



Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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www.CommonwealthGames.org

#VAComGames

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2024 VA Commonwealth Games Announces Plans

Virginia Amateur Sports (VAS) announced today some exciting news for the 2024 Virginia Commonwealth Games, including the addition of adaptive sports.

There are 5 new sports and 2 returning sports this year – Able 3 on 3 Wheelchair Basketball, Able Bowling, Croquet, Floor Hockey, Able Wheelchair Tennis, and the return of 5K Run and Field Hockey. We have held a few competitions already this year – Able 3 on 3 Wheelchair Basketball, part of Baseball, Croquet, 5K Run, part of Basketball Skills Challenge, Swimming, Triathlon, Floor Hockey, Spikeball, Archery, and Wrestling were all held in May, June and early July. To date over 3,100 athletes have competed in the Games in 2024.

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 added the Able Games composed of 5 different events: rugby, baseball, fishing, soccer, and track & field. For the 2024 Games, we have added 3 more Able Sports – bowling, 3 on 3 wheelchair basketball and wheelchair tennis. The goal is to add more opportunities each year for these amazing athletes. We look forward to the future of the Able Games.

There are 5 events kicking off this weekend – Able Baseball, Adult Softball (Peakview Park), Pickleball (Crosswhite Athletic Club), Racquetball (Liberty University), and All Star Baseball (Liberty University). Again this year, we will have Live Streaming of the All Star Baseball Tournament medal games (provided by Liberty University). The link for viewing the All Star Baseball Games, as well as the team rosters are on our website.

Main Games weekend (July 18-21) will bring 11 sports to Lynchburg and the surrounding area, 1 in Roanoke, 2 in Christiansburg and 2 virtual events – Chess and Shooting – for a total of 17 sports in 4 days. It is sure to be a great weekend of competition and performances, including over 100 basketball teams.

The Parade of Athletes will kick off at 5:30pm, leading into Opening Ceremonies, which will feature the newly crowned Miss VA, the Lighting of 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. 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 19th in the LU Indoor Football Practice Facility. 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.

We are proud to partner with Kroger and the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank again this year, in an effort to Torch Hunger. We launched a text to donate campaign, with a goal of providing meals to area families in need. You can learn more about the campaign by texting BRFOODBANK to 44-321.

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 35 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.

The Games are presented by Liberty University, City of Lynchburg, Centra, and Delta Star.

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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 35 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