



PRESS RELEASE

MINNESOTA GRAY DUCKS LGBTQ+ AND ALLIED ATHLETES TO REPRESENT COMMUNITY AT GAY GAMES XII IN VALENCIA, SPAIN

MINNEAPOLIS – More than fifteen athletes from Minnesota's Gray Ducks Soccer Club will travel to Valencia, Spain later this month to compete in Gay Games XII, the world's largest LGBTQ+ sporting and cultural event.

Held June 27 through July 4, the Gay Games bring together thousands of athletes from around the world in a celebration of sport, inclusion, and community. The event returns to Europe for the first time since Paris hosted the Games in 2018.

Founded in 2017, Gray Ducks Soccer Club has grown into one of the nation's largest LGBTQ+ and allied soccer organizations, providing year-round opportunities for more than 1,000 athletes annually and fostering a welcoming environment where people of all backgrounds can play, compete, and build friendships.

Several Gray Ducks athletes previously represented Minnesota at the 2018 Gay Games in Paris, where the club earned a bronze medal. Players heading to Valencia this summer hope to continue that tradition while serving as ambassadors for Minnesota and the LGBTQ+ community.

"Sport has the power to bring people together across backgrounds and identities," said Ryan Adams, founder of Gray Ducks Soccer Club. "We're proud to represent Minnesota on an international stage and to show that everyone deserves a place to belong, compete, and be celebrated for who they are."

In addition to competition, athletes will participate in opening ceremonies and cultural events alongside participants from dozens of countries.

Gray Ducks Soccer Club's mission is simple: We come to play and stay for friendships.

Additional information, photos and quotes about Gray Ducks can be found at www.grayducks.com/gay-games

For press inquiries, media accreditation, or general PR correspondence for the Gay Games XII in Valencia, you should contact the official media team directly at press@gaygamesvalencia2026.com

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