What is The Elks Lodge HOOPS Basketball?

The first Elks Lodge HOOPS Basketball contest was held in 1946. The first national contest was held in 1972. In 1974, girls were included in the contest as well as the boys. The method of competition measures the ability to sink one basket after another, not speed, size, or strength, just skill, concentration and pure grit.

For 2026-2027 competition is open to all boys and girls from all schools between the ages of 7 as of April 1, 2026, through 13 on April 1, 2027. Based upon this, there will be 3 levels of competition for the boys and 3 for the girls. (Please see the accompanying playbook attached for all details.)

This is a tiered competition that starts with local competition (Elks Lodge of Watertown and Beaver Dam *November 7, 2026, at the Watertown Senior High School in Watertown, Wisconsin. The address is 825 Endeavour Drive, Watertown, Wisconsin 53098. Start time for participants is (9:00 AM).* Six winners will go to the District Competition. Then six winners will go to the State Competition, then six to the Regional Competition. The final six winners from the Regional Competition will go to the National Contest which is in Chicago Illinois. The District, State, Regional, and National dates, venues, and locations for the competitions following Watertown will be released in the newsletters starting in October 2026 as they have not yet been officially published by the Elks National Lodge HOOPS program.

A parent or qualified guardian MUST be present with each student competing in Watertown on November 7, 2026, as well as all future competitions. Students are expected to wear gym shoes of some acceptable type, or they will have to participate in their socks. Bare feet will not be permitted. If desired, each school may have the opportunity to hold preliminary contests at their own schools, however, the individual

school winners will still have to compete in the November 7 competition in Watertown. all copies should be sent to elkshoops2027@gmail.com.

Make sure that the attached rules and guidelines are followed during your preliminary eliminations. All students that participate must have their records recorded on the official score card which is attached to this guide and replicated as an individual attachment if more copies are required.

Please, review this document and take the time to let us know if this is something your students will enjoy. If not, please, let us know why not so that perhaps we can add or change to make the program fit their needs as well. Our desire is to make this open for all students.

Joe Getty HOOPS Director for the Watertown-Beaver Dam Elks Lodge

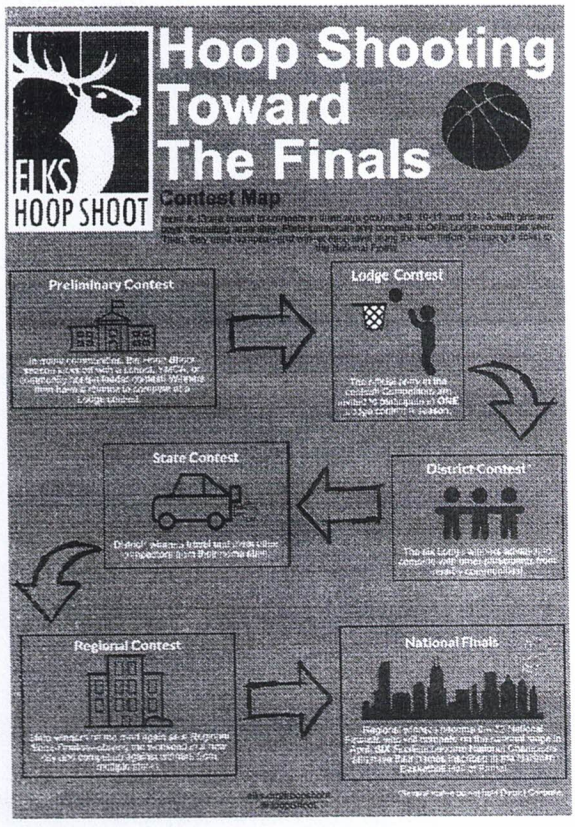
Contacts: elkshoops2027@gmail.com, (920)390-2344

Enter your ZIP code

Playbook

Contest Map

Wondering how the competition progresses from local contests to the National Finals? **Click on the Contest Map, right, for an overview of the Hoop Shoot Season.**



Eligibility

1. A contestant may only enter one Lodge Hoop Shoot contest.

2. Contestants must be at least 8 and no older than 13 as of April 1, 2026, in order to participate.

3. Regarding eligibility, the Director is responsible only for ensuring that the contestant competes in the correct age-group. Use the Age-Group calculator on the Hoop Shoot website elks.org/hoopshoot to verify age-group assignments before your contestants compete. Contestants who shoot in the wrong age-group will be disqualified.

4. As the Hoop Shoot tournament progresses, contestants may t switch divisions and may not skip levels of the competition. **In der to be eligible to advance to the next level of mpetition, a contestant must have participated in and won e previous level.**

Give today!

Contestants will compete in one of six divisions:

Boys, ages 8-9	Girls, ages 8-9
Boys, ages 10-11	Girls, ages 10-11
Boys, ages 12-13	Girls, ages 12-13

If the contestant will be age 7 on April 1, 2026, he/she is too young to participate.

If the contestant will be age 8 or 9 on April 1, 2026, he/she shoots in the 8 to 9 age-group.

If the contestant will be age 10 or 11 on April 1, 2026, he/she shoots in the 10 to 11 age-group.

If the contestant will be age 12 or 13 on April 1, 2026, he/she shoots in the 12 to 13 age- group.

If the contestant will be age 14 on April 1, 2026, he/she is too old to participate.

Contest Rules

1. All contestants must be present and ready to participate at their designated shooting time. In no case may a contestant shoot before or after the designated time. Shooting times are set by the Hoop Shoot Director. Contestants who shoot before or after their designated time will be disqualified. No exceptions.

2. Shooting positions will be drawn randomly. The method is left to the discretion of the Director.

3. All contestants should be allowed 10 minutes to warm up. Warm-ups should take place under the supervision of the contest officials.

4. To start the contest, boys 8 to 9 shoot at one end of the gym and girls 8 to 9 shoot at the opposite end of the gym at the same time. Boys and girls in the 8-to-9 year-old age-group shoot 4 feet in front of the regulation foul line. Use blue painter's tape to mark the line.

5. A free throw is the opportunity given to the contestant to shoot a basket for score from within the free throw circle and behind the free throw line (except for 8-to-9 year-old contestants, see Rule 4). A free throw begins when the ball is presented to the contestant at the free throw line. It ends when the shot is successful; or when it is certain that the shot will not be successful; or when the ball becomes dead.

6. Each contestant, in order of their draw, may have up to five warm-up shots (if desired) and then, will shoot 10 shots for score. The designated line judges should inform the contestant and the scorers that the contestant is shooting for score. This will be the last verbal contact that the judge will have with the contestant.

Upon completing their warm-up shots and 10 shots for score, the contestant will report to the end of the line or sit on a chair until the remaining contestants have completed their warm-ups and 10 shots. After the other contestants have finished shooting, the contestant will shoot 15 shots to complete their 25 shots for score.

7. The line judge should signal made or missed shots to the scorers.

8. Decisions by the Head Scorer, Line Judge, and Hoop Shoot Director are final. No spectators can change a decision made by a contest official.

9. Each free throw attempt shall be made within 10 seconds from the time a contestant is presented with the ball. The Line Judge should count 10 seconds, either silently in their head or with a 10 count out of the contestant's line of vision, for each free throw attempt. If the contestant does not shoot a free throw as defined by Rule 5 within 10 seconds, as determined by the Line Judge, a penalty occurs, and the shot is void. See Rule 11..

10. Contestants must stay behind the foul line until the ball has touched the hoop, backboard or net. If a line violation occurs, a penalty occurs, and the shot is void. See Rule 11.

11. In the event that a foul is committed, the line judge will indicate it by signaling a "T" with his/her hands, signifying that a technical foul has been committed. This should be done in clear view of the contestant and three scorers. Scorers should note a foul with a circled "T."

12. Ties will be broken in the following sequence: a number of five-shot sets; previous contest score(s) if applicable; coin toss.

The Hoop Shoot Director determines the number of five-shot sets. The Hoop Shoot Director may choose to continue to shoot a series of five shots until the tie is broken and the first-, second- and third-place winners are determined in all six divisions.

During the tie-breaker, contestants will compete in the same shooting order as the regular contest. All tie-breaking shots will be made at the same basket as the previous 25.

In no way can a tie be broken in any other manner except by those described in Rule 12.

13. Any other indiscretion will be left to the judgement of the Hoop Shoot Director.

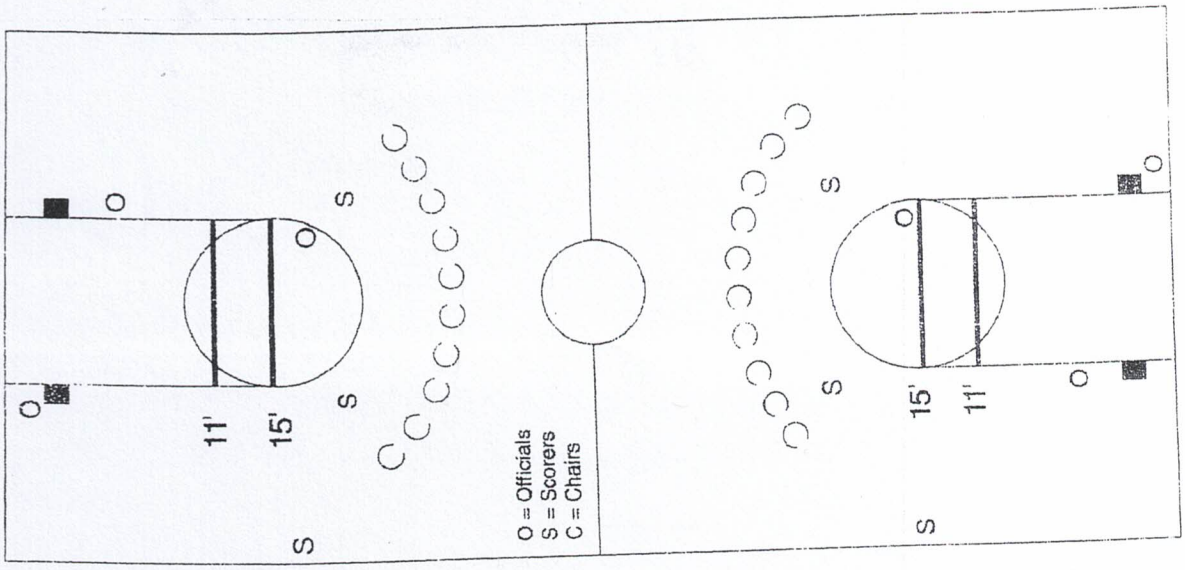
Contest Code of Conduct

1. Only contestants, officials and scorers and the official photographer—designated by the Director if applicable—are allowed on the floor during the contest.

2. No flash pictures should be taken of a contestant while shooting for score except by the official photographer.

3. Only authorized personnel are allowed to sit close to the basket or move behind the basket while the contestant is shooting. If there is any disturbance, the Line Judge must pause the contest and clear the area.

ADDITIONAL COURT AND BALL REQUIREMENTS



The following rules apply to the layout of the court and the size, type, ands air pressure that should be used for all the contests held for HOOPS basketball. They should also be used to stage any independent school activities whether they be for practice for that schools students, or possibly for independent elimination tournaments (Any students qualified by an independent schools tournament must compete at the Watertown competition on Saturday, November 7, 2026 to be qualified to compete in the following District Contest.).

Please, use the basketball court diagram above to help explain the court requirements.

1.) The court shall have a standard 15 foot free throw line. It shall also have an added free throw line at 11 feet for students identified in item "2". This can simply be added by a 3" roll of painter's tape or floor gym tape for easy removal.
2.) All free throws will be taken from the normal 15 foot line with the exception of the students identified below.
    a. Boys ages 8-9 shoot from the 11' line
    b. Girls ages 8-9 shoot from the 11" line

With regard to the basketballs used, the following rules apply.

1.) Boys ages 12-13 will use a standard 29.5 inch basketball.
2.) Girls ages 8-13 will use a 28.5 inch basketball.
3.) Boys ages 8-11 will use a 28.5 inch basketball.

Balls should be made of leather or composite leather, have channels or seams not greater than ¼ inch in width, and have between 7 to 9 lbs. of air pressure.

The following information is for schools that decide to carry on independent contests and send their most qualified candidates to the November 7, 2026 competition in Watertown.

1.) All rules for the balls used for each division must be followed.
2.) All rules for the 11 foot versus the 15 foot line must be followed.
3.) The school holding the competition shall be responsible for providing the results of all contestants in the competition. For this, the regulation HOOPS basketball score card must be used. A copy of the form is attached and included via this email and follow up emails as a separate item to download.
4.) The student will be expected to register for the competition in Watertown and be accompanied by a suitable guardian.

9/5/2026 Joe Getty -920-390-2344, elkshoops2027@gmail.com

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP: WEEKEND

The Elks National Foundation is committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment for all attendees, volunteers and staff. Upon registration, attendees must confirm their acceptance of this code of conduct to attend the 2026 Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals.

EXPECTATIONS

- Be respectful, considerate, and inclusive of others.
- Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech.
- Follow all event rules and instructions from event staff.
- Support other children and parents by not engaging in bullying.
- Supervise children at all times—children may not attend events or activities without parental supervision.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- Harassment, intimidation or discrimination in any form.
- Physical or verbal abuse.
- Unwelcome advances or comments.
- Inappropriate and unwanted physical contact.
- Persistent or intrusive attention.
- Verbal put-downs, teasings or other insulting remarks will not be tolerated.

CONSEQUENCES

Anyone—this includes Finalists too—asked to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately. Event organizers may take any action deemed appropriate, including but not limited to:

- Warning the offender.
- Expulsion from the event without refund.
- Exclusion from future events and volunteer roles.
- Reporting to appropriate authorities.

REPORTING CONCERNS OR VIOLATIONS

Attendees wishing to report concerns or violations are encouraged to do so promptly to uniformed ENF Staff, or by emailing or calling 773/755-4908.

The contents of the report will be handled with the utmost discretion.

☐ Boys
☐ Girls

_____
(Age Group)



⊖ MISS
● GOOD
Ⓣ TECHNICAL FOUL

ELKS HOOP SHOOT
FREE THROW CONTEST

Official Score Record

Date _____

Scorer Signature _____

PRACTICE SHOTS ○○○○○	CONTESTANT'S NAME	○○○○○○○○○○ ☐ ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ ☐	SCORE
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