



July 27th, 2026

Mayor Buffaloe and City Council
City of Columbia
710 E Broadway
Columbia MO, 65201

On behalf of the Columbia Sports Commission, this letter serves as the Commission's annual update on the activities and events it oversaw during the past year and highlights how its recommendations supported the Convention and Visitors Bureau's (CVB) sports tourism efforts.

The Columbia Sports Commission was established in January 2020 to make recommendations to the CVB Advisory Board regarding the use of Sports Development Funds (SDF) and to advise CVB staff on prospective sporting events. Through these efforts, the Commission continues to support the recruitment and retention of sporting events that generate tourism and economic impact for the community.

This past year, SDF funds approved by the Commission played a key role in supporting the 2025 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country National Championships at Gans Creek Recreation Area, co-hosted with Mizzou Athletics. Funding helped offset reimbursable event expenses submitted to the NCAA, as part of the CVB's financial commitment to host the championship. This investment builds on the success of hosting the 2024 NAIA Cross Country National Championship in partnership with Columbia College.

The commission also allocated SDF funds for the 2026 Missouri Middle School Basketball Championships, held in March 2026. This marked the second consecutive year the tournament was conducted over two weekends, a format that will continue in 2027.

Additional SDF funds supported extension bids for the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) Cross Country Championships and State Music Festival, as well as bids submitted by staff for the Boys and Girls State Wrestling Championships and State Basketball Championships. Funding also supported the Missouri Basketball Association's 2026 Sophie Cunningham Classic, State Coaches Clinic, and Norm Stewart Classic. The Commission continued its investment in sports tourism by supporting NXTPRO Sports tournaments in 2025 and 2026, securing bids to keep those events in Columbia through 2028, and providing funding for 1Movement Hoops' April 2026 tournament at the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse.



Tourism Development Community Sponsorship funds were awarded to support several events, including the CoMo Disc Golf Club's Mid America Open, Perfect Game's College Campus Series Rumble at the Zou softball tournament, the 2026 Missouri Homeschool Basketball State Championships, and the 2025 Wonder Women of Wrestling Foundation tournament.

The Sports Commission also reviewed an application from Mid Missouri Sports Park for Attraction Development funds through the Tourism Development Program to expand its facility by adding two additional hardwood courts, bringing its total to four. The expansion adds another facility that can support hardwood sports events and enhances Columbia's ability to attract regional and statewide events.

The Tourism Development Program continues to benefit the community by enabling the CVB to recruit and support sporting events that require competitive bids to select Columbia as their host destination. These events generate visitor spending that directly benefits local businesses and contributes to Columbia's economy.

On behalf of the Columbia Sports Commission, we thank you for your continued service, partnership, and support of Columbia's sports tourism industry and the CVB's Tourism Development Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Egan".

David Egan
Columbia Sports Commission, Interim Chair
Director of Athletics
Columbia Public Schools