

Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

711 5th Street NE, Suite C Roanoke, Virginia 24016

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dan Foutz – President

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For More Information Contact: Charity E. Waldron Director of Operations & Media Relations (434) 515-0549 - direct

Liberty University Will Pass the Torch to Conclude a Decade-Long Partnership with Virginia Commonwealth Games at the end of the 2025 Games.

Liberty University has announced that the 36th annual Virginia Commonwealth Games in 2025 will mark the 10th consecutive and final year of its partnership with Virginia Amateur Sports as both title sponsor and the main site host for the multi-sport festival. Since 2016, Liberty has proudly hosted over a hundred thousand amateur athletes and spectators from all around Virginia, contributing campus resources, facilities, and thousands of man-hours to ensure the highest quality games anywhere in the country.

"On behalf of the Virginia Amateur Sports Board of Directors and staff. Chairperson Dr. Elizabeth Lee Robertson and President, Dan Foutz thank Liberty University and the City of Lynchburg for being phenomenal partners and regular hosts for our games." "We have enjoyed making use of Liberty's excellent facilities, and we look forward to being on Liberty's campus once again this summer and next year as we welcome thousands of athletes from around Virginia."

"Liberty is very honored to host the Virginia Commonwealth Games through 2025 and has enjoyed the privilege of working alongside Dan Foutz and Virginia Amateur Sports to make these games a first-class event," said Liberty Vice President and Director of Athletics Ian McCaw. "We have been grateful for our partnership and our experience in hosting the games, offering the best quality competition in the country. We will pass the torch at the end of next year as the Games will announce a new site host for 2026."

Organized by Virginia Amateur Sports, the Virginia Commonwealth Games has been open to all ages and skill levels for over 35 years, with over 275,000 athletes competing since the first games. The festival remains the largest of its kind in Virginia and is a notable leader among many of the broader Olympic-style state games hosted around the country. The purpose is to inspire wellness and competition, inviting amateur athletes to compete in their favorite pastimes.

In its first year, more than 4,400 athletes competed in 29 sports in the Virginia Commonwealth Games. Today, the Games have grown to more than 45 sports competitions with over 10,000 athletes participating annually. Supported by grassroots volunteers, local businesses, and city officials, the Games estimate more than \$5 million in positive economic impact annually on the Central Virginia region.

This year's Main Games Weekend is set for July 19-21. Opening Ceremonies will take place July 19th, at Liberty University's Indoor Football Practice Facility, followed by the annual Tailgate Party.

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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 34 Summer State Games and 9 Winter State Games organizations and a member of the United States Olympic Paralympic 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 images for download, visit: <u>www.CommonwealthGames.org/vasnews</u>

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