



Facilities and Venues At a Glance

Ranging from multiple indoor and outdoor athletic facilities like Miracle Field at Olsen Park (which is accessible for wheelchair athletes), to the largest convention center on the North Carolina coast (which can host groups ranging up to 2,000 people), there are plenty of options for hosting sporting events in Wilmington. A sampling of other popular facilities and venues include:

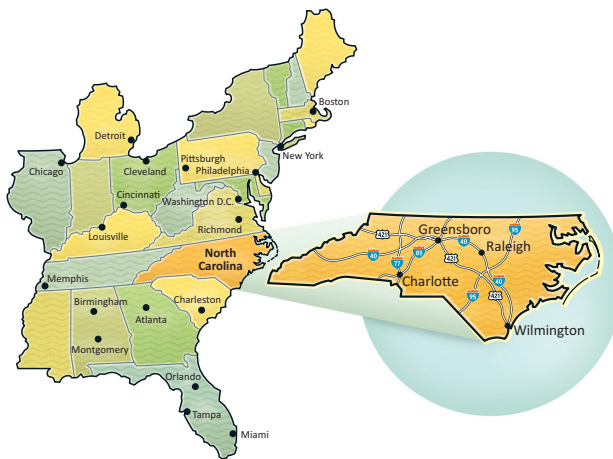
- Althea Gibson Tennis Complex
- Cape Fear Regional Soccer Complex
- Hugh MacRae Athletic Complex
- Legion Sports Complex
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Wilmington Ice House

Signature & Pro Sporting Events

Wilmington's hosted many diverse events filled with good times. Signature events include the PPD Beach2Battleship Iron Distance Triathlon (named one of the top five iron distance triathlons in the world by Triathlete Magazine), Seaside Soccer Classic and Quintiles Wrightsville Beach Marathon. A sampling of other events hosted or booked include the NC State Closed NTRP Hard Court Tennis Championships, Cape Fear Rugby 7's Tournament, Wells Fargo PGA Championship golf tournament, Carolina Cup Standup Paddleboard Race (named one of the world's five major standup paddleboard races by Australia's SUPracer.com), EVP Beach Volleyball Pro/Am Tour, and Sweetwater Pro/Am Surf Fest just to name a few.

North Carolina's Most Accessible Coastal Destination

It's convenient to get here no matter how you're traveling. By car, the major east/west interstate transportation artery I-40 leads directly to Wilmington, which is also served by U.S. highways 17, 74/76, 117 and 421. The area also features convenient access via the state's numerous interstate highways. Or by plane, the Wilmington International Airport (ILM) has direct flights from major hubs like New York City, D.C., Atlanta, Philadelphia and Charlotte.



Lodging and Accommodations

Wilmington and our island beaches provide a variety of accommodations for sports participants and spectators. The area has easy access to three island beach towns and is home to nearly 8,000 hotel rooms with unique settings ranging from the river to the sea.



WilmingtonNCSports.com
800-650-9064, ext. 124

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Sports Planning Guide



**Our coastal destination
and sports venues will have
them all cheering**

See Where the Water Takes You.

WilmingtonNCSports.com

When it comes to extraordinary settings and diverse sports venues, we're always game.

Thanks to good weather year-round and a setting that combines the city's historic charm, riverfront shops, cafés and entertainment with three nearby island beaches, Wilmington, NC has become a sought after destination for sports events planners. There's something for every athlete and outdoor enthusiast here. There are plenty of vacation opportunities to discover for competitors and spectators alike. Wilmington has a favorable climate boasting 212 days of sunshine annually, making it an ideal location for sporting events year-round.

Situated along the Cape Fear River, Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean, Wilmington is a water enthusiast's dream with endless opportunities for sports and recreation. In addition to a variety of watersports, Wilmington's venues and facilities are best suited for youth and amateur sporting events including soccer, softball, volleyball, rugby, baseball, basketball, tennis, triathlons marathons, and golf.



Everything you value for extraordinary events

A Distinctive Destination

- Our location, natural beauty, culture and history charm visitors
- Wilmington was voted America's Best Riverfront in USA TODAY's 10Best Readers' Choice travel awards
- Competitors and spectators can relax with their toes in the sand while taking advantage of Wilmington's proximity to three island beaches: Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach

Maximum Registration Potential

- Wilmington offers all the perks that come with a coastal destination, along with the conveniences and amenities of a big city
- Many groups max out their registration at sporting events held here, including the Seaside Soccer Classic and PPD Beach2Battleship Iron Distance Triathlon

Plenty to See & Do

- Wilmington's historic river district features more than 200 restaurants, shops and attractions in the downtown area alone, most of which are within walking distance
- Visitors can choose from a variety of tours including history and theme walking tours, trolley, horse-drawn carriage and Segway tours, kayak/canoe excursions, narrated cruises, behind-the-scenes film tours and culinary adventures
- The area hosts a wide variety of affordable festivals and special events throughout the year that may already be taking place during planned sporting events
- Some of the area's attractions are particularly well suited for visitors who want to 'get physical,' with activities like laser tag, climbing walls, go carts, miniature golf and more

Affordability

- Book off season event dates from November through March for the best savings
- The Wilmington and Beaches CVB can work with hotels to determine more affordable arrival/departure patterns

