



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Ripken Baseball® Returns to Panama City Beach from June 4-9**

*More than 50 youth teams converge on Publix Sports Park for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Ripken Select Tournament*

**[PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla.] May 30, 2023** – Ripken Baseball® is set to host the second annual Ripken Select Tournament in Panama City Beach, FL, June 4-9, 2023. As a six-day baseball tournament at Publix Sports Park, more than 50 talented youth baseball teams will participate in a Big League environment, featuring players ages ranging from 9u-14u.

After the event debuted in 2022, Ripken Baseball won the Economic Impact Award from Sports Destination Management for their inaugural Ripken Select Tournament in Panama City Beach. The tournament held 50 teams and over 700 participants, bringing in over \$2.7 million in economic impact.

This year's event will start with a Community Clinic on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Youth baseball players will be able to take part in this free clinic to improve their skills and gain knowledge from Ripken Baseball Instructors.

Opening ceremonies will be held on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Athletes participating in this tournament will be able to showcase their talent during the Opening Day Skills Competitions. Former MLB player, Bill Ripken will also appear during Opening Day of the Ripken Select Tournament to speak with youth baseball players, coaches, and families as teams from around the country prepare for this exciting tournament. Ripken, who experienced an 11-year MLB career, will act as the tournament ambassador in Panama City Beach.

The Ripken Select Tournament allows participants to experience a memorable baseball vacation. After the players complete their games each day, they will be able to visit the various attractions in Panama City Beach, FL.

"We are thrilled to welcome Ripken Baseball back to Panama City Beach. They are a terrific partner and bring so much to the community outside of just producing the event," says Mike Higgins, General Manager of Publix Sports Park.

Ripken Baseball selected Publix Sports Park as one of the few locations in the country to host a Ripken Select Tournament, which aim to make every ballplayer feel like a Big Leaguer with professional facilities and experiences. The week will include opening ceremonies, skills competitions, player announcements, and walk-up music to make every at-bat unforgettable. The tournament in Panama City Beach will replicate The Ripken Experience® that over 5,000 teams and 250,000 guests enjoy at Ripken Baseball's permanent facilities.

### **About Ripken Baseball®**

Ripken Baseball brings teammates, coaches, and families together through its Big-League Experiences while teaching children how to play sports the right way – the Ripken Way. Ripken Baseball continues to innovate the game through tournaments, camps, clinics, and spring training at their state-of-the-art baseball and softball facilities – The Ripken Experience® Aberdeen (Maryland), The Ripken Experience® Myrtle Beach (South Carolina), The Ripken Experience® Pigeon Forge (Tennessee), The Ripken Experience® Elizabethtown (Kentucky), Sports Force Parks at Cedar Point Sports Center (Ohio), and Cooperstown All Star Village (New York). Ripken Baseball also brings its youth sports experience to satellite locations through Ripken Select Tournaments. Learn more at [ripkenbaseball.com](http://ripkenbaseball.com).

### **About Publix Sports Park**

The Publix Sports Complex is the premier destination for travel sports tourism in the Florida panhandle. The facility features 13 rectangular fields including 9 with artificial surfaces and two championship fields with seating for up to 1,500 spectators. The flexible design allows for soccer, lacrosse, rugby, football, and flag football, as well as baseball and softball to be played. The Publix Sports Complex is a member of the [SF Network](#), the Nation's largest and fastest-growing network of sports facilities, and is operated by the industry leader in outsourced operations, [The Sports Facilities Companies](#) (SFC). For more information, visit [www.playpanamacitybeach.com](http://www.playpanamacitybeach.com).

### **About Visit Panama City Beach**

Visit Panama City Beach is the official destination marketing organization for Panama City Beach, Florida. The award-winning organization has earned industry accreditation (DMAP) from Destinations International, the world's leading authority in destination marketing, and exists to drive economic opportunity, job creation, community sustainability and quality of life for its residents through marketing, promotion, and stewardship of the destination's REAL.FUN.BEACH. brand and attributes, tourism development, special event production, and managing beach re-nourishment and maintenance programs.

### **About Sports Facilities Companies**

The Sports Facilities Companies (SFC) are the nation's leading resources for managing and developing sports, recreation, wellness, and events facilities. As a turn-key solution for community leaders and developers alike, SFC services span the gamut of sports and recreation needs from sports tourism & recreation master planning, program planning, and feasibility through professional facility management services. Our 30+ managed venues and 1500+ team members, represented by the SF Network, welcome more than 25 million guest visits and produce over \$250 million in economic impact each year. To learn more, please visit [SportsFacilities.com](http://SportsFacilities.com) and [theSFNetwork.com](http://theSFNetwork.com).