

Baltimore Grand Prix to be finalized in weeks

IndyCar CEO announced Baltimore race is on 2011 schedule

*Baltimore Sun staff and wire reports
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A deal to bring high-speed racing to Baltimore could be made final within the next two weeks, an Indy Racing League spokeswoman said Friday.

IndyCar CEO Randy Bernard announced that the Baltimore race will be on the schedule next year.

Baltimore officials approved this month the contract to hold the event. An IndyCar spokeswoman said the signing of a sanctioning agreement is a formality.

The race would be the Indianapolis-based league's only event in the Mid-Atlantic region, since the league pulled out of Richmond, Va., after nine years last summer. The Baltimore race is expected to draw an estimated 100,000 spectators from as far as New York and Virginia, as well as international supporters.

The racing festival could bring an estimated \$250 million to the city through ticket sales, hotel stays and restaurant meals over five years, as well as \$11 million in direct tax revenue to the city, officials said.

The Baltimore event would be known as the Baltimore Grand Prix and would consist of smaller races, go-kart competitions and an automobile show, in addition to the official Indy Racing League-sanctioned contest. The contract with the Baltimore Racing Development Corp. calls for the race to be held every August for five years. Tickets to view one day of racing are expected to cost between \$25 and \$50.

City officials have two other U.S. cities, Long Beach and St. Petersburg, Fla., that are home to Indy races on streets. The cars also race on roads in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Toronto; the 14 other races in the 2010 series are on tracks. The Indy Racing League's premier event, the [Indianapolis 500](#), is held at the end of this month.

IndyCar also says it's considering adding a race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H.