The USA Gymnastics Region VIII Championships will be soaring into the Palm Beach County Convention Center

The USA Gymnastics (USAG) Region VIII Men's Championships will take place at the Palm Beach County Convention Center on April 9-12, 2015. The Gymnastics Revolution, an elite athletic training center based in West Palm Beach, is partnering with the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, to host this prestigious gymnastics meet. The USAG Region VIII Men’s Championships is open to gymnasts from the southeast region of the United States, which encompasses 8 states (Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina). Competitors from these 8 states will have the opportunity to qualify for the USAG National Championships by competing at the USAG Region VIII Men’s Championships. Prior to participating in the Region VIII Men’s Championship, gymnasts must qualify at their USAG State Championship.

Nearly 800 gymnasts and 200 coaches are expected to travel to Palm Beach County. This meet will feature gymnasts from the ages of 8 to 18 participating in a variety of skill levels. The meet consists of six unique gymnastics events, which include the pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars, horizontal bar, and floor exercise. The event schedule begins with one day of warm-ups and practice followed by three days of competition. Awards ceremonies immediately follow the conclusion of each event per skill level on Saturday and Sunday.

The USAG Region VIII Men’s Championships will provide a significant economic boost for Palm Beach County’s economy. The influx of athletes, coaches, and their families will increase hotel occupancy while generating revenues for restaurants, retail outlets, and local businesses. The event is projected to generate over 1,500 hotel room nights and $500,000 in direct visitor spending.

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The Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) was established in 2002 and has grown to encompass over 8,000 members in 32 states across North America. The mission of the IEA is to introduce students in private and public middle and secondary schools to equestrian sports and to promote and improve the quality of equestrian competition and instruction. The IEA supports two disciplines, Hunt Seat and Western. The IEA is an affiliate of the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA), the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) and the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The Palm Beach County Sports Commission will partner with the IEA this coming April to host a national equestrian event in Palm Beach County.

The 2015 IEA Hunt Seat National Finals will take place at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in West Palm Beach on April 24-26, 2015. The equestrian’s season culmination of local, regional, and zone championships, the National Finals will feature approximately 500 of the nation’s best middle and high school equestrian athletes. These riders will compete in 12 individual classes and 12 team classes with each class featuring 24 participants. Because athletes in the National Finals are required to qualify while competing at local, regional, or zone competitions, they will represent the most gifted riders, from all parts of the United States. The unique aspect of the IEA competitions, both at the local and national level, is that none of the riders will supply their own horses or tack. Instead, the host team arranges for the horses and equipment. Since the horse is new to the rider, the scores are based upon horsemanship and equitation.

The Jim Brandon Equestrian Center is a 111-acre world class equestrian showplace owned by Palm Beach County. The facility features a covered arena, show rings, ample spectator and coach seating areas, and 128 permanent stalls.

The IEA Hunt Seat National Finals are expected to provide a significant economic boost for Palm Beach County. The high volume of traveling riders and their family members are estimated to generate over $500,000 in visitor spending and more than 1,200 hotel room nights. This event enhances the already incredible resume Palm Beach County owns as a premier destination for equestrian sports.
The Sunshine State BMX Association (SSA) will host a Florida Cup Series Qualifier at Okeeheelee Park on April 11-12, 2015. The event will feature two races (Saturday and Sunday) and will attract more than 600 male and female competitors from across the state. The event will feature a variety of age divisions, ranging from youth to adult, as the participants attempt to qualify for the Florida Cup Championship race held in May. Both pro and amateur riders are eligible to compete. Florida's 800 registered BMX riders are more than any other state in the country.

There is no venue better suited to host a Florida Cup Series event than the Okeeheelee BMX Track. This is one of the nation's premier facilities and has a robust history of hosting prominent BMX competitions. Okeeheelee Park has been a longtime host to a variety of elite BMX regional and national events, including the National Bicycle League (NBL) Gator Nationals and the USA BMX Gold Cup Qualifier. The Okeeheelee BMX Parent Council devoted countless hours and dollars into facility enhancements of its BMX Track. This dedication resulted in the development of a marquee sports venue for Palm Beach County. The Okeeheelee BMX Track was recently named not only the #1 track in Florida, but also the #1 track in the entire East region. This venue is considered to be one of the top three ranked BMX tracks in the United States.

The Jupiter Jam, produced by the Jupiter Tequesta Athletic Association (JTAA) is one of the largest amateur basketball tournaments in Florida. The Girls Jam will take place on April 18-19 and the Boys Jam will occur on May 1-3. The tournaments consist of multiple age divisions that range from 3rd grade to 12th grade. A total of 12 venues within the north part of the county will be utilized to accommodate approximately 60 girls teams and over 100 boys teams. The Jupiter Jam serves as a qualifier for the USSSA National Championships.

The Battle in Boca, produced by Taylored Athletes, is entering its fourth year and will attract approximately 65 boys on April 17-19. Similar to the Jupiter Jam, this tournament consists of multiple age divisions that range from 3rd grade to 12th grade. Various gymnasiums in the south part of the county will be used to host the Battle in Boca, which serves as a USSSA State Qualifier.

In addition to enriching participation opportunities in youth basketball, the Jupiter Jam and the Battle in Boca will enhance sports tourism. These tournaments will bring a countywide economic impact during the months of April and May. The athletes and their families will dine in local restaurants, shop at local retail outlets, visit local attractions, and stay in Palm Beach County hotels.
The American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) will host a junior tournament at the Seagate Country Club in Delray Beach. The Gary Gilchrist Golf Academy Junior at the Seagate will take place on April 24-26. The event will feature 78 of the nation's top golfers, which include both boys and girls that range in ages from 12 to 18. The format presents 36 holes of stroke play. Golfers will practice on Friday, before competing on Saturday and Sunday.

The AJGA held its first national tournament in 1978 and will host 110 tournaments in 2015 for its more than 6,000 members. The AJGA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn college golf scholarships through competitive junior golf. The success of this organization is evident, considering that more than 300 AJGA alumni play on the PGA and LPGA Tours and have earned more than 600 Tour victories. A total of 24 of the past 32 NCAA Division I men's golf championships and 20 of the past 26 NCAA Division I women's golf championships were won by AJGA alumni.

The AJGA has a great partnership with the Palm Beach County Sports Commission. Due to this partnership the AJGA Polo™ Golf Junior Classic has taken place at the PGA National Resort & Spa since 2009. This is the AJGA's premier and season-ending event, which takes place over a week-long span during the end of November. Palm Beach County is Florida's Golf Capital with over 160 golf courses and optimal year-round climate, which makes it home to the nation's most prestigious amateur golf tournaments.

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