

Participant Manual

November 13– 16, 2026
ScottsMiracle-Gro Stadium – Columbus, OH



Welcome from the OHSAA and Columbus Crew



Congratulations on qualifying for the OHSAA State Soccer Finals! The student-athletes, coaches and fans have a unique opportunity to experience and compete at ScottsMiracle-Gro Stadium in Columbus, OH. The OHSAA, Columbus Sports Commission, and the staff at the Columbus Crew are excited to host the state finals and look forward to providing a positive championship experience.

This participant manual is to be utilized in conjunction with the OHSAA Tournament Regulations to provide information for teams and administrators planning to attend the event. Coaches and administrators are encouraged to share information regarding parking, tickets, venue policies, etc. with parents and fans.

Again, congratulations on your outstanding achievements thus far this season, and for qualifying for this year's state finals. I understand the dedication and hard work it takes to achieve this opportunity and wish you all the best of luck in your upcoming matches!

Respectfully,



Kelly Schoenly
Sport Administrator – Soccer

CONTACT INFORMATION

OHSAA STAFF CONTACTS

Kelly Schoenly , OHSAA Sport Administrator/Tournament Manager	Cell: 614-313-9563	kschoenly@ohsaa.org
Tim Stried , OHSAA Director of Media Relations	Cell: 614-4060475	tstried@ohsaa.org
Beau Rugg , OHSAA Director of Officiating	Cell: 614-738-3559	brugg@ohsaa.org
Holly Herrholtz , OHSAA Director of Officiating Development	Cell: 330-979-9692	hherrholtz@ohsaa.org

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

State Tournament Site

ScottsMiracle-Gro Stadium
96 Columbus Crew Way
Columbus, OH 43215

Coaches' Meeting. There will be a pre-tournament meeting for participating coaches, school administrators, Director of Officiating Development and OHSAA staff. This meeting will be virtual and take place on **Monday, November 9, 2026 at 10:00AM ET.**

Administration. Administration and conduct of the OHSAA State Tournament shall be under the control and direction of the Sport Administrator and is subject to the standards and requirements set forth by OHSAA guidelines. The Executive Director, or designated representative, has the authority to make procedural or protest decisions during the event.

Home/Visitor Team Determination and Bench Assignments. The team listed on the top of the bracket shall be home team and wear dark uniforms. The bottom team on the bracket shall be the visiting team and wear white uniforms. Bench assignments will correspond with locker room assignments.

Match Ball. The Select Brilliant ball shall be the official match ball of the state finals.

Artificial Noisemakers. Noisemakers are permitted provided they do not interfere with the game as determined by the OHSAA staff, site or officials. Cowbells and Vuvuzela horns will be permitted. Air Horns and noisemakers that require electric or alternate sources of power are not permitted in the facility.

Travel and lodging. The OHSAA is not responsible for team hotel accommodation, however a hotel list will be included with this document of Columbus hotels provided by the Columbus Sports Commission.

STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE AND PRACTICE INFORMATION

Tuesday, November 10	Girls State Semifinals (at campus sites)
Wednesday, November 11	Boys State Semifinals (at campus sites)
Friday, November 13	Girls State Championship
Division IV	12:00PM
Division V	3:00PM
Saturday, November 14	Girls State Championship
Division I	1:00PM
Division III	4:00PM
Division II	7:00PM
Sunday, November 15	Boys State Championship
Division IV	1:00PM
Division V	4:00PM
Division I	7:00PM
Monday, November 16	Boys State Championship
Division III	4:00PM
Division II	7:00PM

Practice and Warm-up Opportunities. The championship field shall become available for teams to warm up at minimum of 40 minutes prior to kick off. Time permitting, teams that would like to stretch may do so on the field prior to the official warm up time. Teams will use side goals during warmups at Scotts-Miracle Gro Stadium.

Regulation and Overtime.

Regulation Clock

40:00 First half
10:00 Halftime
40:00 Second half

Overtime

5:00 Intermission after regulation time
15:00 First overtime period
2:00 Intermission
15:00 Second overtime period
2:00 Intermission
0:00 Penalty Kicks

Schedule of Events – Reference Start Time for Each Game

All matches will be livestreamed and accessible from the [OHSAA Soccer Webpage](#).

Game: 12:00 p.m.

11:00		Optional Team Photo Opportunity
11:20	30:00	Teams permitted on Field for Warm-up
11:50	0:00	Pre-Game Conference
		Teams walk out international style
		National Anthem
		Player Introductions
12:00		Kick-off

Game: 1:00 p.m.

12:00		Optional Team Photo Opportunity
12:20	30:00	Teams permitted on Field for Warm-up
12:50	0:00	Pre-Game Conference
		Teams walk out international style
		National Anthem
		Player Introductions
1:00		Kick-off

Game: 3:00 p.m.

2:00		Optional Team Photo Opportunity
2:20	30:00	Teams permitted on Field for Warm-up
2:50	0:00	Pre-Game Conference
		Teams walk out international style
		National Anthem
		Player Introductions
3:00		Kick-off

Game: 4:00 p.m.

3:00		Optional Team Photo Opportunity
3:20	30:00	Teams permitted on Field for Warm-up
3:50	0:00	Pre-Game Conference
		Teams walk out international style
		National Anthem
		Player Introductions
4:00		Kick-off

Game: 7:00 p.m.

6:00		Optional Team Photo Opportunity
6:20	30:00	Teams permitted on Field for Warm-up
6:50	0:00	Pre-Game Conference
		Teams walk out international style
		National Anthem
		Player Introductions
7:00		Kick-off

TEAM BENCH LIST AND TRAVEL PARTY INFORMATION

Travel Party/Bench Limit. A total of 35 Individuals shall be admitted without charge to occupy the bench. These individuals include a maximum of 25 Players in uniform, and additional personnel including but not limited to coaches, managers, statisticians, team physician(s), athletic trainers, and team personnel.

A commemorative bag tag will be picked up upon arrival. Individuals provided with this commemorative bag tag will be required to show this tag to be allowed stadium access. No one without the approved OHSAA State Tournament Pass or without the commemorative bag tag will be admitted without a paid admission ticket. Bag tags DO NOT grant entry at the main entrance of the facility.

Administrators riding the bus. Administrators are required to scan their ticket and pick up their credentials inside the main entrance. (SEE TICKET INFORMATION) Up to eight (8) credentials may be administered (one credential per administrative ticket). Any administrator riding the bus with the team must receive a credential for facility access. Upon arrival, consult the team host for directions on obtaining a credential.

Ball personnel. The OHSAA has solicited volunteers to assist with collecting game balls during the state finals. However, teams are permitted to bring a maximum of three (3) ball personnel to assist during the match, but they are not required to bring them. These individuals may remain in the team bench area and are permitted in the locker room. Please bring pinnies for these players.

School photographers, video personnel and bus driver. One school photographer and one school videographer may be credentialed for the state tournament. If he or she is not riding the bus, a media credential shall be provided at the main entrance. The bus driver may enter with the team and receive a credential (wristband or temporary field pass).

*We strongly encourage your bench list to arrive together. Due to this stadium setup, if they cannot come through the loading dock with you, they will need to go through the West Lobby entrance and show identification there.

TEAM PHOTOS

The OHSAA's designated photographer will be available to take a team photo prior to the designated warm up, but this is not mandatory. Photos of the runner-up and championship teams will be taken following the awards ceremony.

MEDIA INFORMATION

Each participating school may receive up to two media credentials in addition to the school's broadcast crew. Those individuals can be a student or adult photographer, but the athletic director must submit those names to Tim Stried (tstried@ohsaa.org). Please notify all parents, etc. who may have had field access throughout the year that they will not be granted field access without a media credential. The two media credentials may be picked up at the main entrance where all media check in.

PRE-MATCH INTRODUCTIONS

Players will walk out international style for introductions. Player introductions will take place after the national anthem.

REFEREE INFORMATION

Referees are selected and assigned by the OHSAA Director of Officiating Development through the system adopted by the OHSAA's Board of Directors. A four-person crew will be assigned for each match.

Holly Herrholtz, the OHSAA's Director of Officiating Development for soccer, will attend all state tournament matches and have oversight of the officials.

FACILITY INFORMATION

Team Bus Parking. Team buses are to arrive at the Northeast corner of the stadium loading dock. There will be white OHSAA flags to denote the entrance. Teams will be greeted and escorted to their respective locker rooms. The bus will then proceed to either the North Lot or the Nordecke lot for parking.

Team Entrance/Package Pick Up. Credential packets, including bag tags, will be provided to teams upon check-in. Each participant listed on the travel party/bench list shall receive a complimentary program. Check in is at the loading dock entrance. Please call 15 minutes before arrival and you will be met there (Kelly Schoenly 614-313-9563). Only participants/personnel on the bench list can enter through this entrance.

Locker Room Access. The only individuals that have permitted locker room access will be the thirty-five (35) individuals with a bag tag and school administrators. Transferring bag tags is not permitted.

Locker Rooms. Locker room facilities will be available for teams. Due to construction, there are only 2 locker rooms available for the weekend. Therefore, teams will be asked to take their stuff to the sideline at halftime and exit to buses from the field. You will only have access to the locker room from halftime of the previous game until halftime of your game. There will be an indoor holding area for each team upon arrival before the locker room becomes available. There will not be availability for locker rooms or showers post-game. Please plan accordingly.

Restrooms. Restrooms for teams are provided in the locker rooms. There are also restrooms in the team hallway if needed.

Team Benches. Teams are responsible for keeping the benches cleared. **NO DUMPING OF LIQUIDS** (except water) is permitted on the field surface.

Family Meeting Area. We will have the team bus pull around to the front of the stadium after the game so teams can congregate with their fans. Please direct your team to the bus post-game and we will take them to their fans.

ADDITIONAL TEAMS ATTENDING THE STATE FINALS

Since the state semifinals are not held at the same venue as the state finals, teams who do not advance from the state semifinals are welcome to attend the state finals at no cost. If your team would like to attend the state finals, you must inform the sport administrator of which day/matches you plan to attend. We will help coordinate seating upon arrival.

Teams with both genders participating will follow the same protocol noted above. If a girls team wants to come back and watch the boys team compete (or vice versa), they must come as a team and enter through the team entrance. **BAG TAGS DO NOT GRANT ADMISSION AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE.**

POST-MATCH INFORMATION

Post-match interviews. Teams are required to participate in post-match interviews. An OHSAA staff member will escort the head coach and a few players to the media interview room at the conclusion of the awards ceremony. The runner-up team will be interviewed first followed by the championship team. (SEE MAP BELOW FOR LOCATION)

Photos. Photos of all the matches can be purchased via the OHSAA website [HERE](#).

Championship/Runner-Up Player Medals. Teams are provided with thirty-five (35) medallions. Additional medallions may be purchased by contacting Travis Nethers from Croton Craft at crotoncraft@gmail.com.

State Tournament Programs. Teams qualifying for the state tournament were provided programs. Any individual wishing to purchase additional copies may do so [HERE](#).

Championship Merchandise. Merchandise can be purchased following the event [HERE](#).

TICKET AND PROGRAM SALES INFORMATION

OHSAA Tournament adult tickets **(\$16)** may be purchased online. There will be a QR code available at the gate to purchase electronic adult tickets. ScottsMiracle-Gro is a cashless venue. Plan ahead.

Student tickets will be available for purchase at the main entrance only **(\$10)** and must be purchased with a credit/debit card, as the venue is cashless.

No re-entry. No other discounts will be available. Stands will NOT be cleared between matches.

Gates open 1 hour prior to kick off.

5 and under: free

Programs: \$5.00 (credit card only)

Note: Programs will be available for purchase via credit card at the concession stands.

Administrator tickets. Each school that qualifies for the state finals will be provided with codes for eight (8) school administrator tickets. Administrators looking to have locker room access or assist with awards must scan their ticket, pick up a credential, and enter through the WEST LOBBY.

Fan Ticketing information: Tickets may be purchased [HERE](#).

- HTT will provide customer support to those purchasing tickets.
By phone: 1-866-488-4849
By email: fansupport@hometownticketing.com

For ticket related questions, please contact OHSAA Customer Experience Manager Claudia Markoff at cmarkoff@ohsaa.org.

PARKING AND FAN INFORMATION

- Parking: \$10 per car is available area surface lots and garages – no shuttle



- School Buses (not charter buses): Free

Spectator Seating. Seating for the event will be general admission and first come first serve in the following sections.

Visiting Team: South Side of Stadium – 139-144

Home Team: North Side of Stadium – 132-137

Security Screening. Guests will go through Evolv security to enter the stadium. Information about Evolv can be found [HERE](#).

Blankets are permitted in the stadium, but guests will be asked to unfold/ shake out the blanket upon entry.

Bag Policy. The venue allows clutch style wallets that are 5" X 8" X 1" and smaller into the venue. Any bags larger than the allotted size will not be allowed in, all bags are subject to inspection. Approved medical/diaper bags are permitted and will be searched at the gate.

Prohibited Items. No outside food or beverage is permitted. Empty clear plastic water bottles will be allowed. Posters, flags, and banners must be smaller than 3'X5' and may not include profanity, political slogans, or anything deemed inappropriate by security staff. Cowbells and Vuvuzela horns will be permitted for OHSAA events only – No other noisemakers are permitted. Full list of prohibited items available [HERE](#).

Fan Amenities. A full list of amenities is included [HERE](#).

- Cashless Venue: ScottsMiracle-Gro stadium is a cashless venue. Cash 2 Card Kiosks are located on the main concourse.
- Concessions: **No outside food or beverage is permitted.** Guests may purchase food and beverages on the main concourse.
- Smoking/Vaping: ScottsMiracle-Gro stadium is a smoke, tobacco and vape free venue.
- Guest Services: Guest services shall be available at section 112 of the main concourse for event information, Kulture City Sensory kits, etc.

AWARD CEREMONY

The presentation of trophies and awards is the culmination of a great season by both teams. We ask that all teams act in a responsible manner. Below are a few important things to remember:

- Each player and coach are expected to have the medal placed around their neck.
- Each player and coach shall keep the medal around their neck and maintain this during the presentation.
- Each player and coach shall remain on the field during the awards presentation to the opposing team.

- Administrators (or coaches in the event an administrator is not present) shall medal the players and other coaches.
- OHSAA staff will present runner-up and championship trophies.

Teams will have a short time to briefly celebrate when the match ends. After the first wave of celebrating has subsided, coaches are asked to line approximately 15 yards from the sideline in front of the crowd.

Runner-Up Team

- The runner-up awards will be presented first. As the name of each player and coach is called, they will step forward and the coach from the school will place the medal around his/her neck. After receiving the award, the athlete will return to the line with the remainder of the team.
- The coaching staff will be called last. An OHSAA staff member will give a congratulatory speech for the runner up. Then the trophies will be presented.
- Please remain in position until all awards have been made to the championship team as well.

Championship Team

- The championship team shall be respectful and attentive during the presentation to the runner-up team.
- As the name of each player and coach is called, they will step forward and the coach from the school will place the medal around his/her neck. After receiving the award, the student-athlete will return to the line with the remainder of the team.
- The coaching staff will be called last. An OHSAA staff member will give a congratulatory speech for the champion. The trophies will be presented.

The OHSAA shall provide thirty-five (35) medallions for the bench list/travel party. The OHSAA Sport Administrator shall confirm the names to be announced during the awards ceremony in the event there are last minute changes.

ATHLETIC TRAINING INFORMATION



OHSAA State Soccer Finalists 2026

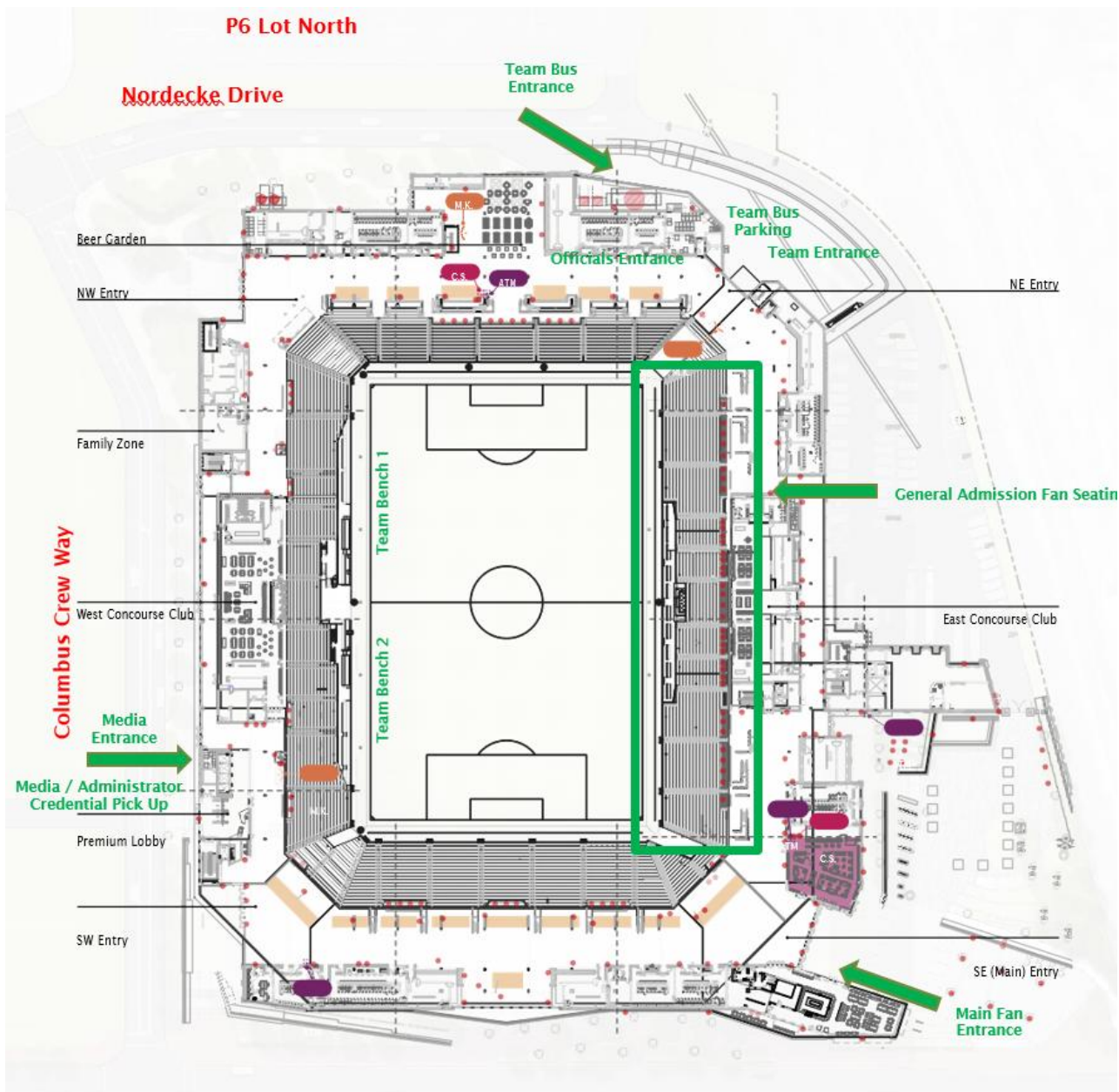
Dear Coach and Athletic Director:

Congratulations on reaching the finals!!! We recognize your team will most likely will travel with your own athletic trainer and/or team physician. I just wanted to let you know we will have a host athletic trainer and a sports medicine physician on site to assist your staff. We will have basic supplies to help your team if needed. The Crew stadium staff will provide your bench with ice and water. There will also be EMS on site. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or have any special requests.

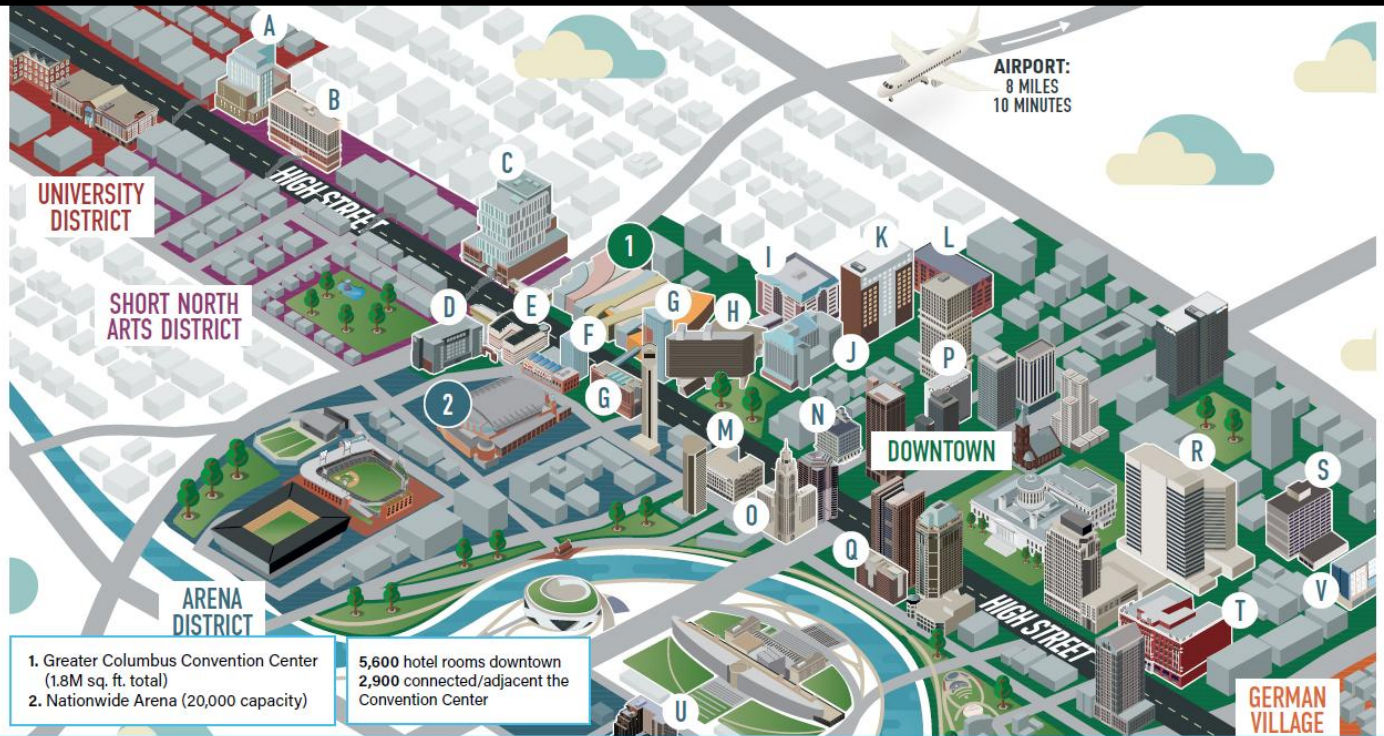
Thank you, safe travels and good luck!!!!

Tom Summanen, MS, CSCS, AT
Associate Manager
OhioHealth Sports Medicine
Tom.summanen@ohiohealth.com
Cell # 440-670-4634

TOURNAMENT MAPS AND DIAGRAMS



COLUMBUS HOTEL PACKAGE



- A. Moxy Columbus Short North**
(116 rooms | 6 blocks)
- B. Graduate Columbus**
(171 rooms | 4 blocks)
- C. Le Méridien Columbus, The Joseph**
(135 rooms | 2 blocks)
- D. AC Hotel Columbus Downtown**
(160 rooms | 1 block)
- E. Hampton Inn & Suites Columbus Downtown**
(179 rooms | Adjacent)
- F. The Merchant**
(212 rooms | Adjacent | Opening in 2027)

- G. Hilton Columbus Downtown**
(1,000 rooms | Connected)
- H. Hyatt Regency Columbus**
(633 rooms | Connected)
- I. Drury Plaza Hotel Columbus Downtown**
(180 rooms | Connected)
- J. Sonesta Columbus Downtown**
(420 rooms | Connected)
- K. Canopy by Hilton Columbus Downtown Short North**
(168 rooms | Adjacent)

- L. Red Roof PLUS+ Columbus Downtown – Convention Center**
(143 rooms | Adjacent)
- M. Courtyard Columbus Downtown**
(150 rooms | 3 blocks)
- N. Residence Inn by Marriott Columbus Downtown**
(126 rooms | 5 blocks)
- O. Hotel LeVeque, Autograph Collection**
(155 rooms | 5 blocks)
- P. Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel**
(408 rooms | 5 blocks)

- Q. The Capital Suites Hotel**
(194 rooms | 6 blocks)
- R. The Plaza Hotel Columbus at Capitol Square**
(403 rooms | 7 blocks)
- S. Holiday Inn Columbus Downtown Capitol Square**
(240 rooms | 8 blocks)
- T. The Westin Great Southern Columbus**
(188 rooms | 10 blocks)
- U. The Juno**
(198 rooms | 12 blocks)
- V. Home2 Suites by Hilton Columbus Downtown**
(106 rooms | 16 blocks)

Account Name	Region	Primary Phone	Total Rooms
Holiday Inn Columbus Downtown Capitol Square	Downtown	(614) 221-3281	240
Hyatt Regency Columbus	Downtown	(614) 463-1234	633
The Westin Great Southern Columbus	Downtown	(614) 228-3800	188
Red Roof Plus+ Columbus – The Ohio State University	University District	(614) 267-9941	113
Fairfield Inn & Suites-OSU	University District	(614) 267-1111	165
Sonesta Columbus Downtown	Downtown	(614) 461-2634	421
Courtyard Columbus Downtown	Downtown	(614) 228-3200	150
Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel	Downtown	(614) 228-5050	408
Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown Columbus	Downtown	(614) 559-2000	179
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbus Downtown	Downtown	(614) 221-7008	180
Holiday Inn Express Ohio Expo Center	University District	17142483945	71
Blackwell Inn and Conference Center, The	University District	(614) 247-4000	151

Hilton Garden Inn Columbus - University Area	University District	(614) 263-7200	158
Residence Inn by Marriott Columbus Downtown	Downtown	(614) 222-2610	126
Hyatt Place Columbus/OSU	University District	(614) 280-1234	126
Holiday Inn Express & Suites OSU	University District	(614) 447-1212	100
Hilton Columbus Downtown	Downtown	(614) 384-8600	1000
Homewood Suites Columbus - OSU	University District	(614) 488-1500	109
Hampton Inn & Suites Columbus OSU	University District	(614) 268-8700	152
Courtyard by Marriott Columbus OSU	University District	(614) 453-4291	135
Hotel LeVeque, Autograph Collection	Downtown	(614) 224-9500	149
Residence Inn Columbus OSU	University District	(614) 549-3614	114
Marriott Columbus OSU	University District	(614) 447-9777	240
Canopy By Hilton Columbus Downtown Short North	Downtown	(614) 223-1400	167
AC Hotel Columbus Downtown	Downtown	(614) 227-6100	160
Aloft Columbus University District	University District		164
Towneplace Suites Columbus North-OSU	University District	(614) 486-5433	119
Hyatt House Columbus/OSU-Short North	University District	(614) 298-1299	152
The Junto	Downtown	(614) 607-6700	198