

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTRODUCING THE CONNECT SPORTS TOURISM EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ATLANTA, April 27, 2017— Connect is pleased to announce it will recognize some of sports tourism’s most deserving individuals and most dynamic events at Connect Sports, Aug. 21-23 in New Orleans. “The Connect Sports Tourism Excellence Awards have been designed to recognize the best in our industry,” says Patrick Higgins, Connect’s vice president of Marketplaces. “These awards will celebrate specific types of events and the people and venues who ensure their success.” Among the notable categories is the Community Hero Award, honoring a volunteer who proved vital to an event’s success. Connect will cover all travel expenses for the winner to attend the event in New Orleans. “So many events rely on the critical support of volunteers, and it’s time they’re recognized and celebrated in front of the sporting events community,” says Higgins. Please join us in honoring the industry by submitting nominations in the following categories:

- Sporting Event Organizer of the Year (for-profit)
- Nonprofit Sporting Event Organizer of the Year
- Community Hero Award (Volunteer of the Year)
- Sports Supplier of the Year (excluding hotels)
- Hotel Professional of the Year
- Best Amateur Sporting Event of the Year
- LGBTQ Sporting Event of the Year
- Fastest-Growing Sporting Event
- Best New Sporting Event (first year)
- Best Homegrown Sporting Event (owned and operated by a DMO)
- Best Adult Sporting Event of the Year
- Sports Venue of the Year

Click [here](#) to submit nominations. Winners will be announced during the tailgate event, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Aug. 22, at Connect Sports. Click [here](#) for more information about Connect Sports, the industry’s leading event bringing together the best sports planners and suppliers.

ABOUT CONNECT

Connect is a leader in the meetings, events, travel and tourism industry. Specializing in destination marketing, the company produces digital programs, online and mobile solutions, meetings business and travel magazines, trade shows and consumer events, travel guides for newspapers and leisure magazines, and destination information, which is distributed through broadcast and custom programs. More information about the company's brands and services is available at connectmeetings.com.