



For Immediate Release

# 54<sup>th</sup> Annual AAU Junior Olympic Games Set for Summer 2020

*Expanded Sports Competitions Set to Attract Record Number of Athletes and Visitors*

**Norfolk, Virginia - February 18, 2020**—Just over five months from now, Hampton Roads will host the 54<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympic Games for boys and girls ages 4 -19. The 2020 games will infuse over \$50 million in economic impact to benefit the region.

The 11-day event, taking place from July 29 - August 8, 2020, is one of the largest youth amateur multi-sport events in the world with record numbers of athletes and visitors expected to participate in the 2020 AAU Junior Olympic Games. There is an expanded roster of sports competitions including baseball, basketball, beach volleyball, field hockey, swimming, track and field, and a dozen more hosted in sports venues throughout Hampton Roads.

“I’m thrilled Hampton Roads is hosting one of the biggest overall sporting events in Virginia in terms of participants again this summer, especially one that encourages healthy lifestyles in our youth,” said Claudell Clark, Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Sports Commission.

## **2020 AAU Junior Olympic Games: Bigger than Ever**

The 2020 AAU Junior Olympic Games will bring the Hampton Roads region together through athletics as events are spread from Newport News to Virginia Beach.

More than 40,000 total visitors are expected to travel to Hampton Roads this summer, many from out of state, including 17,000 athletes, 21,000 friends and family, and 2,000 coaches and trainers. Hotels and businesses throughout the region can expect the surge of more than 15,000 booked rooms, meals, and entertainment during the 11-day event.

This year's expanded roster includes 19 different competitive sports hosted in seven sports venues in Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The 2020 Games will be the 6<sup>th</sup> time this event has been hosted in Hampton Roads.

## Sports Venue Locations

**Chesapeake:** Taekwondo and Karate will be held at the Chesapeake Conference Center. Strength Sports at Greenbrier Middle School.

**Hampton:** Basketball competition will be held at the Boo Williams Sportsplex.

**Norfolk:** Track and field competitions will be held in the William "Dick" Price Stadium at Norfolk State University.

**Newport News:** Swimming competitions are slated for the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center.

**Virginia Beach:** Team events such as beach volleyball and baseball will be held at the Virginia Beach Fieldhouse and Princess Anne Athletic Complex respectively. Indoor events such as Sport Stacking, Wrestling, Trampoline & Tumbling, Baton Twirling, and Pickleball will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center and Field Hockey competitions are slated for the USA Regional Field Hockey Training Center.

"It's exciting because we've been working with all kinds of businesses in the area, even those outside our host cities, to explore ways to stand out and serve the needs of so many first-time guests," said Clark.

## 5 Ways to Get Involved In Junior Olympics this Summer

- 1) Welcome AAU participants to your business and the region.** Contact Hampton Roads Sports Commission to explore ways your business can stand out.
- 2) Become a sponsor.** Localities, businesses, and service organizations are sponsoring venues and services needed by athletes and more.
- 3) Volunteer.** The event will need more than 2,000 volunteers over 11 days. Seniors, sports enthusiasts, coaches, and high school students interested in earning community service hours are welcome.
- 4) Inspire your athlete by attending competitions.**
- 5) Stay Tuned.** For more information go to [www.AAUJuniorOlympicGames757.com](http://www.AAUJuniorOlympicGames757.com).



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### **About the Hampton Roads Sports Commission**

The Hampton Roads Sports Commission, an affiliate of the Hampton Roads Chamber, is committed to strategically attracting, creating, and hosting high caliber sports events while fostering city cohesiveness and enhancing the economy, image, and quality of life for the region. Since 1999, the Hampton Roads Sports Commission has generated more than \$227 million in economic benefit for the region. For more information visit [www.HamptonRoadsSports.org](http://www.HamptonRoadsSports.org).

### **About the 2020 AAU Junior Olympic Games**

For more information about the 2020 AAU Junior Olympic Games, visit [www.AAUJOGames757.com](http://www.AAUJOGames757.com). For more about sponsorships, contact Claudell Clark, Executive Director of Hampton Roads Sports Commission at 757-664-2576 or via email at [cclark@hrchamber.com](mailto:cclark@hrchamber.com).

### **About the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU)**

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) is one of the largest, non-profit, volunteer, multi-sport event organizations in the world, dedicated exclusively to the promotion and development of amateur sports and physical fitness programs. For more than 130 years, the AAU has set the standard for amateur sports in the U.S. The AAU Junior Olympic Games, the largest multi-sport event in the country.

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