



171 MONROE AVENUE NW/SUITE 700/GRAND RAPIDS MI/49503/P 616.233.3560/F 616.459.0562/WWW.WESTMICHIGANSPORTSCOMMISSION.COM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Eric Engelbarts, Events Manager / (616) 233-3563  
[engelbarts@westmichigansportscommission.com](mailto:engelbarts@westmichigansportscommission.com)

Amy LeFebre / (616) 776-1111, ext 117 / (616) 450-4292 (mobile)  
[lefebrec@hanon-mckendry.com](mailto:lefebrec@hanon-mckendry.com)

---

**WEST MICHIGAN SPORTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES  
2010 STATE GAMES OF MICHIGAN**

*Three-day multi-sport competition will welcome thousands of  
amateur athletes and spectators to West Michigan next June*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., June 30, 2009 – Officials from the West Michigan Sports Commission announced today that the organization will launch the State Games of Michigan June 25-27, 2010, a multi-sport annual festival for youth and adult amateur athletes from across the state. The Olympic-style competition is expected to draw thousands of athletes, coaches and spectators to West Michigan for the Opening Ceremonies on June 25 and for dozens of weekend athletic competitions.

“This event epitomizes what amateur athletics are all about,” said Tim Selgo, State Games of Michigan Organizing Committee Chair and member of the West Michigan Sports Commission Executive Committee. “The State Games reflect the Olympic ideals of sportsmanship, fairplay, perseverance and respect. At the same time, they are very much about promoting fitness and healthy competition among children and adults of *all* ages and skill levels. All Michigan residents are welcome to compete.”

WMSC Board Chair Richard Vander Molen explained that establishment of a signature event was a strategic objective when the Sports Commission was founded in 2007.

“When the West Michigan Sports Commission was established, one imperative was to launch a major annual sporting event that would have a significant positive impact on the economy and quality of life in this region,” explained Vander Molen. “Launching this signature event was a priority coming out of our strategic planning process last year, so we’re very proud to be able to make this important announcement today.”

Joan Bowman, West Michigan regional director for the Office of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, announced that the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports has officially endorsed the event, citing the health benefits associated with this type of athletic competition.

-more-



171 MONROE AVENUE NW/SUITE 700/GRAND RAPIDS MI/49503/P 616.233.3560/F 616.459.0562/WWW.WESTMICHIGANSPORTSCOMMISSION.COM

## WMSC Announces 2010 State Games of Michigan – June 30, 2009

Page 2

Sports tentatively included on the roster for the 2010 State Games of Michigan include basketball, bowling, boxing, fencing, mountain biking, rugby, softball, tae kwon do, track & field, and volleyball.

“This is a strong statewide initiative being driven by a group of dedicated volunteers and partners here in West Michigan and from throughout the state,” said WMSC Executive Director Mike Guswiler, acknowledging members of the State Games of Michigan Organizing Committee as well as representatives of the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids and leaders of various sports organizations that are partnering in the initiative. “We’ve laid a solid foundation for the event and are establishing a broad network to promote it through the YMCA and through sports association partners to potential participants, spectators and sponsors statewide.”

The YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids has agreed to serve as a marketing partner, working to promote the State Games through its network of sister YMCA facilities throughout the state. The WMSC has also identified interest and support for the State Games from several local and state sports organizations including:

- Michigan Recreation & Parks Association
- Michigan Amateur Softball Association
- Michigan Golden Gloves
- Michigan Mountain Biking Association
- Greater Grand Rapids United States Bowling Congress
- Grand Rapids Rugby
- Tae Park Tae Kwon Do
- West Michigan Fencing Academy

Competition venues may include regional high school, college and university athletic facilities; public/private venues throughout West Michigan; Grand Rapids/Kent County Parks & Recreational facilities and YMCA facilities. The final list of venues will be announced at a later date.

-more-



171 MONROE AVENUE NW/SUITE 700/GRAND RAPIDS MI/49503/P 616.233.3560/F 616.459.0562/WWW.WESTMICHIGANSPORTSCOMMISSION.COM

WMSC Announces 2010 State Games of Michigan – June 30, 2009

Page 3

The State Games of Michigan is officially recognized as a U.S. Olympic Committee State Games Program Participant and is a member of the National Congress of State Games. Each year, close to 500,000 athletes take part in nearly 40 State Games competitions nationwide, drawing an additional 1.2 million spectators and utilizing services of about 100,000 volunteers.\*

Information on the State Games of Michigan is available at [www.stategamesofmichigan.com](http://www.stategamesofmichigan.com).

\*Source: National Congress of State Games

# # #

### **About the West Michigan Sports Commission**

The West Michigan Sports Commission, a non-profit 501 (c) (3), works to identify, secure and host a diverse level of youth and amateur sporting events to make a positive impact on the economy and quality of life in the region.