

The New England States

New England is known for its rich history and natural beauty, and event planners can find a variety of venues for every sport

By Zachary Chouteau

New England offers a wealth of diversity. Whether you're planning for fall amid the foliage, springtime golf or even beach volleyball, these states provide ideal settings for your events.

Boston: Capital Choice

The unofficial capital of New England combines a long list of venues with a population hungry for sports, as well as an array of attractions from historical icons such as the Old North Church to a thriving restaurant scene and vibrant performing arts.

The Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau touts its focus on creating winning scenarios with event organizers. "What distinguishes Boston is the great partnerships the Boston CVB has created to go after sports-related meetings and events," said Pat Moscaritolo, the CVB's president and CEO. "We have worked closely with our colleges, professional sports teams, state and local officials, and our visitor industry stakeholders to bring events such as the women's Final Four, the NCAA lacrosse championships, the NCAA Frozen Four, the NCAA regional championships, U.S. figure skating championships and U.S. gymnastic trials to Boston."

Moscaritolo says the effort got started in 1994 when Boston was designated one of the nine U.S. cities to host the World Cup, and it continues now. "We are working with the Kraft family and Gillette Stadium once again in bidding on the World Cup 2018/2022 as part of the bid for bringing the World Cup back to the U.S.," he said.

The NHL's Boston Bruins play home games at TD Garden. The 19,580-seat venue also hosts the NBA's Boston Celtics and the Boston Blazers of the National Lacrosse League.



Brian Bahncrau/NHL via Getty Images



Photo: Pen Tennis

The Pilot Pen Tennis tournament—part of the ATP World Tour 250 series—has been played in New Haven since 1998. Matches are played on the outdoor hard courts at the Cullman-Heyman Tennis Center.

In addition to the sports facilities used by the city's pro franchises, organizers can take advantage of venues at the 39 universities and colleges in the area, Moscaritolo said. "These colleges provide wonderful sporting venues that we can use for amateur events that we attract to

Boston and Cambridge, and as practice facilities in preparing bids for events such as the World Cup," he said.

Boston also benefits from its location within a day's drive or a short flight from most of the eastern United States, so attendees from across the country can get there conveniently. Logan Airport has more than 1,200 flights a day. "Boston serves as New England's transportation hub and benefits from great air, rail and highway connections," Moscaritolo said.

Linda Darling of USA Field Hockey helped organize an international youth tournament in Boston last summer, and she gave the city top marks. "We chose Boston as the host city for our sport's Women's Junior World Cup because it is a youthful city and user-friendly for our international guests," she said. The international teams were based near Boston University so they would have easy access to public transportation.

"The city was great," Darling said. "We could not have chosen a better venue to host this event. Our visiting guests enjoyed the shopping, duck boats and walking along the Charles. Some of the teams went to the local beaches, and the restaurants suited the diversity of cultures in attendance. There was plenty to do, great sites, wonderful medical facilities and a lot of local immigrants who came out to support their home countries."

New Haven: Yale & More

The third-largest city in Connecticut, New Haven offers a lively athletic scene centered on Yale University. The Ivy League school draws athletes with its Gothic architecture and venues ranging from modern basketball arenas to historic tennis facilities.

One event that calls Yale home each year is the Pilot Pen Tennis tournament, which dates to 1948 and now takes place at the Connecticut Tennis Center on campus. "The tournament lets fans see the best players of today and the stars of tomorrow up close," said Anne Worcester, the tournament's director. "Off the court, there are activities for all ages ranging from autograph signings to live music to the New Haven Food & Wine Festival."

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