



NEWS

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

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Softball Makes a Big Impact in Palm Beach County

Palm Beach County, FL-Softball means big business for Palm Beach County this summer. Softball diamonds across the County will be filled with action. More than 300 teams and 4,500 athletes will be playing softball in Palm Beach County and generating over \$ 1 million of direct visitor spending. Organizations such as the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA), the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA), the United States Fastpitch Association, and Florida Half Century Softball will be hosting statewide and national tournaments.

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is partnering with Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation to bring the National Governing Body for the sport to Palm Beach County. The ASA Gold Territory Qualifier will be the largest ASA tournament to take place in Palm Beach County. This girls' fast-pitch softball tournament will take place today through Sunday, June 8-10 and feature age divisions that range from 10u to 18u. The tournament will utilize 19 fields over 4 venues, which include Lake Lytal Park and Okeeheelee Park in West Palm Beach, Seminole Palms Park in Royal Palm Beach, and John Prince Park in Lake Worth. The tournament is expected to draw 100 teams from across the southeast region. The "Gold" division represents an elite classification of fast-pitch softball players, which will attract collegiate scouts.

The Palm Beach Gardens Youth Athletic Association and the Jupiter Tequesta Athletic Association will partner to host the annual Swamp Classic, which is sanctioned by the United States Fastpitch Association. This girl's fast-pitch tournament will take place at the Lake Catherine Softball Complex in Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter Community Park on June 22-24. Over 100 teams, consisting of age groups that range from 6u to 18u, are expected to compete.

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is working with the Florida Half Century Amateur Softball Association to host the Florida Half Century Summer Classic on June 23-24. This a 50 or older men's slow pitch softball tournament, which will utilize 10 softball fields over 3 venues (Seminole Palms Park in Royal Palm Beach, Okeeheelee Park in West Palm Beach, and John Prince Park in Lake Worth). A total of 55 teams from across the state of Florida are expected to compete. Teams will compete in 5 skill

brackets. This is the first statewide Half Century tournament to take place in Palm Beach County in more than 10 years.

The USSSA Florida Fastpitch Softball State “B” Championships will take place in Palm Beach County on July 6-8 for the second consecutive year. The event is expected to draw more than 80 teams and 1,500 athletes from across the state of Florida. The event will feature a variety of age groups ranging from 8 & under to 18 & under. The USSSA State “B” Fastpitch Softball Championships is the largest statewide softball tournament taking place in Florida. USSSA will utilize 15 softball diamonds at three different venues, which include Okeehetee Park, John Prince Park, and Seminole Palms Park. USSSA is comprised of 700 registered teams in the state, the most of any softball organization.

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission has developed strong relationships within the softball community, allowing Palm Beach County to successfully host a diversified portfolio of softball tournaments. Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation’s efforts and commitment towards these tournaments play a vital role in maintaining the great relationships these organizations maintain with Palm Beach County. Softball is experiencing one of the fastest growing participation levels for sports in the United States. The Palm Beach County Sports Commission will continue to look for opportunities to develop tourism and economic benefits through the sport of softball.

About Palm Beach County Sports Commission

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is a private, not-for-profit organization contracted by Palm Beach County to promote and market the county as a sports and sports tourism destination. The Commission brings sporting events and activities to the county, enhances economic impact, stimulates bed tax revenues (primarily in the off-season) and maximizes utilization of county facilities. The Commission offers a full range of event service support, corporate partnerships, sponsorships and a local membership program that supports its goals. Local, regional, national and international marketing efforts are ongoing by the Commission with sports organizations and event owners. The Commission also produces sports-related programs for the residents of Palm Beach County including the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame, the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award and the Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches and awards. For more information on the Palm Beach County Sports Commission go to www.palmbeachsports.com.

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