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For Immediate Release

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**WEST MICHIGAN SPORTS COMMISSION
UPCOMING SPORTING EVENTS FOR APRIL 24-26, 2009**

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

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., April 21, 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 24-26, 2009 sporting events:

United States Figure Skating Association - 2009 Adult National Championships:

The United States Figure Skating Association - 2009 Adult National Championships will be held April 22-25 at Patterson Ice Center (2550 Patterson Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI). The event will bring in 600+ competitors from all over the country. Tickets will be available to purchase Monday, April 20 at the Paterson Ice Center registration desk. Single day tickets include full-access to a single day of competition and are \$10 per ticket per day. All-access ticket packages include tickets for every day of competition and is a 60% saving over the single day tickets! All-access tickets are \$25 per ticket. The competition will begin Wednesday April 22 at 11:00 a.m.

Midwest Rugby Football Union - 2009 Midwest Collegiate / U23 All-Star & Club Regional Championships:

The Midwest Rugby Football Union - 2009 Midwest Collegiate / U23 All-Star & Club Regional Championships hosted by the Grand Rapids Gazelles Rugby Club will be held April 25 & 26 at Douglas Walker Park (1195 84th St SW, Byron Center, MI). Teams in 4 separate divisions will play throughout the weekend with a champion being crowned from each division. The divisions are: Division 2 Men's Midwest Championship, Division 3 Men's Midwest Championship, Men's College All-Star Championship, and Women's U-23 Championship. Saturday's games will be played from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Sunday's games will be played from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission is free and spectators are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets as there is no bleacher seating.

Grand Rapids Alliance FC Soccer – Girls Weekend:

The 7th Annual Midwest Spring Invite hosted by Alliance FC Soccer Club - girls weekend will be held April 25 & 26 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 4/24 at 6:00 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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