

# Friends of Fairfax County Indoor Track



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FOFC Indoor Track

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# **GOALS**

- 1. Promote prioritization of an Indoor Track Facility among new sports facilities being considered for Fairfax County**
- 2. Inform Fairfax County residents of the current status of new sports facilities being considered by Fairfax County**
- 3. Encourage awareness and support by parents of FCPS high school winter and spring track team members**
- 4. Encourage awareness and support by local youth athletic clubs & adult athletic clubs and their members' families**

## **CURRENT SITUATION SUMMARY Spring 2023**

- \* The 'Final Report of the Fairfax County Sports Tourism Task Force' was released in August 2020 (331 pages).
- \* The report produced a prioritized list of sports facility projects for Fairfax County, of which a new Indoor Track Facility is one of the top priorities. The recommended governance/operating model for an indoor track facility was 'publicly-owned, privately managed'.
- \* As of spring 2023 the county is reportedly working on a process to solicit public/private partnership proposals for the recommended sports facilities.
- \* The 'Final Report' focused much of its Indoor Track analysis on a combined Indoor Court & Track Complex. (The suggested configuration included, in addition to the indoor track, 12 full-sized courts targeted to basketball, volleyball and/or indoor turf.)

# **Reasons to prioritize an Indoor Track Facility**

**1. Among the recommended new athletic facilities in the 'Final Report', the only facility type that currently has NO similar facility available in Fairfax County for general, community, or FCPS use is an Indoor Track.**

**(The Indoor Track at GMU is not available for community or FCPS use. There is also a nearby Indoor Track at TJ Recreation Center in Alexandria, but it is more of a recreation-type track and is not of sufficient quality for high school/college/open competition-level events. The 'Indoor Tracks' at Franconia and Spring Hill Recreation Centers are small jogging/walking tracks not suitable for competition)**

## Reasons to prioritize an Indoor Track Facility

2. It is noteworthy that the only competition-level Indoor Track in the DC area that is used for youth, school, college, open, and masters competitions is at the Prince Georges County Sports and Learning Complex (PG Sportsplex) in Maryland (adjacent to FedEx Field)

3. A recent series of low-key all-comers meets at the PG Sportsplex Indoor Track in January and February of 2023 drew more than 1,000 competitors of all ages, primarily youth, to each track meet.

4. On 2/25/2023 a well-organized all-comers meet at the PG Sportsplex Indoor Track drew more than 2000 competitors of all ages, primarily youth, from throughout the region. A single event, among the many other events at that track meet, drew 900 competitors (the 200m event). Not surprisingly, the Feb. 25th meet turnout was overwhelming for the facility and organizers, with the meet going from 8am until past 9pm at night.

## **Reasons to prioritize an Indoor Track Facility**

**5. Clearly there is a great demand for opportunities to participate in Indoor Track and Field, a demand that is currently far from being met in the DC region including, of course, Fairfax County.**

**6. An Indoor Track Facility in Fairfax County would reduce the need for school athletes and residents to leave Fairfax County for sports activities, and reduce the associated expenses for the schools as well as the parents.**

**7. All 23 FCPS middle schools will be initiating fall cross-country and spring track as interscholastic sports in Fall 2023. This will undoubtedly increase interest from athletes and their parents in having an Indoor Track facility in Fairfax County.**

# Reasons to prioritize an Indoor Track Facility

8. Examples of level of interest in participating in indoor track competitions at a national or international level:

Masters Track and Field (age 35 and up) competitions:

a) The annual USATF National Masters Indoor Championships in March of each year often draws 1,000 competitors or more (who travel from throughout the USA and some from overseas).

Attendance is significantly higher when the event is located at a major city and transportation nexus like NYC or Washington DC.

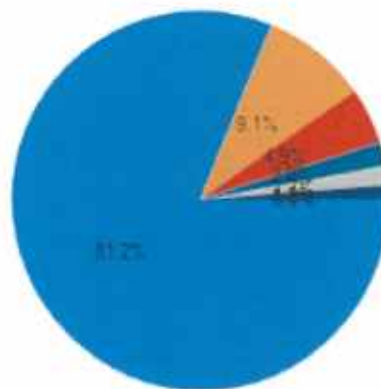
b) The semi-annual World Masters Indoor Championships which, for the 2023 event (3/26/23 - 4/1/23), has more than 4,000 registered competitors from 89 countries. (see graphics next slide)

# 2023 World Masters Indoor Track Championships

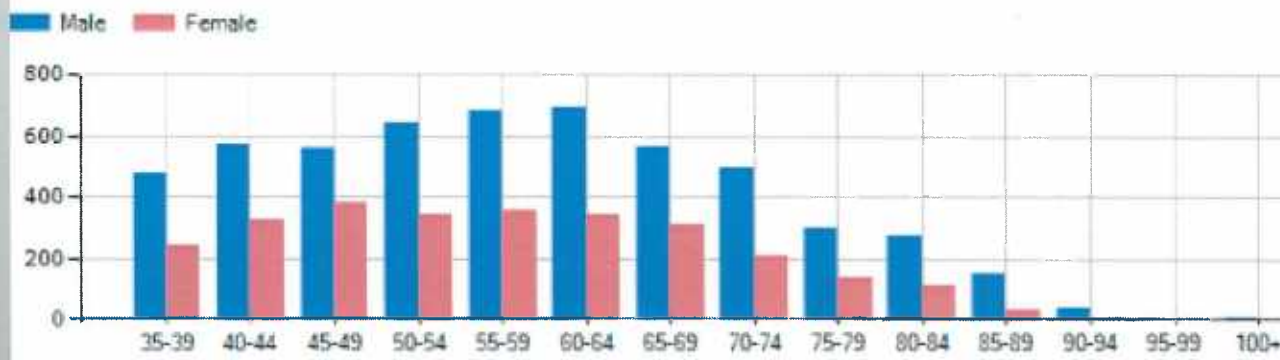
4100+ registrants 90 countries Held every 2 years

## Registrants by Region

Color	Region	Count
Blue	Europe	3365
Orange	North, Central America and Caribbean	376
Red	Asia	201
Dark Blue	Africa	82
Light Blue	South America	69
Dark Blue	Oceania	49
Yellow	Unknown	1



## Registrations by Division





## **Reasons to prioritize an Indoor Track Facility**

**9. Each of the competitors in the previously-mentioned events also, of course, often travels with parents, family, coaches, and others - meaning that total event attendance is multiples of the number of competitors.**

**10. Examples of State or National Level Track and Field Events that are attracted to high-quality Indoor Track Facilities:**

**Already scheduled at the new Virginia Beach Indoor Track Facility:**

- \* 2023 Adidas High School T&F Nationals**
- \* 2023 Virginia High School Class 5/6 T&F Championships**
- \* 2023 D2 NCAA Indoor T&F Championships**
- \* 2024 D3 NCAA Indoor T&F Championships**
- \* 2025 D1 NCAA Indoor T&F Championships**
- \* 2026 D2 NCAA Indoor T&F Championships**

## **Reasons to prioritize an Indoor Track Facility**

**11. A large Indoor Track Facility could also hold high school graduations which are currently mostly held at GMU's Eagle Bank Arena (18 schools) and DAR Constitution Hall (4 schools) at a cost approaching \$500,000 per year.**

**12. Additional reasons, as mentioned in the Task Force update of 2022:**

- \* Enhanced sports and recreation opportunities for local youth and adults.**
- \* Improved wellness and other health outcomes for community members.**
- \* Enhanced community pride, self-image, exposure and reputation.**
- \* Enhanced regional/national exposure.**