

Dear Bidy Basketball Coach:

The Nashua Lodge of Elks Youth Activity Committee will be holding the 2021 Elks National “Hoop Shoot” Free Throw competition on Saturday morning, December 4th, 2021, in the Elm Street Middle School’s Chestnut Street Gymnasium, **beginning promptly at 8:00 a. m. There is no charge to compete in the contest.**

The competition is open to all interested **AREA boys and girls,** between the ages of 8 and 13. **Age on April 1st, 2022.** establishes the age category. Six age division winners will be chosen with trophies going to the top three finishers in each age group. The contest usually lasts about 1 1/2 to 2 hours, depending on the number competing in each age category. *The girls’ categories usually finish early thereby enabling them to make an early bidy game commitment. **We have been lacking many girl competitors the last couple of years.** Please encourage the kids to try out. **Youngsters may leave when their age group has finished shooting.**

Contestants shoot 25 free throws for score and must wear sneakers or tennis shoes to compete. T-shirts, shorts or basketball uniforms are preferred but optional.

Nashua has produced many fine outstanding free throw champions over the past 44 years, with eleven going all the way to the Elks National “Hoop Shoot” Free Throw Finals. They were; Steve Piwowarski, Missy Ayotte, Debra Killmon, Ellen Tipping, Ryan Robinson, Ryan Sullivan , Michael Panagoulis, Caleb Donnelly, Max Coleman, Tom O’Hearn of Hudson and Tilak Patel of Nashua. Caleb Donnelly of Hudson was the first of our Greater Nashua Elks Hoop Shoot Champions to win the Elks National Hoop Shoot Free Throw Championship in 2006, in Springfield, Massachusetts.. His winning score was 23 out of 25 free throws. Caleb’s name is now inscribed in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

From **over one million youngsters** starting out each year, that’s quite a compliment to everyone involved, particularly you Bidy Basketball coaches. Seventy-two finalists nationally make the Elks final competition.

It is the Holiday Season, but please make every effort to urge your team’s players to try out for the Elks “Hoop Shoot” Free Throw contest on Saturday, the 4th of December. **The Girls turnout has been very small.** Coaches, please try to have more participation from the girls’ group. **It’s free for the kids.** Also, it would be great if you could make it yourself.

Thanks for being involved and helping kids. Happy Holidays.

Yours in youth,

Bill Grady Elks Hoop Shoot

Chairman (603-930-2614)