

**West Virginia Elks Soccer Shoot  
Mid-Year Convention, 2011**

Committee: James McIntyre, Chairman  
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I am pleased to report that the soccer shoot program is still growing in West Virginia. Last year eight lodges reported holding shoots as compared with seven the previous year. I have also received enquiries from other lodges interested in starting or re-instating the soccer shoot. Additionally, the Ohio Elks Association has expressed interest in the Mid-Atlantic Regional. Needless to say, this is an exciting time for the soccer program.

The State Shoot is scheduled to rotate to the North this year. I do have a lodge which has expressed interest in hosting the state shoot this year, but am awaiting conformation. Barring unforeseen circumstances, this year's shoot will be held on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Lodges should plan on holding their local shoots in September or October. I have packets for each lodge, which includes registration forms, scoring sheets, and various report forms. Please be sure to send me the completed report forms as soon as possible after your local shoot. This will allow me to get your winners pre-registered for the state shoot and make things much easier for me in completing my report to the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee. If any lodge needs a new soccer shoot manual, please see me after the meeting. If you need help in setting up a shoot, especially if your lodge has never done one, please let me know.

There is one major change for this year's competition. In the past, the U-10 competitors have shot using the five-goal system the same as the U-8's. After much discussion, the Regional Committee decided to move the U-10's to the grid-goal used by the U-12's and U-14's. They will shoot from a point 18 feet from the goal face rather than 36 feet. This was changed because there was a general consensus that most of the U-10's did not feel challenged by the five-goal system and wanted to move up. The new rules are included in you packets along with revised scoring sheets. If you have any questions, please see me after the meeting.

The next Mid-Atlantic Regional Shoot will be held in Hagerstown, MD in March of 2012. The committee is actively seeking other sites for future regional shoots. I recommend that any lodge interested in hosting the regional plan on attending the shoot in Hagerstown to see what all is involved.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you for your continued support for the Soccer Shoot. The youth involved are very passionate about their sport and soccer fields are sprouting up across our state. Let's take advantage of this fertile ground and make the West Virginia Soccer Shoot program the envy of the region.

Submitted,  
James McIntyre, Chairman