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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation At BMO Center will bring in 1000 athletes March 9, 2023 – March 11, 2023

ROCKFORD, IL (March 7, 2023) – The Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation (IKWF) will host the State Championship tournament at the BMO Center starting March 10 through March 11, 2023. This marks a nearly two-decade partnership with the IKWF, the Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (RACVB) and the BMO Center.

“The IKWF is proud to continue to bring our State Championship to Rockford,” said Gene Lee, IKWF Vice President of the Board of Directors. “It is a goal for all of our youth wrestlers to compete on the big stage in the BMO Center.”

The tournament will bring in 1,000 wrestlers, boys and girls. Another 4,000 people are expected to attend the competition. **The economic impact of the event is projected to be over \$1.3 million for the region, thanks to visitor spending in transportation, retail, food and beverage, lodging, and recreation.**

“The RACVB is thrilled to partner with IKWF and the BMO Center to bring the IKWF tournament to Rockford,” said Lindsay Arellano, RACVB vice president of sales and service. “We appreciate the IKWF’s loyalty to Rockford and are elated to help deliver a memorable experience for thousands of visitors to downtown Rockford.”

All downtown businesses and commuters are advised that traffic will be heavy Thursday afternoon, March 9, the morning of Friday, March 10, and the evening of Saturday, March 11. Please be aware that there will be a St. Patrick’s Day Parade in downtown Rockford on Saturday, March 11 from 4:00PM until 7:30PM. RACVB is collaborating with the City of Rockford and the BMO Center to help direct traffic and minimize delays for both commuters and visitors. Parking will also be impacted by the tournament. All city lots and on-street parking will operate according to the posted time restrictions and daily rates (parking fees may apply to some lots and decks). Pre-pay parking is encouraged by visiting this [PRE-PAY LINK](#).

Medals will be awarded to the top eight (8) place winners and trophies will be awarded to the top eight (8) teams in the Novice and Senior Divisions. Additional winners will receive recognition for the following awards:

- Marty Combes Award (Outstanding Novice Division Wrestler)
- Ron Urwin Award (Outstanding Senior Division Wrestler)
- Jim Didi Coach of the Year Award

Tickets for friends, family, and the general public can be purchased in-person at the BMO Center box office starting on Thursday, March 9.

Tickets for Single Session Pass:

\$10/adult
 \$5/children ages 5-12
 Free for Kids ages 4 and under

Tickets for 2 Day Pass:

\$35/adult
 \$15/children ages 5-12
 Free for Kids ages 4 and under

2023 State Tournament Timetable

THURSDAY, MARCH 9	
3:30 pm	Doors Open for weigh-in
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm	Wrestlers weigh-in

FRIDAY, MARCH 10	
6 am to 6:30 am	Wrestlers weigh-in
Session I 6:30 am	Doors open / Mats open for warm-up
6:45 am	Coaches Meeting (BMO Center arena floor)
7:30 am	Grand March
8:30 am	Championship Preliminary
10:45 am (approx.)	Championship First Round
Session II 3:30 pm	Doors open / Mats open for warm-up
4:15 pm	Presentation of the Jim Didi Coach of the Year Award
4:30 pm	Consolation First Round
6:45 pm (approx.)	Championship Quarterfinal and Consolation Second Round
7:00 pm (approx.)	Wrestlers weigh-in

SATURDAY, MARCH 9	
Session III 6:30 am to 7 am	Wrestlers weigh-in
7 am	Doors open / Mats open for warm-up
8 am	Consolation Third Round
9:30 am (approx.)	Championship Semifinals and Consolation Fourth Round
11 am (approx.)	Consolation Semifinals (Fifth Round)
Session IV 2:15 pm	Doors Open / Mats open for warm-up Note: Mats on platform are not available for warm-up
3:15 pm	3rd, 5th, and 7th Place Bouts
5:45 pm	Parade of Finalist
6:30 pm	Championship Bouts (2 mats on platform)

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ABOUT THE ILLINOIS KIDS WRESTLING FEDERATION

The IKWF serves more than 13,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches on over 250 clubs. Children are taught wrestling and discipline while being provided with a platform in which they can compete in over 120 sanctioned events. IKWF also develops structured rules along with safety measures for all wrestlers. IKWF’s mission is to provide instruction and participation in the sport of wrestling for children between the ages of five and eighteen through the sanctioning of organized wrestling events and training. IKWF Learn more at ikwf.org.

ABOUT ROCKFORD AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU:

RACVB is responsible for promoting the Rockford region as an attractive travel destination and enhancing its public image as a dynamic place to live and work. Through the impact of travel, RACVB strengthens the economic position of the region and provides opportunities for people in our communities. Learn more at gorockford.com.

ABOUT VENUE PARKING:

Parking fees are determined by the city of Rockford in conjunction with ABM Parking & Transportation Services. There is a parking garage directly across from the BMO Center, surface lots within walking distance, and limited street parking. [Click here to pre-pay for parking at this event.](#)

THE BMO CENTER / ASM GLOBAL:

The BMO Center is a multi-purpose arena in downtown Rockford, Illinois, the largest city in Illinois outside of the Chicago metropolitan area. It is currently home to the Rockford IceHogs, the American Hockey League affiliate of the Chicago Blackhawks. The BMO Center is owned by the City of Rockford, overseen by the Rockford Area Venues and Entertainment Authority, and managed by ASM Global. For more information, visit thebmocenter.com.

ASM Global is the world’s leading producer of entertainment experiences. It is the global leader in venue and event strategy and management—delivering locally tailored solutions and cutting-edge technologies to achieve maximum results for venue owners. The company’s elite venue network spans five continents, with a portfolio of more than 325 of the world’s most prestigious arenas, stadiums, convention, and exhibition centers, and performing arts venues. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). For more information, please visit asmglobal.com.

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