

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



Submitted by:

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Overview

Rutherford County is proud to submit this proposal to host the 2026–2027 TSSAA High School Baseball 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.

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

Championship Format

- Classifications: DI 1A, DI 2A, DI 3A, DI 4A, DII A, DII AA
 - Participating Teams: 40 high school teams from across Tennessee
 - Student-Athletes: Approximately 800 student-athletes
 - Games: Up to 74 games played in a double-elimination bracket format
 - Event Duration: 4 days
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Minimum Facility Requirements

- Fields: Baseball fields that meet NFHS Baseball Rules Book dimensions
 - Lighting: Proper lighting for night games
 - Field Maintenance: Tarps and a comprehensive field maintenance plan to ensure optimal play conditions
 - Capacity: High-quality fields for preliminary games and a collegiate-level stadium for championship games
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Host Sites & Responsibilities

The Rutherford County CVB will assist TSSAA in securing 10 high-quality high school fields for the preliminary games. TSSAA will be responsible for providing host high school baseball sites with \$750 per day that their venue is utilized. High school venues will provide the following:

- Fields up to NFHS Baseball Rulebook standards
- Proper lighting
- Tarps
- Concessions stand
- Adequate police and security presence
- Medical coverage
- Facility maintenance
- Ticket sales area
- Adequate parking for participants and spectators, along with parking coordination and signage
- Hospitality capabilities
- Location for officials to dress and meet
- A working area for TSSAA staff, media and other VIPs
- Press box
- Internet capacity to livestream events on the NFHS Network and for use by TSSAA event staff and media
- Hotel room nights for staff and officials, and hotel options for participating teams and spectators

The CVB will assist TSSAA in securing Reese Smith Jr. Field at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to serve as the host for the championship games. This field seats 2,600 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

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 approximately \$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
Championship Facility Fee	\$	3,000
Total	\$	37,540

2027 Championships

Cash Bid Fee	\$	25,000
Room Nights	\$	9,540
Championship Facility Fee	\$	6,000
Total	\$	40,540

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 Convention and Visitors Bureau will provide additional assistance with hotel room bookings and other logistical needs during the event to ensure a smooth and successful tournament experience.

- High School Fields: Staffed by high schools, including attendants, maintenance, medical and safety personnel.
- MTSU Reece Smith Jr. Field: 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 in the state, making it easily accessible from all parts of Tennessee.
 - **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.
 - **Strong Partnership:** Our relationship with TSSAA is built on mutual trust, excellent execution, and a shared commitment to the student-athletes.
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Facility Description

Reese Smith Jr. Field at MTSU meets all TSSAA requirements for the championship game and is equipped with professional-level amenities. The venue includes seating for 2,600+ spectators, concessions, restrooms, medical coverage, and a full-service press box. The high school fields will also be equipped to ensure optimal game play.

Staffing and Operational Plans

Staffing and operational plans at MTSU's Reese Smith Field will be managed as outlined in the contract between MTSU and TSSAA. The CVB will collaborate with TSSAA to coordinate with local high schools hosting the preliminary rounds.

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

The Rutherford County Convention and Visitors Bureau is honored to submit this proposal to host the 2026–2027 TSSAA High School Baseball State Championships. We are confident in our ability to deliver a first-class event that will provide an exceptional experience for all participants and contribute to the continued success of Tennessee high school sports. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with TSSAA and delivering another successful championship event in Rutherford County.

Contact Information

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