



Proposal for Hosting the 2026–2027 TSSAA High School Track & Field State Championships



Submitted by:

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Overview

Rutherford County is pleased to submit this proposal to host the 2026–2027 TSSAA High School Track & Field State Championships at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). As a trusted host of premier TSSAA events, including Spring Fling, Volleyball, Basketball, Bowling, and Cheer and Dance Championships, our community consistently delivers outstanding hospitality, professional execution, and robust support for student-athletes and fans.

The event will be held at MTSU's collegiate stadium, which meets all competition standards and offers central accessibility, ample seating, and necessary facilities for a top-tier championship experience.

Available Dates: 2026 Championships – May 18 – 23, 2026
 2027 Championships – May 17 – 29, 2027

Championship Format

- Events for five classifications: DI A, DI AA, DI AAA, DII A, and DII AA (boys and girls)
 - 276 participating schools in 2024
 - Over 1,800 student-athletes expected
 - 3-day championship format (not including Pentathlon & Decathlon)
 - Pentathlon & Decathlon to occur the week prior, involving 72 DI student-athletes
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Minimum Facility Requirements (All Met by MTSU)

- 8-lane track, each lane 42 inches wide, with proper NFHS markings
 - Simultaneous capability for two high jumps, long jump, triple jump, shot put, discus, and pole vault
 - Adequate lighting for evening competition
 - College stadium seating approximately 1,500 spectators
 - 16 boys and 16 girls qualifiers per event per day
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Host Site & Responsibility

The Rutherford County CVB will assist TSSAA in securing the Dean A. Hayes Track & Soccer Stadium at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to serve as the host for the Track & Field Championships. This venue seats 1,500.

- **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.
- Hotel room nights for staff and officials, and hotel options for participating teams and spectators
- 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.



Event Support and Financial Commitment

The Rutherford County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is proud to support this event through the following commitments:

- 1. **Cash Bid:** \$50,000 to support event expenses and production
- 2. **Hospitality:** 385 catered meals for TSSAA staff, officials, and media
- 3. **Room nights:** 100 complimentary room nights
Valued at approximately \$15,900 (based on a \$159 average nightly rate)
- 4. **Water:** 100 cases of water
- 5. **Coordination Support:** Assistance with site visits, planning, and logistics as requested by TSSAA
- 6. **Marketing & Promotion:** Promote on social media and event calendars

Total Value of Proposal:

2026 Championships

Cash Bid Fee	\$	50,000
Hospitality	\$	5,775
Room Nights	\$	15,900
Facility Fee	\$	2,100
Water	\$	400
Total	\$	74,175

2027 Championships

Cash Bid Fee	\$	50,000
Hospitality	\$	5,775
Room Nights	\$	15,900
Facility Fee	\$	4,200
Water	\$	400
Total	\$	76,275

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.

- Dean A. Hayes Track & Soccer 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.

Additional Benefits

- **Central Location:** Rutherford County is centrally located within Tennessee, ensuring equitable travel access for all schools.
 - **Experienced Team:** The CVB and MTSU bring extensive experience managing high-profile athletic events, including hosting all previous Spring Fling events since 2006.
 - **Strong Track Record:** Our continued partnership with TSSAA is built on professionalism, communication, and excellence in event execution.
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Facility Description

The Dean A. Hayes Track & Soccer Stadium meets all TSSAA requirements for the championship game and is equipped with professional-level amenities. This venue seats 1,500 with ample parking. The running surface features eight lanes measuring 42 inches each, which allows ample space for each competitor without feeling closed in by other runners. The infield features a long jump and triple jump runways, a pole vault runway, high jump area, shot put area and a discus cage.

Staffing and Operational Plans

Staffing and operational plans at MTSU's Hayes Track & Soccer Stadium will be managed as outlined in the contract between MTSU and TSSAA.

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.

Conclusion

Rutherford County and Middle Tennessee State University are honored to be considered for the 2026–2027 TSSAA High School Track & Field State Championships. We are confident in our ability to deliver a smooth, high-quality event that celebrates the accomplishments of Tennessee's top high school athletes.

Contact Information

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