

HISTORY OF SOCCER IN ALASKA

Prior to 2000, there was no ASAA sanctioned state soccer championship. Only schools in the Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Juneau school districts played soccer in the spring. Fairbanks schools played fall soccer. Starting in 1982, the Anchorage School District started hosting a State Invitational in which they invited other schools, which had good winning records to an end-of-the-season tournament.

By the end of the 1990, all the schools on the Kenai Peninsula had started high school soccer programs along with Grace Christian in Anchorage. The growth of the interscholastic soccer programs to 20 schools in three regions warranted a state-level culminating event. In 2000, ASAA sanctioned an eight-team boys and girls state championship. Three berths were allotted to Region 3 (Kenai, Mat-Su, Grace), one berth to Region 5 (Southeast), and four berths to Region 4 (Anchorage). Starting in 2006, the Fairbanks high schools moved their soccer season from the fall to the spring. They received one state berth leaving Anchorage with three berths.

The inaugural ASAA/First National Bank Alaska Soccer State Championships was held at two adjoining fields at Skyview High School in May 2000. Anchorage hosted the 2001 tournaments, and then Wasilla hosted the next three years. After its turn in the valley, the tournament moved back to Anchorage with use of the Anchorage Football Stadium. In 2010 for the first time the tournament was held off the road system in Juneau.