



This Alert contains information on the larger conventions and sports events that will be arriving in the upcoming month. We hope you find the information useful for scheduling and to help welcome attendees.

#### ARNOLD SPORTS FESTIVAL MARCH 6-8

This is the 32nd year of the Arnold Sports Festival, the largest multi-sport event in the nation. The festival brings athletes, fitness fans and health-fitness businesses to Columbus. More than 22,000 athletes come to Columbus to compete in more than 80 sports and events. Daily EXPO tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. A 3-ticket package is also available for \$50 online.

**Attendance:** 200,000

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, Hyatt Regency, Express Live, Ohio Expo Center, Hilton Columbus Downtown, Ohio State University, New Albany High School, Premier at Sawmill, Sheraton Capitol Square

**Website:** <http://arnoldsportsfestival.com/>

**Facebook:** [Arnold Sports Festival](#)

**Twitter:** [@ArnoldSports](#)

**Group Contact:** Brent Lalonde, [brant@arnoldexpo.com](mailto:brant@arnoldexpo.com)

**Sports Commission Contact:** Eric Archibald, [earchibald@columbusports.org](mailto:earchibald@columbusports.org) Ariana Tyler, [atyler@columbusports.org](mailto:atyler@columbusports.org)

**Experience Columbus Contact:** Sharon Levine, [slevine@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:slevine@experiencecolumbus.com)

#### OHIO SAFETY CONGRESS & EXPO MARCH 11-13

The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, now in its 90th year, is the second-largest occupational safety, health, and workers' compensation event in the U.S.

**Attendance:** 8,000

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Event:** 300 exhibitors. Open to the public. Expo hours are Wed. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thurs., 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday is meetings only.

**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, downtown hotels

**Website:** [www.ohiosafetycongress.com](http://www.ohiosafetycongress.com) [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov)

**Twitter:** [@OhioBWC](#) #OSC2020

**Group Contact:** Julie Darby Martin, [Julie.D.12@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:Julie.D.12@bwc.state.oh.us)

**Experience Columbus Contact:** Diane Share, [dshare@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:dshare@experiencecolumbus.com)

#### OHSAA STATE GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS MARCH 12-14

Columbus' St. John Arena will host the State Girls Basketball Championships presented by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The semifinals will take place on Thursday, March 12th and Friday, March 13th followed by the finals on Saturday, March 14th.

**Attendance:** 98,000

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for all meals.

**Location:** St. John Arena

**Website:** <https://ohsaa.org/sports/girlsbasketball>

**Facebook:** [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)

**Twitter:** [@OHSAASports](#)

**Group Contact:** Kathleen Coughlin, [kcoughlin@ohsaa.org](mailto:kcoughlin@ohsaa.org)

**Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, [ecornell@columbusports.org](mailto:ecornell@columbusports.org)

#### OHSAA STATE BOYS WRESTLING INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS MARCH 13-15

Wrestlers will compete in the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Wrestling Individual Championships at the Schottenstein Center.

**Attendance:** 66,000

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Location:** Jerome Schottenstein Center

**Website:** <https://ohsaa.org/sports/wrestling>

**Facebook:** [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)

**Twitter:** [@OHSAASports](#)

**Group Contact:** Tyler Brooks, [tbrooks@ohsaa.org](mailto:tbrooks@ohsaa.org)

**Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, [ecornell@columbusports.org](mailto:ecornell@columbusports.org)

#### OHSAA STATE ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS MARCH 14-15

The Ohio High School Ice Hockey season will conclude with the final four teams meeting in Columbus at Nationwide Arena. Semifinal games will be played on Saturday, March 14 and the championship will be played on Sunday, March 15.

**Attendance:** 6,200

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Location:** Nationwide Arena

**Website:** <https://ohsaa.org/sports/icehockey>

**Facebook:** [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)

**Twitter:** [@OHSAASports](#)

**Group Contact:** Ron Sayers, [rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)

**Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, [ecornell@columbusports.org](mailto:ecornell@columbusports.org)

#### OHSAA STATE BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS MARCH 19-21

The best 16 boys basketball teams in the state will come to Columbus for the Boys Basketball Championships to close out the 2019-20 Ohio High School Athletic Association season. Semifinals will be played Thursday and Friday while Championship finals will be played Saturday.

**Attendance:** 143,000

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Location:** Jerome Schottenstein Center

**Website:** <https://ohsaa.org/sports/boysbasketball>

**Facebook:** [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)

**Twitter:** [@OHSAASports](#)

**Group Contact:** Jerry Snodgrass, [jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org](mailto:jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org)

**Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, [ecornell@columbusports.org](mailto:ecornell@columbusports.org)

## AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE MARCH 19-29

### North American Bridge Championships (NABC)

NABC are 11-day events drawing thousands of bridge players. There are pair and team games at every level, which equals points of many colors, including platinum. Attendees will also find opportunities to boost their bridge skills and hone their teaching practices.

**Attendance:** 2,500

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for all meals.

**Event:** Tournaments are held for lower level players at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Upper level tournaments start at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Each tournament lasts approximately 3 ½ hours. There is a nightly hospitality after the 7:30 tournament. Not open to the public.

**Location:** Hyatt Regency, Greater Columbus Convention Center

**Website:** <https://nabc.acbl.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLbridge>

**Group Contact:** Mark Hudson, [mark.hudson@acbl.org](mailto:mark.hudson@acbl.org)

**Experience Columbus Contact:** Bill Behrens, [bbehrens@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:bbehrens@experiencecolumbus.com)

## NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP MARCH 20-21

The Division III Women's Basketball teams will collide in Columbus to determine the champion. The semifinals will take place on March 20th and the championship will take place on March 21st.

**Attendance:** 2,200

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Location:** Capital University

**Website:** <https://www.ncaa.com/brackets/basketball-women/d3/2020>

**Facebook:** [NCAA Division III](https://www.facebook.com/NCAADivIII)

**Twitter:** @NCAADIII

**Group Contact:** Kelly Shaul, [kshaul@ncaa.org](mailto:kshaul@ncaa.org)

**Sports Commission Contact:** Eric Archibald, [EArchibald@ColumbusSports.org](mailto:EArchibald@ColumbusSports.org)

## HOCKEY TIME PRODUCTIONS - BUCKEYE CLASSIC TOURNAMENT SERIES MARCH 20-22

Hockey Time Productions is about creating an optimal environment for teams and families to gather, compete and enjoy the great game of hockey.

**Attendance:** 1,000

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Location:** Ohio Expo Center

**Website:** <https://www.itshockeytime.com/index.asp>

**Facebook:** [Hockey Time Productions](https://www.facebook.com/HockeyTimeProductions)

**Twitter:** @HockeyTimeProd

**Group Contact:** Matt Rice, [matt@ishockeytime.com](mailto:matt@ishockeytime.com)

**Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, [ecornell@columbusports.org](mailto:ecornell@columbusports.org)

## 2020 USA POWERLIFTING COLLEGIATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS MARCH 28

The Ohio State University Powerlifting Club will host the best collegiate powerlifters from all over the country to compete in the USA Powerlifting Collegiate National Championship.

**Attendance:** 1,000

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center

**Website:** <https://www.osupowerliftingclub.com/ohiostatechampionship>

**Facebook:** [2020 USA Powerlifting Ohio State Championship](https://www.facebook.com/2020USAPowerliftingOhioStateChampionship)

**Twitter:** @USAPowerlifting

**Group Contact:** Ron Brinker, [ohiostatechairsapl@gmail.com](mailto:ohiostatechairsapl@gmail.com)

**Sports Commission Contact:** Ariana Tyler, [ATyler@ColumbusSports.org](mailto:ATyler@ColumbusSports.org)

## UFC FIGHT NIGHT MARCH 28

For the first time in 11 years the UFC will return to Columbus for the five round main event of Francis Ngannou vs. Jairzinho Rozenstruik.

**Attendance:** 12,200

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Location:** Nationwide Arena

**Website:** <https://www.ufc.com/event/ufc-fight-night-march-28-2020>

**Facebook:** [UFC](https://www.facebook.com/UFC)

**Twitter:** @ufc

**Group Contact:** Tony Barboza, [tbarboza@ufc.com](mailto:tbarboza@ufc.com)

**Sports Commission Contact:** Lauren McCarty, [LMcCarty@ColumbusSports.org](mailto:LMcCarty@ColumbusSports.org)

## AMERICAN CHEER POWER MARCH 28-29

### Midwest World Bid National Championship

This Championship offers competitions for All Star Cheer and Performance Rec Traditional Teams.

**Attendance:** 6000+ athletes, 9000+ total event attendance

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for all meals.

**Event:** Competitions are held Saturday and Sunday. Open to the public.

**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, downtown hotels

**Website:** <http://www.cheerpower.com/>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/AmericanCheerPower](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanCheerPower)

**Experience Columbus Contact:** Diane Share, [dshare@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:dshare@experiencecolumbus.com)

The **Experience Columbus Visitor Centers** in the Arena District and at the Greater Columbus Convention Center are here to help your customers find their way around the city.

Arena District hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m. The Visitor Center is located on the corner of Nationwide Blvd. and Neil Ave. at 277 W. Nationwide Blvd., 43215. Phone: 614-221-6623.

The Convention Center Visitor Center hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday 12-5 p.m.

The Convention and Sports Alert is published monthly to assist area restaurants, hotels and other facilities in anticipating their staffing and supply needs. To add, change or delete an email recipient, please contact Bill Behrens at [BBehrens@ExperienceColumbus.com](mailto:BBehrens@ExperienceColumbus.com).