

# Proposal for Hosting the 2026–2027 TSSAA High School Softball State Championships

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## Submitted by:

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## Overview

Rutherford County is proud to submit this proposal to host the 2026–2027 TSSAA High School Softball State Championships. With a proven history of successfully hosting premier high school athletic events—including the TSSAA Spring Fling, Basketball, Bowling, Cheer and Dance, and Volleyball Championships, our community offers world-class facilities, a dedicated support team, and a welcoming environment for student-athletes, coaches, and fans.

**Murfreesboro Parks & Rec Field Available Dates:**      2026 Championships – May 11 – 23, 226  
2027 Championships – May 17 – 29, 2027

**MTSU Championship Field Available Dates:**              2026 Championships – May 18 – 23, 2026  
2027 Championships – May 17 – 29, 2027

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## Championship Format

- Classifications: DI 1A, DI 2A, DI 3A, DI 4A, DII A, and DII AA
  - Teams: 40 high school teams
  - Student-Athletes: Approximately 800
  - Games: Up to 74 games across six double-elimination brackets
  - Tournament Schedule:
    - Tuesday–Thursday: Preliminary rounds at McKnight Park / StarPlex Complex
    - Thursday–Friday: Championship games at MTSU Blue Raider Softball Field
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## Minimum Facility Requirements

- All fields meet or exceed TSSAA and NFHS Softball Rules Book specifications:
  - Regulation high school softball field dimensions
  - Lighting for evening games
  - Dedicated maintenance crews
  - On-site restrooms, concessions, dugouts, and warm-up areas
  - Designated areas for athletic trainers, EMS, and officials
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## Host Sites & Responsibilities

The Rutherford County CVB will partner with the City of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department to provide high-quality fields for the preliminary rounds at McKnight Park / StarPlex Complex. The Rutherford County CVB will assist with securing Cedar Stone Park in Smyrna, TN to utilize as backup fields in the event of inclement weather.

### McKnight Park / StarPlex Complex (Tuesday–Thursday) provides the following:

- 8 regulation-size softball fields with the capability to seat 200 spectators at each field
- On-site restrooms, concessions, shaded dugouts, athletic trainer access and warm-up areas
- Adequate police and security presence and crowd control plan
- Medical coverage
- Facility maintenance
- Ticket sales area
- Adequate parking for participants and spectators
- Hospitality capabilities
- Lighting on all fields for night play
- Location for officials to dress and meet
- A working area for TSSAA staff, media and other VIPs
- Internet capacity to livestream events on the NFHS Network, and for use by event staff and media
- StarPlex Field #1 with press box and bleacher seating
- Staff support from Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation
- Ample on-site parking with parking attendees and signage for wayfinding

The CVB will assist TSSAA in securing the **MTSU Softball Complex** at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to serve as the host for the championship games. This field seats 1,000 spectators. **TSSAA will contract directly with MTSU** and be responsible for all associated facility expenses.

- The university offers extensive athletic infrastructure and spectator amenities required for a successful championship.
- TSSAA: Responsible for parking staff and coordination of all parking at Middle Tennessee State University during the championship games.

Please see the attached MTSU proposal in regards to host responsibilities.

**The CVB will provide hotel room nights** for staff and officials, and hotel options for participating teams and spectators.

Event Support and Financial Commitment

- 1. **Cash Bid:** \$25,000 to support event expenses and production
- 2. **Complimentary Room Nights:** 60 complimentary room nights  
Valued at \$9,540 (based on a \$159 average nightly rate)
- 3. **Facility Coordination and Site Visits:** Assistance with site visits, planning, and logistics as requested by TSSAA
- 4. **Event Promotion:** Promote on social media and event calendars

Total Value of Proposal:

2026 Championships

Cash Bid Fee	\$	25,000
Room Nights	\$	9,540
Preliminary Round Facility Cost	\$	6,500
Preliminary Round Facility Maintenance/Staffing	\$	4,000
Championship Facility Fee	\$	3,000
Total	\$	48,040

2027 Championships

Cash Bid Fee	\$	25,000
Room Nights	\$	9,540
Preliminary Round Facility Cost	\$	6,500
Preliminary Round Facility Maintenance/Staffing	\$	4,000
Championship Facility Fee	\$	6,000
Total	\$	48,040

Hotel Availability

Rutherford County offers more than 5,700 hotel rooms across nationally recognized brands. The CVB will work closely with area hotels to secure room blocks and competitive group rates for athletes, officials, and visitors. New hotels opening in Murfreesboro in 2025 include Holiday Inn Express and TownePlace Suites by Marriott. The DoubleTree by Hilton in Murfreesboro is currently undergoing renovations.



## Support Staff

The Rutherford County CVB will provide dedicated staff support for hotel coordination and local logistics.

- McKnight Park: Staffed by Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation including attendants, maintenance, and safety personnel.
  - MTSU Softball Stadium: All stadium operations, security, and services will be coordinated by MTSU under contract with TSSAA.
  - TSSAA: Responsible for parking staff and coordination of all parking at Middle Tennessee State University during the championship games.
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## Additional Benefits

- **Central Location:** Situated in the heart of Tennessee, Murfreesboro is easily accessible for teams statewide.
  - **Experienced Host:** With extensive experience hosting TSSAA events, we provide consistency, reliability, and a seamless execution process; including hosting all previous Spring Fling events since 2006.
  - **Trusted Partner:** Our relationship with TSSAA is built on mutual trust, excellent execution, and a shared commitment to the student-athletes.
  - **Community Support:** Strong volunteer base and engaged local business community.
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## Facility Description

The **MTSU Softball Complex** meets all TSSAA requirements for the championship game and is equipped with professional-level amenities. The venue includes seating for 1,000 spectators, concessions, restrooms, medical coverage, and a full-service press box. McKnight Park / StarPlex Complex will also be equipped to ensure optimal game play.

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## Staffing and Operational Plans

Staffing and operational plans at MTSU’s Softball Complex will be managed as outlined in the contract between MTSU and TSSAA. The CVB will collaborate with TSSAA to coordinate with Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation for hosting the preliminary rounds.

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## Organizational Profile and Event Management Experience

The Rutherford County CVB has decades of experience supporting large-scale sports events. Our team has helped deliver seamless experiences for thousands of athletes and fans through TSSAA’s Basketball, Bowling, Volleyball, Cheer & Dance, and Spring Fling Championships.

In 2024, Rutherford County hosted the Major League Soccer (MLS) NEXT Cup, drawing 438 of the best youth teams from 128 clubs from across the U.S. and Canada to compete for the title of MLS NEXT Cup Champions. The knockout tournament was held from June 15-23 at Richard Siegel Soccer Complex in Murfreesboro. MLS Soccer NEXT Cup Playoffs and Showcase and the Rutherford County Convention and Visitors Bureau received a Sports Destination Management Champions in Economic Impact Award for hosting this landmark event. The tournament generated 8,199 contracted room nights with an estimated 5,000 additional rooms sold and had an economic boost of over \$4 million for our region.

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## Conclusion

The Rutherford County CVB is honored to submit this proposal to host the 2026–2027 TSSAA High School Softball State Championships. With premier facilities, outstanding hospitality, and an experienced local support team, we are confident in our ability to deliver a first-class tournament for TSSAA athletes and attendees. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with TSSAA and delivering another successful championship event in Rutherford County.

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## Contact Information

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