

# Greater Raleigh Reigns Among America's Premier Sports Destinations

With an extensive track record of hosting successful sporting events, along with a combination of strong partnerships with more than 20 local organizations and a wealth of world-class facilities, Greater Raleigh has emerged as one of the nation's leading destinations for sports events.

In fact, that the National Association of Sports Commissions named the Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance (GRSA) covering Raleigh, Cary and Surrounding Wake County, the Sports Tourism Organization of the Year in 2015.

And, the GRSA looks to continue that trend with a host of big sporting events scheduled for the area this year (See box below for a partial schedule)



**PNC Arena is one of the region's largest venues, hosting everything from NCAA basketball to NHL hockey.**

## Unrivaled Venues are the Catalyst for Continued Success

Greater Raleigh houses some of the finest sports facilities in the nation, and many are planning for or already undergoing upgrades. Below is a short update on our facilities.

- **The Cary Tennis Park:** One of the largest in the Southeast, is going through a major expansion, which includes the installation of high-quality covered courts and other improvements throughout the park.

- **Walnut Creek Softball Complex:** Is upgrading its facility, with a complete renovation to all nine fields and improved ADA access to all areas of the venue.

- **National Training Complex:** USA Baseball continues to build its event schedule, with dozens of popular tournaments returning to Cary. USA Baseball's primary season runs from March to September.

- **PNC Arena:** Has seating for almost 20,000 and 66 luxury suites, and has hosted NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments, the Stanley Cup Final, the NHL All-Star Weekend and the NHL Entry Draft.

- **WakeMed Soccer Park:** Is the home of two professional teams, North Carolina FC (NASL) and North Carolina Courage (NWSL). Operated by the Town of Cary, WakeMed Soccer Park features a 10,000-seat stadium, seven additional fields and an outstanding cross-country course with 5K, 6K and 8K courses.

- **Other venues include:** Five-County Stadium for baseball in Zebulon; **Carter-Finley Stadium** for football at N.C. State University; the **Raleigh Convention Center**, home to the Deep South Classic, City of Oaks volleyball and multiple indoor sports events. It is a multi-purpose state-of-the-art facility with more than 500,000 square feet under cover including a 150,000-square-foot exhibit hall; **Triangle Aquatic Center**, a popular spot to host regional and national swimming championships, including USA Swimming events and the annual National Black Heritage Championship Swim Meet.

The list continues to grow as the community invests in both upgrades and expansions of existing facilities as well as plans for new venues on the horizon.

"We are fortunate here in Greater Raleigh to have a slew of world-class facilities. Other factors that strengthen our bids include our superb host partners and our abundance of hotel rooms. We're convenient and have a great climate. But most of all, we have tremendous community support and we provide all our visitors with a dynamic experience. All these factors combine to make Greater Raleigh a premier sports event destination," said Scott Dupree, executive director of the Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance.



**The fourth annual Humana Rock 'n' Roll Raleigh Marathon & 1/2 Marathon brings runners from across the U.S. for a weekend of fun, music, fitness and running at the beginning of April.**

### A Sampling of 2017 Sporting Events in Greater Raleigh

- City of Oaks Challenge (volleyball)
- ACC Wrestling Championship
- MAPL Raleigh (volleyball)
- USA Table Tennis National Team Trials
- Humana Rock 'n' Roll Raleigh Marathon & 1/2 Marathon
- Coastal Plain League All-Star Game
- Deep South Classic
- National Club Baseball Association Division I World Series
- National Black Heritage Championship Swim Meet
- Ironman 70.3 Raleigh
- AAU Karate National Championships
- Great American Cross Country Festival
- SAS Championship (PGA Champions Tour)
- USTA Tennis on Campus Fall Invitational
- John Wall Holiday Invitational
- USA Baseball Events: National High School Invitational, Tournament of Stars, National Team Identification Series
- CASL visitRaleigh.com National Soccer Series
- 12 North Carolina High School Athletic Association State Championships



- raleighsports.org (website)
- @raleighncsports (Twitter and Instagram)



## Raleigh's Competitive Edge



George Williams inspires greatness, coaching 39 Olympic track and field athletes and 38 NCAA Championship teams. Locals like Coach Williams help make Raleigh, N.C., a top destination for sports championships and events. Find out how the Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance can help simplify planning and stretch budgets further, giving your event an added edge.

Put your roots down in Raleigh.

Learn more at [raleighsports.org](http://raleighsports.org)

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