



## SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2025.** Please include this submission form as the first page of your electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Chesterfield County

Program Title: Chesterfield Sports Hall of Fame

Program Category: Customer Service & Community Outreach

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: J.C. Poma

Title: Executive Director

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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: J.C. Poma

Title: Executive Director of Sports, Visitation & Entertainment

Signature: J.C. Poma

Title: Chesterfield Sports Hall of Fame

Category – Customer Service & Community Outreach

### **Executive Summary**

The Chesterfield Sports Hall of Fame was created to recognize and highlight those who have contributed to Chesterfield's deep sports history and have brought a positive reflection on Chesterfield County by demonstrating integrity and sportsmanship throughout their lifetime. It also represents the profound power of sports and our deep commitment to engaging with our community through a powerful grassroots program and inspiring the next generation of athletes in our growing and diverse community.

With over 40 community nominations in year one, the inaugural recognition banquet for the class of ten inductees was held on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024 at the Perkinson Center for the Arts and Education. The Sports Hall of Fame wall also debuted at the County's premier sports facility, River City Sportsplex, on the day of the banquet. For more information, visit [www.ChesterfieldSportsHOF.com](http://www.ChesterfieldSportsHOF.com).

### **Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced**

Chesterfield has a deep sports history that today's generation hardly knows existed on our athletic fields, courts, etc. In a media landscape where stories used to be told publicly on a weekly, daily, and as needed basis, today's highlights are largely focused on short clips and features that may appear on social media. They quite simply rarely story tell or look backwards. This is where we feel our role as a government comes into play. Like the establishment of our Constituent and Media Services Department who brings information and resources to our constituents through government resources, we feel it is our responsibility to pay tribute to those who came before us and help inspire today's athletes through a Hall of Fame community engagement program.

In 2023, shortly after creating the Sports, Visitation, & Entertainment Department, we launched a brand called *Play Chesterfield*. While the brand was also created to help showcase Chesterfield as a national sports tourism destination and bring national events to our community, it also gave us the ability to partner with our public school system and private partners to promote athletics in a much broader manner than our Parks & Recreation Department does with local leagues and associations. *Play Chesterfield*, as a story-telling brand, inspires and engages on social media, was the basis for the creation of a weekly radio show highlighting athletic stories at each of our high schools, and ultimately led to the inaugural Chesterfield Sports Hall of Fame. This brand gives is the ability to story-tell today's athletes and bring forward those stories that will help engage and inspire at the grassroots level here in Chesterfield County.

### **Fulfillment**

The Chesterfield Sports Hall of Fame was announced publicly in May 2024 with a press conference on the site of what would soon develop into the Sports Hall of Fame wall at River City Sportsplex.

Nominations were open from the public announcement until July 1, 2024 through a public nomination process. Important criteria include:

- The accomplishment a nominee is being nominated for must have taken place in Chesterfield. Nominees must demonstrate substantial ties to Chesterfield County (i.e. educated within Chesterfield, long-term resident, etc.).
- Nominees must have had a positive impact on the sports culture in Chesterfield and brought a positive reflection on Chesterfield through their career accomplishments.
- Nominees must have demonstrated integrity throughout their lifetime and in their sports contributions.
- Athlete and Coach nominees must be retired from the sport in which they are being nominated.
- Sports Contributor nominees (athletic trainers, media members, etc.) are eligible based on service to the community and need not be retired.
- Nominations are valid for five years. Any nominee that has not been selected for induction to the Sports Hall of Fame will be removed from the nominee list after five years from the original nomination date and will need to be nominated again for induction consideration.

A review committee selected an inaugural class of ten inductees. While future classes are expected to be smaller, this first class had to shine, and we were thrilled to see such vibrant participation.

The Hall of Fame wall was constructed between July and September 2024 and debuted on the same day as the banquet held at a local art institute. Tickets and sponsorships were sold to offset costs, and significant planning went into the custom award, emcee, run of show, a featured sports nonprofit segment, food/beverage etc. It was a night for Chesterfield to shine and did it ever shine and showcase Chesterfield as a community of champions and a place where the healthy values of sports are lived every day.

[Link - Sports Hall of Fame will highlight those who contrib](#)

[Link - Chesterfield Sports Hall of Fame Announces Inaugural](#)

## **Cost and Funding**

Costs for the Chesterfield Sports Hall of Fame really should be broken down into two segments. Initial costs were largely start-up related as it cost around \$25,000 to construct the Hall of Fame wall at River City Sportsplex. That was a one-time cost. Reoccurring costs include a small \$500 or so annual cost to add each year's class of inductees to the Hall of Fame wall and then costs related to the Hall of Fame banquet. Chesterfield received just over \$10,000 in sponsors and ticket revenue to offset 2/3 of expenses of the inaugural banquet. This signature gala, style banquet's net cost was around \$5,000 and was funded out of the Sports, Visitation, and Entertainment's budget that comes from excess lodging tax and did not cost the taxpayer a dime.

## **Results**

The Chesterfield Sports Hall of Fame very quickly came to life. With over 40 community nominations, narrowing down to an inaugural class of 10 inductees was quite difficult. More importantly, the role of Chesterfield County in starting the Sports Hall of Fame really resonated with almost every major media outlet in Richmond covering the announcement and establishment of the Hall of Fame. Further, two local sports radio shows also did segments debating and taking calls for who should be inducted in the inaugural class.

Close to 250 attendees and 10 sponsors helped offset around two-thirds of the costs and guests were treated to an evening unlike any other special event in Chesterfield County's history.

In addition to the Sports Hall of Fame inductions, the inaugural event included the presentation of four C-Fit Community Grants, sponsored by Alexander's Landscaping, to the following organizations:

- Virginia Down Syndrome Association (\$2,000)
- Chesterfield Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry (\$1,500)
- Little Hands Virginia (\$1,000)
- Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center (\$1,000)

Chesterfield also presented a check for \$2,000 to Hunter Leemon, CEO of Sportable, Central Virginia's premier adaptive sports club. Sportable provides sporting opportunities to more than 400 athletes with disabilities annually by offering a variety of competitive and recreational adaptive sports programs.

For a video recap – please visit - [Inaugural Chesterfield Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2024 Ceremony. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQsCWk\\_9BT8&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQsCWk_9BT8&t=2s)

[Link - Inaugural class inducted into Chesterfield Sports Ha](#)









