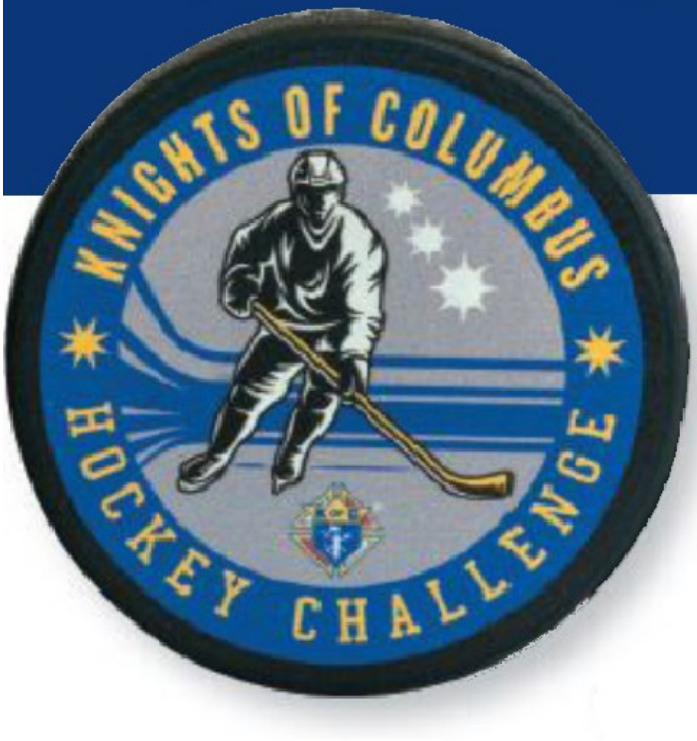
Knights of Columbus

Hockey Challenge



2027 Ontario State Package

Contacts

Anthony Viresi
State Chairman
416-241-1522
viresi_kofc@yahoo.com

Rory Facca
State Director – Community Programs
905-510-7592
communitydirector@ontariokofc.ca

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Hello my Brothers,

I am happy to announce that I will be the State Chairman for the Hockey Challenge program once again for 2027. 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.

The Hockey Challenge has now for the first time **gone International** which means the results for our Ontario State winners will be submitted to Supreme. Also, the end date for the Hockey Challenge has changed and all council competitions must end and council winners score sheets submitted to me **by March 7th, 2027.**

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 Hockey Challenge and I look forward to helping you make this program successful again.

Bro. Anthony Viresi
Ontario State Youth Sports Chairman
416-241-1522
viresi_kofc@yahoo.com

RESPONSIBILITIES & GUIDELINES FOR THE HOCKEY CHALLENGE

This program provides an opportunity for our youth 9 to17 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 Hockey Challenge.

Council Level:

- Every council can order their kits from Supreme or the Canadian Supplier in August, however the costs for each kit and shipping has increased considerably over the last 2 years. Everything within the kit can be downloaded from the Supreme Website at the following link and you can print it yourself.
  Ontario State Basketball Free Throw, Soccer & Hockey Challenge Page
- Councils should complete their Hockey Challenge from **December through March 7th, 2027** and submit the Entry/Score Sheets of your Council winners to the State Chairman.
- Complete the Council Participation Report (SO-10855) by **March 7th, 2027** and submit it to the State Chairman. Also, complete and submit the online Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784) to Supreme.

1) All Kits can be ordered through the Canadian Supplies Online which can be accessed in Officers Online. Please get your GK or FS to order the kits for you. Again, you can also download what you need in PDF format from the State website.

2) Please refer to this package for the procedures, rules and regulations.

3) **Each participant must have a completed Hockey Challenge Entry form (SO-10854) that is found in this package. It needs to be filled out fully to include the individual's First and Last name, address, entrant signature, parent(s) signature and the affiliated Council Number.** This score sheet is to be used to enter all levels of the competition (one score sheet per contestant for all competitions) and the **age is determined as of January 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) **All levels of competition must have a volunteer present who is considered to be Safe Environment compliant. This volunteer must be one of the four following members: the Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director or Community Director. These four members must have completed the Supreme Safe Environment Program called "Praesidium" which includes a police background check. All other members volunteering at a youth competition must have completed a background check which is to be kept on file with the GK/FS. The background checks are valid for 3 years**. Currently the Safe Environment Program on-line training is only available to the four council members listed above.

8) Councils should complete their Hockey Challenge from **December through March 7th, 2027**. The Grand Knight or the Council Hockey Chairman will complete the Council Participation Report (SO-10855) **by March 7th, 2026**. **Please include in the Council Total the total number of participants from each school, as this increases our State Hockey participation.**
THE REPORT MUST BE EMAILED TO THE STATE CHAIRMAN ANTHONY VIRESI.

9) All the Winner's Score Sheets (SO-10854) need to be submitted to the **State Youth Sports Chairman no later than March 7th, 2027**.

10) For more information, materials, forms, etc., please visit the Supreme Website at the link below where the Hockey Challenge Program page is located. Supreme - Faith in Action - Resources - Hockey

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 January 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.

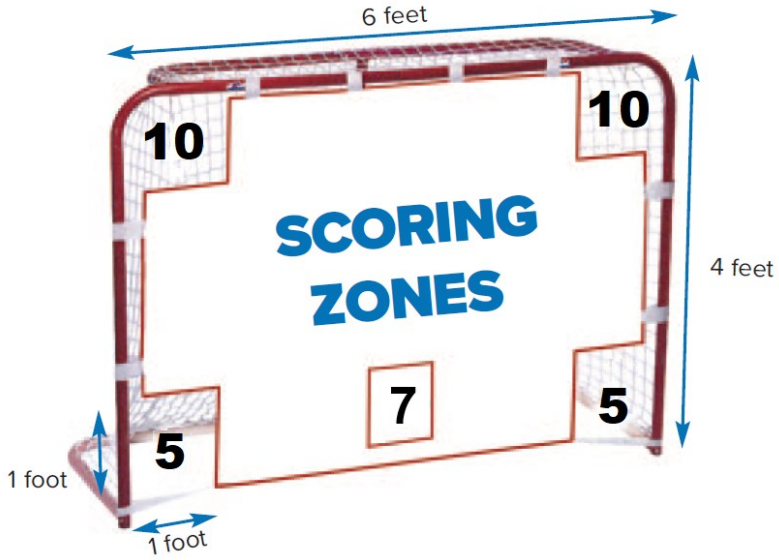
Hockey Challenge Rules

- Each participant will receive 3 practice shots before scoring begins.
- Council Level participants will take **20 consecutive** shots on the net.
- 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 5 consecutive** shots each, with no warm-ups. Successive rounds will continue until the ties are broken and you have a single winner.

Penalty Line

- All participants, 9 through 17 years old will shoot from the 12 foot penalty line.
- When a participant is shooting, their feet must remain behind the line! If the participant's feet land/slid onto the line or goes past it before the shot is made then the score is zero. It is fine if the hockey stick goes past the line during the follow through.

Scoring Zones for the Goal



Point System

2 Upper Corners = 10 points
2 Lower Corners = 5 points
Middle/5 Hole = 7 points

Equipment

Participants can us their own sticks during warm-up. The same stick should be used during the competition by each participant at each net. Have one stick per net and 20 orange balls to min. ball retrieval time.

This scoring board can be made from a 4'x6' piece of plywood. Cut a one foot square out of each corner, plus another one directly centered, about 6 inches above the floor. See above for approximate layout. The scoring board can be placed in front of an actual hockey net, or you can use wood supports to prop it up against the wall.

Six Steps to a Successful Hockey Challenge

Hockey Competition Guidelines for Councils

Before the Event

1) Booking of the Facilities:
   - Contact the school board you want to use and book the gym for the Challenge. You may have to confirm with the school first if the 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 gyms no later than early November for 2027.
   - Make sure when filling out the permits you include the use of change rooms, tables and chairs. You will need to confirm if the school has hockey nets and you may need to purchase sticks and orange hockey balls.
   - Have the same number of tables and chairs for the number of nets you plan to use for the scorers.

2) Informing the Schools
   - Supply posters to each school for display to advertise your competition.
   - Contact 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!
   - Two Brother Knights are needed at each net, one is score keeping and observing line violation while the other Brother is confirming the score for each shot for the score keeper and retrieves the balls.
   - Have 7-9 Brothers helping with registration and anything else you may need help with during the competition.

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 one of the four officers 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 line 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 8-9 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.
   - 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 in the gym during registration and warm-ups to direct participants to the net, they are practicing from the correct penalty 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 acknowledgment 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 2026 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 must take this due to the requirements of their positions; Grand Knight, the Program Director (DGK), Community and Family Directors. The Hockey 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 2026 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 must be on file with the council's 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 1-15-2027 – 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/Ebn4abxGhSlFiC0SOpPAJ-MBmnfKgY6fQDRv-8H0ytNwlA?e=ieIn2t

Knights of Columbus

Hockey Challenge

Sample Letter to Schools

Dear (Principal/Teacher's Name),

Every year the Knights of Columbus sponsors a Hockey Challenge competition open to all boys and girls ages 9 to 17. 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 an 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 the spring. 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.

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

Hockey Challenge Entry Form/Score Sheet

I wish to enter THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOCKEY CHALLENGE in the category and age group checked below. My eligibility is to be determined by my age as of January 1. I also understand that I may only compete in one council level competition.

☐ Boys ☐ Girls

AGE: ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17

Note: This same form must be used for all levels of Competition — please be sure it is passed on accordingly.

Name of Entrant _____ Date of Birth _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Parent/Guardian Telephone _____ Email _____ Signature of Entrant _____

This Section To Be Completed By Parent/Guardian:

Council No. _____

By signing below, the undersigned requests and approves of the entrant's registration and participation in the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOCKEY CHALLENGE ("The Contest"). In consideration for the entrant's participation in the Contest, the undersigned (1) acknowledges that the entrant's participation will be at the sole risk of the entrant and the undersigned and (2) agrees to release, indemnify and hold the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, its subordinate units, officers, agents, members and employees harmless from any and all demands, claims or causes of action arising from or relating to the entrant's participation in the Contest. The undersigned also agree to allow representatives from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council or any of its subordinate units to take and publish photographs or videos of the entrant during the Contest. **The entrant may compete in only one council level competition. Parent or guardian must sign this form before entrant competes.**

_____

Parent/Guardian Date signed

This Section To Be Completed K of C Officials:

SCORING INSTRUCTIONS: Each contestant will be allowed **20** consecutive shots at goal in **council** competition and **25** consecutive shots at goal in **all other levels**. Indicate number of shots "made" in first column. Those tied for highest score will compete in successive rounds each being allowed 5 shots at goal until one contestant emerges as winner. Use other columns to indicate scores in "playoff" rounds.

COMPETITION LEVEL	PENALTY SHOTS ☒	TIE-BREAKER ROUNDS	TOTAL
COUNCIL:	0 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 5 pt: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 10 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 15 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐	
DISTRICT:	0 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 5 pt: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 10 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 15 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐		
	0 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 5 pt: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 10 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 15 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐	
REGIONAL:	0 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 5 pt: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 10 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 15 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐		
	0 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 5 pt: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 10 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ 15 pts: ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐	

(Councils should retain a copy of this completed form for their files)

SO - 10854 11/24

PARTICIPATION REPORT FORM

Due By:
Apr. 30

PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR COUNCIL CONTEST:

AGE GROUPS	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	TOTALS
BOYS										
GIRLS										
TOTALS										

CONTEST PARTICIPATION REPORT FORM:

Immediately following the local council contest, the grand knight should complete and submit the Hockey Challenge Participation Report Form (SO - 10855) to the State Hockey Chairman. This form provides the State Council office with valuable participation statistics as well as feedback about the program in general.

PERSONAL COMMENTS OR OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE HOCKEY CHALLENGE PROGRAM:

SIGNED: _____
Grand Knight

COUNCIL NO. _____

CITY/TOWN _____

STATE/PROVINCE _____

EMAIL COPY TO: **State Deputy, State Chairman, District Deputy, Council File**

Knights of Columbus
2027
Hockey Challenge Competition
Age Eligibility Chart as of Jan. 1st 2027

The date of birth to be eligible to compete within our 9 to 17 year old age groups need to be Jan. 1st, 2018 or before.

From	To	Year	Age
January 2nd	December 31st	2017	9
January 2nd	December 31st	2016	10
January 2nd	December 31st	2015	11
January 2nd	December 31st	2014	12
January 2nd	December 31st	2013	13
January 2nd	December 31st	2012	14
January 2nd	December 31st	2011	15
January 2nd	December 31st	2010	16
January 2nd	December 31st	2009	17

Born On		Year	Age
January 1st		2018	9
January 1st		2017	10
January 1st		2016	11
January 1st		2015	12
January 1st		2014	13
January 1st		2013	14
January 1st		2012	15
January 1st		2011	16
January 1st		2010	17

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January 2nd	December 31st	2011	15
January 2nd	December 31st	2010	16
January 2nd	December 31st	2009	17

Born On		Year	Age
January 1st		2018	9
January 1st		2017	10
January 1st		2016	11
January 1st		2015	12
January 1st		2014	13
January 1st		2013	14
January 1st		2012	15
January 1st		2011	16
January 1st		2010	17

Notes: