



## Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The 2023 Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University Main Games Weekend is featuring 15 sports this weekend, 12 of them in Lynchburg, 1 in Roanoke, 1 in Christiansburg and Chess is virtual – for a total of 15 sports in 4 days. It is sure to be a great weekend of competition and performances, including Basketball, Track & Field, Softball, Baseball, and more.

The Virginia Commonwealth Games has made it a mission to broaden its sport offering to include athletes who may have a physical and/or intellectual disability. It is important all athletes feel included and are given the opportunity to not only win a medal, but to have an unforgettable experience while participating in a sport they enjoy. In 2023, the Virginia Commonwealth Games will be hosting the Able Games composed of 5 different events: rugby, baseball, fishing, soccer, and track & field. As excited as we are with the introduction of the Able Games, these 5 events will just scratch the surface. The goal is to add more opportunities each year for these amazing athletes. We look forward to the future of the Able Games. Able Fishing will take place on July 20<sup>th</sup> and Able Track & Field will take place on July 22-23.

Athlete & Team check in will begin at 8am on Friday at the LaHaye Student Center leading up to the Tailgate Party and Opening Ceremonies. The Parade of Athletes will kick off at 5:30pm, leading into Opening Ceremonies, which will feature the newly crowned Miss VA Katie Rose, the Lighting the cauldron and the official kicking off the Games. The Tailgate party will begin at 6pm following the conclusion of the Opening Ceremonies - athletes will receive their complimentary food with their Games wristband, as well as some extra goodies. There will be lots of games, activities and so much more! All of the festivities will take place from 5:30-8pm on Friday, July 21st in the LU Indoor Football Practice Facility. Both events Friday evening are free to the public and open to the community.

Main Games weekend upholds a positive reputation with the community for bolstering tourism and serving as an economic engine to the host city each year. For 34 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 team responsibilities.

Liberty University Interim President Prevo said “We’re honored to be hosting the Virginia Commonwealth Games for the eighth consecutive summer, and we appreciate everyone who has made this event possible. We look forward to welcoming the participants and their families to Lynchburg as these talented athletes exhibit their skills during this week’s competitions.”

“We are proud to partner with Liberty University and Virginia Amateur Sports to host the 2023 Commonwealth Games and, most importantly, to welcome all of the athletes, families and friends to our City,” said City of Lynchburg Mayor Stephanie T. Reed. “The Commonwealth Games bring thousands of athletes to the City and we are thrilled that both the number of participants and the impact they have in Lynchburg continues to grow. While you are here, we encourage you to explore all Lynchburg has to offer - from fantastic food offerings to historic sites and exciting outdoor activities. We hope you enjoy your time in the Hill City.”

The Games are presented by Liberty University, City of Lynchburg, Centra, and ABC 13.

[Click here for a list of Sports and locations](#)

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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 34 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 34 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 or to register, visit: [www.CommonwealthGames.org](http://www.CommonwealthGames.org).

*Member of the National Congress of State Games – learn more at [www.stategames.org](http://www.stategames.org)*