MATPRA

MID-ATLANTIC TOURISM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALLIANCE

Summer sports in the Mid-Atlantic give fans reasons to cheer

(Mid-Atlantic Region, USA, May 5, 2017) - As the temperatures heat up and summer rolls around, sport fans flock to the Mid-Atlantic region to celebrate professional, collegiate, and amateur sports of all varieties. From fishing tournaments and heart-pounding races, to America's pastime at the ballfield and professional training camps for some of the NFL's best teams, the Mid-Atlantic is the place to participate in and cheer for all every type of sport each summer. Members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) have compiled information about their area's popular sports teams and events. If you're interested in learning more about a specific event or venue, contact the individual Destination Marketing Organization.

Maryland

Annapolis & Anne Arundel County
Annapolis's Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium is home to Navy Football, Military Bowl, and Chesapeake Bayhawks major league lacrosse. Race Across America wraps up in Annapolis. America's Sailing Capital hosts several regattas and the Wednesday Night Sailboat Races. Each year, USNA and St. John's compete in the Annapolis Cup Croquet Match. *Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Susan Seifried, sseifried@visitannapolis.org, VisitAnnapolis.org*

Baltimore
Baltimore is a sport-lover's paradise and home to many great professional sports teams: the Orioles, the Ravens, and the new Baltimore Brigade arena football team (playing through August at Royal Farms Arena). Fitness junkies should check out Baltimore's bike trails, beach volleyball courts, or kayak tours on the harbor. *Visit Baltimore, Kelly Nagle, knagle@baltimore.org, Baltimore.org*

Calvert County
Calvert County is a haven for hikers. Find incredible paths in Calvert Cliffs State Park, American Chestnut Land Trust, Kings Landing Park and Flag Ponds Nature Center. Hikers of all experience levels are treated to bay and river vistas and rural charm. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Katie Brittain, brittake@co.cal.md.us, ChooseCalvert.com*

Frederick County
If the X Games had existed in the 1870s, high wheel bicycling would have been one of the extreme sports featured at the games! The National Clustered Spires High Wheel Race will

take place in historic downtown Frederick in August. Racers will ride high wheel bicycles dressed in vintage clothing. *Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz, mmuntz@fredco-md.net, VisitFrederick.org*

Harford County
Harford is home to world-class sports. Hear the crack of the bat at an Aberdeen IronBirds game. Catch soccer and lacrosse teams vying for a championship title at Cedar Lane Sports Complex. Take a swing at six golf courses, or see daring action at a polo match or steeplechase race.
Visit Harford, Mindy Schneider, mindy@visitharford.com, VisitHarford.com

Howard County
Columbia, Maryland, gets a serious dose of girl power with the Iron Girl Columbia Triathlon in August. Previously named "one of the best women's events in the mid-Atlantic" according to Competitor Magazine, this event is the largest of its kind in the country and promotes healthy lifestyles. *Visit Howard County, Sarah Kurtanich, sarah@howardcountytourism.com, VisitHowardCounty.com*

Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Tourism Office
Whether you're playing a round of 18 at Arnold Palmer's hometown golf course, watching 16 Little League teams compete in Williamsport, or feeling an adrenaline rush during three race weekends at Pocono Raceway, Pennsylvania has plenty of summer fun for fans of all sports. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Robin Tilley, rtilley@tierneyagency.com, VisitPA.com*

Butler County
Butler County hosts the Glacier Ridge Trail Ultramarathon and Trail Race annually at Moraine State Park and Jennings Environmental Education Center. The GRT meanders through beautiful landscapes and hardwood forests. Runners participate in 30K, 50K, and 50-mile individual races, or a 50-mile, 5-person relay. *Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau, Kimberly Windisch, kimberly@krolmedia.com, VisitButlerCounty.com*

Chester County
Hundreds of cyclists race through the challenging downtown West Chester circuit at speeds in excess of 35 mph at the Benchmark Twilight Cycling Classic in August. The event also features a community festival and street block. Plan a getaway weekend at nearby Hotel Warner and Faunbrook Bed & Breakfast. *Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau, Nina Kelly, nina@brandywinevalley.com, BrandywineValley.com*

Endless Mountains
The scenic Susquehanna River and its tributaries winding through the Endless Mountains of Northeastern PA offer miles of recreational waterways perfect for kayaking, fishing, canoeing, swimming and exploration. Susquehanna Kayak & Canoes offers a summer Wine Tour combining an afternoon on the water with sampling the region's award-winning product.
Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, sales@endlessmountains.org, *EndlessMountains.org*

Indiana County
Parks & Trails in Indiana County are excellent venues for 5k/Marathons/Triathlons! Enjoy national championship IUP Hawks college sports including Rugby and Ice Hockey. Chill out watching Women's Flag Football League, or Powercats Semi-Pro Football. There's more fun along the trail with Levity and Noble Stein Breweries or Disobedient Spirits. *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack, mjack@visitindianacountypa.org, VisitIndianaCountyPA.org*

Lancaster
For affordable fun, check out Lancaster Barnstormers professional baseball, of the independent Atlantic League. The crack of the bat never sounded better in their modern yet inviting stadium situated in Lancaster City. Throw in bumper boats, non-stop promotional nights, and zany fan contests. It's a great time for all! *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff, jcliff@discoverlancaster.com, DiscoverLancaster.com*

Laurel HIghlands
Football season officially kicks off for Steelers Nation with the start of the Steelers annual summer training camp at St. Vincent College in Latrobe at the end of July. See why this is the favorite NFL camp experience for one of America's premier pro football writers, Sports Illustrated's Peter King. *Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Anna Weltz, aweltz@laurelhighlands.org, LaurelHighlands.org*

Lehigh Valley
Head to the ballpark and get ready to bring on the bacon! The Lehigh Valley IronPigs, a Triple-A affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies, kick off the season each summer at Coca-Coca Park. An outing to an IronPigs game promises affordable fun for the whole family, plus plenty of bacon-centric goodies. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger, kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com, DiscoverLehighValley.com*

Pennsylvania's Americana Region
Pennsylvania's Americana Region's Greater Reading Trails offer biking experiences for all skill levels, from novice to expert. An International Mountain Bicycling Association Bronze Level Ride Center, local trails provide 125 miles of fun. Professionals and amateurs flock to the region for bicycling events and exhilarating rides along picturesque trails. *Pennsylvania's Americana Region, Lisa Haggerty, lisa@visitpaamericana.com,* VisitPAAmericana.com

Pocono Mountains
Pocono Mountains equals racing! Pocono Raceway hosts three major race weekends per year for NASCAR and IndyCar. Also, the Pocono Mountains is the perfect location for outdoor adventure races like the Pennsylvania Ragnar Relay, Krell Adventure Games, Wally Man Triathlon, Savage Race, Spartan Race, Rev3, and Warrior Dash. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Kelly Shannon, kshannon@poconos.org, PoconoMountains.com*

Tioga County
Spend your summer discovering the beauty of Pennsylvania's northern tier! Pine Creek Trail begins in the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon region and offers miles of biking paths through Tioga County. Local outfitters offer gear and guides to make planning a bike trip along the trail easy to plan. *Tioga County Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, morgan@visittiogapa.com, VisitTiogaPA.com*

Virginia
Charlottesville & Albemarle County
Charlottesville & Albemarle County is home to a variety of exciting sporting events throughout the year. The University of Virginia has nationally recognized sports programs, including basketball, football, baseball, tennis, and lacrosse. The region also hosts several popular footraces, including the Charlottesville Marathon and Half Marathon in the spring. *Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau, Bri Warner, warnerb@charlottesville.org, VisitCharlottesville.org*

Fairfax County
In Fairfax County, college basketball fans can get their fix at George Mason University while golfers can hit the green at one of 13 courses (or tee-off at America's first-ever Topgolf). Plus, pro sports fans are only a few short miles away from the Washington Nationals, Capitals, Wizards, and Redskins. *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris, amorris@fxva.com, FXVA.com*

Harrisonburg
Grab friends and family and come to the ballpark! The Harrisonburg Turks will kick off their season starting in June. The Turks are a wooden-bat summer collegiate baseball team playing a 42-game schedule and consists of the best college players from across the country. *Harrisonburg Tourism, Jessica Williams, jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov, VisitHarrisonburgVA.com*

Prince William County & Manassas
Baseball history comes alive at Pfitzner Stadium, home of the Potomac Nationals, where five-time National League MVP and all-time home run leader Barry Bonds played his first professional baseball. Watch fishermen reel in the catch of the day at one of the many fishing tournaments held at Leesylvania State Park. *Discover Prince William & Manassas, VA, Nicole Warner, NWarner@DiscoverPWM.com, DiscoverPWM.com*

Richmond
Summer is the perfect time to catch a sporting event in the Richmond Region! Cheer on the Richmond Flying Squirrels minor league baseball team all summer long or a spend a day at the Richmond International Raceway for a NASCAR race. Soccer fans will love The Richmond Kickers, who play through the summer and into October. *Richmond Region Tourism, Meghan Gearino, mgearino@visitrichmondva.com, VisitRichmondVA.com*

Shenandoah County
Hike the shady mountain trails while the sun shines brightly. Dip your toes in the Shenandoah while floating along with a cold beverage or simply stand in the ankle-deep river's edge and skip stones. The Shenandoah Valley calls you to experience the simple joys of summer in the country. *Shenandoah County, VA, Jenna French, jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us, VisitShenandoahCounty.com*

West Virginia
Hampshire County

Frustrated by regular golf? Try FlingGolf at Capon Springs & Farms- one of the few places in the Mid-Atlantic where you can enjoy this new lacrosse/golf hybrid. Using one Flingstick and a regular golf ball, you play alongside regular golfers on regular courses. FlingGolf puts fun back on the links! *Hampshire County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Peg McMaster, pegnlen@aol.com, ComeToHampshire.com*

About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit www.matpra.org.

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Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance
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