



Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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Virginia Amateur Sports Announces Plans for New Host Community

Virginia Amateur Sports, the governing organization of the Virginia Commonwealth Games, announced a three-year host community agreement, beginning in 2026, with the Richmond Region in a press conference today. The Games, which annually welcome as many as 10,000 athletes of all ages to compete in over 30 sports, will be held in the Capital of the Commonwealth for the first time in their 36-year history.

"We are excited to work with the Richmond Region," said Virginia Amateur Sports President Dan Foutz. "From our very first conversations, their commitment to amateur athletics was evident. We are excited that our athletes will have the opportunity to compete in exceptional athletic facilities. The central location will be convenient for athletes and their families across the state. It's a great partnership."

After numerous conversations and evaluations, the presentation from the Richmond Region was the best fit for the future of the Games. This partnership will provide a memorable experience for the athletes and families, both during and outside of the competition. Centrally located in the Commonwealth, the Richmond Region was recently named America's #1 Town to Visit by CNN Travel, thanks to its friendly vibe as well as its rich culture and history, excellent dining scene, interesting architecture, and breathtaking natural beauty.

"We're thrilled to welcome The Commonwealth Games to the Richmond region," said Jerrine Lee, Vice President of Sales at Richmond Region Tourism. "This hallmark event celebrates the power of sports and teamwork, values that are central to our local community. We cannot wait to cheer on the thousands of talented athletes as they compete at facilities and fields throughout the region."

The Virginia Commonwealth Games uphold a strong reputation within the community for bolstering tourism and serving as an economic engine to the host community annually. For 36 years, the Virginia Commonwealth Games have provided excellent opportunities for thousands of Virginians 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.

"Chesterfield County is honored to carry the torch and host the Virginia Commonwealth Games after its proud legacy in Lynchburg. Thanks to strong regional partnerships and the investment we've made in top-tier sports facilities, we're ready to deliver an exceptional experience for athletes and their families. This is more than a new chapter—it's a showcase of how our region comes together to celebrate competition, community, and statewide pride." -J.C. Poma, Executive Director, Chesterfield Sports, Visitation & Entertainment

"We are proud to work alongside Virginia Amateur Sports and our local partners to bring The Commonwealth Games here," said Dennis Bickmeier, Executive Director of the Henrico Sports and Entertainment Authority. "This is a significant opportunity for Henrico and our region to showcase our incredible facilities and all our community has to offer. Athletes and fans can expect incredible experiences and energy throughout our community during the Games."

The Virginia Commonwealth Games have been centralized in Roanoke for 26 years, and then in Lynchburg for 10 years. During these 36 years, more than 310,000 athletes have competed. The Virginia Commonwealth Games celebrate competition, promote sportsmanship, and support physical fitness. The Games are open to players of all ages and ability levels, including the recent inclusion of the Able Games.

Roanoke will remain the headquarters for Virginia Amateur Sports, with the possibility of an additional office being added in Richmond. Virginia Amateur Sports supports several events in the Roanoke Valley, ranging from Triathlons and golf tournaments to Special Olympics. There are no plans to relocate these events.

Liberty University has been an ardent supporter of the Games and has been the title sponsor since 2016. Virginia Amateur Sports is grateful for the 10 years of partnership with the City of Lynchburg and Liberty University, and knows the Games are as strong as they are today due to the partnerships with the Lynchburg community.

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About Virginia Amateur Sports (VAS): The rights holder for the Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University – this event is modeled after the Olympics, the Games welcomes athletes regardless of age or skill level. The Games embody the values of participation, sportsmanship and healthy living amongst residents of Virginia and surrounding eligible states. VAS has been organizing the event for 36 years and it is truly a grassroots effort that relies on the dedication of thousands of volunteers and support from local sponsors and organizations across the Commonwealth. VAS is a member of the National Congress of State Games.

About the National Congress of State Games: The National Congress of State Games (NCSG) is a membership organization comprised of 30 Summer State Games and 9 Winter State Games organizations and a member of the United States Olympic Committee's Multi Sports Organizational Council. The mission of the NCSG is to support State Games member organizations in the promotion of health, fitness and character building through Olympic – style competitions and physical activities.

For more information on the Games, including a digital press kit and images for download, visit: www.CommonwealthGames.org/vasnews

Member of the National Congress of State Games – learn more at www.stategames.org