From the Wisconsin Department of Tourism press box comes this list of new sports facilities. This score sheet also includes first-time events, anniversaries and other newsworthy stats. For the full roster of sports offerings in Wisconsin, log on to www.SportsWisconsin.com.

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B: New Basketball Arena and a New Baseball Stadium

The $525 million Wisconsin Entertainment & Sports Center, the new home of the Milwaukee Bucks NBA team, opens this fall in downtown Milwaukee. The 714,000 square foot arena was designed to reflect the heritage and personality of the city. The eye-catching façade features an immense wall of glass revealing the activity going on inside the arena.

Groundbreaking takes place this spring for Ballpark Commons, a new baseball stadium in Franklin sanctioned by the American Association of Professional Baseball. This mixed-use, $130 million development near the Rock Sports Complex features a 2,500-seat outdoor baseball stadium designed to serve a minor league team affiliated with the American Association of Professional Baseball and the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Division I baseball team while also hosting baseball tournaments. The first baseball games will be played in March 2019.

A: Laying Down Artificial Turf Plus Repurposing an Asphalt Court

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is building a Rec Plex. This 4.35-acre recreational complex includes lighted, multi-use artificial turf fields for flag football, soccer, rugby and lacrosse and a seasonal dome to cover the soccer field. The facility is scheduled to be completed in May 2018.

The Stevens Point area is creating its first futsal courts this year. The courts will be located at Easlan-Weslan Park in Plover, located near the popular Woyak Sports Complex. The courts, which will be made from repurposing an asphalt basketball court, should be completed by late summer.

RUNNING DOWN A FEW ANNIVERSARIES

This is the 10th anniversary of the Wisconsin Marathon in Kenosha, set for May 5. There is also a half-marathon and 5K the same day. The start line is next to the Kenosha Civil War Museum.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the Eau Claire Marathon, on the calendar for May 6. The route for this Boston Marathon qualifying race takes runners across all the landmark bridges in this city at the confluence of the Eau Claire and Chippewa rivers. Other events that day include a marathon relay, half marathon and 5K.
**S: World Sailing Championship and Swimming News**

The 2018 **Para World Sailing Championship** will be held in **Sheboygan** Sept. 16-22, hosted jointly by the Sailing Education Association of Sheboygan (SEAS), Sail Sheboygan and World Sailing. This is the first time the championship will be held on the Great Lakes. SEAS offers sailing and boating classes throughout the summer.

The **Mulva Family Fitness & Sports Center** (formerly the Schuldes Sports Center) in **De Pere**, home of St. Norbert College’s basketball, volleyball and swimming teams, has undergone a $26-million expansion and renovation. The refurbished and enlarged facility features a new swimming pool on the east side of the sports center looking out to the Fox River and a state-of-the-art fitness center. The building’s 129,400 square feet of space, which included the addition of a second floor, has a multipurpose area with seating capacity of 2,500 for major sporting events and up to 5,000 for other high-attendance programs. The arena offers a full collegiate basketball court, an indoor track, four volleyball courts and four intramural basketball courts.

The Racine County Convention and Visitors Bureau is hosting the **Real Racine International Triathlon** on July 15 at **North Beach**, a certified Blue Wave clean beach just north of downtown. An international field of more than 30 professional triathletes and 1,500 age group triathletes from 30+ states will be taking part in this inaugural event.

**K: Kubb is Taking Off**

**Beloit** is hosting the third annual **U.S. Kubb Open** on Saturday, Aug. 11 at Riverside Park. Last year, 57 teams hailing from eight states as well as Switzerland competed at the Open. This year’s event will air on FOX Sports Wisconsin, making it the first televised Kubb tournament in the United States. The event set the U.S. record for prize money in 2016 and 2017, and organizers hope to shatter the mark once again in 2018.

**Eau Claire** hosts the **U.S. National Kubb Championship** July 13-15 at the Eau Claire Soccer Park. This is the 12th annual and the largest Kubb tournament outside of Europe. The U.S. Junior Kubb Championship will be played that weekend too. Eau Claire is considered the Kubb Capital of North America.

**KUBB**

While it may sound like a dance move, Kubb is a lawn game where the objective is to knock over wooden blocks (kubbs) by throwing wooden sticks at them. What is thought to have originated as an old Viking game, Kubb competitions are on the rise.
The 2018 Ironman Wisconsin race on Sept. 9 features a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run, ending in downtown Madison. The event, renewed for Madison through 2021, has been hosted by the city for 16 years.

The 2018 Reebok CrossFit Games returns to Madison for a second year, Aug. 1-5 at the Alliant Energy Center. It’s here the world’s finest athletes showcase their determination in tests of strength and endurance to be named fittest on earth. Forbes Magazine calls the CrossFit Games “one of the fastest growing sports in America.”
While trends often start on the coasts and take their time migrating to the Midwest, Wisconsin is ahead of the game when it comes to certain sports trends, like curling and Kubb. A 2018 survey of sports directors at convention and visitor bureaus around the state turned up this list of the best facilities for sports in Wisconsin.

**Soccer**

Wisconsin has plenty of options for those who want to ‘Bend it like Beckham.” **Uihlein Soccer Park** is Milwaukee’s premier indoor/outdoor soccer complex with 13 outdoor soccer fields, three indoor fields surfaced in AstroPlay turf, full food and beverage facilities, and locker rooms. Uihlein has played host to events like USA Ultimate Division 333 College Championship and State Wars Soccer, as well as many other tournaments and events.

**SCORe Soccer Complex** has over 40 natural grass fields and is the home of Racine United Soccer Club, and hosts the annual Lighthouse Classic Tournament, United Serbian Youth Soccer Tournament, Kick It! 3v3 Regional Tournament, and Milwaukee Wave Summer Camps.

The **Janesville Youth Sports Complex** is a 90-acre park facility providing the ideal location for The Rock Soccer Club to host its annual tournament. This tournament is U-9 through U-14 and is held May 12 and 13. The tournament brings in 50 teams from throughout the state as well as Illinois.

Wausau’s **Eastbay Sports Complex** is comprised of 15 irrigated fields including a lit championship field, plenty of parking, a concession building, playground and restrooms. This complex hosts the MC United Mountain Bay Cup annually on the first weekend in May.

**Volleyball**

Summertime is when outdoor volleyball shines in Wisconsin. **North Beach** in Racine is home to the annual EVP Volleyball Pro/Amateur/Juniors Tournament in June and the ROX Volleyball Tournaments in July.

For one weekend every year, **Brighton Acres** in Oshkosh hosts one of the largest grass volleyball tournaments in the country, the Waupaca Boatride Volleyball Tournament, July 13-15.

**Neshotah Beach** in Two Rivers, just outside of Manitowoc, will once again host the EVP Coolest Coast Pro AM Volleyball Tournament, July 20-22, 2018.
Baseball and Softball

Wisconsin boats some seriously home run baseball facilities. **Woodside Sports Complex** in the Wisconsin Dells is actually three facilities spread out across the Dells’ landscape, including the original complex with eight all-turf baseball/softball fields; a dome with room for 10 basketball courts and 16 volleyball courts plus a full soccer field outside; and the newest with six all-turf soccer/multipurpose fields and four all-turf baseball/softball fields. When you add it up, Woodside is the Midwest’s largest all-turf sports complex.

**Sunny Vale Softball Complex** in Wausau is a 71-acre recreation area that provides facilities for organized softball activities. The 5-diamond complex along with management by the Wausau Area Softball Association holds the Girls State B Softball tournament for ages 10U-18U annually.

**Steve J. Miller Park** in Marshfield has four top-notch fields including Hackman Stadium. New in 2018, the park will host the Badger State Games Baseball Championships in June.

**The Rock Sports Complex** in Franklin’s six fields are modeled after a major league diamond. The PBR Junior Future Series will be held at The Rock Sports Complex June 22-24, 2018 with PBR Scouting the event. PBR’s goal is to identify players to invite to the prestigious Junior Future Games.

Lacrosse

Centuries older than football or basketball, this sport has historic ties to the Native American culture of Wisconsin. Milwaukee’s **Uhlein Park** hosts lacrosse tournaments, and multi-use fields in Wisconsin Dells are also being booked for lacrosse. **Beloit College** in Beloit was an early adopter of the sport with field markings for both men’s and women’s competitions.

Rugby

While Wisconsin loves its football, rugby is making strides in the southern half of the state. Harborfest 7s Rugby Tournament, is hosted annually in June on the lakefront in **Kenosha** and to the west, **The Wisconsin Rugby Club** is a USA Rugby Men’s Rugby Union club with sides competing in Division 2 and Division 3.
Winter in Wisconsin may be cold, but there are plenty of ways for Wisconsinites to keep warm and get active in the winter months. We asked area sports gurus to name their best facilities tied to winter sports. Here are a few of the best winter sports facilities in the state:

**Curling**

Wisconsinite Matt Hamilton helped put curling on the map at the 2018 Winter Olympics. Here are some of Wisconsin’s best curling facilities:

**Madison** is home to one of the largest curling clubs in the country while the **Cornerstone Community Center** in Green Bay was host of the 2013 USA Curling National Championships.

The state-of-the-art **Wausau Curling Center**, completed in 2012, houses eight, fully Olympic specified curling sheets. The Wausau Curling Club, founded in 1920, is one of the nation’s oldest curling clubs. With over 500 adult members it’s one of the largest too!

**Skating and Hockey**

Ice aficionados of all sorts will find prime real estate in Wisconsin. The **Manitowoc Ice Center** offers a regulation ice skating rink, perfect for hockey and figure skating. Ice on 8th in Manitowoc takes place each February and features ice carving, broomball tournaments on an outdoor ice rink, figure skating, hockey demonstrations and more.

The **Pettit National Ice Center** in Milwaukee was the site of the US Olympic Long Track speed skating time trials in January 2018 and looks forward to continued growth as an elite site for national speed skating training.
Cross-country skiing and ski jumping

The Snowflake Ski Jump Complex in Westby consists of five jumps all located in the same area of beautiful Timber Coulee. The largest is a 118 meter Olympic-sized hill used for national and international competitions. The Large Hill Meet is held early each year in February and attracts not only U.S. ski jumpers but competitors from around the world.

For excellent downhill skiing, visit Standing Rocks County Park in Steven’s Point. Bring your own gear or rent some, before gaining speed on the two beginner hills, one intermediate hill and two expert hills. Snow making equipment is used at the park, making this park a perfect option, even if Mother Nature doesn’t hold up her end of the winter bargain. Waupaca’s Iola Winter Sports Club and Cascade Mountain Ski in the Wisconsin Dells are both excellent skiing options as well.

Fat Tire Biking

Fat tire biking is a sport only a few states can lay claim to. Wisconsin is one of them. The annual Badger State Games Fat Tire Bike takes place in January in Wausau, where participation has doubled each year since inception. There’s also the yearly Fat Bike Birkie, set for March 8-9, 2019 in Hayward and staged on the professionally groomed trails of the famous Birkebiner cross country ski competition. It’s the largest fat bike race in the world. The Afterglow Resort in Eagle River has trails primed for fat tire biking as well.

Tobogganing

While it isn’t quite the luge or a bobsled – tobogganing is definitely a speed sport. Rent a toboggan at the popular Iverson Winter Sports Area in Stevens Point and hit the chute for this fun activity that’s not available in many locations. Of course, if you’d prefer you can always bring your own sleds and hit the regular sledding hills in the park too.
Here are a few of Wisconsin’s seriously wildcard sports that should be lobbying to become Olympic events:

**Disc Golf**
Disc golf is played much like traditional golf. Instead of a ball and clubs, however, players use a flying disc or Frisbee. **Silver Creek Park** in Manitowoc is home to the 36 hole disc golf course along the coast of Lake Michigan. In 2018, Silver Creek Park will host Silver Cup July 7-8 for amateurs and July 13-15 for professionals.

**Pickleball**
Pickleball is becoming ever popular across the nation. This sport combines tennis, badminton, and table tennis. Stevens Point has several spaces available for pickleball play at SentryWorld after seeing an increased interest in the sport. In Eagle River, the **Eagle River Pickleball Association** plays at both indoor and outdoor courts, depending on the season. With beginner clinics and pickleball tournaments, there’s something for all levels of pickleball enthusiasts. Wausau is home to several pickleball courts as well, in **3M, Alexander, Forest, Marathon** and **Memorial Parks**.

**Water Skiing**
Janesville’s **The Rock Aqua Jays Stadium** in Traxler Park is a world-class venue for water ski tournaments. The Wisconsin State Water Ski Show Championship takes place in Wisconsin Rapids, July 19-22, 2018. Stay nice and dry on Red Sand Beach as you watch the largest water ski show tournament in the world. Wisconsin water ski teams gather to perform jaw dropping routines to win the top title.

**Cornhole**
This tailgate game has turned competitive, and in 2018 Marshfield will host the **4th Annual American Cornhole Organization (ACO) State Championships of Cornhole** June 1-2 with over 100 players in attendance.

**Krump-Pow**
Take a step back in time, with swordsmen and women from another era. Named “Krump-Pow” after a German sword-fighting technique, the 4th annual Krump-Pow Sword Festival in Appleton is hosted by the Wisconsin Historical Fencing Association October 5-7, 2018.