



## NEWS RELEASE

### Delaware Establishes State Sports Commission Governor Markell Launches First Ceremonial Pitch at Frawley Stadium

**Wilmington, Del.** (November 6, 2009) – A Delaware Sports Commission has been established to attract large and small sporting events to Delaware to benefit the sports industry and community and to positively impact Delaware’s economy. “The Delaware Sports Commission is committed to bid, recruit, and host regional and national sporting events at all levels of competition in the State for the purpose of utilizing sports facilities in the State, enhancing the economic development of the State, and promoting Delaware as a destination of amateur and professional sports,” said Linda Parkowski, Chairman of the Board.

Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, the Board of Directors is comprised of 23 prominent members of the sports industry and the hospitality industry. Additionally, there are advisory members and an Executive Director. The Delaware Sports Commission will recruit single-day and multi-day regional and national events and will also assist in the growth of existing sports events.

“There is a huge potential to positively impact Delaware’s economy both directly and indirectly through sporting events. For example, a World Series Little League Softball Tournament held annually in Sussex County, Delaware, involving 6,000 room nights generates 1.6 million dollars in accommodations. This does not include the overall economic impact of dollars spent for food, transportation, shopping, and miscellaneous expenses,” says Alan Levin, Director of the Delaware Economic Development Office.

Today, Governor Jack Markell officially launched the Delaware Sports Commission by throwing the first ceremonial pitch in front of a crowd of industry leaders and advocates at Frawley Stadium. “It doesn’t have to be the Super Bowl or the World Series for a sporting event to have a significant impact for our economy. There are hundreds of sporting events that are looking for a home each year that can be held at Delaware’s outstanding facilities.”

The Delaware Tourism Office, 99 Kings Highway in Dover, Del., a division of the Delaware Economic Development Office, promotes tourism and economic growth in Delaware. For more information, visit the official Delaware Tourism Website at [www.visitdelaware.com](http://www.visitdelaware.com) or call toll-free (866) 284-7483.

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For Immediate Release

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## **SPORTS COMMISSION FACT SHEET**

- The National Association of Sports Commissions (NASC) has more than 400 members throughout the country.
- Members of the NASC include organizations that attract sporting events to their community (i.e. sports commissions, convention and visitors bureaus, event owners, and vendors and suppliers to the sports event industry).
- The economic impact exceeds six (6) billion dollars per year.
- Most sporting events take place annually.
- Tournament trips become mini-vacations which help with our economic climate for families.
- Sports commissions benefit the community with economic impact through visitor spending, media exposure, and extended use of facilities.
- Events range from single-day regional events to multi-day national events.
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of all events available in the United States are participant-based events.
- A website for the Delaware Sports Commission has been established at [www.delawaresports.org](http://www.delawaresports.org).

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For more information, see the NASC website at <http://www.sportscommissions.org>.