

Key Points for Soccer Shoot

When can a Lodge hold a contest?

- Local Contest can be held any time after the beginning of the new Lodge year (April 1)
- Contact the District or State Chair to find out when is the District Contest and be completed with the local contest 2 – 3 weeks prior to allow for paperwork to be moved forward.

Determining the Age of the Contestant

- The age of the Contestant is based on the child's age as of January 1 of the calendar year the local contest is held. This age is maintained even if the higher contest levels are held in the next calendar year.
 - Ex. The local contest is in 2025, the age of contestant is as of Jan. 1, '25. The District and/or State contest is held in 2026. The contestant's age is still based on Jan. 1, '25.

Can a contestant move up in age brackets?

- No, the contestant must compete in their respective Age bracket.

Holding a Local contest.

- The Manual, forms, posters and flyers are available on the GL Activities Comm website
- Local Lodges can hold a combined contest, BUT each Lodge will have respective winners.
 - Ex. U10 girl contest: Lodge A girl has the highest score, and Lodge B girl finishes with the 2nd. Each girl is considered a winner for their respective Lodge and moves on to the next level.
 - Lodge reports are separate from each other.
- Local Lodge can set goals according per the rules and allow over a time period for contestants to come and shoot. Winners are determined at the end of the time. This allows kids not having to wait for a specific age group to compete. If there are any ties, Local Lodge will need to have a the 5 shot kick-off to determine results. DO NOT add these scores to the initial score.
- If using rope for Grid, use a bright colored rope. It helps the judge determine the score.
- The Grid is part of the contest to help integrate skills. Should a ball bounce off the Grid and does not cross the goal line, it DOES NOT COUNT for score. One cannot default to the lower point value.
- U8 group – means just that. Any child under 8 yrs old can compete. If they can kick it on their own, they are eligible.

Volunteers

- If trouble getting Elks to volunteer
 - If a local Lodge or another in the area has an Antler Program, ask them to assist. Give them real work, not just ball shaggers.
 - Contact the local High School Soccer teams. Have the team wear their jerseys let them cheer the contestants on, the young kids will look up to them. This also gives the High School kids volunteer service hours.
 - Find out if the local Soccer league has a summer camp and ask if they would implement the contest during their camp.

Awards

- What the Lodge can afford, can be given out, trophies, medals or certificates. Kid friendly Certificates are available to be downloaded from GL Activities Comm website.

Covering Costs

- Costs for the Local, District & State contests will not be covered by GL. Current GL budget allocation is for Area/Regional contests only.

Soccer Shoot takes a major step forward. Terrance P. Ford, PSP,PDD

At this year's Convention in Austin, Grand Lodge, and the voting members in attendance, took the first step of putting Soccer Shoot on a path to becoming a fully recognized program again. Now, the next steps are on the membership and Lodges to continue to grow the program. Lodges need to plan and host local shoots. More States need to develop a state contest which may require district level of competitions. There is a need to expand the number of Area and/or Regional Contests. Areas across this great organization should investigate the feasibility of pulling together such a type of contest. It can start out with 2 or 3 States and grow from there. I consider it a success when a Lodge plans it and holds the contest, even if only one child participated. One now has a starting point to continue to grow the contest in their community.

As I stated in a newsletter last year, Here are some ideas and topics to discuss and possibly improve upon within one's Lodge.

1. Ensure the date of the Lodge's contest properly aligns with the District and State Soccer Shoot contest dates.
2. Promoting the Contest - Downloadable flyers and posters can be found on the GL Website under the Activities Committee Forms/Certificates section of the site. These flyers and posters are writeable PDFs. Contact the local Soccer Leagues and ask them to help promote the event by passing out the flyers to all their teams. Ask to put up posters at their concession stands. Contact the local Super Markets, YMCA/YWCAs, and Boys & Girls Clubs to allow the posters to be displayed.
3. Were there/will there be enough volunteers? If not, does your Lodge have an Antlers Program? This is a good program for them to get involved with. If not, check with other Lodges in the area to see if they have an Antlers Program and are willing to assist. Contact the local High School Soccer teams. It's a great way for them to earn community service hours. If they agree, have them wear their team jerseys so people will know who they are. Whether it's the Antlers or Soccer Teams, have them actively involved as scorers or judges, not just ball retrievers. The younger participants may feel more at ease with a person closer to their age helping and cheering them on. Most importantly – ensure everyone understands the rules of the contest before it begins.
4. There is nothing wrong with multiple Lodges getting together to hold the contest. Just remember, each Lodge should recognize their own results.
5. Equipment – are there enough Soccer balls? Are the goals in good condition? What needs to be replaced before the next contest? What other supplies are needed (measuring tape, paint for lines, clip boards, pens, etc.)
6. Let your Lodge or Community know of the winners? Articles in the Lodge Bulletin and in the local newspaper are great ways to promote the event.

Ensure timely submittal of all reports and list of winners to the next level of competition. District and/or State Chairs need time to properly plan. Last minute submittals do not help anyone.

Follow your winners to every level they achieve. A friendly face in the audience cheering them on is always a welcoming sight, especially if there is an issue. The family has a recognizable person they can turn to.

Lastly, PLEASE work with the Lodge Exalted Ruler or Secretary to fill out the Charity Records Book under 1103-Athletic Programs Soccer Shoot Line. Make it a point to do this before the Final Report is presented on the Lodge Floor at a meeting.

For more information, please refer to the Grand Lodge Activities Committee Web site.