

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



USA Ultimate Returns to Rockford Region for 2018 Division III College Championships

Event Marks Area's Third USA Ultimate National Championship in Four Years

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2018

Rockford, IL – The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) is excited to welcome the **2018 USA Ultimate Division III College Championships** to the Rockford region. The two-day event will be held at **Mercyhealth Sportscore Two in Loves Park, Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20, 2018**. The event features approximately **700 athletes from 32 teams** (16 men and 16 women) from around the country.

USA Ultimate, the national governing body for the sport of ultimate in the United States, joins forces with Ultimate Chicago and RACVB for the event's production. The Division III College Championships is an annual event held for teams from colleges or universities whose student population is 7,500 or less. Teams qualify by competing in conference and regional championship events held around the country. Bids are awarded based on regular-season rankings, which are calculated using USA Ultimate's rankings algorithm.

"We're thankful for what continues to be a great relationship with USA Ultimate," said Nick Povalitis, RACVB director of sports development. "The 2015 D-III College Championships and 2016 Club Championships were successful thanks in large part to an LOC that included Gail Reich of Ultimate Chicago and the operations team at Mercyhealth Sportscore Two in Loves Park, Ill. Ultimate is the perfect fit for our region, and we're happy to continue our support of such an exciting championship sport."

The 2018 USA Ultimate D-III College Championships is expected to generate \$162,000 in estimated economic impact from hotel overnights. In 2017, 221 D-III teams competed in the postseason championship series. Each year, the number of Division III teams that compete in the series increases.

"USA Ultimate is excited to once again hold the Division III College Championships in the Rockford region. Ultimate Chicago, the Rockford Area CVB and Mercyhealth Sportscore Two are fantastic partners and all help create an amazing experience for the hundreds of athletes and fans who will travel to the Midwest this weekend," said David Raflo, USA Ultimate manager of events. "We are looking forward to another exciting and successful championship event in the Rockford area."

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For additional information, a schedule and a field map visit:

- 2018 D-III Men's Division website: <http://collegechampionships.usultimate.org/d3-men/>
- 2018 D-III Women's Division website: <http://collegechampionships.usultimate.org/d3-women/>
- <http://collegechampionships.usultimate.org/field-map-d3/>

It is no cost to park or watch games and the public is encouraged to attend.

"Ultimate Chicago has worked with the Rockford CVB and Mercyhealth Sportscore Two to put on two great events over the past two years. First was the Division III College Championships in 2016 and then the Club Championships in 2017. Both competitions involved teams flying in from all over the country to play Ultimate at the most elite levels," said Gail Reich, USA Ultimate national girls' outreach director. "Nick Povalitis from the Rockford CVB and Scott Pilkerton from the Rockford Park District are two outstanding individuals that have been fun and enjoyable to work with while extremely professional. We are excited to work as a team again for the Division III College Championships this weekend."

About the sport of ultimate *Ultimate is a flying disc sport that combines elements of football and soccer as teams score points by passing the disc and scoring in the opposing team's end zone. Officiating is done by the players themselves through Spirit of the Game™, a code of conduct that emphasizes and preserves sportsmanship, integrity and respect for opponents. Players are not allowed to take steps while holding the disc. Interceptions, incomplete passes and passes out of bounds result in a turnover. -- www.wikipedia.org*

About USA Ultimate *USA Ultimate is the national governing body for the sport of ultimate in the United States and a proud member of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., USA Ultimate is the largest flying disc organization in the world with more than 53,000 members. USA Ultimate administers the full spectrum of ultimate in the United States for all ages and abilities, including youth, high school, college, elite and masters divisions, as well as the Triple Crown Tour – ultimate's premier elite competitive league for men's, women's and mixed gender divisions. USA Ultimate is a member of the IOC-recognized World Flying Disc Federation and also selects, trains and supports U.S. National Teams for international events. Governed by a core principle called Spirit of the Game™, ultimate remains proud of its historical and continuing practice of being a self-officiated sport – even at the highest levels of competition – which places a unique emphasis on sportsmanship, respect for one's opponent, conflict resolution, self-confidence, communication and integrity. Recently cited as one of the fastest-growing team sports in America by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) with more than 7 million players worldwide, ultimate was invented in 1968 by students at Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J.*

The mission of the RACVB is to drive quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development. www.gorockford.com

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