

2025 THE HARTFORD NATIONALS
Event Fact Sheet
COMPETITION BUILDS CHARACTER

EVENT OVERVIEW

Event: The Hartford Nationals conducted by Move United

Dates: July 11-17, 2025

Location: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Year: 68th Annual Championship

Expected Participants: 400+ athletes and coaches

What: The largest, longest-running national championship for athletes with physical, visual, and intellectual disabilities

Significance: Direct pipeline to Paralympic competition—62% of Team USA's 2024 Paris Paralympics roster participated in The Hartford Nationals or Move United programs

Social Media: @moveunitedsport

Hashtags: #TheHartfordNationals | #ChampionsCompeteHere | #MoveUnited

SPORTS & COMPETITION

Eight Championship Sports:

- Archery (USA Archery sanctioned)
- Boccia (The *Hartford Nationals* debut)
- Para powerlifting
- Paratriathlon (USA Triathlon sanctioned)
- Shooting
- Swimming (USA Swimming observed)
- Track & field (World Para approved, USATF sanctioned)
- Wheelchair tennis (USTA sanctioned)

Classification: National classification offered in archery, swimming, and track & field

VENUES

Sport	Venue	Address
Track & Field	Calvin University - Gainey Athletic Facility	Kentwood, MI 49546
Swimming	Calvin University - Venema Aquatic Center	3195 Knight Way SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Archery, Para Powerlifting	Mary Free Bed YMCA	5500 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Paratriathlon	Millennium Park	1415 Maynard Ave. SW, Walker, MI 49534

Sport	Venue	Address
Boccia, Shooting, Ceremonies	MSA Woodland	2100 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
Tennis	MVP Athletic Club - Crahen	115 Crahen Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Check-In	Hilton Garden Inn	Grand Rapids

ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

Who Can Compete:

- Youth and adults with physical, visual, and/or intellectual disabilities
- Athletes classifiable under International Paralympic Committee classification system
- Includes: amputation, cerebral palsy, congenital conditions, dwarfism, limb deficiencies, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, visual impairment, and other qualifying disabilities
- Age range: 6 years through adult

Qualification Requirements:

- Move United Sanctioned Competition
- National Governing Body sanctioned event
- High School Athletic Association sanctioned event
- Other Move United-approved events

Registration Timeline:

- Opens: May 1, 2025
- Standard deadline: June 27, 2025
- Late registration: June 28-July 1, 2025
- Volunteer registration: May 1 through event start

HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Local Organizing Committee:

- **West Michigan Sports Commission** - Event management and logistics
- **Mary Free Bed Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports** - Adaptive sports expertise and venue management

Event Experience:

- West Michigan Sports Commission operates Meijer State Games of Michigan
- Previously hosted USA Masters Games and Transplant Games of America
- Mary Free Bed manages 11 sports teams and hosts national tournaments
- Part of Move United's 244-member network

FEATURED PROGRAMMING

Paralympic Athletes On-Site:

- Daniel Romanchuk - Wheelchair racing clinic
- Tatyana McFadden - Book signing
- Matt Scott – The Hartford Gifting Moment and Human Achievement Award presentation
- Rudy Garcia-Tolson - Swimming livestream commentary
- Amanda McGrory - Track & field commentary
- Bobby Body - Para powerlifting commentary

Educational Sessions:

- Mental toughness clinic (Hanger)
- Shoulder health and injury prevention
- Social security and vocational rehabilitation
- Get Down with Sitting Volleyball (USA Volleyball)
- Adaptive Judo & Self Defense (Olympian Nina Cutro Kelly)

Special Events:

- Eagle Sportschairs equipment giveaway
- SNS Junior Athlete of the Year award
- Adaptive Sports Hall of Fame inductions
- Para Pickleball and Wheelchair Softball demonstrations

SPONSORSHIP & SUPPORT

Event Investment: Over \$400,000 required for planning and implementation

Donations: moveunitedsport.org/donate

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS

Move United

- National leader in community adaptive sports
- Empowers 125,000+ youth and adults with disabilities annually
- 245 member organizations in 45 states and Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee affiliate
- Offers 70 adaptive sports
- Founded 1956

The Hartford

- 30 years supporting adaptive sports
- Leading disability insurance provider
- Hartford Adaptive Sports Competition Series sponsor
- Equipment donation programs nationwide
- Partners with world-class Team Hartford Para athletes

QUICK FACTS

- 68th year of competition
- 2nd time Michigan has hosted (Saginaw hosted in 2011)
- Youth competition began 1984, adult competition 1957
- Events merged in 2024
- 397 athletes from 34 states participated in 2024
- Goal: 10% annual participation increase

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Social Media: @moveunitedsport

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Event App: Free communication app available on-site for highlights and announcements

Website: TheHartfordNationals.org

Media Contact:

Shuan Butcher

240-268-2180

sbutcher@moveunitedsport.org

General Info:

Jessie Cloy

240-268-5380

jcloy@moveunitedsport.org

Volunteers:

Katy Tigchelaar

ktigchelaar@westmisports.com