## HAPPY VALLEY SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT A L L I A N C E

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## Happy Valley to host PIAA Spring Sport Championships Festival Four-year hosting commitment is a milestone for the region

State College, PA, June 8, 2023 – Happy Valley is gearing up to provide an unforgettable experience for more than 1,000 high-school student athletes, coaches and athletic administrators when it hosts the PIAA Spring Sport Championships Festival June 15-17.

"The Happy Valley Sports & Entertainment Alliance, and its Penn State University and Centre County partners are honored to host the Spring Sport Championships for the first time," said HVSEA Executive Director Eric Engelbarts. "This is a significant milestone for the region, one that will put Happy Valley hospitality on full display."

Over the course of three days, 36 high schools from across Pennsylvania will compete for state championships in five different sports: baseball, softball, boys' lacrosse; girls' lacrosse; and boys' volleyball.

"A spring sport festival has been something we've been discussing for a while, and thanks to the assistance of the Happy Valley Sports & Entertainment Alliance, Penn State Athletics and the State College Spikes, our inaugural spring festival has come to fruition," said PIAA Executive Director Dr. Robert A. Lombardi. "We are thankful to all involved and optimistic the community will show their support of these culminating PIAA championships."

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Engelbarts said the consolidated format would enhance the camaraderie among participants, creating a vibrant and electric atmosphere throughout the tournament.

"We invite the Centre County community and regional sports fans to support these athletes by attending the games and matches throughout the weekend," he said.

Penn State University and Happy Valley will host the PIAA Spring Sports Championships Festival through 2026.

"Hosting the Spring Sport Championships Festival further reflects our commitment to be a sought-after destination for marquee events and tournaments," Engelbarts said. "We look forward to celebrating the talent, determination and sportsmanship of Pennsylvania's finest high school student athletes, and hope the community will equally embrace the festival and visitors to the area over the festival weekend."

PIAA Spring Sport Championship Festival schedule:

- **PIAA Baseball Championships (June 15-16)** Medlar Field at Lubrano Park: Three games per day showcasing teams from each classification (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A).
- **PIAA Softball Championships (June 15-16)** Beard Field: Three games per day will feature teams from each classification (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A).
- **PIAA Boys' Lacrosse Championships (June 17)** Panzer Stadium: The best teams in the 2A and 3A classifications battle it out in two thrilling championship matches.
- **PIAA Girls' Lacrosse Championships (June 17)** Panzer Stadium: The top teams in the 2A and 3A classifications compete in two exciting championship games.
- PIAA Boys' Volleyball Championships (June 17) Rec Hall: Two matches will determine the champions in the 2A and 3A classifications.

For more information about the event, including schedules and ticketing details, visit <u>www.piaa.org</u>.

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