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For Immediate Release

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**WEST MICHIGAN SPORTS COMMISSION
UPCOMING SPORTING EVENTS FOR APRIL 17-19, 2009**

Direct spending from sports tourism visible across the Greater Grand Rapids area over the next two weekends

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., April 14, 2009 – Over the course of two weekends this month, the Greater Grand Rapids area will play host to at least 10 major amateur sporting events. With events ranging from statewide boxing championships to national figure skating championships, the West Michigan Sports Commission estimates 10,000 athletes, fans and spectators will visit the area and contribute as much as \$1.8 million in direct spending to hotels, restaurants and businesses across Greater Grand Rapids. Listed below are specifics on the April 17-19, 2009 sporting events:

Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association – Sled Hockey Clinic:

The GRWSA will be hosting a Sled Hockey Clinic for adults with the purpose of forming a new adult sled hockey team to compliment the existing youth sled hockey program. The event will take place at Griff's Ice House - Belknap Arena (30 Coldbrook St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI) on Saturday April 18th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (noon). The clinic will be run by the Michigan Sled Dogs of Detroit. The clinic will be followed by a youth sled hockey tournament which includes local sled team the Sled Wings.

Michigan Golden Gloves Association – 2009 State Championships:

The 2009 Michigan Golden Gloves State Championships will be held April 17 & 18 at the National Guard Armory (1200 44th St SW, Wyoming, MI). Bouts will begin at 7:00 p.m. each day. Winners in the open-class of the Michigan State Championships will advance to the National Golden Gloves tournament of Champions (May 4-9) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

AAU Basketball – 2009 Storm Classic:

The 2009 Storm Classic Basketball Tournament will be held April 17-19 at six different sites utilizing 19 basketball courts. The tournament has capped the field at 121 teams. Cornerstone University (1001 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI) will serve as the headquarter venue for this tournament.

Grand Rapids Alliance FC Soccer – Boys Weekend:

The 7th Annual Midwest Spring Invite hosted by Alliance FC Soccer Club - boys weekend will be held April 18 & 19 at the Michigan Field Sports Complex (1800 Fallasburg Park Dr NE, Lowell, MI). The event is sanctioned by U.S. Club Soccer and includes international teams from Canada. Play begins Friday evening 4/17 at 6:30 p.m. with most games being played Saturday and Sunday.

For more specifics on any of the events listed above, please contact Eric Engelbarts, WMSC events manager, at 616-233-3563 or by email at eengelbarts@westmisports.com

About West Michigan Sports Commission

The West Michigan Sports Commission works to identify, secure and host a diverse level of youth and amateur sporting events to make a positive impact on the economy and quality of life in the region.

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