

## 2024 The Hartford Nationals Fact Sheet

<https://TheHartfordNationals.org>

#TheHartfordNationals (Primary if small space)

#ChampionsCompeteHere

#MoveUnited

### ABOUT THE HARTFORD NATIONALS

The Hartford Nationals conducted by Move United is the largest longest-standing national sports championship for athletes with a physical, visual and/or intellectual disability. The 2024 event, scheduled for July 12–18 in Hoover/Birmingham, AL, will be the 67th year of competition. With hundreds of athletes with disabilities and coaches participating, the weeklong event includes competitions, clinics, education and social opportunities. The sports contested include archery, para powerlifting, paratriathlon, shooting, swimming, track and field and wheelchair tennis. Competition builds character, so now is your time to engage at <https://TheHartfordNationals.org>.

### ABOUT MOVE UNITED

Move United is the national leader in community adaptive sports, empowering 125,000 youth and adults with disabilities each year to live to their fullest potential. Move United's 225+ member organizations in 45 states are united by a single mission: ensuring everyone, regardless of ability, experiences the life-changing power of sport and is fully included in their community.

Move United, an Affiliate of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to become physically and emotionally stronger through participation in 70 adaptive sports. Established in 1956, Move United offers community-based sports recreation, education and competition that push people further, bring people closer and leave no one on the sidelines. Join our MOVEMENT at [www.moveunitedsport.org](http://www.moveunitedsport.org).

### ABOUT THE HARTFORD

The Hartford is a leader in property and casualty insurance, group benefits and mutual funds. With more than 200 years of expertise, The Hartford is widely recognized for its service excellence, sustainability practices, trust, and integrity. More information on the company and its financial performance is available at <https://www.thehartford.com>. Follow us on Twitter at @TheHartford\_PR.

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## ABOUT THE HARTFORD ADAPTIVE SPORT PROGRAM

The Hartford has been inspiring human achievement through adaptive sports for 30 years. As a leading provider of disability insurance, the company has seen first-hand the positive impact sports can have on people and is dedicated to making adaptive sports and equipment more accessible. This includes equipment donations to local sports clubs nationwide, raising awareness about equity in sports in partnership with its world class Team Hartford athletes, as well as The Hartford Adaptive Sports Competition Series\* and The Hartford Ski Spectacular in partnership with Move United. The Hartford Competition Series features five premier sanctioned events across the country, including the culminating event, The Hartford Nationals, and includes surprise custom equipment donations, the Human Achievement award and meet and greets with champion Para Athletes.

## ABOUT THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

After a nationwide bid process, [Move United](#), the national leader in community-based sports and recreation for individuals with disabilities, has officially chosen the City of Hoover to host The Hartford Nationals in 2023 and 2024. With the 2022 World Games and several years hosting the SEC baseball tournament, it's no secret that Hoover has been able to successfully implement some amazing events. Now, they have The Hartford Nationals to add to the list.

[The City of Hoover](#) will lead the local organizing committee in collaboration with the [Lakeshore Foundation](#), [National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability](#) and the [Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau](#).

A note from Mayor Frank Brocato...

"As one of the most diverse cities in Alabama, the City of Hoover makes an intentional effort to make sure everyone feels included and empowered," said Hoover Mayor **Frank Brocato**. "We are excited to share our facilities with the Move United team and those of all abilities. We also look forward to welcoming all of the athletes to our area and showing them an experience filled with smiles and southern charm."

## TALKING POINTS

### What Does Para or Adaptive Sport Mean?

- Adapted is having been changed through specialized equipment, different rules, or other changes to allow participation
- Adapted equipment are tools that have been changed to help people with disabilities; tools could be sport specific or for everyday life
- Adapted sports are competitive or recreational sports for people with disabilities
- Adapted physical education is physical education that has been modified for an individual with a disability
- The word "Paralympic" derives from the Greek preposition "para" (beside or alongside) and the word "Olympic". Its meaning is that Paralympics are the parallel Games to the Olympics and illustrates how the two movements exist side-by-side. The Hartford Nationals is a steppingstone for athletes along the athlete pipeline, many of whom become Paralympians.

## 2024 Nationals Basics:

- Move United, the national leader in community-based sports and recreation for individuals with disabilities, will have its 2024 The Hartford Nationals in Hoover/Birmingham, Alabama. The event, scheduled for July 12–18, will mark the 67th year of Nationals, with adult and youth athletes alike taking part in the competition together for the first time.
- The Hartford Nationals conducted by Move United is the largest longest-standing national championship event for athletes with a physical, visual, and/or intellectual disability.
- The national competition for adult athletes began in 1957 and continued through 1995. Youth athletes were able to compete starting in 1984 and those two events merged in 2023.
- The Hartford Nationals serves as a pipeline to international competition and the Paralympic Games. In fact, nearly two-thirds of the Paralympians representing the United States in [Tokyo participated in a Move United program](#).
- More than 400 athletes with disabilities and coaches are expected to participate in the major event—jam-packed with competitions, clinics, education and social opportunities. Of course, the weeklong event features a wide array of sports, including:
  - Archery
  - Para powerlifting
  - Paratriathlon
  - Shooting
  - Swimming
  - Track and field
  - Wheelchair tennis
- 396 athletes from 35 states were at the 2023 event, up from 309 in 2022. We welcome new and returning athletes with a goal of 10% participation increase annually.
- [National classification](#) will be offered in archery, swimming and track and field.

## Host and Venue Information:

- The local organizing committee that will host the event is led by the [City of Hoover](#) and includes the [Lakeshore Foundation](#), [National Center on Physical Activity and Disability](#) and [Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau](#).
- This will be the second time the state of Alabama has hosted the event. Birmingham also hosted it in 1996. [The 2023 The Hartford Nationals venues](#) include:
  - Birmingham Crossplex: 2340 Crossplex Blvd, Birmingham, AL 35242
    - Swimming
  - Hoover Metropolitan Complex: 5500 Stadium Trace Pkwy, Hoover, AL 35244
    - Archery (Hoover Met Stadium)
    - Shooting (Finley Center)
    - Wheelchair Tennis
  - Hyatt Regency Birmingham: 1000 Galleria Cir, Birmingham, AL 35244

- Host Hotel
- Athlete & Coach Check-in
- Lakeshore Foundation: 4000 Ridgeway Dr, Birmingham, AL 35209
  - Para Powerlifting
- Oak Mountain:
  - Paratriathlon
- Spain Park High School: 4700 Jaguar Dr, Birmingham, AL 35242
  - Track & Field

### **Eligibility and Qualifying:**

- Through the Move United Member network, over 25 sanctioned competitions occur across the United States serving as qualifiers leading up to Nationals. Athletes must qualify to compete through a [Move United Sanctioned Competition](#), a National Governing Body or High School Athletic Association sanctioned event, or another event approved by Move United.
- Eligible athletes include youth and adults with a physical, visual and/or intellectual disability who are classifiable under the International Paralympic Committee's classification system.
- The event often attracts athletes with an amputation, cerebral palsy, congenital abnormalities, dwarfism, limb deficiencies, spina bifida, a spinal cord injury, visual impairment, and/or various other disabilities ages 6 through adulthood.
- For more information on eligibility and qualification, visit <https://moveunitedsport.org/events/nationals/eligibility-and-classification-and-rules/>

### **Registration:**

- [Online registration](#) for athletes and coaches will be live May 1 through June 26 with late registration June 27-28.
- [Online registration for volunteers](#) will be live May 1 through the start of the event.
- For more information on registration, visit <https://moveunitedsport.org/events/nationals/register-for-nationals/>

### **Sponsorship:**

- If you are considering a donation, thank you! Your support is appreciated! To make a donation, visit <https://moveunitedsport.org/donate/>.
- A contribution to Nationals will enhance the quality of the experience for athletes and help offset the cost of planning and implementing the event, which exceeds \$400,000. For financial and in-kind sponsorship opportunities, contact: Dave Simonson at 301-217-9837 or [dsimonson@moveunitedsport.org](mailto:dsimonson@moveunitedsport.org) for National Sponsorship or Dee Nance at [hparfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:hparfoundation@gmail.com) for Local Sponsorship and in-kind support.
- Thank you to our [local and national sponsors](#) for their support around the 2023 The Hartford Nationals.

## Stay Connected:

- Be sure to follow Move United on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or other social media platforms (@moveunitedsport) and utilize The Hartford Nationals hashtag throughout the week #TheHartfordNationals.
- An event communication app will be used onsite for highlights and announcements
- A full schedule of events can be found at <https://moveunitedsport.org/events/nationals/event-schedule-and-venues/>.
- Further questions, contact:
  - [Eligibility, and Sport-Specific](#): Jessie Cloy at 240-268-5380 or [jcloy@moveunitedsport.org](mailto:jcloy@moveunitedsport.org)
  - [Registration](#): Nina Cutro-Kelly at 518-334-0090 or [ncutrokelly@moveunitedsport.org](mailto:ncutrokelly@moveunitedsport.org)
  - [Volunteer](#): Amy Belcher at [amybel@lakeshore.org](mailto:amybel@lakeshore.org)
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  - [National Sponsorship](#): Dave Simonson at 301-217-9837 or [dsimonson@moveunitedsport.org](mailto:dsimonson@moveunitedsport.org)

For answers to commonly asked programmatic questions, glance through the FAQ's at the bottom of the homepage of <https://TheHartfordNationals.org>.