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GREATER SEATTLE REGION AWARDED FIVE EVENTS IN NCAA® BID
ANNOUNCEMENT
State-of-the-art facilities and best fans in the country prove appealing to NCAA®

Seattle, WA | In an announcement made by the NCAA® this week, several cities in the Greater Seattle Region along with their community partners have collectively been awarded the opportunity to host five events for the 2022 – 2026 bid round. These influential championship sporting events shine a spotlight on the region and its ability to provide an extraordinary experience for student-athletes and fans.

The Greater Seattle Region will serve as host sites for the following events:

- **2022 NCAA® Division II Fall Sports Festival** in partnership with Seattle Pacific University, the City of Tukwila, and Travel Tacoma – Mt. Rainier Tourism and Sports hosted at Interbay, Starfire Sports Complex, Royal Brougham Pavilion, Chambers Creek Regional Park

- **2023 NCAA® Division I Women’s Basketball Regional** in partnership with the Oak View Group and Seattle University hosted at Climate Pledge Arena and the Seattle Center Campus

- **2025 NCAA® Division I Men’s Basketball 1st and 2nd Rounds** in partnership with Climate Pledge Arena and the University of Washington hosted at Climate Pledge Arena the Seattle Center Campus

- **2025 NCAA® Division I Women’s Swimming & Diving Championship** in partnership with Washington State University and the City of Federal Way hosted at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center

- **2025 NCAA® Division I Men’s Swimming & Diving Championship** in partnership with Washington State University and the City of Federal Way hosted at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center

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The Seattle Sports Commission (SSC) and its partners will collaborate to provide an electric environment for student-athletes, sports fans, families and volunteers as they patronize the venues and surrounding communities. “We are all looking forward to having our student-athletes back in competition mode,” said Beth Knox, President of the Seattle Sports Commission. “Hosting NCAA® sporting events is part of SSC’s vision to make the Greater Seattle Region a world-class sports market. We have the capacity, state-of-the-art venues, spectacular attractions and a passion for sports that make us an ideal destination for significant and high-profile events.”

Beyond economic impact is the emotional significance these NCAA® events will have on sports fans, which reaches all the way to the halls of elected officials. “One of my highlights of college was being the statistician on Notre Dame’s first women’s basketball team,” said Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan. “So many athletes, fans, and residents will have the opportunity to enjoy March Madness in Seattle. With our strong partnerships and support from the Seattle Sports Commission, Seattle will be a destination for premier sporting events for years to come.”

Two “firsts” come from this week’s NCAA® announcement: The Division II Fall Sports Festival for 2022 marks the first time in the festival’s history that it will be hosted on the West Coast. The 2023 Division I Women’s Basketball Regional will be the first NCAA® event in the new Climate Pledge Arena. “As a life-long local sports fan, I am thrilled that our community is being recognized as a destination for major sporting events,” said King County Executive Dow Constantine. “King County has a passion for college sports and I couldn’t be prouder that we’ll be hosting thousands of student-athletes and their fans in these NCAA® championship events.”

The NCAA® events hosted by the region will bring over 6,000 designated hotel room nights, as well as additional hotel stays and broad economic impact through visitors and fans. “This is really good news for our community,” said Visit Seattle CEO Tom Norwalk. “We are thankful to our partner universities and we are cognizant of the critical host role they play in bringing these NCAA® events back to Seattle and King County. Our future looks bright.”

Knox credits groundwork laid on the NCAA® bid cycle to former SSC Executive Director Ralph Morton, Visit Seattle CEO Tom Norwalk and SSC Events Coordinator and former UW student-athlete Madi McNamara. “Their work was instrumental in the site selection process,” said Knox. “We are also grateful to partners such as the City of Seattle, City of Tukwila, City of Federal Way, Travel Tacoma, Oak View Group, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, University of Washington and Washington State University. The collaborative effort put forth to show our commitment to the NCAA® clearly made a positive impact.”

To follow developments on the NCAA® sporting events coming to Seattle, visit seattlesports.org and follow the Seattle Sports Commission on social media.

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About The Seattle Sports Commission

The Seattle Sports Commission (SSC) is committed to making the Greater Seattle Region a world-class sports market. By fostering a strong sports culture that hosts youth, amateur and professional events, the SSC seeks to create positive social and economic impact within our community. Go to seattlesports.org or contact info@seattlesports.org to learn more.

About Visit Seattle:

Visit Seattle has served as the official destination marketing organization (DMO) for Seattle and King County for more than 50 years. A 501(c)(6) organization, Visit Seattle enhances the economic prosperity of the region through global destination branding along with competitive programs and campaigns in leisure travel marketing, convention sales and overseas tourism development. More than 41 million annual visitors spend $8.1 billion in the city and county each year. The economic power of travel and tourism generates more than 80,000 Seattle area jobs and contributes $837 million in annual state and local tax revenue. Visit visitseattle.org.

About Travel Tacoma – Mt. Rainier Tourism and Sports

Travel Tacoma – Mt. Rainier Tourism and Sports is the official destination marketing organization for Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington. Accredited by Destinations International. For more information, visit www.TravelTacoma.com.

About City of Federal Way

Federal Way is one of the largest cities in the state located in the Seattle/Tacoma region and shadowed by the majestic Mount Rainier. It is home to the largest theme park in Washington and the King County Aquatic Center.

About City of Tukwila

Incorporated in 1908, the City of Tukwila is one of the most diverse cities in the United States, with more than 80 languages spoken in the Tukwila School District. While 20,000 people call Tukwila home, during the day, Tukwila becomes one of Washington State’s largest cities, with more than 150,000 people coming into the city daily to work, shop, play, and dine. Long at the center of commerce in Washington State, Tukwila is home to many well-known businesses such as Boeing, BECU, Top Pot Donuts, Seattle Chocolates, Rainier Industries, The Seattle Seawolves, and Seattle Sounders FC train at Starfire Sports. Tukwila is also a retail powerhouse; home to the largest shopping center in the Pacific Northwest, Tukwila generates $2.5 billion in taxable retail sales annually.

About Oak View Group (OVG)
Oak View Group (OVG) is a global sports and entertainment company founded by Tim Leiweke and Irving Azoff in 2015. OVG is focused on being a positive disruption to business as usual in the sports and live entertainment industry and currently has 8 divisions across 4 global offices (Los Angeles, New York, London, and Philadelphia). OVG is leading the redevelopment and operations of Climate Pledge Arena as well as leading arena development projects in Belmont, NY, Austin, TX, and Milan, Italy. OVG Global Partnerships, a division of OVG, is the sales and marketing arm responsible for selling across all OVG Arena Development projects.

About Seattle Pacific University

Founded in 1891, Seattle Pacific has called Seattle’s North Queen Anne Hill home for over 125 years. SPU athletics is a charter member of DII and the Great Northwest Athletics conference, offering 12 varsity sports.

About Seattle University

Seattle University, founded in 1891, is a Jesuit Catholic university located on 50 acres in Seattle’s Capitol Hill neighborhood. More than 7,200 students are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs within nine schools and colleges. Seattle University is consistently ranked among the top 10 universities in the West by U.S. News & World Report and included in The Princeton Review’s Best Colleges guide. Seattle U sponsors 20 intercollegiate sports at the NCAA® Division I level. All sports except for women’s rowing, which competes as a Division I Independent, are members of the Western Athletic Conference. In alignment with the university mission and vision, Seattle U Athletics is committed to graduating champions, empowering leaders and inspiring community to develop Redhawks for life. For more information, visit goseattleu.com.

About University of Washington Athletics

The University of Washington sponsors teams in 22 varsity athletic programs and is a member of the Pac-12 Conference. The UW and its 650 student-athletes are committed to victory in the classroom, in the field of competition and in the community. For more information on Husky Athletics, visit www.gohuskies.com.

About Washington State University

Washington State University (WSU) is the state’s land-grant research university with physical campuses in Everett, Pullman, Spokane, the Tri-Cities, and Vancouver. The WSU Global Campus provides online access to the University’s degrees statewide and worldwide. The University offers more than 200 fields of study, many recognized with national and international awards of excellence. Washington State University is acknowledged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as one of 108 universities in America with very high research activity.

About Chambers Creek Regional Park
This 930-acre site includes over two miles of saltwater shoreline, two and a half miles of urban creek and canyon and breathtaking mountain and Puget Sound views. Enjoy a walk on the beach and public trails, play golf or dine at Chambers Bay, relax at Central or North Meadow or see the award-winning Environmental Services Building.

About Climate Pledge Arena

Climate Pledge Arena, located at Seattle Center, will be the first net zero certified arena in the world. It will serve as a long-lasting and regular reminder of the urgent need for climate action. The Climate Pledge, which was founded by Amazon and Global Optimism in 2019, is a commitment from companies globally to be net zero carbon by 2040. The complete redevelopment of this historic landmark, originally built for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, will be an industry first. Home to the NHL’s Seattle Kraken, WNBA's Seattle Storm, and the world's biggest performers of live music and events, Climate Pledge Arena will open in 2021. Learn More at www.climatepledgearena.com

About Interbay Stadium

After 29 years of moving between 12 different home fields, finally in 1997 Seattle Pacific University found a soccer stadium to call home. Interbay Stadium, located a mile west of the SPU campus, is home to both the men's and women's teams. Nearly 1,000 fans can enjoy cheering on the Falcons at home in Interbay Stadium in the fall.

About Royal Brougham Pavilion

Now serving its sixth decade as Seattle Pacific's primary athletic facility, Royal Brougham Pavilion is not only one of the best arenas to watch a college basketball game in the Great Northwest, it’s also a most formidable place to face the Falcons in those men's and women's sports, as well as volleyball. Although the pavilion is nearing its silver anniversary, a guest would never know it. In fact, Brougham was basically rebuilt during a two-phase renovation and expansion from 1988-92. Capacity for Royal Brougham Pavilion is 3,500 guests.

About Seattle Center

Connect to the extraordinary at Seattle Center, an active civic, arts and family gathering place in the core of our region. More than 30 cultural, educational, sports and entertainment organizations that reside on the grounds, together with a broad range of public and community programs, create thousands of events on the 74-acre campus and attract over 12 million visitors each year. At Seattle Center, part of Uptown Arts & Cultural District, our purpose is to create exceptional events, experiences and environments that delight and inspire the human spirit to build stronger communities. Activities at the Center generate $1.864 billion in business activity and $631 million in labor income.

About Starfire Sports Complex
Starfire Sports is a non-profit corporation delivering opportunities for every member of our community to enjoy the ultimate soccer experience and social programming that will shape the future. Starfire delivers diverse programming for youth and adults, knowledgeable and professional staff, and a safe and engaging environment for social interaction and community building. In addition, financial assistance programs, equipment donations and partnerships with other local and national non-profit organizations mean that all our community’s youth have access to world-class soccer facilities and programming—regardless of economic background.

About Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center

King County Parks operates the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center, a legacy venue of the 1990 Goodwill Games. This world-class facility has hosted such notable events as the annual PAC-12 Conference Championships, the 2008 and 2012 NCAA Division I Men’s Swimming & Diving Nationals, and four USA Olympic Team Trials for Diving and Synchronized Swimming. In addition to the aquatic center, King County Parks offers more than 200 parks and 28,000 acres of open space, including such regional treasures as Marymoor Park and Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, 175 miles of regional trails, and 215 miles of backcountry trails. King County Parks cultivates strong partnerships with public, private, and non-profit entities that leverage public dollars, enhance public recreation opportunities, and involve King County residents in the stewardship of King County’s open space and recreation assets.