

SOCCER CHALLENGE

A Higher Purpose

Provide an athletic outlet for youth ages 9 to 14 through penalty kick competition. Designed for players to demonstrate their skills in the penalty kick. Councils can sponsor a competition by ordering a Soccer Challenge Kit, or volunteer to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships.

Overview

The Soccer Challenge is a great way for councils to engage in their communities with an athletic event for youth that encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Children demonstrate the most important skill in soccer – shooting accuracy on the penalty kick – and compete to reach the international level of competition. The program is a great way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Set a date, location and time for the Soccer Challenge.
- Ensure that the event is properly staffed and safely run, according to rules and regulations.
- Train volunteers in the Safe Environment protocols (www.kofc.org/safe). A minimum of two volunteers must be Safe Trained.
- Coordinate with the district and state/province level regarding date, time, and location of the next level of the competition and provide this information to the winners at the council level.
- Promote the event to local media.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Order the *Soccer Challenge Kit* (#SC-KIT) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
2. Set a date, location and time for the Soccer Challenge. If required by venue, acquire insurance.
3. Contact schools and youth centers to explain and promote the program. Suggest that the schools or youth centers consider using this activity as part of their physical education classes.
4. Prior to the Soccer Challenge, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
5. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Soccer Challenge in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters (found in the *Soccer Challenge Kit* (#SC-KIT))
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages



6. Coordinate with the district and state/province leadership regarding date, time, and location of the next level of competition. On the day of the event, provide this information to the council-level winners.
7. Preregistration is recommended, but sometimes difficult to execute.
8. Hold the Soccer Challenge! Review the *Soccer Challenge Playbook* (#4576) for guidelines, volunteer requirements, and other information.
9. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
10. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
11. Following the Soccer Challenge, update the community on the success of your program by amending the Soccer Challenge sample announcement and distributing it to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
12. Send winning *Soccer Challenge Score Sheets* (#4578) to the next level of competition.
13. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.