The Hartford NATIONALS

Request For Proposal

Move United uses sports to push what's possible so everyone, regardless of ability, has equal access to sports and recreation in their community. Established in 1956, Move United is proud to serve wounded warfighters, youth and adults with disabilities.

The following information is for the annual The Hartford Nationals conducted by Move United. The information within this document should be used as a guide for organizations and cities interested in bidding to host The Hartford Nationals. Move United will evaluate bids with consideration for the following:

- A progressive partner focused on access and opportunity for all
- Accessible and sophisticated venues and hotel properties
- Experience in event management
- Support of the local community
- Ability of host organization to develop, lead, and manage a strong local organizing committee (LOC) with the ability to generate local event sponsorships, resources, and media opportunities
- Affordability of the event for participants

Nationals Cycles & Bid Deadlines

The Hartford Nationals operates on a 2-year cycle for the host city and Local Organizing Committee. It is our goal to move the event around the country every 2 years.

Bids for 2028-2029 and beyond are being accepted through August 29, 2026. If Move United receives a strong bid prior to the deadline, we reserve the right to move forward awarding the bid at an earlier date.

www.moveunitedsport.org

MOVE UNITED | The Hartford

From The Competition Director

Dear Prospective Bid Organizations and Cities,

On behalf of Move United and our member network nationwide, we would like to thank you for your interest in hosting The Hartford Nationals conducted by Move United. The Hartford Nationals date back to 1957 and our junior portion of the championship was the largest annual multi-sport event for young athletes with physical, visual, and/or intellectual impairments in the United States. An anticipated 550+ athletes and coaches, 350+ volunteers, and families, friends, and spectators bring the 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 an avenue for youth and adult athletes to showcase their abilities through sport and to promote physical activity and socialization. Additionally, the event serves as an opportunity for individuals to advance along the athlete pipeline that may one day lead them to the Paralympic Games.

Please read through this document to learn about Move United, The Hartford Nationals and its history, and The Hartford Nationals bid process, next steps, and quick facts for your consideration. Additionally, we invite you to explore the The Hartford Nationals Planning Blueprint to dive deeper into the logistics involved in running the event.

Please feel free to contact us with questions about the bid process for the upcoming years or explore the possibility of hosting the event in the future. Thank you again for your interest in partnering with Move United on one of our signature events.

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

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About Move United

Move United is the national leader in community adaptive sports. Since 1956, Move United has been redefining disability 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.

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 of Move United 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 internal and external partners, from member organizations, to hospitals, to 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 from its past: Junior Nationals and Nationals. Celebrating the end of the summer sport season, The Hartford Nationals encompass both an adult and youth component. The weeklong event is for youth and adult athletes with a physical, visual, and/or intellectual impairment. Athletes must be classifiable under the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) classification code and must meet qualifying standards to be eligible to compete. The sports contested at the event include archery, boccia, para powerlifting, paratriathlon, shooting, swimming, track and field, and wheelchair tennis. International athletes and/or teams are welcome with a dual medal system utilized.

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Quick Facts

Sport Competitions

- Archery
- Boccia
- Para powerlifting
- Paratriathlon
- Shooting
- Swimming
- Track and Field
- Wheelchair Tennis

Event Structure

- Set-up and preparation Wednesday and Thursday
- Classification throughout the week
- Welcome Ceremony on Friday
- Competition Saturday through Thursday
- Closing Celebration on Thursday

***Event structure may change with growth of event*

Attendance

- 2026 included 424 athletes and 180 coaches as well as family members and fans
- Anticipate 5% growth annually

Room Nights/Hotel Information

- Host hotel room night needs exceed 1500
- 225 rooms per night minimum on peak nights
- Host hotel utilized for participant check-in, classification, educational sessions, coaches meetings, and storage
- Minimum meeting room space needs of 9000 sq ft

Venues

- Accessible, sophisticated venues desired
- Venue specifics outlined in the Planning Blueprint

Local Investment

- Nationals budget exceeds $350,000 annually with typically $150,000 supported by the local host
- Much of the local budget can be secured through in-kind contributions

LOC and Host Site Benefits

- Economic impact exceeding $1,000,000
- A unique opportunity for the location to highlight their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion for youth and adults with disabilities
- Over 600 volunteer opportunities for community engagement in serving a diverse population
- Legacy of training and education around adaptive sport
- Greater public awareness of the Paralympic movement as our country prepares to host the 2028 Paralympic Games and Olympic Games in L.A.
- Local, regional, and national media exposure
- Full page ad in the event program
- Logo on event collateral materials
- Public address announcements during event
- Exposition booth
- Premium insert into registrant goody bags

Host Partner Promotion

The Host Agency (or Partner) is strongly encouraged to place at least one ad in the Move United magazine to highlight the event and their destination as a means to encourage those in the adaptive sports field to attend the event. The ad should be placed in the issue prior to the event's registration deadline. Move United magazine is the leading adaptive sports publication and is printed three times a year and offered free of charge to individuals with disabilities and others involved in adaptive sports. The current circulation is over 40,000.

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Deadline and Contact Info

If your organization is interested in hosting The Hartford Nationals in 2028 and 2029, please submit your bid application by August 29, 2026.

Supplemental Documents:

- The Hartford Nationals Bid Application
- The Hartford Nationals Planning Blueprint

Questions?

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