



# Request For Proposal

Move United uses the power of sport to push what's possible for people with disabilities, confronting ignorance, fueling conversation, and inciting action that leads us to a world where everyone's included. Established in 1956, Move United is proud to serve wounded warfighters, youth, and adults with disabilities.

We want you in the game. The Hartford Nationals represents our commitment to creating opportunities where athletes showcase their capabilities, communities unite around inclusion, and barriers are broken through sport.

The following information outlines the opportunity to host The Hartford Nationals conducted by Move United. This document serves as your guide to joining our movement and bringing this transformative event to your community.

Move United evaluates bids with consideration for the following:

- A progressive partner focused on access and expanding possibilities for all
- Accessible and sophisticated sport venues and hotel properties
- Proven experience in event management and community engagement
- Strong local community support rallying for inclusion
- Local organizing committee leadership with the ability to develop partnerships, generate sponsorships, and amplify media opportunities
- Event affordability that makes participation possible for all athletes

## Nationals Cycles & Bid Deadlines

The Hartford Nationals operates on a 2-year cycle for the host city and Local Organizing Committee. We move the event around the country to expand opportunities and reach new communities.

**Bids for 2027-2028 and beyond are being accepted through August 22, 2025.**

If Move United receives a compelling bid prior to the deadline, we reserve the right to move forward awarding the bid at an earlier date.



The Hartford

# From The Competition Director

Dear Prospective Partner Organizations and Cities,

On behalf of Move United and our member network nationwide, we want to thank you for your interest in hosting The Hartford Nationals. The Hartford Nationals dates back to 1957, and our championship has become the largest annual multi-sport event for young athletes with physical, visual, and/or intellectual disabilities in the United States. Over 500 athletes and coaches, 300+ volunteers, and countless families, friends, and spectators bring this event to life.

Move United seeks progressive cities and local organizations with experience in sport event management to host The Hartford Nationals, which occurs annually in July. Nationals is where athletes push what's possible – showcasing their abilities through sport while promoting physical activity and community connection. The event serves as a powerful step along the athlete pipeline that may one day lead participants to the Paralympic Games.

This is your opportunity to get in the game and change the world for people who deserve to be included. Please read through this document to learn about Move United, The Hartford Nationals and its history, and our bid process. We invite you also to explore The Hartford Nationals [Planning Blueprint](#) to understand the logistics involved in creating this exceptional event.

Ready to join the movement? Contact us with questions about the bid process or to explore hosting this transformative event.



Susan B. Rossi, MNpS, CTRS  
Competition Director, Move United

# About Move United

Move United is the national leader in community adaptive sports. Since 1956, Move United has been expanding possibilities by providing year-round sports and recreation opportunities to people with a wide range of disabilities, offering more than 70 different adaptive sports. Through our national network of more than 240 community Member Organizations, Move United serves over 100,000 individuals with disabilities of all ages each year.

**Sports make us more.** They push us to realize what we're capable of while showing the world. They turn strangers into teammates, putting us all on a level playing field.

Move United is an official Affiliate of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee and a recognized partner with numerous sports organizations including the Professional Ski Instructors of America, USA Archery, Adaptive Track & Field USA and TrueSport. Recognition includes the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee's Amazing Leader Award and 2019 and 2024 Rings of Gold Award, as well as the 2021 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Sports Award.

With hundreds of partners — from member organizations to hospitals, disability organizations, and sports organizations — Move United is leading a movement so that no one is left on the sidelines and everyone gets in the game.

## The Hartford Nationals Overview

In 2023, Move United brought together two championship events: Junior Nationals and Nationals. Celebrating athletic excellence at the end of the summer sport season, The Hartford Nationals encompasses both an adult and youth component.

This weeklong event welcomes youth and adult athletes with physical, visual, and/or intellectual disabilities. Athletes must be classifiable under the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) classification code and must meet qualifying standards to compete.

### **Sports contested include:**

- Archery
- Boccia
- Para Powerlifting
- Paratriathlon and Aquathlon
- Shooting
- Swimming
- Track and field
- Wheelchair tennis

International athletes and teams are welcome, with a dual medal system utilized to celebrate achievement at all levels.

# Quick Facts

## Participation & Growth

- 2025 included 423 athletes and 160 coaches plus family members and supporters
- Anticipating 5% annual growth as we expand possibilities

## Event Structure

- **Wednesday-Thursday:** Set-up, preparation, and athlete classification
- **Friday:** Welcome Ceremony celebrating our athletes
- **Saturday-Thursaday:** Competition across all sports
- **Thursday:** Closing Celebration recognizing achievement

\*Event structure may evolve with growth of event

## Venue & Accommodation Needs

- **Host hotel:** 1,200+ room nights required
- **Peak nights:** 200 rooms minimum
- **Host hotel functions:** Participant check-in, classification, educational sessions, coaches meetings, and storage
- **Meeting space:** Minimum 9,000 sq. ft. required
- **Competition venues:** Accessible, sophisticated facilities that showcase athletic excellence

## Community Investment

- Annual event budget exceeds \$400,000
- Typically \$150,000 supported through local partnerships
- Much of the local investment can be secured through in-kind contributions and community partnerships

## Economic & Community Impact

- **Economic impact exceeding \$1,000,000** for your community
- **600+ volunteer opportunities** for community members to serve and learn
- **Unique platform** to highlight your commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- **Legacy of education** around adaptive sport that continues beyond the event

## Recognition & Exposure

- **Paralympic movement awareness** as our country prepares for the 2028 Paralympic and Olympic Games in LA
- **Local, regional, and national media exposure** showcasing your community
- **Event program recognition** with full-page advertising opportunity
- **Logo placement** on event collateral materials
- **Public address announcements** throughout the event
- **Exposition booth** to showcase your community
- **Premium promotional opportunities** in participant welcome materials

# Host Partner Promotion

Host partners are strongly encouraged to place advertising in Move United magazine to highlight the event and showcase their destination. This should be placed in the issue prior to the event's registration deadline.

Move United magazine is the leading adaptive sports publication, printed three times annually and distributed free to individuals with disabilities and others involved in adaptive sports. Current circulation exceeds 40,000 readers who are passionate about expanding possibilities through sport.

## Ready to Join the Movement?

**Deadline: August 22, 2025**

If your organization is ready to host The Hartford Nationals in 2027-2028 (or beyond), we want to hear from you.

Required Documents:

- The Hartford Nationals Bid Application
- The Hartford Nationals Planning Blueprint (for detailed logistics)

Questions? Get in Touch:

Jessica Cloy

Move United Competition Manager - Operations

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Let's push what's possible together.

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[www.moveunitedsport.org](http://www.moveunitedsport.org)