



KofC Soccer Challenge – Tips & Change in Competition

Starting in 2013, Supreme Council made the change to allow 9 year olds advancement in the competition. There was confusion on possible changes in the rules based on a scorecard that was turned in from a Regional competition.

After conferring with Supreme, it turned out that the scorecard was edited and that **the only change Supreme made was to allow 9 year olds to compete**. That means that we continue to hold the competition as we have in the past and have only added another age group. Any child ages 8 and younger or 15 and older can participate. They simply cannot advance. No child can participate in an age group other than their own, and the age is determined as to how old the child is/was as of September 1st.

Why would my Council/District want to host this program?

Over the years we have heard all kinds of excuses. It cost too much, we're already doing a youth event, nobody shows up, etc.

- This program is a means to get Council members and their families involved at the start of the fraternal year. We use this as a tool to get the members energized early on.
- Every event your **Council participates is a recruitment tool**. If you see a group and their families having fun, why wouldn't you want to be a part of that?
- You can hold costs down on any project. While you must get insurance through the State, there's no reason why your council cannot find a Catholic school or local Park District that would allow you access to a goal for one day. You simply need to make them understand that you do not charge anything to the children for participating, the competition is open to anyone, and that it would be great exposure for them.

Soccer Kits – The new kits can be ordered directly from Supreme and they need to be ordered 4-6 weeks before you host your Council event. If you need your kit sooner than that, the State Office can get one to you sooner but has a limited supply. We will attempt to send a cover letter with these older kits that will help explain what you need to edit to include the 9 year old age group. The new kits have a mix of updated and outdated materials. The bottom line is that both kits have most materials not mentioning allowing 9 year olds to compete.

Participation Report Form #4567 5/05 – *It is urgent that you complete and send this form in to Supreme, State and your District Deputy as soon as possible.* Without it, the event never took place. This is how we determine the number of Councils participating, and your DD knows that he needs to arrange for a District competition. **Nine year olds are not on this report, so you simply need to write in another column.**

Entry Form & Score Sheet – Make sure that this is completed correctly. The “Official Guide of the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge” not only explains all the rules, but also explains the correct method of recording makes and misses. The top of the score sheet acts as the “entry form”. Are all the blanks completed and are all signatures recorded? Has the birthdate been verified? (Please note that you do not need a copy of the birth certificate especially in this age where we must protect the identity of the child.) If needed, simply make a note if this has or has not been done.

On the lower section, write down your Council number in the Council Square on the score sheet section. **Retain the score sheets and give the originals of 1st through 3rd place to your District Deputy or the host of the District event.** Do not give this to the parents; eventually a score sheet will be lost. This forces the child to redo their Council event on a new score sheet, as well as having the parents to complete the entry section and again show a birth certificate.

District Deputies – The State is relying on you to promote this program. Do not be satisfied with your Councils doing the minimum. Do not be satisfied with average; have an extraordinary year. Make sure that you arrange for a District event even if only one Council participates. **Do not give the score sheets to the parents.** Send the originals of 1st through 3rd place on to the Regional host.

Regionals – **Would your Council of District want to host a Regional?** The goal is to make it easier for the District winners to have a shorter drive to this competition. We have been fortunate to have Regional hosts that are strategically located in Illinois. There are a lot of areas in the state that need coverage. For example, we need more sites in the Chicago area as well as South of the metro St. Louis area and Charleston.

State Finals – Every year we listen to the parents, the kids and our State leadership and tweak this event to make it better. However, each year we get complaints. The big complaint in 2013 was that many of the State champions had to stay on the field and kick one of more of the events they didn’t compete in leading up to that point. In most cases, no District event was held and/or the child did not make it to the Regional event. That meant that the child had to kick 50 more times and the entire crowd had to wait until that was done before awards were given out. In the worst cases, the score sheets did not show up and the child had to take 65 more kicks, and the parents had to complete another entry form/score sheet.

Tips – Your Council needs to start off by ordering a soccer kit in June. Over the summer months, identify 2-3 Knights as a committee to run this program, and determine who runs the recreational and/or club programs in your community. It may be one entity of separate entities. Get to know these people and ask them their opinion on how to pull this off. Should you show up at practices or use one goal on game days? Will they allow you to put a flier on their website, or hand out fliers to parents at games?

Timelines

- June – order you kit and create a soccer committee and inform your District Deputy.
- July – identify where and when your Council event will take place with the help of the folks that run soccer in your community.
- Late August to early September – host your Council kick and ask your DD where and when the District kick will be.
- Early September – Regional host identify themselves to the State Soccer Chair and give dates, times and locations of the Regional kick. This must be done so that our DD’s can inform the District winners where the next event is.
- Late September to early October – host your District kick and identify where the winners will attend the Regional kick.
- Late October to early November – Regional kick.
- Saturday before Thanksgiving in November – State Finals.