



Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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www.CommonwealthGames.org
#VAComGames

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VA Commonwealth Games Announces Plans

Richmond, VA — Virginia Amateur Sports (VAS) announced today some exciting news for the 2026 Virginia Commonwealth Games.

Main Games weekend (July 24-26) will bring 8 sports to the Richmond Region, 3 throughout the rest of the Commonwealth, and 1 virtual event – Shooting – for a total of 12 sports in 4 days. It is sure to be a great weekend of competition and performances. To date, over 2,600 athletes have competed in the 2026 Games, participating in Archery, Baseball, Mini Golf, Able Baseball, Able Bowling, Disc Golf, Tennis, Wrestling, Swimming, and Triathlon.

The Parade of Athletes will kick off at 5:30 pm, leading into Opening Ceremonies, which will feature the newly crowned Miss VA, the Lighting of the Cauldron, and the official kicking off of the Games. The Tailgate Party sponsored by Experience Chesterfield will begin at 6 pm following the conclusion of the Opening Ceremonies - athletes will receive their complimentary food with their Games wristband. There will be lots of games, activities, and so much more! All of the festivities will take place from 5:30-8 pm on Friday, July 24th, at River City Sportsplex. Both events on Friday evening are free to the public and open to the community. There will be food available for the public and non-athletes to purchase, as well.

The Virginia Commonwealth Games is also proud to welcome Olympic Silver Medalist Lawrence Johnson as the featured speaker for the 2026 Opening Ceremonies on Friday, July 24. A Chesapeake, Virginia native and Virginia Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Johnson brings a career defined by NCAA records, World Championship gold, and Olympic achievement to inspire the next generation of Commonwealth Games athletes.

"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."

Main Games weekend upholds a positive reputation within the community for bolstering tourism and serving as an economic engine to the host city each year. For 37 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 learning teamwork, sportsmanship, and individual team responsibilities.

The Virginia Commonwealth Games is committed to broadening its sports offerings to include athletes with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Every athlete deserves to feel included and to have the opportunity not only to win a medal, but to enjoy an unforgettable experience competing in a sport they love. In 2026, the Virginia Commonwealth Games - Able Games will feature five events: baseball, bowling, fishing, soccer, and track & field. The organization plans to expand these offerings in the future, creating even more opportunities for these remarkable athletes.

"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

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."

Like with all VA Commonwealth Games events, Bronze, Silver and Gold medals will be awarded. Visit CommonwealthGames.org for more information on these events and to see the full list of sports.

The Games are presented by VCU Health, TowneBank, Virginia Amateur Sports, and Experience Chesterfield.

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For more information on the Games, including images for download, visit: www.CommonwealthGames.org/news
Member of the National Congress of State Games—learn more at www.stategames.org

About the Virginia Commonwealth Games

Modeled after the Olympics, the Virginia Commonwealth Games welcome athletes of all ages and skill levels. The Games embody the values of participation, sportsmanship, and healthy living among residents of Virginia and surrounding eligible states. The event is organized by **Virginia Amateur Sports (VAS)**, which has operated the Games for 37 years. The Games are a true grassroots effort supported by thousands of volunteers, local partners, and community organizations across the Commonwealth. VAS is a proud 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 10 Winter State Games and is recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee as a member of its Multi-Sport Organizational Council. The NCSG supports State Games organizations in promoting health, fitness, and character-building through Olympic-style competitions and physical activity. The NCSG also oversees the **State Games of America**, a national Olympic-style event featuring medalists from State Games programs across the country.