

## Plans for sports facility expand

Cincinnati Sports Zone will feature fitness center, full range of activities.

By [Eric Schwartzberg](#), Staff Writer

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FAIRFIELD — Cincinnati Sports Zone at Cincinnati Mall in Fairfield will be nearly 100,000 square feet larger than previously planned when it opens later this year.

The additional space at the mall will feature not only three sheets of ice for hockey, figure skating and recreational skating hockey, but a fitness-training facility that will allow athletes to work out prior to a game, according to Nick Poe, one of the three partners with Nantucket Promotions LLC.

There's also 30,000 square feet of synthetic turf for baseball, golf, lacrosse, gymnastics and cheering, plus a clinic with direct access to a training field and physical therapy.

In addition, the expansion will allow for 12 volleyball courts instead of the previously planned eight, on temporary flooring that can be converted to basketball courts for Amateur Athletic Union tournaments.

"We're pretty excited," Poe said. "It's something Cincinnati has needed for quite some time."

The multi-faceted venture was initially announced last fall to occupy 171,000 square feet once dedicated to bigg's grocery store. Now its three partners — Poe, Kerry Roell and Ken Roell of — are working to make Cincinnati Sports Zone "a complete sports complex" by purchasing the entire 270,000-square foot facility once occupied by the grocery store chain. About 18,000 square feet of the site will be used for office space, Poe said.

The project is about 2 1/2 months behind schedule, he said.

"We had to get the bigg's location to be able to do what we want to do. That's what delayed us," Poe said.

The ice rinks will be ready to use by Oct. 1 with the remainder of the complex, located at 550 Cincinnati Mills Road, set to open in November or December, Poe said.

Cincinnati Sports Zone also will include party rooms, a restaurant and a sports bar.

Despite its focus on athletics, business owners say the facility can be used for "almost anything" a large arena might host, including concerts and car shows.

Nantucket Promotions, which signed a 25-year lease for the site, is projecting that 2 million people will visit Cincinnati Sports Zone each year.

Construction is expected to start today and create more than 200 jobs. The business itself will hire between 55 and 60 employees, Poe said. It is projected to cost \$8 million.

For more information, call (513) 448-5055 or visit [www.cincinnati-sportszone.com](http://www.cincinnati-sportszone.com)

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