



Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

2348 Lakeside Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24501

www.CommonwealthGames.org
#VAComGames

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 2, 2026

Contact: Charity E. Waldron
Director of Operations & Media Relations
(434) 515-0549 (Direct)

Virginia Amateur Sports Announces 2025 Athlete of the Year

Virginia Amateur Sports, Inc. (VAS), organizers of the Virginia Commonwealth Games, is proud to announce that **Priya Capizzi of Fairfax Station** has been selected as the **2025 Virginia Youth Athlete of the Year**. Nominees for this annual honor are submitted online and reviewed by age category. Priya was also nominated to represent Virginia in the National Congress of State Games (NCSG) Athletes of the Year program, with national winners announced in October.

Priya, age 11, has quickly become a standout in the wrestling community despite having less than two years in the sport. At the 2025 Virginia Commonwealth Games, she delivered a commanding performance—finishing **8-0** with **seven pins** and **one technical fall**, while allowing **zero offensive points**. Remarkably, each of her pins occurred in under one minute. Her rapid rise is further highlighted by her accomplishments as a **two-time VAWA Girls Folkstyle State Champion** and a **USA Wrestling National Finalist**.

Priya's athletic talent extends beyond the mat. As a power tumbler, she has earned the **Virginia state title five consecutive years** and is a **three-time regional champion**. She is equally committed to giving back, raising funds annually, and volunteering at community and athletic events. Priya earned **two gold medals** at the 2025 Games.

While Virginia did not have a national NCSG winner this year, the Commonwealth has a strong history of national honorees from the Virginia Commonwealth Games, including:

- **2023 Youth:** Madalynn Grant – Track & Field – North Dinwiddie, VA
- **2021 Youth Female:** Olivia Goodwin – Swimming – Charlottesville, VA
- **2020 Adult Female:** Ashlynn Moore – Track & Field – Roanoke, VA
- **2017 Youth Male:** Daylin Toms – Wrestling – Cool Ridge, WV

VAS is also excited to share that the **Virginia Commonwealth Games will be hosted in the Richmond Region beginning in 2026**. Additional details will be posted on our website as planning continues.



###

About the Virginia Commonwealth Games: Modeled after the Olympics, the Virginia Commonwealth 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. The rights holder for the event is **Virginia Amateur Sports** (VAS). VAS has been organizing the event for 37 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 10 Winter State Games organizations, and recognized by the United States Olympic Paralympic Committee as a member of their 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. The NCSG is also the rights holder of the State Games of America, an Olympic-style event featuring competition between State Games medal winners (gold, silver, bronze) from across the nation.

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