



# Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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[www.CommonwealthGames.org](http://www.CommonwealthGames.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Amateur Sports (VAS) would like to invite all athletes from West Virginia to the 2016 Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University! Although West Virginia does not have their own state games, all residents are eligible and encouraged to sign up and participate in Virginia's state Commonwealth Games at Liberty University. This year we are offering 65 sports this year for our participants, which include: Basketball, Softball, Track and Field, and Wrestling.

This is a special year for the Virginia Commonwealth Games and Virginia Amateur Sports. This is the inaugural games in Lynchburg with the new title sponsor Liberty University. The Commonwealth Games and VAS encourage and promote healthy lifestyles through competition for people of all ages. Since its inception in 1990, more than 225,000 athletes have competed in the Games making it one of the most attended sporting events in the state. In 2015, nearly 10,000 registered to participate in the games.

Thanks to Liberty University and the city of Lynchburg the games will be held at Division I athletic facilities, this summer. Liberty University has teamed up with VAS to provide the use all of their new turf fields and indoor facilities. The home base of the Games will be in Lynchburg with most events being played in or around Liberty University. Some sports including: adult soccer, paddle boarding, and swimming, will be held in other locations. These alternative locations include Roanoke, Waynesboro, and Virginia Beach to name a few.

The new partnership with Virginia Commonwealth Games and Liberty University will provide excellent opportunities for thousands of athletes to develop and foster new relationships, establish new goals and personal bests while at the same time learning teamwork, sportsmanship as well as individual and team responsibilities. Various reports show that those who participate in sports have a much better chance to be successful in life.

Main Games Weekend starts with Opening Ceremonies and Athletes Tailgate Party on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30-6:30. The Tailgate Party is a great opportunity for the athletes to have fun and meet people from other sports and teams. The Tailgate Party is immediately followed by the Opening Ceremonies which gives the athletes and coaches a chance to march in the Parade of Athletes in front of spectators. The evening includes food, interactive games, music, parade of athletes, trampoline act by the Skyriders Trampoline Team, lighting of the Olympic Cauldron and appearances by USA Olympic Gold Medalist Dick Fosbury and Miss Virginia. Main Games weekend upholds a positive reputation with the community for bolstering tourism and will provide a great economic value to the city of Lynchburg. VAS and Liberty University are both excited for the new opportunities the Games will bring to the athletes in its new location.

Visit [www.CommonwealthGames.org](http://www.CommonwealthGames.org) to register or get more information about the Games.  
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