



CLEVELAND + AKRON

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2014 Gay Games Proud to Be in Cleveland + Akron

Communities Embrace Inclusion in Sports

CLEVELAND, Ohio (November 27, 2012) – With planning for Gay Games 9 well under way for 2014, organizers say Cleveland and Akron are great communities in which to celebrate diversity and inclusion in sports.

“We’ve received overwhelming support throughout Northeast Ohio for the Games’ mission of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™,” said Gay Games Executive Director Thomas Nobbe. “Bringing the Gay Games here also provides a great platform from which we can continue educating all about the value of diversity in all walks of life, and in particular, sports.”

Between August 9-16, 2014, Gay Games 9 Cleveland + Akron expects 11,000-plus people to participate in 35 sports and three cultural events throughout Northeast Ohio.

“From our many visits and all our work with people in Cleveland, we know that the community is warm and friendly, and that millions of sport-loving people in Northeast Ohio are looking forward to welcoming the Senior Games this summer and the Gay Games in 2014,” said Kurt Dahl, co-president of the Federation of Gay Games, the sanctioning body of the Gay Games.

Cleveland recently has been in the news for the actions of a single individual who chose to use homophobic slurs on his Twitter account. Because this person, Tank Carder, plays professional football in Cleveland, his derogatory comment raised attention.

“Mr. Carder’s posts on Twitter, its subsequent removal and response, offers a great opportunity to elevate the LGBT conversation as it relates to sports,” Nobbe said. “We understand that his comments are not reflective of the Cleveland Browns organization and look forward to working with the Browns and Cleveland’s other professional sports team as we plan for the Gay Games in Cleveland + Akron.”

About the Gay Games

The Gay Games are an international sporting and cultural event held every four years. Launched in 1982, the Games invite participation from all competitors regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political beliefs, athletic or artistic ability, age, physical challenge or health status. The Games also offer a safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered participants. They are open to anyone 18 years or older. About 10 percent of participants are from outside the LGBT community. Gay Games 9 will be held August 9-16, 2014, in venues around Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, in the United States. More than 35 sports and culture event competitions will be held, with more than 11,000 participants expected to join the medal race. For more information, visit www.gg9cle.com, www.facebook.com/gaygamescleveland or www.twitter.com/gg9cleveland.