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Virginia Amateur Sports announces historic agreement with Liberty University and the City of Lynchburg

October 7 - Virginia Amateur Sports, the governing organization of the Virginia Commonwealth Games, announced a five-year agreement with Liberty University and the City of Lynchburg, in a joint press conference today. The Games, which annually welcome as many as 10,000 athletes of all ages to compete in nearly sixty sports, will be known as The Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University.

"We are excited to work with Liberty University and the City of Lynchburg," said Virginia Amateur Sports President Pete Lampman. "From our very first conversations, the commitment of Liberty University to amateur athletics was evident. We are excited that our athletes will have the opportunity to compete at exceptional Division I athletic facilities. The central location will be convenient for athletes and their families across the state. It's a great partnership."

As part of the new agreement, Liberty University will host the opening ceremonies as well as the vast majority of the events. Liberty's campus, including its nationally recognized stadiums (Williams Stadium and Liberty Baseball Stadium) and dining facilities, will not only give amateur athletes a professional competition experience, but will also give families exciting recreational options like ice skating, rock-climbing, and tubing. The accessibility of the Liberty Snowflex facility will also continue to provide the opportunity for skiing and snowboarding events to be incorporated into the Games.

Liberty is the largest university in Virginia: it is home to approximately 14,500 residential students and educates more than 100,000 online students around the world. Its 7,000 acres of campus and mountain property offer diverse terrain options for a variety of athletic events. The City of Lynchburg is located near the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains and on the south bank of the historic James River, in a region known for its vistas and plentiful outdoor recreational opportunities. It was ranked "2nd Best Small City" by Money Magazine and was included in the top 50 "Best Places to Raise a Family" by Reader's Digest.

"We are delighted that Virginia Amateur Sports has decided to bring The Commonwealth Games to Lynchburg, said City of Lynchburg Mayor Michael A. Gillette. "This is a significant accomplishment and we are thrilled to be able to showcase our warm hospitality and our first class amenities. We are especially grateful to Liberty University for its hard work and leadership in this effort, and we see this as one more example of the strong partnership that exists between the City and the University as we work together for the betterment of our community."

The Virginia Commonwealth Games have been centralized in Roanoke for 26 years during which time more than 225,000 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.

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

Subway Restaurants has been an ardent supporter of the Games and has been the title sponsor for the past four years after two years as the sponsor of the opening ceremonies. Subway Restaurants will continue as a sponsor of the Games in 2016 in leading the way for new partners and sponsors to make a positive impact in the health and wellness of thousands of individuals.

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