



Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge



2025 Ontario State Package

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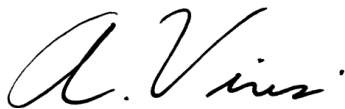
Hello my Brothers,

I am happy to announce that I will be the State Chairman for the Soccer Challenge program once again for 2025. I look forward to working with all the councils once again.

I want to personally thank all of you who took part in the program over the past few years and those who will be taking part in it again this year. Due to the lack of participation in the program, even before Covid; we will continue **without the district and regional levels of competition**. Until participation increases the council level will be the only level of competition before the state level. Councils will scan and email the winning score sheets to the State Chairman and State Winners will be determined on paper.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or our State Community Program Director at CommunityDirector@ontariokofc.ca.

Thank you for volunteering your time and efforts in this year's Soccer Challenge and I look forward to helping you make this program successful again.



Bro. Anthony Viresi
State Hockey & Soccer Challenge Chairman
416-241-1522
viresi_kofc@yahoo.com

RESPONSIBILITIES & GUIDELINES FOR THE SOCCER CHALLENGE

This program provides an opportunity for our youth 9 to 14 years of age to be engaged in a healthy competitive environment. The participants will have the opportunity to play at the Council levels. This can be promoted through schools, Columbian Squires' Circles and CYO (Catholic Youth Organization), hence giving us an opportunity to introduce our Order into our community.

Please find enclosed relevant information, materials and forms for the Soccer Challenge.

Council Level:

- Every council can order their kits from the Canadian Supplier in March so they arrive for Spring and everything within the kit can be downloaded from the Ontario State Website at the following link and be printed yourself. <https://ontariokofc.ca/programs/faith-in-action/community/free-throw-soccer-challenge/>
- Councils should complete their Soccer Challenge between **April through October 31st, 2025** and submit the Entry/Score Sheets of your Council winners to the State Chairman.
- Complete the Participation Report Form (4567) by **October 31st, 2025** and submit it to the State Chairman. Also complete and submit the online Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784) to Supreme.
- The Ontario State Winners will be announced at the State Convention in April 2026.

Each participant must have the Soccer Challenge Entry form (#4578) filled out fully to include the individual's First and Last name, address, entrant signature, parent(s) signature and the affiliated Council Number.

- 1) All Kits can be ordered through the Canadian Supplies Online which can be accessed in the Officers Portal. Please get you GK or FS to order the kits. Again, you can also download what you need in PDF format.
- 2) Please refer to this package for the procedures, rules and regulations when convening the Soccer Challenge.
- 3) Each participant must have a completed Soccer Challenge Entry form (#4578). This score sheet is to be used to enter all levels of the competition (one score sheet per contestant for all competitions), should be completed with all the relevant information and the **age is determined as of September 1st**.
- 4) Please inform all the participants' parents or guardians that they must be present throughout all levels of competition that their child is competing in!
- 5) All scores should be verified before the next contestant is allowed to shoot. The use of videotape recording to resolve the scoring totals is not suggested. **Judges and scorers are given final authority in verifying all scoring and violations.**
- 6) If the champion of a level cannot attend the next level, they forfeit and the 2nd place winner can go on to compete in their place. Try to determine this at the end of your competition or shortly after.
- 7) **ALL LEVELS OF COMPETITION MUST HAVE A MEMBER VOLUNTEERING WHO IS THE FAMILY OR COMMUNITY DIRECTOR OF A COUNCIL WHO HAS COMPLETED THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM AND HAS A BACKGROUND CHECK THROUGH SUPREME! ALL MEMBERS VOLUNTEERING AT A COMPETITION MUST HAVE A BACKGROUND CHECK ON FILE WITH THE GK/FS.**

The background checks should be **no older than 3 years** from the date of the competition.

Currently Supreme has introduced a new Safe Environment Program called Praesidium Academy which is currently only available to Grand Knights, Program Directors and the Family and Community Directors.

- 8) Councils should complete their Soccer Challenge between **April through October 31st, 2025**. The Grand Knight or the Council Soccer Chairman will complete the Participation Report Form 4567 **by October 31st, 2025**. **Please include in the Council Total the total number of participants from each school, as this increases our State Soccer participation.**
THE 4567 MUST BE EMAILED TO THE STATE CHAIRMAN ANTHONY VIRESI.
The Soccer Challenge Chairman will give the list of winners to the District Deputy and will ensure all the Entry Forms include the respective council number and the name of the school the participant attends.
- 9) All the Winner's Score Sheets, #4578 need to be submitted to the **State Soccer Challenge Chairman Anthony Viresi**, **no later than October 31st, 2025**. Once I have determined the winners, I will personally inform the GKs and DDs who have State Winners and confirm the DD's attendance at the December meeting.
- 10) The Ontario State Winners will be announced at the State Convention in April 2026. Ontario State Winners ages 9 to 14 will also be sent to Supreme for the International Competition. An official list of the Ontario State winners and finalists will be emailed to all GKs and DDs in December.
- 11) **Awards:** Council - Certificates found in kits, State – Awards to be picked up at the DD's December meeting.
- 12) For more information, materials, forms, etc., please visit the Supreme Website at the link below where the Soccer Challenge Program page is located.
<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/resources/index.html?1tab=1tab3&icon-tabs=3>

Let's also show how successful the program can be with the inclusion of High Schools!

"Coming together is a Beginning: Keeping together is Progress: Working together is Success!"

The Success of this Community Program depends on us all working together as a TEAM!

Eligibility and Equipment

Proof of Age

- Each participant's age is determined as of September 1st.
- Included in this package is an Age Chart to assist at the registration table.
- If a participant arrives to your competition and has competed in the wrong age category in previous levels, please have them compete in the proper category that day. Please explain to the participant why and make the correct age change on their form.
- Throughout all levels of competition participants must compete within their own age category or else they cannot participate. Participants **CAN NOT** compete upwards, ie. 13 year olds can't participate in the 14 year old category. **At the State Level, if Score Sheets received indicate that a participant competed in the wrong age category that participant will be disqualified!**

Soccer Challenge Rules

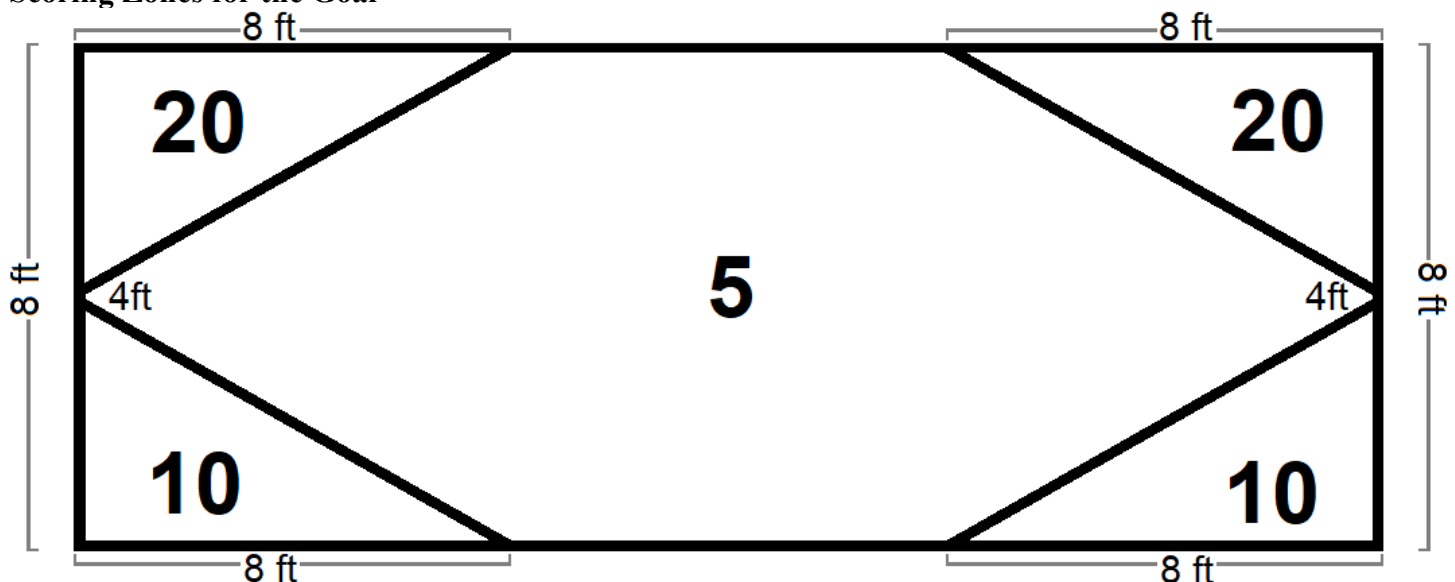
- Each participant will receive 3 practice shots before scoring begins.
- Council Level participants will shoot 15 consecutive shots at the goal.
- In case of a tie for first place at the Council level, when all the participants in the age category have finished shooting, those who are tied will need to shoot again to break the tie. These participants will shoot in the same order as they did during the competition shooting 3 consecutive shots each, with no warm-ups. Successive rounds will continue until the ties are broken and you have a single winner.

Soccer Ball Size & Penalty Lines

- 9, 10 & 11 year olds will use a regulation size ball (Size 4) & shoot from the 10 yard foul line.
- 12, 13 & 14 year olds will use a regulation size ball (Size 5) & shoot from the 12 yard foul line.
- When a participant is shooting, their feet must remain behind the line! If the participant's feet fall on the line or past it before the kick is made then the score is zero.
- Any contact made with the ball by the participant after the score keeper indicates they can make their next shot will count as a shot on goal.

Winning participants must be present at the next competition. If the winner cannot attend the next level, the second place winner can be sent in their place.

Scoring Zones for the Goal



Six Steps to a Successful Soccer Challenge

Soccer Competition Guidelines for Council & District Levels

Before the Event

1) Booking of the Facilities:

- Contact the school board you want to use and book the field/gym for the Challenge. You may have to confirm with the school first if the field/gym is available on the date you want and then book it through the School Boards Permit office. Also, ask the permit office about the Ministry of Education Community Use of Schools Grant and if a separate form for it has to be filled out. This Government Grant gives volunteer groups a discounted rate.
- Councils should be booking their fields/gyms no later than early February 2025.
- Make sure when filling out the permits you include the use of change rooms, tables, chairs, and soccer balls.
- Have the same number of tables and chairs for the number of goals you plan to use for the scorers.

2) Informing the Schools

- Supply posters to each school for display to advertise your competition.
- Make contact with the teacher who is most likely to run a school competition of this sort (phys.ed teacher, athletic director, classroom teacher, etc.) and provide him or her with the necessary information and materials.

3) You'll Need lots of Help!

- You'll need 3 Brother Knights per net you plan to use and have 3-5 extra Brothers helping with registration and anything else you may need help with the day of the competition.
- Three Brother Knights are needed at each net, one is score keeping and observing line violation while the other two Brothers are confirming the score for each shot for the score keeper and retrieve the ball.

4) Safe Environment

- Make sure that all members volunteering have background checks on file with their council and that you have a volunteer who is the Family or Community Director of a council who has taken the Safe Environment Program and has a background check with Supreme. ***Currently with the new Praesidium Academy, no one else is able to take the Safe Environment Program at this time.***

The Day of the Competition

5) Set-up

- Try to have a PA system for announcing and playing music for warm-ups.
- Juice and doughnuts for after the competition.
- Mark the shooting lines accordingly (measured from the goal line) at each net and make sure this is done before the participants show up for registration and warm-up.
- Have at least 6-7 tables for registration with large age signs on them. Have the same amount of Brother Knights, one registering for each age group.

6) When the Participants Arrive

- Have music playing and balls out for warm-ups.
- Only regulation balls provided for the competition should be used.
- Have participants or their parents fill out the Entry Form/Score Sheet. Ensure that they check the correct age box, that at least one parent has signed the form and that all the required information such as D.O.B., mailing address, phone number and council number is filled out and legible!
- Make sure there are Bro. Knights on the field or in the gym during registration and warm-ups to direct participants to the net, they are practicing from the correct foul line and to answer any question they or parents may have.
- Make sure they are given full and clear instructions before the competition begins.

ABUSE PROTOCOL, SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Do all members of the council have to sign off on the abuse protocol?

All Members within the Council must sign off or provide an email acknowledgement on the abuse protocol should they want to participate in activities or events within the community (beyond just a regular business meeting). This is a requirement for anyone who wants to participate in these activities to minimize liability risk to the Council and to the insurance coverage.

Here is the link to the 2023 KofC Ontario Abuse Protocol - <https://ontariokofc.ca/safe-environment-program/>

Who needs to take the Online Praesidium Academy Safe Environment course?

The following Executive members have to take this due to the requirements of their positions; Grand Knight, the Program Director (DGK), Community & Family Directors and all Squire Counselors. The Soccer Chairman should take this course as they are in charge of the program and the event. All other members and non-members are not required, but encouraged to take the course. Currently the new Praesidium Academy is only allowing the four executive positions to take the online course. Hopefully in the Fall of 2025 everyone will have the opportunity to take it.

Who needs to have a background check; which is required and where to obtain one?

Every Knight who is volunteering at the competition requires a background check and the results or a copy of it has to be on file with the councils Grand Knight or Financial Secretary. A regular Criminal (CPIC) background check or sometimes stated as a Volunteer Background Check is all that is needed. **A Vulnerable Sector Check is NOT needed.** To obtain a background check you can either go through the **Office of Youth Protection at Supreme** or members can go to their **local police force** along with a **Volunteer Letter** signed by their Grand Knight to obtain one for free or for a small cost, \$10 - \$20 depending on the police force.

How to obtain a background check through Supreme.

Supplemental Screening Process for Members Not In Key Leadership Roles

Members chairing programs, events, and activities involving minors and/or other vulnerable persons are responsible for ensuring that members who volunteer are eligible to do so in accordance with applicable safe environment requirements of the Ontario Knights of Columbus Council Liability Insurance Program. Members NOT holding key leadership roles who volunteer in a program, event, or activity involving minors and/or other vulnerable persons sponsored by a Knights of Columbus council are required to complete a background check through a Supplemental Screening Process through the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program and Praesidium in accordance with the Ontario Knights of Columbus Risk Management Protocol and Abuse, Discrimination, Harassment Prevention Policy.

No later than four weeks before a scheduled program, event, or activity, members coordinating the Knights of Columbus sponsored program, event, or activity should email a list of all members volunteering to **Quianna Richardson, Manager, Knights of Columbus, Office of Youth Protection: quianna.richardson@kofc.org** the following:

- A list of each member's full name, council and membership numbers, and their email address

Please ensure that the subject Line of the email states the following information to expedite the process: “[the name and date of your event] - Ontario Supplemental BGC List” (e.g., “Free-Throw 1-15-2024 – Ontario Supplemental BGC List”).

Members listed will receive a weblink via email by which to provide their consent for a background check through Praesidium. To complete their Praesidium background check authorization, members will need to print, sign, and upload documents and copies of two forms of photo identification. Once the background checks have been completed, Praesidium will send an email to each member that can be shared with the key leader coordinating the event as confirmation of their background check.

Members NOT holding certain key leadership roles who are later appointed to key leadership roles requiring a background check may need to provide consent for an additional background check through the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program once appointed. Praesidium typically sends out an email invitation to obtain this consent about one week after appointment.

Ontario State Council Database Repository

GK and FS, when completing the background check portion for each member in the Ontario State Council Database Repository you will need to check off the Praesidium check box.

Link to Ontario State Webinars on Background Checks. Simply enter your name and email address and click Register. It will then take you to the recorded webinar.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1308874456951849474>

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2143138800728765455>

Link to the Ontario State Council Database Repository online Webinar;

https://okofc-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/ani_ontariokofc_ca/Ebn4abxGhSIFiC0SOpPAJ-MBmnfKgY6fQDRv-8H0ytNwIA?e=ieIn2t

Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge



Sample Letter to Schools

Dear (Principal/Teacher's Name),

Every year the Knights of Columbus sponsors a Soccer Challenge competition open to all boys and girls ages 9 to 14. This year our Council would like to invite you to participate at the local level by conducting an in-school competition. If a School Level Competition is not possible, all school entries are eligible to participate at the Council Level in a open invitation competition.

Schools which have been involved in the past welcome the competition because it provides an excellent motivational tool to enhance their physical education or extra-curricular programs.

Each child competes within his or her own age and gender category, with the winners advancing to a Council competition in late June/October. All contestants receive a participation certificate and the winners have the opportunity to continue at successive levels of competition. The School Level competition can be conducted at the school's convenience. (Date is chosen by council)

Enclosed you will find posters to help you advertise the event, entry forms, score sheets, and the rules and regulations for Council competition.

I look forward to meeting with you to outline a wonderful opportunity for your students to have fun while taking part in a most worthwhile program.
Further information regarding contest details may be obtained by contacting me at the following phone #

_____.

Yours truly,

Your Name, Grand Knight
Council Name and Number

PARTICIPATION REPORT FORM

Due By:
Dec. 1

PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR COUNCIL CONTEST:

AGE GROUPS	9	10	11	12	13	14	TOTALS
BOYS	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
GIRLS	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTALS	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



CONTEST PARTICIPATION REPORT FORM:

Immediately following the local council contest, the grand knight should complete and submit the Soccer Challenge Participation Report Form (4567) to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services. This form provides the Supreme Council office with valuable participation statistics as well as feedback about the program in general.

PERSONAL COMMENTS OR OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE SOCCER CHALLENGE PROGRAM:



SIGNED: _____
Grand Knight

COUNCIL NO. _____

CITY/TOWN _____

STATE/PROVINCE _____

Knights of Columbus

2025

Soccer Challenge Competition

Age Eligibility Chart as of Sept. 1st 2025

The date of birth to be eligible to compete within our 9 to 14 year old age groups needs to be Sept. 1st, 2011 or before.

From	To	Year	Age
September 2nd	August 31st	2015-2016	9
September 2nd	August 31st	2014-2015	10
September 2nd	August 31st	2013-2014	11
September 2nd	August 31st	2012-2013	12
September 2nd	August 31st	2011-2012	13
September 2nd	August 31st	2010-2011	14

Born On		Year	Age
September 1st		2016	9
September 1st		2015	10
September 1st		2014	11
September 1st		2013	12
September 1st		2012	13
September 1st		2011	14

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September 2nd	August 31st	2010-2011	14

Born On		Year	Age
September 1st		2016	9
September 1st		2015	10
September 1st		2014	11
September 1st		2013	12
September 1st		2012	13
September 1st		2011	14

Notes:

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