



# WISCONSIN SPORTS

## WISCONSIN SPORTS FACILITIES AND EVENTS ALMOST ALWAYS HAVE A TWIST

If you're wondering why Wisconsin isn't settling for middle of the road when it comes to sports, consider these theories:

- Four very distinct seasons require vast supplies of ingenuity when creating facilities and hosting events.
- The natural resources in Wisconsin are majestic and pristine and they're no longer under the radar.
- Winning Wisconsin-style typically includes food and drink.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

### Kristina LeVan

Wisconsin Department of Tourism  
608-266-0458; [klevan@travelwisconsin.com](mailto:klevan@travelwisconsin.com)

### Craig Trost

Wisconsin Department of Tourism  
608-267-3773; [ctrost@travelwisconsin.com](mailto:ctrost@travelwisconsin.com)

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*Ballpark Commons - Routine Field Rendering  
Photo Courtesy of Tredo Group*

## NEW SPORTS FACILITIES IN WISCONSIN

**Franklin:** Ballpark Commons opens late May, with more than 200 acres (including the existing Rock Sports Complex with its baseball fields modeled after major league diamonds) and featuring a 4,000-seat stadium, commercial and retail businesses, restaurants, residential apartments and various entertainment and active lifestyle features.

**Grand Chute:** Opening in fall 2019, Fox Cities Champion Center is a 164,000 square-foot indoor sports facility with a year-round ice rink with seating for up to 1,000, a fieldhouse with four basketball courts or eight volleyball courts, and a seasonal arena that can be an ice rink, four basketball courts or six volleyball courts. The facility will host events, community-based leagues, camps and clinics.

**Manitowoc:** Strand Adventures is an indoor adventure park featuring rock climbing, an obstacle course, batting cages, golf cages and an on-site crossfit gym. It's scheduled to open in May.

**Marshfield:** Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA Multi-Sport Complex opens in August. This new \$16 million facility includes three full-size basketball courts, volleyball, pickleball and soccer options and presents new opportunities for large tournaments to be hosted in the city.

**Stevens Point:** Standing Rocks County Park, a popular 524-acre park in the Stevens Point area, is adding to the park experience with the new Behnke-Olson Outdoor Recreation Center. The park is known for its difficult mountain biking trails and disc golf courses which play host to Midwest tournaments. It's also a popular cross-country running course.

**Ashwaubenon:** Capital Credit Union Park, located in Ashwaubenon and within walking distance of Lambeau Field, will host baseball and soccer events when completed in May. The park can seat up to 4,000 for sporting events and home to Northwoods League Green Bay Booyah baseball and Green Bay Voyageurs FC-USL League Two soccer.



Major League Fishing Tournament  
Photo Courtesy of Major League Fishing

**Madison:** Madison's new professional soccer team, the Madison Forward FC, takes to the newly improved and expanded field at historic Breese Stevens Field.

**Stevens Point:** Two very different facility renovations are taking place in Stevens Point. The first is turf, with Zenoff Park swapping out its sand infield for turf on three diamonds, allowing for play to resume more quickly after rain. Installation starts this fall and is slated for completion in November, with first play next spring. Indoors, renovation is already underway at the K.B. Willett Ice Arena, with completion planned for September. There will be a new refrigeration system and new boards and glass. The Willett is home of UW-Stevens Point Men's Hockey, Grand Masters Adult Hockey and Central Wisconsin Whitetails Women's Hockey Club.

**Eau Claire:** The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire will once again be able to host track meets at Simpson Field after an 18-year hiatus once construction updates wrap up this summer. Also at the university, the football field is being converted to turf. In other sports news here, the Eau Claire YMCA added a gymnastics area to its sports center, expanding tournament hosting capabilities.

## A BREATH OF FRESH AIR: OUTDOOR EVENTS IN WISCONSIN

**Racine:** The EVP Beach Sports Festival is taking place June 15-16 at North Beach on Lake Michigan in Racine, with two-person men's and women's volleyball teams competing in pro and amateur divisions. North Beach was the state's first beach to be designated as a Certified Blue Wave clean beach by the National Clean Beaches Council.

**Milwaukee:** The largest competitive road cycling series in the nation, Tour of America's Dairyland bike race, will run 11 straight days, June 20-30, and take cyclists through 11 different communities in southeast Wisconsin with pro and amateur athletes from 40 states and 15 countries participating.

**Eau Claire:** Rocks, roots, lightning fast ski trails and hard packed dirt await participants in the June 23 Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association (CORBA) annual Red Flint Firecracker race event.

**La Crosse:** The biggest names in the world of bass fishing will be converging in the La Crosse area this year when the community hosts the inaugural Major League Fishing's Bass Pro Tour Championship event, the Redcrest, Aug. 19-25 on the Mississippi River.



*USA Fencing North American Cup  
Photo Courtesy of VISIT Milwaukee*

## EVENTS BEING HOSTED IN WISCONSIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

**Wisconsin Dells:** 2019 YMCA Gymnastics National Championship, June 19-23, Woodside Wisconsin Dells Center, hosting more than 2,000 youth gymnasts from across the country.

**Madison:** USA Boxing National Junior Olympics, Youth Open & Prep National Championships, June 22-29, Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center, with next-gen boxers stepping into the ring for their shot at a title.

**Beloit:** North American Fastpitch Association (NAFA) Midwest Nationals Tournament, July 10-14; National Softball Association (NSA) Girls Fast Pitch B&C World Series, July 17-21.

**Two Rivers:** Wisconsin Beach Soccer Qualifier presented by Pro-Am Beach Soccer, July 13-14, Neshotah Beach, with more than 50 teams from across the Midwest participating for a place in the U.S. Beach Soccer National Championship.

**Stevens Point:** USGA Girls' Junior Championships, July 22-27, SentryWorld Golf Course, with a field of 156 competitors.

**Janesville:** LPGA Symetra Tour, the official qualifying tour of the LPGA, will be hosted Aug. 2-4, at the historic Janesville Country Club, featuring a 144-player field competing in a 54-hole stroke play format.

**Green Bay:** International Softball Congress World Tournament, Aug. 10-18, Denmark Memorial Park, featuring 36 teams from across the U.S. and Canada.

**Milwaukee:** USA Fencing November North American Cup, Nov. 8-11, the Wisconsin Center.

**Madison:** 2019 USA Track & Field National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships, Dec. 14, Yahara Hills Golf Course, with 3,000+ athletes competing.



*Sep Timber Ride  
Photo Courtesy of September Ride*

## WISCONSIN STYLE PRIZES AND REWARDS

**Racine:** It's all Kringle, all the time, in Racine. All the junior golfers at the American Junior Golf Association Preview, May 3-5, get a Kringle, Wisconsin's Official State Pastry. Kringles are also presented to the Pro Watercross winners at the July 13-14 event. The winners of the Wisconsin Senior Olympics' intergenerational Olympian 5K and 10K receive Kringles at the end of the August 10 race.

**Door County:** It's the 10th anniversary of the Crossroads Trail Run, Door County's first and only trail run, being held June 22. The Door County peninsula is famous for its cherry orchards and culinary treats, so how sweet that runners get to enjoy homemade ice cream and cherries post-event.

**Eagle River:** Vines and steins could easily be the theme for the Sep Timber Ride, Sept. 14. A 60K and 100K ride have been added for this year, with the route taking riders through country roads of Vilas and Oneida counties. There's also a 28-mile trail ride on Three Eagle Trail. At the midway point of all of the rides, participants sample wines at Three Lakes Winery. At the end of the ride they sample hand-crafted beers at Tribute Brewing Company and enjoy a brat picnic with all the fixings.

**Stevens Point:** The annual fall celebration known as Pointoberfest hosted by the Stevens Point Brewery includes a Blubber Run 5K. During the event, set for Sept. 21, those 21 and older take part in a real Beer Run, with a beer stop at the halfway point of this quick three-mile course. The race is limited to the first 500 participants.

**Madison:** The Humdinger 5K on Nov. 2 is a Wisconsin-themed 5K featuring brats, cheese curds and beer. It's Wisconsin, say no more!