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# Holiday Hoopla High School Basketball Festival Grows in Return to the Greater Columbus Convention Center

*18-Game Showcase in 2024 Expands to 125+ Game Festival with Additions of Girls High School, Dual Middle School Tournament and Boys Youth 5th-6th Grade Games December 20-22*

**COLUMBUS** – Right before Christmas, Holiday Hoopla, a high school basketball showcase started in 2024 by Bleacher Republic and Bleacher Prospect, will take amateur basketball to another level with a multi-level, multi-court basketball festival. This year's event held Dec. 20-22, 2025 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC) in Exhibit Hall B will feature more than 125 games, including some of Ohio's top high school boys and girls basketball teams, along with Central Ohio middle school and youth travel teams.

Holiday Hoopla will feel like a basketball showcase mixed with an AAU-style tournament with games on six courts simultaneously. The full game schedule at each level, including 41 Boys teams competing in 22 games and 20 Girls teams playing in 10 games, will be announced at the beginning of the scholastic basketball season. Tickets will be sold only on site during the event at the GCCC.

"We had so much positive feedback from Holiday Hoopla in 2024, that we saw an opportunity to grow this event into a basketball festival with additional girls high school games, in collaboration with Hoop Recruit, along with middle school and youth games versus a singular showcase," **said Matt Morgan, Holiday Hoopla Executive Director.** "We're thankful for our partnership with the GCCC as Columbus is blessed to have a convention center the size that we do, and we're excited to see six courts going all at the same time inside one exhibit hall."

## 2025 Holiday Hoopla Participating High Schools

**Boys Basketball Teams**

- Arlington (D7)
- Austinburg Grand River Academy (Prep)
- Berlin Center Western Reserve (D6)
- Bishop Watterson (D3)
- Centerville (D1)
- Cincinnati Aiken (D3)
- Cincinnati Hamilton Township (D3)
- Cleveland Euclid (D2)
- Cleveland Medina (D1)
- Cleveland Rocky River (D3)
- Cleveland St. Joes (D3)
- Columbus Academy (D5)
- Columbus Bishop Ready (D5)
- Columbus Harvest Prep (D5)
- Columbus Northland (D2)
- Columbus Walnut Ridge (D3)
- Dayton Huber Heights Wayne (D1)
- Delphos St. John (D7)
- Dublin Coffman (D1)
- Dublin Jerome (D1)
- Fairbanks (D5)
- Flyght Academy (Prep)
- Genoa Christian (D6)
- Grove City (D1)
- Hilliard Bradley (D1)
- Hilliard Darby (D1)
- Indian Lake (D5)
- Jonathan Alder (D4)
- Kentucky Central Hardin (D5)
- Licking Heights (D2)
- Lima Central Catholic (D6)
- Marysville (D1)
- Meigs (D4)
- Olentangy Orange (D1)
- Padua Franciscan (D3)
- Pickerington North (D1)
- Reynoldsburg (D1)
- Shaw (D5)
- South Bend St. Joes (IN) (D3)
- St. Clairesville (D5)
- Toledo SFD (D2)
- Tri-Village (D6)
- Westerville South (D1)

**Girls Basketball Teams:**

- Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary
- Cincinnati Lakota West
- Cleveland John Marshall
- Cleveland Normandy
- Cleveland Revere
- Columbus Big Walnut
- Columbus Bishop Watterson
- Columbus Briggs
- Columbus Eastmoor
- Columbus Harvest Prep
- Columbus Liberty Union
- Columbus Walnut Ridge
- Columbus Wellington
- Gahanna Lincoln
- Hilliard Bradley
- Sidney (OH)
- Springfield
- Washington (Massillon)

“Teaming up with Bleacher Republic and the Greater Columbus Convention Center on adding girls basketball brings together premier basketball and high-level event execution to Holiday Hoopla,” **said Tenishia Benson, Founder and President of Hoop Recruit**. “This collaboration, which ensures athletes will compete on a stage that maximizes visibility from a true showcase event, will make Holiday Hoopla a celebration of talent, exposure, and the continued rise of girls basketball.”

“The GCCC has a storied history of great basketball events and we remain thankful to Bleacher Republic for the opportunity to work together for a second straight year on Holiday Hoopla, especially with this expanded format,” **said John Page, Legends Global Regional Vice President and Greater Columbus Convention Center General Manager**. “We’re excited to welcome each high school, middle school and community team and their fan base.”

The ABL’s Columbus Quest, Wendy’s Classic and various high school games are the Greater Columbus Convention Center’s basketball legacy from the early era, while hosting the OHSAA Boys and Girls Basketball District Championships, the NCAA Division III Women’s Elite 8 and participating in The Basketball Tournament (TBT) are its recent past before Holiday Hoopla.

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**Bleacher Republic** is a premier youth basketball event operator dedicated to running first-class leagues and tournaments for players, teams, and fans. We deliver competitive, well-organized events that spotlight talent and provide valuable opportunities for athletes at every level. From local leagues to major regional tournaments, Bleacher Republic offers a professional environment, high-quality facilities, and memorable experiences that help young players grow their game and connect with new opportunities.

**Bleacher Prospect** is a leading basketball media and exposure company showcasing young athletes and connecting them with next-level opportunities. We provide professional coverage of high school and AAU basketball, giving players and programs the visibility they deserve. Through high-profile showcases and tournaments, we highlight talent and create pathways for players to be seen by coaches, scouts, and programs nationwide. Our new Bleacher Prospect International initiative adds opportunities for overseas competition while offering players and families a chance to experience global culture. With a growing national footprint, Bleacher Prospect delivers a trusted platform that celebrates the game and expands opportunities for the next generation.

**HoopRecruit**
HoopRecruit has been a long-time game-changer in girls basketball. Once recognized as the #1 single-state scouting service in the country, it has grown into a national exposure platform that consistently identifies, promotes, and elevates the best talent. Known as the top player identifier and promoter in Ohio, HoopRecruit has built its reputation on spotlighting athletes early, providing unmatched evaluations, and creating opportunities that change the trajectory of careers. Its reach and credibility makes it a trusted name among coaches, programs, and players nationwide.

**Greater Columbus Convention Center/Legends Global**
The award-winning, 1.8 million-square-foot Greater Columbus Convention Center offers 373,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space, 74 meeting rooms and a total of 114,000 square feet of ballroom space among three ballrooms. The facility is owned and developed by the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority (FCCFA) and managed by LegendsGlobal, the world’s leading producer of entertainment experiences. It is the global leader in venue and event strategy and management with a venue portfolio that spans five continents and includes 350 of the world’s most prestigious arenas, stadiums, convention, and exhibition centers, and performing arts venues.

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