



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

41st ANNUAL GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES ARRIVES IN PORTLAND SEPT 4-10

185 LGBT Softball Teams from 43 Cities to Compete in 7-day Tournament

PORTLAND, OR (AUGUST 29, 2017) – Today, The Rose City Softball Association (RCSA), together with the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) rolled out the plan for the exciting Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) sporting event coming to the Rose City next week.

The 7-day tournament is expected to draw 3500 players, coaches and fans for the annual competition. “We are holding our Opening Ceremonies on Monday the 4th, and it’s going to be the biggest ever for this event,” said Roy Melani, Director of the Board responsible for bringing the event to Portland. “We are excited to blast off our event at Opening Ceremonies with performances by *Pink Martini*, *Circ Du Soleil*, and *Brian Justin Crum*. My God, we’re excited,” exclaimed Melani.

Since 1977, NAGAAA partners with the host city to deliver the largest annual, LGBT single-sport, week-long athletic competition in the world — the Gay Softball World Series. To qualify, athletes must win their season of play in their local leagues in one of six divisions: A, B, C, D and two “Masters” divisions. The full list of competing teams & cities are listed at the event website: <http://www.gsws2017.org/teams/>

The RCSA, Travel Portland, and the Oregon Sports Authority are the local hosts for GSWS 2017. The RCSA hosted the GSWS previously in 2002 where 76 teams competed, so the event has ballooned to more than twice the size since then.

Gay Softball World Series Event Highlights include:

Opening Ceremonies at Rose Quarter / Monday, September 4 from 4 pm – 10 pm
Performances by **Pink Martini**, **Brian Justin Crum** and **Cirque du Soleil**

PRESS CONFERENCE featuring key event figures at Memorial Coliseum / Monday, September 4 at 5:00pm
Georgia Pacific Room inside Memorial Coliseum, 300 N Winning Way, Portland, OR

Softball Games / Tournament, featuring 185 teams at four area fields / various schedules
Delta Park in North Portland, *Gordan Faber Recreational Complex* in Hillsboro,
Hood View Park in Happy Valley and *Tualatin Hills Athletic Center* in Tualatin

NAGAAA Hall of Fame Dinner / Tuesday, September 5 from 7 pm - 10 pm
At Tiger Woods Center, Nike Campus, One Bowerman Drive, Beaverton, OR

Charity Event: Lipsync Battle / Wednesday, September 6 from 8 pm – 11 pm
At Portland Double Tree (Grand Ballroom); 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR
(Benefitting *Esther’s Pantry*, *Cascade AIDS Project* & *Our House*)

“Sing for the Fences” with Matt Alber / Thursday, September 7 from 7:00pm 10:00pm
Hobos Restaurant & Lounge, 120 NW 3rd Ave, Portland, OR

Championship Games, all Divisions Saturday / Saturday, September 9 starting at 8 am
Delta Park, North Portland

Closing Block Party and Awards Ceremony / Saturday, September 9 starting at 4 pm
Free community event in front of CC Slaughters, 219 NW Davis St, Portland, OR

The full list of events & parties is here: <http://www.gsws2017.org/new-events/>

About NAGAAA

Formed in 1977, North American Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) is a 501c(3) international sports organization comprised of men and women dedicated to providing opportunity and access for the LGBT community to participate in organized softball competition in safe environments. Currently, more than 13,000 players from 46 cities across Canada and the United States participate in member leagues, and the best of these teams converge once a year for head-to-head competition at the annual *Gay Softball World Series*.

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The Rose City Softball Association (RCSA) burst onto the gay social scene in 1995. Host city for the international Gay Softball World Series in 2002, Portland embraced 76 teams and 1500 participants. This year, the RCSA will show off their city by hosting GSWS a second time, with 186 teams in four divisions with their 3500 players and supporters from around the US and Canada Labor Day week, celebrating community and friendship in 2017 through “*Progress, Pride and Play!*”

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