THE HOOP SCOOP

Get In the Game!

50 Seasons – And We Are Celebrating BIG!

GF Hoops has supported generations of local players, families, coaches, referees, and volunteers—and this season, we're celebrating that remarkable community. Throughout our 50th season, look for special giveaways, a Coaches All-Star Tournament, & more surprises on and off the court. The celebration will culminate with a combined 50th Anniversary Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at River Bend Country Club.

This milestone belongs to everyone who has played, coached, officiated, volunteered, cheered, or helped GF Hoops grow over the past 5 decades.

Watch for dates, event details, and opportunities to join the celebration. We can't wait to celebrate 50 seasons with you!

More than a Whistle: GF Hoops Referees

Becoming a referee takes more than knowing the rules or blowing a whistle. New officials complete five preseason on-court training sessions covering floor positioning, hand signals, whistle technique, game management, and commonly misunderstood rules. They practice officiating live scrimmages alongside experienced referees before working more independently.



New referees must also study the GF Hoops rules, pass an online exam with a score of at least 70%, and learn the scheduling system before receiving their official referee jersey.

During the season, first-year referees typically work one or two younger House League games each weekend. Experienced officials provide mentoring, feedback, and support as they gain confidence on the court.

For many young players, refereeing is a first job—an opportunity to earn money while building accountability, time management, communication, decision-making, and conflict-management skills that extend far beyond basketball.

62 Signups . 25 Selected . One Strong Pipeline of Future Leaders

What it takes

- **Five** on-court training sessions
- Rules and hand-signal study
- A passing score of **70%** on the exam
- Scheduling-system training
- Ongoing mentoring and evaluations
- Confidence, composure and clear communication

Let them learn

As the season begins, please remember that many of our referees are young people learning and developing—just like the players. They will not make every call perfectly, and criticism from the stands does not help them improve. Please cheer positively, respect the officials, and allow GF Hoops staff and coaches to address concerns appropriately.



House or Select: How Does It Work?

House League is open to players of all skill levels and emphasizes balanced teams, development, teamwork, and fun. Evaluations help GF Hoops create competitive teams—they are not tryouts for making the league.

Select League is a more competitive program for players ready for an increased commitment. Players attend tryouts, after which coaches form teams that compete in the **Fairfax County Youth Basketball League.**

No matter the program, our goal is the same: help players grow and enjoy the game.

Strong Turnout. Proud Tradition. A New Select Season.

Nearly 200 players participated in tryouts for 11 GF Hoops Select teams this fall—an impressive turnout that reflects the strength and continued growth of our competitive program.

With approximately 10 players selected for each team, athletes brought tremendous energy, effort, and determination to every tryout. We appreciate everyone who stepped onto the court and gave it their best.
Interest was also strong in our fourth-grade developmental program, with 39 young athletes participating. The program introduces players to advanced instruction and competitive basketball while helping prepare them for future Select opportunities.

GF Hoops Select teams travel and compete in the Fairfax County Youth Basketball League against some of the strongest community-based programs in Northern Virginia. Recent seasons have produced league and tournament championships, individual honors, All-League selections, and memorable postseason runs.
Now that rosters are set, our players and coaches are ready to build on that tradition. With talented athletes, committed coaches, and supportive families, there is plenty of optimism for another successful Select season.

Congratulations to everyone who participated—and good luck to all our GF Hoops teams!

200 Participants **11** Select Teams **39** 4D Players

Fall Clinics Recap: Skills, Energy & Growth

Our fall gyms were filled with energy with nearly 200 players from kindergarten through 10th grade, who worked on fundamentals and sharpened their skills as they prepared for the winter season.

GF Hoops offered 15 sessions covering Skills and Drills, Guard Skills and Shooting, and organized Game Time. We offered six sessions for 4th–6th graders – representing nearly half of total enrollment.

Participants represented more than 15 area schools, including large groups from Colvin Run, Cooper, Forestville, and Great Falls Elementary. We were also excited to welcome 50 female athletes—more than one-quarter of all participants. Come on, girls—we would love to see even more of you next fall!

Thank you to our three talented coaches for creating a positive environment where players could learn, compete, and have fun. We are also grateful to the families who spent their fall evenings with GF Hoops.
GF Hoops works to keep clinic prices affordable and accessible for local families. Clinic proceeds also help support our other basketball programs, player-development opportunities, and community projects throughout the year.
Our Fall Clinics were led by three experienced coaches who brought energy, encouragement, and a shared commitment to helping every player improve. WE THANK YOU BARRY, JOSH & EVAN









Fun Fact: **Basketball was originally played with nine players on each team.**

GF Hoops Joins the Carnival Fun

GF Hoops was proud to represent & participate in the Forestville and Great Falls Elementary School carnivals with our new **Pop-A-Shot game!**

Current & future players stopped by to test their shooting skills. More importantly, the events gave us another opportunity to support our local elementary schools and connect with community families.

Thank you to the PTO volunteers and school communities who made these celebrations possible.

"How many did you make?"



GF Hoops Board Members get in the action



Long-Lines @ the Pop-A-Shot



Shooting in the twilight



High Scores & Bragging Rights



In costume or not – everyone gets in the action



Perfect form & lots of repetition



The GFES Mascot Gets in the Game too!

GF Hoops Gives Back: Partnering With Our Local Schools

GF Hoops is proud to partner with the PTO, PTA, and booster organizations at Langley High School, Cooper Middle School, Colvin Run Elementary, Forestville Elementary, and Great Falls Elementary.

Our support provides these organizations with much-needed funds to purchase items and create opportunities for their students and athletes. In return, our school partners help GF Hoops connect with local families through event signage, school message boards, newsletters, and other communication channels.

These partnerships strengthen our schools, our basketball program, and the community we share.
Thank you to the school leaders and volunteers who make these partnerships possible!



Strong schools. Strong programs. One connected community.

Did You Know?

Unlimited dribbling was not permitted until 1909—nearly two decades after basketball was invented.

Gear up for the Season at DICK'S Sporting Goods'

Take 20% off your Entire Purchase at the Dulles Town Center store **Nov 13th — Nov 16th**

CLICK HERE FOR THE 20% OFF IN-STORE COUPON

And **CLICK HERE** for other coupons good in-store ALL YEAR
(20% off and year-long coupons cannot be combined)

Visit the GF Hoops Merch Store

Show Your GF Hoops Spirit!

Represent GF Hoops on the court, at school, and around town. Visit our merch store for apparel and gear for players, families, coaches, and fans.

Hosted by Cheers Sports
Check it out **HERE**



A New System—and a New Website

Over the summer, GF Hoops moved to PlayMetrics and launched a newly redesigned website. This was a major transition intended to make registration, schedules, team communication, and program information easier to manage in one place. In addition, **GFHoops.com** looks great on any device you choose.

We appreciate everyone's patience as families, volunteers, and administrators learn the new system. If something feels unfamiliar—or does not work as expected—please bear with us and reach out to **Info@gfhoops.com**

DEAR GF HOOPS

What should I do when adults yell or criticize players—especially children who are not their own?

— Concerned on the Sideline –

Dear Concerned,

Young athletes perform best when the adults around them create a positive, encouraging environment. Cheer for great effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship—but let the coaches coach and the officials officiate.

Adults should never criticize or directly instruct another person's child or referee. If sideline behavior becomes disruptive or inappropriate, speak privately with your coach or the building director rather than confronting someone during the game.
The best question to ask before calling out is simple: "Will this help the players enjoy the game?" **-- GF Hoops – –**

QUICK TIPS

Be a Triple Threat!

When you receive the ball, get into triple-threat position:

- Knees bent
- Head up
- Ball protected



Ready to pass, dribble, or shoot

Keeping all three options available makes you more difficult to defend.

Fun Fact: The first basketball game was played on December 21, 1891, at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Score was 1-0