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Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition announces dates for 2016 winter-spring middle school sports invitationals

MIAMI, Fla. – Dec. 10, 2015 – The Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition has released the schedule for its 2016 winter-spring middle school sports invitationals.

The middle school wrestling, bowling and track invitationals are scheduled for January, while the golf and tennis tournaments are slated for April. All events will take place at various locations throughout Miami-Dade County.

The wrestling invitational will take place at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at Coral Reef Senior High School. The daylong tournament will conclude with an awards presentation at 4 p.m. Entries are limited to one wrestler from each school in each of the 13 weight classes.

Bowling teams of at least five players each will participate in the 2016 invitational at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 29, at Bird Bowl, 9275 SW 40th St., in Miami. Entries are limited to one boys' team and one girls' team from each school.

John A. Ferguson Senior High School will play host to the 2016 Middle School Track Invitational beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30. Participation is limited to the first 20 boys' team and 20 girls' team entries. Teams are limited to three entries for each event; relays are limited to one team for each school. Individuals may participate in a maximum of four events.

The Middle School Golf Invitational is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 6, at the Briar Bay Golf Course, 9373 SW 134th St., in Miami. The nine-hole tournament will accept a four-player team or a maximum of four individuals.

Matches for the 2016 tennis invitational begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Tropical Tennis Center, 7900 SW 40th St., in Miami. Team entries must include one boys' team and one girls' team for singles competition, one co-ed doubles team, one girls' doubles team and one boys' doubles team. Individual competitors are permitted to enter in one event only.

All students competing in the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition sports program must be officially enrolled in the school they are representing. If a school is not represented at a Youth Fair sports activity, parents may enter their children with written approval from the school principal. Participants must complete a school certified field trip form and be accompanied by a school coach or a school approved chaperone. All Miami-Dade County Youth Fair activities within the department of athletics will be held in accordance with the official rules of the National Federation of State High School Association, Florida High School Activities

Association and G.M.A.C. All events are open to students in grades 6-8. Middle school students who participate on high school teams are not allowed to participate in these events.

The Youth Fair and the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department work together to promote a year-round athletic program. Annually, there are more than 6,000 public and private school students who participate in the various sporting events: swimming and diving, cross country, tennis, track, golf, bowling, wrestling and badminton. The events are open to middle and high school students.

The Miami-Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition (The Youth Fair) is the largest charity event in South Florida. The not-for-profit association is dedicated to promoting education and agriculture while showcasing and rewarding youth achievement and providing quality family entertainment, all without taxpayer dollars. The annual Youth Fair exhibits more than 53,000 student projects to more than 650,000 Youth Fair guests and awards more than \$300,000 annually in college scholarships, cash premiums and awards to students. To date, The Youth Fair has presented well above \$10 million to the Miami-Dade community. It was recognized in 2015 as the Leisure & Entertainment Services Firm of the Year by the Latin Builder's Association, the Non-Profit Organization of the Year by the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and was the Diamond Award Winner for Outstanding Hospitality Entity by the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. The Fair Exposition Center, which is the second largest convention center in Miami-Dade County, hosts an additional 70 community events each year. Visit fairexpo.com or call 305-223-7060.

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