



# NEWS

## PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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 while hotels and restaurants will be packed with athletes and their families. More than 250 teams and 4,000 athletes will be playing softball in multiple venues throughout Palm Beach County and generating over \$1 million of direct visitor spending and thousands of hotel room nights. Organizations such as the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) and Florida Half Century Softball will be hosting statewide and national tournaments.



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is partnering with the Florida Half Century Amateur Softball Association to host the Florida Half Century Summer Classic this weekend on June 22-23, 2013. This is a 50 or older men's slow pitch softball tournament, which will utilize 9 softball fields over 3 venues (Seminole Palms Park in Royal Palm Beach, Okeehelie Park in West Palm Beach, and John Prince Park in Lake Worth). Over 60 teams from across the state of Florida are expected to compete in 5 skill brackets and are guaranteed to play a minimum of 4 games. After a 10 year absence from Palm Beach County, this will be the second straight statewide Florida Half Century Softball tournament.

The Palm Beach Gardens Youth Athletic Association will host its annual Swamp Classic, which is sanctioned by USSSA. This girl's fast-pitch tournament will also take place this weekend at the Lake Catherine Sportsplex in Palm Beach Gardens from June 21-23. Over 100 teams, consisting of age groups stretching from 8 & under to 18 & under, are expected to compete. Lake Catherine Sportsplex comprises one of the premier girls' softball complexes in Palm Beach County and has been home to numerous national softball tournaments, including collegiate national championship events. The Swamp Classic is one of the longest standing softball tournaments in Florida with more than 30 years of history.

The USSSA Florida Fastpitch Softball State "B" Championships will take place in Palm Beach County on July 5-7 for the third consecutive year. Considered to be one of the most prestigious and coveted softball tournaments in Florida, the event is expected to draw more than 90 teams and 1,600 athletes

from across the state. Teams will be crowned a state champion in a variety of age groups ranging from 8 & under to 18 & under. The USSSA State “B” Fastpitch Softball Championships is one of the largest softball state championship events in the United States. USSSA will utilize 15 softball diamonds at three different venues, which include Okeehelie 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. Softball is experiencing one of the fastest growing participation levels for sports in the



United States. Palm Beach County Sports Commission President, Guy Quattlebaum, stated, “Softball tournaments provide a significant surge of economic benefits for their host community. Girls’ fast pitch softball travel teams bring a far greater number of family members per athlete than other sporting events, offering greater visitor spending per team. Palm Beach County Sports Commission President, Guy Quattlebaum, also noted, “Hosting a senior softball tournament, such as Florida Half Century, is an incredible opportunity for Palm Beach County. The participating teams for Florida Half Century consist of adult

recreational athletes that are a point in their personal and financial lives where they may look at Palm Beach County as a potential area for future real-estate purchases or business investment.”

### **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. For more information on the Palm Beach County Sports Commission go to [www.palmbeachsports.com](http://www.palmbeachsports.com).