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Media Release



The 9th Annual U.S. Basketball Games welcomes exciting, talented players to Georgia {boys & girls} on August 2 -4, 2024

Alpharetta, GA -The 9th Annual U.S. Basketball Games will end the youth basketball travel season with some of the best players representing their respective state all under one roof (Lakepoint Sports Complex). The event will feature several nationally ranked players in the country as well as some of the best teams on the travel basketball circuit from Alabama, British Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia with over 3,000 players providing fans with rim-rattling, back board shattering excitement.

Former U.S. Basketball Game stand outs include; **Kira Lewis Jr** (University of Alabama 2020 NBA Draft Selection by New Orleans Pelicans), **Scottie Barnes** (Florida State, 2021 NBA Draft Selection by the Toronto Raptors), **Brandon Boston** (University of Kentucky, 2021 NBA Draft Selection by the Los Angeles Clippers), **Robert Dillingham** (Kentucky/NBA G League), **Patrick Wessler** (Virginia Tech), **Morez Johnson** (Illinois), **Alex O' Connell** (Duke/Creighton/NBA G League), **Isaiah Collier** (USC), **Brady O' Connell** (Old Dominion), **Josh Taylor** (UGA), **K.D. Johnson** (Auburn), **Dwon Odom** (Xavier/Ga State), **Coleman Boyd** (Ga. Tech), **Kamar Robinson** (Mercer), **Kowacie Reeves Jr** (University of Florida), **Chance Moore** (Arkansas), **Bruce Thornton** (Ohio State), **Matthew Cleveland** (Florida State-ACC 6th Man of the Year) and nationally ranked players such as **Aden Holloway** (**McDonald's All American**), **Josh Hubbard** (**Gatorade Player of the Year**).

Over 900 travel basketball programs will be represented in our event and will include a nonstop hoops action from Thursday afternoon through Sunday evening. Also, each court will be live streamed by PlaySight which will offer Video on Demand for parents, players, coaches and more during the event.

"We are very excited to host some of the country's best teams and players in our 9th Annual U.S. Basketball Games," said Kim Coleman, Halftime Sports President. "We are thrilled to be a part of a great community and "hot bed" for basketball. The competition will be action packed, the facilities are beautiful, and the atmosphere will be electric."

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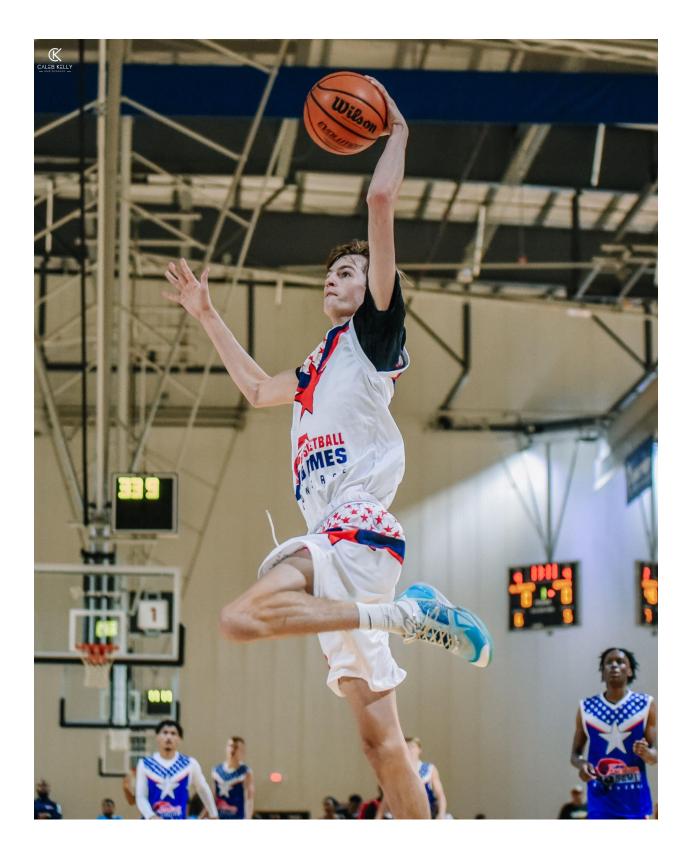




Scottie Barnes, Florida State, and current NBA player













Which State Has The Best Ballers?

The **9th Annual U.S. Basketball Games** Tournament will unleash some of the most talented, high flying, rim rattling youth basketball players in the country.

The **U.S. Basketball Games** Tournament has exploded onto the travel basketball scene like a back-board shattering slam dunk and will allow middle and high school student-athletes from Alabama, British Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia an opportunity to partake in a once in a lifetime experience of competition, hoops and education.

The general concept: Each participating State will conduct a State-wide "Invitation Only" for players classification 7U-19U. Players from across the aforementioned states will compete for a prestigious spot on each respective team.

To have a spot on each team, student-athletes must be in that appropriate grade, of appropriate age and selected by that states Advisory Board & Directors.

Once each team is selected, they will play in the **U.S. Basketball Games** which will take place in Atlanta, Georgia **August 2 -4,2024** at the beautiful **Lake Point Sports Champions Complex**.

Local, regional, and national media will be in attendance as well as guest speakers from the sports industry and executives discussing Social Media, Recruiting and more. **Be The Beast** is the event Media Outlet and will provide in-game streaming via more!

Player and Coach interviews are conducted by Rankings Report, and DT Media.





WELCOME TO THE 2024 U.S. BASKETBALL GAMES. There is no event like this one in the country and we are honored to have you and your family a part of this prestigious extravaganza.

Congratulations on being selected by our U.S. Basketball Games staff as *One of the Top Players* in **Your State** and receiving an invitation to participate in the U.S. Basketball Games.

The 2024 U.S. Basketball Games tournament will take place on August 2-4, 2024, in Emerson, Georgia. **Your state team** will compete against the best players from states all throughout the country.

The U.S. Basketball Games will not interfere with your current travel basketball season, as **you can** start practicing in July (locations and dates to be determined by your Head Coach) – in preparation for the games.

Please see below for further information on how to reserve your son/daughters spot for the U.S. Basketball Games as well as further details regarding the event:

Where: Emerson, Georgia

When: August 2 -4, 2024

Fee: Only \$75 per player (includes player uniform and event)

How do I confirm my son/daughter's spot: Please register at www.halftimesports.net (click on U.S. Basketball games, scroll to Player registration link, then the state you are representing, complete the player/parent information, and the payment processing area). All the above information must be completed prior to June 15, 2024, to reserve your players' slot on this prestigious team.

Welcome to the U.S. Basketball Games!



Q & A

If my son/daughter makes the team, how much is the team fee? Only \$75 (paid via <u>www.halftimesports.net</u> – click on U.S Basketball Games and you will see the Player Registration Link). Open and available on January 1, 2024.

How many players will be on each team? 10 - 12 players per team

What type of exposure will my son/daughter receive? Local, regional, and national media will attend the event.

Will my <mark>son/daughter be p</mark>rovided uniforms? Yes, each player will receive uniforms for the U.S. Basketball Games event.

What are the dates for the tournament? August 2 - 4, 2024

Are there corporate partners involved? Yes, DirecTV, Cobb Sports Alliance, NBN23, Athletes For A Better World, MVP Basketball, Halftime Health, National Sports ID, Recruitify, LakePoint Sports Champions Complex, Moe's.

Will making the team interfere with my son/daughters travel basketball practices or tournaments?

No, teams are comprised in June and practices will commence in July/August (after all travel basketball nationals).

Which states are participating?

Alabama, British Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia

Who selects the players/teams?

State Advisory Board, Directors and Coaches from each participating state select their own teams.

Playing Time

Players are not guaranteed playing time.... this is not recreation basketball. This is youth basketball at its highest thus playing time is based on practice and performance and is strictly determined by the Coaching Staff.



What is the Tournament format?

Each state is awarded at least three games then state teams will advance until we have a Champion. Championship games on Sunday.

What age/grade groups are participating? See classification rules.

Can I purchase U.S. Basketball Games GEAR?

Yes, U.S. Basketball Games Gear will be available for purchase prior to the event and at the venue on Saturday and Sunday. Pre-purchased gear will be discounted and available for purchase on TBA, 2024.

Lodging: U.S Basketball Games has reserved and negotiated special rates for all U.S. Basketball Games teams and their families. All teams and parents are required to book lodging through the U.S. Basketball Game official lodging provider and stay in a U.S. Basketball Games - approved hotel/lodging facility for the duration of the event. A list of all approved lodging options is available to all teams at the below hotel accommodations link. If a team does not book lodging through our accommodations provider or stay in the U.S. Basketball Games - approved hotel/lodging facility, they will forfeit their right to play in the U.S. Basketball Games National Event.

Hotels/Lodging Facilities may require a security deposit from your team.

Please be advised that the U.S. Basketball Games has partnered with LakePoint Champions Complex to assist in providing hotel accommodations for traveling teams. Teams are asked to contact **Adam Easterbrook** to register their team for hotel booking purposes. You will be able to view open inventory from hotels near LakePoint Sports and request a team block at a desire property and/or make personal reservations. Any questions about the process can be sent to **Adam Easterbrook at 404-474-3828 or email at adam@aspenhospitalitygrp.com**



NBN23 AND U.S. BASKETBALL BAMES JOIN FORCES TO DIGITIZE YOUTH BASKETBALL IN THE US

NBN23 and U.S. Basketball Games have finalized a full integration to provide all US basketball coaches, players, and families with LIVE digital stats. This partnership represents a very important milestone for grassroots basketball in the US since every kid, regardless of age or skill level, will be able to enjoy the benefits of having LIVE stats.

NBN23 has been continuously increasing its presence in the US market with an exponential growth in digitized games. Averaging more than 3K digitized games per week in more than 65 countries, **NBN23 is the largest digital database of youth basketball games in the world**. Their digital and fully integrated environment provides basketball organizers with the ability to eliminate paper, optimize staffing and create a much more efficient workflow while reaping all the benefits of having digital game data.

Players, coaches and parents can view live stats during and/or after each contest.





Age verification Process

National Sports ID is our corporate partner, and all age verification will be completed via their process. Age/grade verification for our event protects the integrity of teams, and tournament. Each player must have a National Sports ID proving his/her eligibility. Players must play for their respective states (where they reside & attend school) and cannot play for multiple teams (unless preapproved by USBG).

National Sports ID

https://www.nationalsportsid.com/tournament/11475/u-s--basketball-games-teamage-verification (ALL PLAYERS MUST REGISTER WITH NATIONAL SPORTS ID TO PARTICIPATE)

Event Admission

Friday, August 2nd Adults \$25 Students \$15

Saturday, August 3rd Adults \$25 Students \$15

Sunday, August 4th Adults \$25 Students \$15

(*) 6-17 years of age are considered Students

(**) Adults 18 years of age and older

(***) College students are considered Adults

(****) Under 5 admitted for Free

Everyone that enters venue must have on U.S. Basketball Games band otherwise sent back to Venue Gate to pay for admission.



Halftime Sports/U.S. Basketball Games logo

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If I lose my admission band or remove it, can I get back into the venue? Yes, but you must *pay* to re-enter.

Players must have on uniforms to enter venue otherwise they will be charged.

Directions

- From Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (45 minutes): Take I-85 North to I-75 North, exit 283 or take Camp Creek Parkway to I-285 North to I-75 North to exit 283, go left off the exit. Left at Chick Fil-A, venue will be on left side.
- From Birmingham: Take I-20 East to GA-61 Est to US 41 North to GA-293 North
- From **Greenville**: Take I-85 South to I-285 West to I-75 North, exit 283
- Complex is across street from Rally Volleyball Complex
- Parking is behind facility

Parking

\$5 per vehicle (covered by the U.S. Basketball Games). Subject to change by venue and/or property owner.

Fan behavior

Support your team!

No derogatory remarks to opposing players, coaches, fans or teams.

No personal or derogatory remarks directed at Officials, no loud or continuous harassment of Officials.

Absolutely **ZERO TOLERANCE** for confronting Officials and/or any physical contact with Officials will involve law enforcement. This is a Non-Negotiable!

We have no problem with the local law enforcement removing you from the venue and property!!!!!

You are representing your family, team, and state



US Basketball Games will do our best to promote event safety by implementing the following:

<u>A COVID Responsible Event -Safety First</u>

Building Entry Procedure

All session participants whether player or spectator will be vetted the following way:

- Temperature will be taken before entry into gymnasium (If player or camper has temperature above 100.4 (or whatever the CDC deems a high temperature), then that player cannot enter gymnasium and a refund will be made available to the parent within 5-7 business days). This will be conducted with a thermal scanner as each person enters the building and allows for a non-evasive system which is highly accurate
- Qualifying questionnaire (Have you been affected by COVID, do you have symptoms)
- Lien waivers will be signed prior to event during registration process
- Each event staff member/director/coach will be vetted prior to entry into gymnasium
- Mask will be available for purchase at Check in gate
- Sanitization Station will include hand wipes, sanitization gels, etc.

Spectator Seating

- We will adhere to social distancing guidelines
- Bleacher seating will be marked
- If fans choose not to attend game(s), they can purchase games via Play Sight at LakePoint Sports Champions Complex. Payment link will be sent to coaches for distribution.



Players

- Players will be encouraged to bring hand sanitize wipes or gel to camps
- Encouraged to wash hands with soap and hot water during every break
- There will not be any money changing hands at our event for concessions admission. All concession purchases and late sign ups must be completed online. System is currently being reviewed and under consideration by venue and US Basketball Games as an option
- Players cannot bring basketballs into the venue
- Players should bring their own source of water; do not use water fountains or team water bottles. Individual water bottles will be for sale at event concession areas
- There will be no handshake lines after games; remind players to wash their hands or use hand sanitizers frequently as possible

Game Play

- All **Game balls** will be wiped down with germ sanitizing solutions prior to warmups
- Each bench chair will be sanitized prior to each game
- Bleachers and event chairs will be sanitized prior to each game
- Pre-determine seating and standing areas will be identified prior to the events start.
- Balls may only be used for game play and warm up. Balls will not be allowed to be dribbled or handled outside the court area. NO DRIBBLING IN COMMON AREAS

Health Suggestions

Include the following vitamins in your daily routine;

Vitamins A, B6, C, D3, E and Zinc – these vitamins assist your body with its immune system and helps thwart off diseases. We are not stating that the aforementioned will kill the Coronavirus, but it can help your body with its immune system.



Some program bullet point reminders:

Ensure availability to handwashing, alcohol-based hand gel and hygiene facilities at MULTIPLE locations including all entrance points.

- > Temperature scans at all entrance points
- Sharing of equipment should be prohibited, ensuring that water bottles and cups are not shared
- Housekeeping frequently disinfecting high-volume touchpoints such as door handles, elevator buttons, common area furniture, etc.
- Safe utilization of closed containers for all disposable and reusable hygiene materials (tissue, towels, etc.)
- Designation of a member on staff to ensure that our facilities do or can comply with National recommendations.
- Provide first aid and medical services, including designated medical providers who can triage and refer suspected cases for COVID-19 testing at tournaments.
- Designation of an isolation room/space identified to hold any symptomatic person found at the venue while awaiting patient transfer to a medical facility. May need to designate a separate space for athletes/team staff and spectators.
- Display signs to inform spectators and support staff about ways in which they can prevent themselves from getting infected with COVID-19 and passing the virus to others.
- Determine how athletes/team staff/ spectators will be notified of a positive case of COVID-19
- > Physically distancing would be a mandatory requirement

These are guidelines that we will adopt as we slowly resume our travel basketball season. Guidelines may be lifted at a future date as more virus-relates data is provided.

We will adhere to all CDC guidelines



ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Halftime Sports has agreed to set certain behavior requirements for everyone in attendance at our games. Please alert all parents, fans, coaches, and athletes of these expectations:

1. Fans: Support your team!

- No derogatory remarks to opposing players, coaches, or teams.
- No personal or derogatory remarks directed at Officials, no loud or continuous harassment of Officials.
- Absolutely <u>zero tolerance</u> for confronting Officials, opposing coaches, players, or parents any physical contact with the aforementioned will involve law enforcement.
- Parents are not to approach the scorer's table at any time. A technical foul will be accessed to the team, and parent will be removed from the property or law enforcement will be contacted.
- 2. **Coaches:** Halftime Sports expects our adult coaches to "**set the example**" for good behavior, sportsmanship, and professional courtesy.
 - You may disagree with an Official's call, do not make your comments personal, angry, or derogatory, and once you have made them, drop it!
 - Insist that your players and fans demonstrate good sportsmanship toward opposing coaches, players, and Officials.
 - Insist that all your players shake hands after the game and demonstrate grace in winning and dignity in losing.
 - Do not teach, tolerate, or allow taunting of other teams, "trash talking," or foul language at any point.
 - Lead by example: compliment good plays by opposing players, shake hands with opposing coaches before and after the game, and do not get confrontational with Officials.

- 3. Athletes: Show respect toward Officials, other players, and other coaches.
 - Do not engage in any form of derogatory comments, "trash talking," foul language, or taunting, regardless of the score.
 - Do not engage in "fighting," as this could cause your ejection for one or more games.
 - Do not leave your bench and encourage all other players to stay on the bench if any disruption occurs.
 - Shake hands with opposing coach before the game and with opposing players and coaches after the game, demonstrating grace in winning and dignity in losing.

4. Penalties:

• Coaches:

A coach ejected from one game will automatically be suspended from the next game; a second ejection will result in an automatic suspension from any Halftime Sports, US Basketball Games events, programs, league and will be reported to ATOA, AAU, YBOA, US Amateur and other youth sports activities, subject to the coach's right to an Appeal; serious misconduct could result in additional discipline.

Athletes:

An ejection for "fighting" or for two technical fouls will result in an automatic suspension of an athlete from his or her next game, and possible further discipline. A second ejection for "fighting" or two technical fouls during any Halftime Sports event will result in a suspension from any Halftime Sports and US Basketball Games events, programs, leagues and will be reported to ATOA, US Amateur, AAU, YBOA and other youth governing activities, subject to the athlete's right to an appeal.

• Fans:

Ejection from a game for misbehavior will result in your suspension from attending any other games. Any physical contact with a game Officials, coaches, league director or staffer, or opposing players or parents will cause law enforcement to be brought in for possible criminal prosecution, and you may be permanently banned from attending games and other Halftime Sports/US Basketball Games events.

Bench Rules: Only eligible players plus a maximum of three coaches (this includes statistician, ball boys, etc.) may be on the team's bench. Violation of this rule will result in (only) one warning. The team will then have 1 minute to clear the bench of anyone not listed on the official roster. If a team fails to comply, the violator(s) will be ejected. Only one coach can stand during the game.

Eligibility:

All players must be registered within the US Basketball Games/Halftime Sports registration platform to participate in games or practices. A player is deemed ineligible if not registered within our Halftime Sports system and/or program, thus causing a forfeit of game by that team. Players can only play for the state in which they attend school and reside, unless approved by USBG. Player can play up on one team but must play in at least one (1) pool play game with that team (must be same state). And listed on that team's roster prior to the start of the event.





ELIGIBILITY RULES:

All Non-athletes/coaches are responsible to see that their team meets all eligibility requirements.

Competition shall be in the following age/grade divisions: 7 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 7 on August 31, 2024.

8 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 8 on August 31, 2024.

9 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 9 on August 31, 2024.

10 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 10 on August 31, 2024.

11 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 11 on August 31, 2024.

12 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 12 on August 31, 2024.

13 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 13 on August 31, 2024.

14 & UNDER DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 14 on August 31, 2024.

15U/9TH GRADE DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 15 on August 31, 2024. Grade Exception: An athlete who is in the 9th Grade as of October 1, 2024, and who is no older than 16 on August 31, 2024, is eligible to play in the 15U/9th Grade Division.

16U/10TH GRADE DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 16 on August 31, 2024. Grade Exception: An athlete who is in the 10th Grade as of October 1, 2024, and who is no older than 17 on August 31, 2024, is eligible to play in the 16U/10th Grade Division.

17U/11TH GRADE DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 17 on August 31, 2024. Grade Exception: An athlete who is in the 11th Grade as of October 1, 2034, and who is no older than 18 on August 31, 2024, is eligible to play in the 17U/11th Grade Division.

19U/12TH GRADE DIVISION An athlete can be no older than 19 on August 31, 2024. Grade Exception: An athlete who is in the 12th Grade as of October 1, 2024, and who is no older than 20 on August 31, 2024, is eligible to play in the 19U/12th Grade Division.







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