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GAME ON!



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PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION WINS BID TO HOST FLORIDA HALF CENTURY SOFTBALL

The Florida Half Century Amateur Softball Association (FHC), Inc announced that Palm Beach County will host its summer tournament on June 23-24, 2012. Florida Half Century Softball features competitors that are 50 years of age or more. The 2012 summer tournament will take place at Okeetchee Park in West Palm Beach, Seminole Palms Park in Royal Palm Beach, and John Prince Park in Lake Worth.



FHC Area 1 Director, Steve Levin, commented, "Many of the top teams in Florida hail from Area 1 and it was my mission statement to bring a tournament back to our area". Florida Half Century is one of the premier amateur softball associations in the state of Florida that offers tournaments for the 50 or older age group. FHC's membership includes 162 teams and 2,200 registered players. Teams participate in Florida Half Century tournaments throughout the state of Florida and the 2012 tour includes stops in Tampa, Sebring, Ft. Myers, Auburndale, Jacksonville, Altamonte Springs, Cocoa Beach, and Clearwater. Florida Half Century Softball has not hosted a tournament in the Area 1 region, which spans from Key West to Port St. Lucie, since the summer of 2000.

and Recreation to win the bid for this event. The event would not be possible without the efforts of Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, which provided 10 softball fields at three different venues. Palm Beach County has been a destination for many prestigious softball tournaments, including the National Softball Association (NSA) Fastpitch World Series, Amateur Softball Association (ASA) state qualifiers, United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) State Championships, and the annual Coed Softball World Series. The Florida Half Century Softball summer tournament is expected to create a significant economic contribution to Palm Beach County. A total of 50 teams are expected to travel from across the state to compete, which will bring a boost to hotels and businesses in Palm Beach County during the summer months which are traditionally slow.

For more information about becoming a Florida Half Century member or registering a team in the tournament, contact Area 1 Director Steve Levin at 954-501-7111.



PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION APPROVES \$159,000 IN GRANTS



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission has awarded \$159,000 in grants for seventeen sporting events to take place in Palm Beach County, occurring between November 2011 and June 2012. These grants encompass a multitude of sports: baseball, golf, karting, lacrosse, rugby, running, and tennis, illustrating Palm Beach County's unique versatility as a sports tourism destination. These sporting events are expected to provide a significant boost to both Palm Beach

County tourism and the local economy. The estimated economic impacts of these seventeen sporting events are over \$60 million in revenue and approximately 22,000 room nights.

Below is a list of the seventeen recently approved grant-funded events:

From November 6-8, 2011, the Breakers Ocean Course in Palm Beach will be hosting the ADT Golf Skills Challenge. This made for TV event features eight PGA Tour Professionals competing in eight skill competitions: long drive, mid iron, greenside bunker, trouble shot, putting, chipping, short iron, and pitch over the bunker. The event activities will air nationally on NBC on Saturday, December 24 and Sunday, December 25, from 4pm to 6pm EST.

The Men's Senior Baseball League (MSBL) Florida Fall Classic will take place November 8-19, 2011 at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Tradition Field in Port St. Lucie, and Dodger Stadium in Vero Beach. This adult baseball tournament features approximately 130 teams and 2,200 players participating from across the United States. The event will generate more than \$2 million in economic impact and over 2,500 room nights.

Hall-of-Fame tennis player Christ Evert will be hosting the 22nd Chris Evert/Raymond James Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic at the Delray Beach Tennis Center from November 11-13, 2011. The Classic features two days of celebrity tennis, a Pro-Am and a Pro-Celebrity Gala.



The American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) Polo Golf Junior Classic will take place at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens from November 19-25, 2011. The Junior Classic consists of a 156-player invitation-only field made up of boys and girls, ages 12-18, representing 25 states and 12 foreign countries.

The Palm Beaches Marathon Festival, taking place December 2-4, 2011 in West Palm Beach, consists of a 26.2 mile marathon, a 13.1 half marathon, a 5K race, races for children and a bike tour. The Palm Beaches Marathon Festival is expected to benefit Palm Beach County's economy by generating over \$1 million in economic impact and over 1,500 room nights.

Village Park in Wellington will host the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Florida State Games on January 13-16, 2012. Over

100 teams will compete in divisions ranging from 9 and under to 19 and under. The event will generate close to 1,000 room nights and \$500,000 in economic impact.

The 12th Annual Knock & Roll Wheelchair Rugby Tournament will be held at the Lake Worth Therapeutic Center's gymnasium on January 20-22, 2012. Eight teams and 250 athletes will compete from across the globe.

The Old Course at Broken Sound in Boca Raton will be the site of the Allianz Championship, taking place February 6-12, 2012. The Allianz Championship, a major event on the Champions PGA Tour, features the top senior golfers in the country. The tournament field consists of 78 Champions Tour golfers, competing in a 54-hole stroke play. This event will generate more than \$11million in revenue and 1,700 room nights.

The Palm Beach International Raceway (PBIR) will host the races on the MRP Florida Winter Tour on February 15-26, 2012. The Florida Winter Tour (FWT) is one of the longest running, largest, and most geographically diverse kart racing series in the Western Hemisphere. The event will attract over 500 drivers from 20 countries.



The Honda Classic, will take place at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens on February 27 – March 4, 2012. This PGA tour event, which attracts some of the world's best golfers, will consist of 144 golfers competing over 72 holes. Last year, over 110,000 spectators attended this event. The Honda Classic provides a tremendous boost to Palm Beach County's economy, bringing in over \$33 million in revenue and 4,000 room nights.

Village Park in Wellington will host the 2011 Warrior Big Kahuna Lacrosse Showcase on December 10-11, 2011. This showcase will feature boy's lacrosse teams from across the country that will compete in several age divisions. The event will create over 1,000 room nights.

The Palm Beach Challenge will take place from February 24 - March 23, 2012 at Santaluces Athletic Complex in Lantana. The Palm Beach Challenge is one of the largest college baseball spring training events in the country. Approximately 60 collegiate baseball teams will participate. The event will generate over \$2 million in economic impact and over 2,500 room nights.

The Delray Beach Tennis Center will host the Delray Beach International Tennis Championships, which consists of an ATP World Tour event and an ATP Champions Tour event, from February 24 to March 4, 2012. The ATP World Tour event is one of only 12 ATP World Tour events in North America. The 9-day tournament is seen nationally and internationally in 169 countries. This event will generate \$5 million in economic impact and more than 1,000 room nights.

Spring Fling, one of the largest spring training events in the United States for women's collegiate and secondary prep schools lacrosse, is being held

GRANTS CONTINUED

March 3-24, 2012 at Lake Lytal Park in West Palm Beach and the Seacrest Soccer Complex in Delray Beach. The event is projected to create more than \$1 million in economic impact and 1,500 room nights..

Patch Reef Park in Boca Raton will host The Florida Open International Wheelchair Tennis Championships from April 4-8, 2012. Approximately 200 of the world's best wheelchair tennis players, representing 25 countries, will compete.

The USTA Boys' and Girls' 12's National Spring Tennis Championships will take place at the Delray Beach Tennis Center, the Delray Swim & Racquet Club, and the Boca West Country Club from April 8-13, 2012. This youth tennis tournament is the highest-level junior tennis tournament for boys and girls twelve years old or younger.

The USA Baseball Junior Olympics will return to Palm Beach County in June 2012. The tournament will take place at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter and the Santaluces Athletic Complex in Lantana. This event will attract 72 teams and over 1,200 athletes, which will generate more than \$3 million in economic impact and over 4,500 room nights.

THE OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURN TO PGA NATIONAL

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships will return to PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens on July 21-August 1, 2011. This is one of the largest and most prestigious junior golf tournaments in the world, which features boys and girls competing in age groups ranging from 10 years of age to 18 years of age.

Optimist-sponsored golf tournaments have served as a springboard for many of golf's greatest players. Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Davis Love III, Tiger Woods, Michelle McGann and Nancy Lopez are just a few of today's elite players who found their humble beginnings with the Optimists. No other junior golf tournament quite compares to that of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, which focuses on fair competition and cultural understanding among youth. This unique tournament offers as broad a field and expanded age groups as any other in its class.

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships continues to be one of the most recognizable junior tournaments in the world with more than 5,000 golfers, ages 10-18, participating in qualifying tournaments for this event each year. In 1999, The Optimist expanded into a two-tournament format to accommodate the increasing number of participants. Annually, more than 620 of the best junior golfers, representing more than 30 nations, 50 states and six Canadian provinces, converge for a week of unsurpassed competition, fellowship and fun.

The 2011 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is expected to generate over \$800,000 of total economic impact for Palm Beach County in addition to 3,000 room nights.

5,000 CHILDREN EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE KIDS FITNESS FESTIVAL OF THE PALM BEACHES



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission will host the 17th annual Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches, presented by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South

Florida, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center on Wednesday, July 13 and Thursday, July 14. Over 5,000 of South Florida's youth, from the ages of five to 13, have registered to participate in the only multi-sport event to take place in Palm Beach County on an annual basis. The Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches strives to introduce and promote both mainstream sports, such as football, baseball and basketball and non-traditional sports that are not commonly found in the general school system, such as badminton, fencing and boxing. The event markets and showcases many of the sport assets located in Palm Beach County.

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission partners with a variety of sports organizations, national governing bodies, sports clubs, sports facilities, professional sports franchises and constituents of the local sports community to produce the one of a kind festival. Over 40 different organizations will offer introductory sports clinics that teach the necessary basic functions and fundamentals of their sport. The event will feature prominent organizations, such as the Florida Marlins, Florida Atlantic University, Roger Dean Stadium, the United States Tennis Association, International Polo Club, American Youth Soccer Organization, USA Badminton, USA Judo, and Florida Rugby Union. In addition to the sports clinics, the festival will also offer a midway of interactive games, the opportunity to meet professional athletes, and a number of exhibitors promoting nutrition and healthy lifestyles for youth.



The 2011 Festival will return to the Palm Beach County Convention Center for the second consecutive year. An architectural masterpiece with state-of-the-art amenities, the 350,000 square-foot center features a 100,000 square-foot exhibit hall, which will be converted into a theme park full of sport activities for a two day stretch in July. The venue is centrally located in [\(Continued on Back\)](#)

KIDS FITNESS FESTIVAL OF THE PALM BEACHES (CONTINUED)

West Palm Beach and has been the home to some of Palm Beach County's great sports extravaganzas, such as the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Awards Banquet.

The Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches is presented by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida. The event would not be possible without their contributions and dedication over the years. Since 2003, the event has exposed over 35,000 youth to the world of sports. These numbers could not be reached without the efforts of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida. "Encouraging



kids to lead active, balanced lives is an important mission – and a commitment that RMHC and McDonald's share with parents and the Palm Beach Sports Commission," said Ricky Wade, RMHC board member and McDonald's owner operator. Other supporting sponsors include Prime Time Palm Beach County, Florida Marlins Community Foundation, ESPN 760, and Tropical Financial.

The event starts at 10am and concludes at 3pm on both days. Tickets are only \$17 per child and parents are free. Visit palmbeachsports.com/kff or contact the Palm Beach County Sports Commission at (561) 233-3180 for more registration information.

CORPORATE SPONSORS



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