officials.
- 6.4.2 Qualified, trained referees will officiate all matches in the tournament.
- 6.4.3 The referees will be assisted by qualified linesmen in the knockout rounds.
- 6.4.4 The referee may also be assisted by a fourth official as required, especially with player substitutions during the games in play.
- 6.4.5 The referees’ decisions will be final and cannot be protested.
- 6.4.6 The Games Controller(s) will control the match schedules, the fixtures and player ID verifications.
- 6.4.7 The Games Controller(s) shall verify and note the identification of team players using the government-issued photo ID before the game start time.
- 6.4.8 The 2026 Organizing Committee reserves the right to appoint additional Game Officials as needed.

6.4 Duration of the Match

- 6.4.1 Each match in the Premier Division tournament shall be sixty (60) minutes long with two spells of thirty (30) minutes each and a five-minute break for the half time. The Organizing Committee may vary this if needed to allow completion of matches in the allotted time period.
- 6.4.2 Each match must start at the scheduled start time unless advised otherwise by the Games Controller.
- 6.4.3 All Team Managers must check with the Games Controller of their team’s game start time at least one hour before the game start time.

6.5 Team Sheets

- 6.5.1 Team sheets for each game must be submitted to the referee thirty (30) minutes before the start of the game.
- 6.5.2 All relevant details of the players of each team must be filled in correctly on the team sheets.
- 6.5.3 Team sheets and match officials’ reports shall be used as evidence in dealing with any protest regarding player eligibility.
- 6.5.4 The government-issued photo identifications of all players must be readily available for inspection as and when requested by the match officials.

6.6 Match Completion and Default

- 6.6.1 Each participating team must complete the full match game. No team is allowed to walk off the field during the play in protest or otherwise for any reason whatsoever.
- 6.6.2 Any team that violates this rule shall forfeit the full three points in favor of the opposing team even if the team that walks off the field was winning the game.

- 6.6.3 The team that walks off the field in violation of this rule may be expelled from the tournament.
- 6.6.4 Any team that fails to take the field within five (5) minutes of the game start time shall forfeit the game and the full three points of the match in favour of the opposing team. Exceptions may be made by the executive committee in very special circumstances.

6.7 Semi-Final and Final Games

- 6.7.1 The winners and runner ups from each pool will play the semi-final games.
- 6.7.2 The semi-final and final games will be played on a knockout basis.
- 6.7.3 If a match results in a draw at the end of sixty (60) minutes of play, the overtime game shall be extended into extra time in two spells of ten (10) minutes each.
- 6.7.4 If the match still results in a tie after the overtime play, the winner shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the FIFA rules.

7.0 Technical Area

- 7.1 The reserve bench shall consist of up to six (6) substitute players and up to three (3) team officials that include the Team Manager, the Team Coach and the physiotherapist. The game officials will monitor this area and shall take appropriate action to immediately remove extra persons from the technical area.
- 7.2 Only one person is permitted in the technical area for instructions to pass on to the team. Match officials will monitor compliance with this rule.
- 7.3 Repeated non-compliance with rules 7.1 and 7.2 above will result in disciplinary action.

8.0 Protests

- 8.1 All protests must be in writing stating the nature of and the grounds for the protest.
- 8.2 All protests must be lodged with the Games Controller of the tournament within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the match to which the protest relates.
- 8.3 All protests must be accompanied by a non-refundable cash fee of two hundred dollars (**C\$200.00**) for processing the protest and issuing a decision.
- 8.4 All protests will be dealt with by a Disciplinary Committee appointed by the Organizing Committee. In the absence of a Disciplinary Committee to deal with protests, the Executive Committee will deal with the protest.
- 8.5 Since referees' decisions are final, no protest against the referees' decisions will be accepted.
- 8.6 The decision of a protest will be announced by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or the Executive Committee.

9.0 Cautions, Fouls, Infringements and Misconduct

- 9.1 Where two cautions by way of Yellow Cards are recorded against a player in the same game, then he shall be deemed to have committed an offence equivalent to a Red Card.
- 9.2 A Red Card carries an automatic suspension of one game in addition to financial penalty.
- 9.3 The carry-forward of penalties and game suspensions for Yellow Card and Red Card offences shall apply to the 2026 tournament games as follows:
 - 9.3.1 **Where Yellow Cards are recorded against a player in two consecutive pool games only, it will result in an automatic suspension of one game, that is, the player will "miss" the third game.**
 - 9.3.2 Yellow Card offences recorded against a player in the pool games will not be carried forward into the knockout games, that is, Yellow Card cautions from the pool games will be cleared for the knockout stages.
 - 9.3.3 If Yellow Card offences are recorded against a player in two consecutive quarter-final and semi-final games before the final game and his team advances to the final, the player will not be eligible to play the final game.
 - 9.3.4 All Red Card offences, however, will apply to the whole tournament.

- 9.4 If a player or team official was dismissed by a referee in a match for foul play or misconduct of a nature that warrants a hearing by the Disciplinary Committee or the Executive Committee, that individual shall remain suspended until the appropriate Committee has decided his case.
- 9.5 No suspended player, or ineligible player, or team official shall be allowed on the Reserve Bench or in the Technical Area.
- 9.6 If any person, player, or official is subjected to any form of judicial hearing or action as a result of gross misconduct of whatsoever nature that warrants judicial hearing or action of any form, that individual shall be responsible for all costs and fees associated with such a hearing or action.

10.0 Indemnity

The tournament hosting body, the Organizing Committee, the Executive Committee and their affiliates and officials, members, anyone acting on their behalf and their successors are irrevocably indemnified and held harmless from and against any and all losses, claims, expenses, suits, costs, demands, damages or liabilities of whatever kind or nature arising out of or relating to any dealings, activities, programs and services of the hosting body locally, nationally or internationally by anyone and all persons, entities and agencies.

11.0 Insurance

- 11.1 The tournament hosting body, the Organizing Committee, the Executive Committee and their affiliates and officials, members, anyone acting on their behalf and their successors are not responsible for the injury of whatsoever nature of any player, any official or any person before, during and after the games on and off the field.
- 11.2 The participating teams must carry their own insurance for players and officials as teams see fit, or individuals may carry their own insurance with sufficient coverage for any unlikely mishap.
- 11.3 The players, officials and all patrons shall park their vehicles in the designated areas. The tournament hosting body, the Organizing Committee, the Executive Committee and their affiliates and officials, members, anyone acting on their behalf and their successors are not responsible for any break-ins, thefts and damages caused by anyone or in any manner to the vehicle parked in and near the tournament venue.

12.0 Alcohol and Drugs

- 12.1 Alcohol will only be allowed in designated areas. Relevant licenses and permits must be clearly displayed in a conspicuous place in the designated area.
- 12.2 No drugs of any nature are allowed as the venue.
- 12.3 No weapons of any sort are allowed at the venue.

13.0 TROPHIES AND CASH PRIZES FOR THE PREMIER CATEGORY

- 13.1 There will be a trophy each for the winner and the runner-up teams as well as cash prizes as set by the 2026 Organizing Committee.

14.0 MASTERS CATEGORY

- 14.1 The Masters Team shall comprise of players who are forty (40) years of age and over on the date of tournament.
- 14.2 All Rules of the Game and all established policies for the Premier Category also apply to the Masters Category with the following exceptions:
 - 14.2.1 Each match in the Masters Category tournament shall be sixty (60) minutes long with two spells of thirty (30) minutes each and a five-minute break for the half time.
 - 14.2.2 The team registration fee for the Masters Teams will be five hundred dollars (**C\$500.00**) per team payable by June 1st, 2026.
- 14.3 There will be trophies for the winner and runner-up teams.
- 14.4 The amount of cash prizes, if any, for the winner and the runner-up teams will be at the discretion of the 2026 Organizing Committee based on their funding reality.
- 14.5 The Masters team players may play in the Premier Division teams.

15.0 GENERAL RULES

- 15.1 All players and officials are required to uphold, promote, and demonstrate Sanatan values and principles of exemplary Sanatan behaviour on and off the field.
- 15.2 The 2026 Organizing Committee has discretion to make decisions on any tournament-related matters that are not covered by the Laws of the Game policy document.
- 15.3 The 2026 Organizing Committee may make new or change existing rules as seen fit to facilitate the successful and timely completion of the tournament, and to comply with any bylaws and regulations of the municipal and/or the provincial authorities.
- 15.4 It is the shared responsibility of all team players, officials and the host to keep the premises clean and to refrain from any illegal activity and behaviour at all times during the tournament.