

Soccer Slam Registration is Open!

Soccer Slam is a fast paced, short sided, co-ed soccer tournament in Middle Amana, Iowa. The tournament is currently in it's eighth season, and has consistently been the highlight of the local recreational soccer community.

Soccer Slam is a completely different feel from a traditional soccer tournament. It was patterned after a 3v3 outdoor basketball tournament. Music plays on the loudspeaker while teams from across eastern Iowa compete in what amounts to fast break soccer. Every player receives a tournament shirt with registration, and about half the teams attending will go home with some type of recognition (trophy or medal).

Saturday's games are all pool play. It is an opportunity for teams to play with lineups, experiment with some of the unique tournament rules (girls goals worth two points) and rack up some sportsmanship points. Not only are the sportsmanship trophies HUGE, but those points directly effect seeding in a lot of cases. Sunday's games ratchet the pressure up to a whole new level, as every team is seeded into a single elimination bracket, to find out ultimately who walks home with the first through fourth place hardware.

The tournament venue is the Park in Middle Amana. There is plenty of shade available between games, in addition to two large park pavilions. If you find a few hours to kill, you can shop the stores in Main Amana (about two miles away), or visit the Heritage Museum. For those interested, there are RV hookups at the park, and a Full Campground facility a mile down the road at the Amana RV Park. Plan on plenty of rest between games, however, as each team usually plays three or more pool play games (40 minutes each) on Saturday, and as many as three more on Sunday.

You will want to stay around the park over the lunch hour, however, as that is when the skills competition kicks into full force. There is an obstacle course, a shooting accuracy competition, and an "Around the World" competition, similar to an NBA 3 point competition. Everyone will be competing to reach the callbacks on Sunday, and ultimately win one of the Cash Prizes awarded to the winners of each competition in each division.

Game times are generally between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM for pool play on Saturday, with pool play finishing up Sunday Morning as needed. Elimination Games start around 10:00 AM on Sunday, with the last of the championship matches kicking off around 5:00 PM Sunday Evening. Games are 40 minutes in length, and 6v6 with a max of 8 on a roster. It becomes a chess match for coaches to try to win games for seeding, while still keeping all their players fresh for the elimination games the next day.

For more information on registration or more information about the tournament, please visit the AYSO Region 1103 Website: www.ayso1103.org. Look under the programs: tournaments tab for Soccer Slam. Additionally, you may email ayso@ayso1103.org with questions.