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LHSAA Announces Site Changes for Three Sugar Bowl LHSAA State Championship Events Beginning in 2026-2027

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) has announced venue changes for three Sugar Bowl LHSAA State Championship events beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year. Boys' Basketball, Powerlifting, and Wrestling will all move to new host sites as the association continues its commitment to providing first-class championship experiences for Louisiana student-athletes, coaches, schools, and fans.

Sugar Bowl LHSAA Boys' Basketball State Championships Headed to the CAJUNDOME

The Sugar Bowl LHSAA Boys' Basketball State Championships, commonly known as "Marsh Madness," will relocate to the CAJUNDOME in Lafayette on the campus of the University of Louisiana beginning in March 2027.

The tournament has been held at Burton Coliseum in Lake Charles since 2014 and will return to the CAJUNDOME for the first time since 2011.

The move brings Louisiana's premier high school basketball event to one of the state's most recognizable basketball venues. Home to University of Louisiana men's and women's basketball, the CAJUNDOME annually hosts Division I competition and has undergone significant renovations in recent years, enhancing the fan experience while providing a modern championship atmosphere.

Located in the heart of Louisiana, the CAJUNDOME offers a centralized location for schools and fans traveling from every corner of the state while providing the amenities and capacity necessary to elevate the championship experience.

“Moving Marsh Madness back to the CAJUNDOME marks an exciting new chapter for our boys’ basketball state championships and reinforces our commitment to delivering a premier experience for student-athletes, schools, and fans across Louisiana,” said LHSAA Assistant Executive Director and Director of Basketball Karen Hoyt.

“At the same time, we will always be grateful to Visit Lake Charles, Burton Coliseum, and the entire Lake Charles community for hosting our boys’ basketball state championships for more than a decade. They played a tremendous role in helping Marsh Madness become the event it is today. Their hospitality, professionalism, and unwavering support created a first-class experience for our student-athletes, coaches, schools, and fans year after year. Lake Charles was a fantastic host and a wonderful home for our championships, and we sincerely appreciate everything they have done for Louisiana high school basketball.”

Sugar Bowl LHSAA Powerlifting State Championships Moving to West Monroe

LHSAA... Beyond the Game

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The Sugar Bowl LHSAA Powerlifting State Championships will move to the West Monroe Sports & Events Complex beginning in 2027.

One of the fastest-growing sports in Louisiana, powerlifting, has experienced tremendous growth in participation and competitive opportunities across the state. The expansive space available inside the West Monroe Sports & Events Complex will provide ample room for the platforms, equipment, warm-up areas, spectators, and operational needs required to host the four-day championship event.

The championship is relocating after spending the past two years at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner.

“We are excited to host our powerlifting championships in the Monroe – West Monroe community,” said Lee Sanders, LHSAA Assistant Executive Director and Director of Powerlifting.

“The West Monroe Sports and Events venue is a state-of-the-art facility that will support an incredible championship atmosphere for our student-athletes and member schools.”

Sugar Bowl LHSAA State Wrestling Championships Returning to the New Orleans Area

The Sugar Bowl LHSAA State Wrestling Championships will move from Brookshire Grocery Arena in Bossier City to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans beginning with the 2027 championships scheduled for February 13-14, 2027.

The move marks a return to the New Orleans region for Louisiana's premier wrestling event after several years in northwest Louisiana. The Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, one of the largest convention facilities in the United States, will provide a unique championship environment capable of accommodating multiple competition mats, crowds, and the continued growth of the sport.

The event is expected to generate a high-energy atmosphere while improving accessibility for a significant portion of the state's wrestling community. The championships will continue to crown individual and team champions across Boys' Divisions as well as the rapidly growing Girls' Division.

“As we evaluated the future of the LHSAA Wrestling State Championships, one message was consistently expressed by our coaches: a desire to provide our student-athletes with a new championship experience,” said Adam MacDowell, LHSAA Assistant Executive Director and Director of Wrestling.

“After careful consideration and feedback from our wrestling community, we believe moving the state tournament to New Orleans will create exciting new opportunities and continue the growth of our sport. At the same time, we want to sincerely thank the

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Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission for their outstanding partnership over the past four years. Their commitment, professionalism, and attention to detail helped create a first-class championship environment for our wrestlers, coaches, and families. The support they provided was instrumental in the success of our state tournament, and we are extremely grateful for everything they have done to showcase high school wrestling in Louisiana. We are excited about this new chapter in New Orleans and looking forward to this new experience for our wrestling community.”

Looking Ahead

These venue changes reflect the LHSAA's continued commitment to enhancing championship events and providing memorable experiences for Louisiana student-athletes. Through partnerships with premier facilities across the state, the association aims to elevate the presentation, accessibility, and overall experience of its championship events while supporting the continued growth of educational athletics.

The site changes also align with the LHSAA's new championship title sponsorship agreement with the Sugar Bowl. As the title sponsor of LHSAA State Championships, the Sugar Bowl has demonstrated a strong commitment to investing in and elevating educational athletics throughout Louisiana. The partnership is focused on enhancing the championship experience for student-athletes, schools, and fans through improved venues, expanded event presentation, and increased statewide visibility for high school athletics.

"The Sugar Bowl has a long-standing tradition of supporting amateur and scholastic athletics across Louisiana," said LHSAA Executive Director Eddie Bonine. "Their commitment to helping us elevate our state championship events allows us to provide an even greater experience for the thousands of student-athletes who compete for a state title each year. These venue enhancements are an example of the exciting opportunities this partnership will create for the future of LHSAA championships."

About the LHSAA

The Louisiana High School Athletic Association is a voluntary association of member schools that governs and promotes interscholastic athletic competition for Louisiana high school students while emphasizing sportsmanship, integrity, and educational excellence.

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