LAS VEGAS INVITATIONAL BANDY TOURNAMENT



DESCRIPTION

In June 2024, the Las Vegas Invitational was the world's first bandy tournament in history to be held in Las Vegas, the entertainment capital of the world. The tourney was a smash success as games were broadcast on local Las Vegas TV, live streamed to Scandinavia and followed by the entire global bandy world on social media. The dazzling photos of the players making the rounds to the world-famous casinos and landmarks was striking. Due to this success, we proudly announce the Las Vegas Invitational 2025.

MISSION

The main mission is to energize and grow the sport of bandy both in the USA and globally. World bandy has had a lot of negative news the last several years that has hurt the sport (Pandemic, Russia Invasion, no World Championships, etc.) and it is clear something unique is needed to energize the sport. The Las Vegas Invitational fills that need. The initial tourney in June 2024 resulted in the establishment of the Las Vegas Bandy League, the first expansion of bandy in America outside of Minneapolis. In 40 years. Teams are encouraged to select players not strictly on a basis of talent; but rather those possessing a strong character and the ability to be good ambassadors to their country.

ICE ARENA

The tournament location is at the America First Center Arena in Henderson, a southern suburb of Las Vegas. The arena is owned by the Las Vegas Golden Knights and their AHL team the Silver Knights play there. The rink is new and has two ice sheets, large locker-rooms and bars and restaurants on the same block.



TOURNEY FORMAT

The games will be American style indoor rink bandy, 4 on 4 plus goalkeeper, full swing and no offsides. Currently, there is ice reserved for 8 teams. The tourney organizers are hoping for two Swedish teams, one Norwegian team, one Finnish team, two from the Minnesota, one from Las Vegas and World Team made up of a mixture of players from the various bandy nations from around the world. The teams will play a round-robin format and a minimum of 5 games. Tourney starts on Wednesday May 25 with round-robin games on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Saturday will have the 5th Place, 3rd Place and Championship matches.

HOTEL

Having a main tournament hotel where all the players can hang out together is a very important part of this unique event. We are working with the <u>Palace Station Hotel</u>, located just off the main Las Vegas Strip. They have given us very good rates and have fully supported the last tourney. Players can reserve their own room through a "pass-key" system.



TRANSPORTATION

The plan is for each team to have their own vans for transportation to the rink and around town and also have a tournament shuttle van for odd trips back and forth to the hotel from the rink. We have already lined up some volunteer drivers assist. Equipment can stay at the rink all day but will need to be brought back to the hotel at the end of each day. The drive from the hotel to the rink is about 25-30 minutes.

TOURNAMENT BANQUET

The current plan is to have an official Tournament Banquet on Friday night at a quality restaurant. Awards, gifts, and tourney souvenirs will be given out.

COST

Teams are responsible for their hotel costs and food. The tournament will cover ice and transportation costs. The average hotel room cost is estimated to be \$100-\$110 per night, but the hotel allows 3-4 to a room to provide a reduced per player cost.

We hope you can join us in Las Vegas. If you have any questions, please contact the tournament directors.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

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