



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2005

**Contact: Nick Gandy (850) 488- 8347
or ngandy@flasports.com**

TALLAHASSEE-- While the 26th Annual Florida Sunshine State Summer Games will be held in Broward County this year, seven other Florida communities will host Sunshine State competitions in 2005.

Kicking off the 2005 Calendar of Sunshine State Games events on April 22-24 is the three-day Cheerleading and Dance State Championships. Cheerleading and Dance teams will compete for the title of Florida's official State Champions. The competition will be held in Tampa, hosted by the University of Tampa, at the Bob Martinez Sports Center.

Florida's Sunshine State Games Sport Shooting Championships will be held over a 5-week period (April 23-May 22) at four locations offering competition in 18 shooting disciplines. Competition locations include the Central Florida Rifle & Pistol Club, Hernado Sportsman's Club, Port Malabar Rifle & Pistol Club, and Chuluota Sportsmen's Club.

The Sunshine State Games Figure Skating Festival will be held at Incredible Ice in Coral Springs, May 13-15. The Sunshine State Games figure skating competition annually hosts 300 of Florida's finest amateur figure skaters.

The three-day event will be held on two ice rinks simultaneously. Incredible Ice is a state-of-the-art, 75,000 square foot, twin ice skating and entertainment facility and serves as Official Home of the Florida Panthers. Visiting NHL teams also practice at Incredible Ice.

The Palace in Lantana, will host the Sunshine State Games Artistic Roller-Skating, an event for all ages, held Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day Weekend. May 29-30.

The 26th Annual 2005 Summer Games will be held in Broward County, June 15-19th, with competition in 25 sports. The Broward County-hosted Games in 2005 provide a central location in Fort Lauderdale featuring competition in areas around the city such as Cooper City, Coral Springs, Plantation and Sunrise. Over 8,000 athletes are expected to compete over the course of the five days.

Over the years, Florida amateur athletes have made their way to Olympic competition through the Sunshine State Games. Some of the more recognizable names include Roy Jones, Jr. and Antonio Tarver (Boxing), Brandy Johnson (Gymnastics), Nicole Haislett, Nancy Hogshead, and Brooke Bennett (Swimming). Former Sunshine State Games athletes Ryan Lochte of Daytona Beach (Swimming), Hunter Kemper of Longwood (Triathlon), Jearl Miles-Clark of Gainesville (Track & Field) and Brian Olson of Tallahassee (Judo), were medal winners at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Later in the month of June, the Sunshine State Games Basketball Festival returns to Gainesville, June 24-26th, with competition in the boys and girl's junior varsity and varsity divisions. The Festival annually features top high school talent from around the state including all state selections and FHSAA State Tournament Final Four participants. The 2005 Festival features a date change from July to June and a format change to a "camp style" tournament with three days of competition and a guarantee of seven games for each team. On Sunday, teams will be divided into divisions for a single-elimination tournament.

The Sunshine State Games are part of the National Congress of State Games that boasts competition in over 40 state games throughout the nation.

For more information on this Olympic-style sports festival for athletes of all ages and skill levels, please check www.flasports.com for registration information or call toll-free 1-866-FL-GAMES (354-2637)

FLORIDA SPORTS FOUNDATION 2005 EVENT SCHEDULE

April 22-24, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games Cheerleading and Dance State Championships
University of Tampa, Bob Martinez Sports Center

April 23 - May 22, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games Sport Shooting Championships

Central Florida Rifle & Pistol Club

April 23 - IPSC; April 30 - IPSC 3 Gun Match; April 30 - Smallbore Rifle Silhouette; May 1 - IDPA; May 7 - 8 - Smallbore Conventional Prone; May 8 - Cowboy Match; May 14 - Smallbore Rifle Three Position; May 14 - International Air Rifle; May 14 - Sporter Air Rifle Three Position; May 15 - Muzzle Loading; May 21 - 300 Meter High Power Prone; May 22 - John C. Garand Match; May 22 - CMP High Power

Hernado Sportsmans Club

April 23 - International Pistol; April 24 - Conventional Pistol 2700

Port Malabar Rifle & Pistol Club

April 30 - Long Range High Power Rifle; May 1 - Conventional High Power Rifle; May 21 - Air Pistol Silhouette

Chuluota Sportsmen's Club

May 8 - Hunter's Pistol Silhouette

May 13-15, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games Figure Skating Championships
Incredible Ice, Coral Springs, Florida

May 29-30, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games Artistic Roller-skating
The Palace – Lantana, Florida

June 15-19, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games
Broward County, Florida

Sports offered: Archery * Badminton * Baseball * Basketball * Bowling * Boxing * Canoe/Kayak *
Fencing * Inline Hockey * Judo * Karate * Racquetball * Rowing * Rugby * Soccer – Adult * Softball (Fast
& Slow) * Swimming * Synchronized Swimming * Taekwondo * Track & Field (Open & Youth) * Water
Polo * Weightlifting * Wrestling

June 24-26, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games Basketball Festival
Gainesville, Florida

November 12-13, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games – Flag Football State Championships
Location - TBD

2005 State Ranking Tournament Schedule: August 13-14, August 27-28, September 10-11, September 24-
25, October 8-9, October 22-23

December 3 – 11, 2005

Florida Senior Games State Championships
The Villages, Florida

Sports offered: Archery * Badminton * Basketball 3 on 3 * Basketball Shooting * Billiards * Bowling *
Bridge * Cribbage * Cycling * Golf * Horseshoes * Lawn Bowling * Pickleball * Race Walk * Racquetball
* 5K Road Race * Shooting * Shuffleboard * Softball * Swimming * Table Tennis * Tennis * Track &
Field * Volleyball