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Shooting Star to Host Lucky 7s Outdoor Tournament Featuring Fast-Paced Seven-versus-Seven Format In Lieu of Indoor Invitational

MILFORD, N.H. — Shooting Star, the nation's premiere field hockey event organizer powered by 3STEP Sports, has announced Lucky 7s tournament, a seven-versus-seven outdoor tournament to be held in lieu of the annual Shooting Star Indoor Invitational in the spring of 2021.

Faced with challenges presented by the global COVID-19 pandemic, Shooting Star made the forward-looking decision to move the Indoor Invitational to an outdoor, seven-on-seven format for 2021. This decision was based on optimizing recruiting potential and player skills during a season that has been drastically altered.

"After much discussion and valued input from the different shareholders, we know that this will be a critical time to promote the outdoor game for both the players and colleges looking to evaluate for their programs," said Shooting Star Vice President Ainslee Lamb.

"We are thrilled that we have a facility that can allow us to make this shift while still keeping the date, site and accessibility consistent for the clubs, families, umpires and college coaches."

Scheduled for March 5-7 at the Hampshire Dome, Lucky 7s will feature 36 teams competing across U14, U16 and U19 divisions. Teams spots will be limited by division to six at the U14 level, 18 in the U16 bracket and 12 in the U19 division. Clubs may enter a maximum of three teams, and all squads will be guaranteed five games over the course of the weekend.

The shift to a seven-versus-seven format promises additional benefits for participating teams and athletes.

Popularized across various sports, "7s" is a faster, more condensed—also known as "small-sided"—format that provides athletes with more reps, more touches in any given game, ultimately helping them develop their skills, reaction and awareness at a more rapid pace.

"As much as we will miss the chance to host the Shooting Star Indoor Invitational, we do feel that this is the right decision for the greater good and we look forward to hosting Lucky 7s and providing a terrific experience for competing teams and athletes," Lamb said.

"The potential impact on the game, players and recruitment has resulted in this move to be an easy one for us to make."

Shooting Star leadership expects the Indoor Invitational to return in 2022.

"We are confident that we will return to the Shooting Star Indoor Invitational format that we absolutely love hosting—a competitive event with tremendous energy that has proven itself to be a nationally recognized event," Lamb said.

Blizzard Bash, a new tournament added for the 2021 circuit, will also feature the seven-versus-seven format. Running February 26- February 28, Blizzard Bash will be hosted at the Hampshire Dome in Milford, N.H.

Register for both Shooting star Lucky 7's and Shooting Star Blizzard Bash open on December 1. And to learn more about the Shooting Star lineup of events, visit <https://collegeconnectionathletics.com/tournaments/>.

About Shooting Star

Shooting Star Tournaments were founded in 2016, when there was a desire in the field hockey community for showcase tournaments on synthetic turf fields. Starting with Thanksgiving in 2016, Shooting Star now hosts 10 tournaments nation-wide, servicing athletes ranging from U10 to Masters (35+).

While expanding, Shooting Star has stayed true to their fundamental values, catering to every athlete, club coach, college coach, umpire, parent and fan – striving to provide a professional, inspiring and authentic experience. The testimonials throughout the years speak to just that – check out what people have to say about Shooting Star events [here](#).

About 3STEP Sports

3STEP Sports is the largest youth sport event and club operator in the nation. 3STEP operates more than 1,500 events and dozens of clubs in a growing number of sports and currently serving more than 1.8 million youth athletes. 3STEP delivers a professional, inspiring and authentic experience every step along the athlete journey, encompassing club team competition, national media, content platforms, team apparel, and nationally recognized tournaments. Simply put: We Run Sports. Learn more at www.threestep.com