

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



ECNL Tournament Hosted In Rockford For First Time

One of the largest tournaments in Rockford projected to bring \$2,520,000 EEI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2017

Rockford, IL — Mercyhealth Sportscore Two in Loves Park, IL will host more than 224 all girl soccer teams on their fields June 22-27, 2017 at the Elite Clubs National League soccer tournament. ECNL consists of all girl competitive youth leagues, age groups ranging from U14-U18/19.

The tournament is estimated to bring \$2,520,000 in economic impact and more than 7,400 people to the Rockford region. Seventy percent of the girls participating in the tournament are expected to receive scholarships from over 500 colleges and pro scouts while at the tournament.

"The Rockford Park District is thrilled to be selected as the host facility for Elite Clubs National League Playoffs. Over the last few years we've been working to set ourselves apart from others by expanding and enhancing our world-class amateur sports facilities. This is another big win for the Reclaiming First initiative and will not only shine a spotlight on the Mercyhealth Sportscore Two campus but also on girls soccer which is a sport that continues to grow," said Louis Mateus, General Manager of Mercyhealth Sportscore Complexes.

Teams from all over the country including Colorado, California, Minnesota, South Carolina, New Jersey and more are expected to come to Rockford for ECNL, the largest tournament to come to Rockford.

"We continue to drive our campaign 'Bring Your Game 2 Rockford' as teams from the entire country come out to the Rockford area for ECNL. Tournaments like this provide great exposure for our community and the top of the line sports facilities we have here," said Josh Albrecht, Director of Marketing & Public Affairs.

ECNL stands as the most progressive and innovative development platform in the country and it has become the top female youth development platform in the world.

"We are very excited to bring the ECNL National Playoffs to the Midwest. With the tremendous new facilities in Rockford, and great support from the community, Rockford was a natural choice. We look forward to great soccer, a great environment, and a great week of the top female players in the country showing their quality in the playoffs for the top female youth league in the United States," said Jen Winnagle, ECNL Commissioner.

You can find more information on the event, times and schedules at <http://www.eliteclubsnationalleague.com>

RACVB is a private, non-profit organization established in 1984 to champion efforts to promote the Rockford Region as an overnight visitor destination. The RACVB adds wealth to the region's economy by investing in marketing programs that grow tourism. gorockford.com.

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