

KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

Shared by Jerry Socherman, Southeast Florida Chapter



Kick CF Kickball Tournament provides a fantastic opportunity for family, friends and co-workers to have fun, team-build and support a worthy cause, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Kick CF Kickball Tournament is a double elimination pool play full day event. Bracket winners will move into the playoff round where it's "win or go home".

Interested in building your own tournament Passion Fundraising Event. Here is a step-by-step guide to get you started:

LOCATION NEEDS: BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, OR OPEN FIELD SPACE

1. College/University, high school, middle school, or elementary school
2. Park
3. Church/synagogue
4. Request a fee waiver from entity or seek out a site sponsor. If it is a municipal park, the city or a council member may be able to get fee waived or covered.

REGISTRATION & TEAM FEE:

- Set an entry fee that is appropriate for your target participant base, your community and relative to your fundraising goals.
- Some tournament structures have a fundraising component where teams fundraise in addition to paying an entry fee. In addition to the tournament itself the teams can compete for prizes or rewards by fundraising. You may also be able to offer incentives for teams to fundraise like a playoff bye, VIP parking, a tent, etc.
- The CF Foundation Passion platform is a good way to register and fundraise for your event. There may be other registration options, but the CF Foundation Passion platform gives you a great amount of flexibility to build out your event, provides online donors tax receipts, and raise funds.
- QR Codes are a good way to promote the event and make the registration process easier. There are several online services that allow you to create a QR code for your specific registration link.
- The first year we charged \$250 per team but now in our 10th year we charge \$650.

Visit passion.cff.org for more event ideas!

MARKETING:

- Social Media is a powerful tool in promoting your event. Posting photos and videos and getting them shared (local groups, businesses, participants, etc.) can certainly help to spread the word and help recruit teams to participate.
- YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok, are some of the mechanisms used.

EVENT STRUCTURE:

- Feel free to use our ideas as written or make any adjustments you see fit. We have some different concepts we developed, including our inning mercy rule and how we handle extra innings. We also limit our games to about 30 minutes as the players can be exhausted by days end with the number of games necessary to get to the Championship.
- Umpires: seek out volunteers to be umpires, we use high school baseball players or people who participate in a kickball league. Volunteers can be trained to be umpires, however, we have found a connected group to be more reliable and responsible for such an important and widespread role.
- Tournament commissioner: Have a tournament commissioner responsible for maintaining the schedule and keeping track of the scores and brackets.
- Need help with tournament rules? Feel free to contact jerry@curecfmiami.org

TEAMS:

- Teams can be made up of a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 12. With as few as 8, the kicking team catches and the fielding team will have to cover home for a play at the plate.
- Only 9 players can be in the field at any one time, and no more than 12 can play in any one game.
- In addition, because of the structure of the event, some participants are unable to compete in all the games for your team. Injuries, time constraints and exhaustion are all factors. Therefore, we allow for the roster to be expanded. You can add up to 6 additional players to your team. We charge for each additional player and differentiate between guests/spectators and players.
- Teams can be sought in a variety of places:
 - Family teams
 - Businesses
 - Church groups
 - High School sports teams
- Industry based competitions such as law firms, insurance agencies, accounting firms, local police/fire departments, etc. Create a bracket and have an industry championship within the entire tournament.

EQUIPMENT:

- Bases can be purchased fairly inexpensively. Softball or baseball fields may have bases that can be set at the appropriate distances.
- Make sure you have a few extra balls in case they pop.
- Cones are an integral part of a kickball field. You may be able to borrow some, but the short plastic ones are inexpensive.
- Inflating pump & pins.

RENTALS:

- Depending on the location of your event, you may need several of the following items:
 - Tents are good to have in some general areas: food, registration, commissioner, volunteers, etc.,. If you have enough, you can offer tents for each team. Certain sponsorships may include a tent or you can include it in the team fee. Another option is to allow the teams to rent a tent through you from the vendor.
 - Tables & chairs should be available for vendors, food establishments, dining area, registration, sponsors and teams may need tables and chairs. We also encourage teams to bring their own tailgate chairs or picnic blankets.

FOOD:

- One idea is to ask local establishments to provide food for a portion of expected crowd so that it is not too overwhelming a task for them. Then recruit several of them to have enough for all.
- Water & Ice: many stores will donate water or ice such as grocery stores, pharmacies, home improvement stores, etc.
- Donations: gift cards or discounts from Wholesale Warehouses (Costco, BJ's, Sam's Club); apply online.
 - Grocery stores : talk to store manager or apply online.
- BBQ (if allowed): can be an inexpensive way to provide food for participants.
 - You may be able to rent grills from a caterer or some parks have built in grills. A couple of home grill may be able to handle the number of attendees for an event depending on the size.

MUSIC:

- Music creates a great atmosphere.
- DJ can provide a sound system and act as an emcee. Some DJs will donate their services.

SPONSORS:

- Sponsorship Opportunities:
 - Naming rights to each field
 - Naming rights to food area
 - Site sponsorship for entire location
 - Naming rights to the event or presenting sponsorship
 - Include a team and or tent in the sponsorship benefits if it is of significant value
- Signage: track signs & banners
 - You may be able to get them donated or at a reduced price. CF Foundation staff may be able to guide you to some vendors they have used. Local business groups, chambers may be of some assistance. Also, investigate online vendors that may have better rates if there is sufficient time to have them shipped.

VOLUNTEERS:

- Volunteers are essential for a successful tournament. Umpires, registration, food, water, ice, set up, tear down, etc. will require a base of volunteers to coordinate the event.
- High school and college students, community service groups/clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.) business networking groups, church/temple groups, companies that have volunteer programs, etc. can all be sources for volunteers.
- The chapter office may be able to help you locate and recruit volunteers.

INVITE DIGNITARIES:

- Dignitaries in your local community can give you great exposure. Ways to involve the dignitaries:
 - First Pitch
 - Opening Ceremonies
 - Celebrity Commissioner
 - Celebrity Emcee

INSURANCE

- Event Insurance should be investigated. Many of the locations will require it.
 - Special Event insurance can be purchased as a standalone policy.
 - Chamber of Commerce or another organization or professional association may also offer an opportunity to purchase a special event policy.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.
- Winston Churchill