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Three Competition Venues Announced for The World Games 2022

Birmingham CrossPlex, Legion Field and Boutwell Auditorium Join Protective Stadium

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (Feb. 2, 2021) – The World Games 2022 will put the best that Birmingham has to offer front and center to the countries across the globe. The announcement of three new competition venues for The World Games 2022 by The Birmingham Organizing Committee today showcased the city’s history and commitment to excellence front and center. Legion Field, Birmingham CrossPlex and Boutwell Auditorium, in addition to previously announced Protective Stadium, are four of the 25 official venues hosting an array of sports when The World Games 2022 commences in July of next year.

We’re excited to officially begin announcing our venues,” The World Games 2022 CEO Nick Sellers said. “These are four of the best places to enjoy sports in our community. And by July of 2022, we will finally be able to fill all of the seats in these beautiful venues again as we serve host to the first major international sporting event coming out of this pandemic. Each of these venues is a prime example of our city’s love of sports.”

Historic [Legion Field](#), the current home of University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers football, opened in 1927 and was named after the American Legion, an organization of American military veterans. Legion Field, seating 71,594, is no stranger to fierce competition, having hosted the Iron Bowl until 2000, the Magic City Classic, and each year of the Birmingham Bowl.

That football tradition will continue with The World Games 2022 when Legion Field plays host to [Flag Football @TWG2022](#) Presented by the NFL, featuring eight men’s teams and eight women’s teams.

Opened in April 2011, the [Birmingham CrossPlex](#) is a 750,000 square-foot multi-purpose athletic facility featuring a world-class indoor track, a 50-meter indoor Olympic swimming pool, a 5,000 square-foot meeting hall and the Bill Harris Arena, a 20,000 square-foot multipurpose space.

During The Games, spectators at the CrossPlex can enjoy several different competitions, including [Inline Hockey](#), [Artistic Roller Skating](#), [Speed Skating \(indoor and outdoor\)](#), [Wheelchair Rugby](#), [Lifesaving](#), [Finswimming](#), and [Canoe Polo](#).

[Boutwell Auditorium](#), a 5,000-seat multi-purpose arena, was constructed in 1924 and has hosted a wide-range of events, including concerts, sporting events, banquets, galas, trade shows and more.

Fans who make their way to Boutwell during The Games will see exciting martial arts action, including [Sumo](#), [Kickboxing](#) and [Muaythai](#).

[Protective Stadium](#) will serve as the host venue for the Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony of The World Games 2022.

The new \$180 million Protective Stadium, which is scheduled to be completed later this year, will have a seating capacity of 47,100 and will also be the permanent home of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers football team.

“Birmingham’s world-class, multi-sport CrossPlex and the historic Boutwell Auditorium are not only great venues, but key gathering places for our communities. These venues capture the spirit of The World Games 2022, providing opportunities for our international guests and the people of Birmingham to gather as one to celebrate athletic excellence,” Birmingham Mayor Randall L. Woodfin said. “The excitement will only build over the next 18 months as the world prepares to come to Birmingham.”

“Sustainability has always been one of the core values of The World Games, which is why the host cities are not required to build new venues for The Games,” said IWGA CEO Joachim Gassow. “Birmingham has excellent conditions for hosting international sports events, and these three venues, along with the new Protective Stadium and other impressive existing facilities, will be perfect stages for our world-class athletes.”

The World Games 2022 Birmingham will take place July 7-17, 2022 and will generate an estimated \$256 million in economic impact for the city.

ABOUT THE WORLD GAMES 2022

The World Games 2022 Birmingham will be an extraordinary Olympic-style sports experience where elite athletes from all over the world compete for gold in 34 unique, multi-disciplinary sports. Featuring 3,600 athletes from more than 100 countries, the international event will unite global fans with the Birmingham community in 25+ unique venues around the greater metropolitan area. The World Games 2022 Birmingham, which marks the 40th anniversary of the event, will take place from 7-17 July 2022 and will generate an estimated \$256 million in economic impact. The World Games was established by the International World Games Association, an organization recognized by the International Olympic Committee. For more information visit [TWG2022.com](https://www.twg2022.com) or find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).