

FAST FACTS

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



IKWF, RACVB and the Rockford Park District Welcome USA Wrestling Nationals to Rockford Region

Economic impact estimated to be \$1.3M with 4,000 visitors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2023

What: In partnership with USA Wrestling, the national governing body of wrestling in the United States, and the Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation (IKWF), the Rockford Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) and the Rockford Park District are thrilled to welcome the 2023 **USA Wrestling 16U National Dual Championships**. Set for June 6 - 10, 2023 at Indoor Sports Center at Mercyhealth Sportscore Two in Loves Park, this marks only the second time that USA Wrestling will host a national event in the Rockford region.

More than 1,200 athletes from 26 different states will compete in this event. The athletes who compete in this event are traditionally among the best in the nation. Over the years, athletes who have wrestled in the 16U National Duals have gone on to excel at high school, college and international levels.

The event will feature competition in the two Olympic styles of wrestling, freestyle and Greco-Roman. With athletes, coaches and families combined, the 16U National Duals are expected to draw more than 4,000 total visitors to the region. This is the second year for the event to be held in the Rockford region.

The tourism economic impact of the tournament is projected to total more than \$3.1 million for the region thanks to visitor spends in transportation, retail, food and beverage, lodging, recreation, business services and space rental segments—yielding **\$133,847** in additional local tax revenue.

“The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is thrilled to partner with USA Wrestling and the Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation for the 2022 and 2023 16U National Duals. We are, of course, ecstatic to help deliver a memorable experience for thousands of visitors to the Indoor Sports Center at Mercyhealth Sportscore Two. Because of IKWF’s decades-long commitment to Rockford, RACVB can position the region as a destination for prestigious national events. We appreciate IKWF’s loyalty to Rockford and know they will do an outstanding job as the 16U Nationals operations lead,” said **Lindsay Arellano**, RACVB vice president of sales and service.

When: **Tuesday – Saturday, June 6 – 10 (see detailed schedule on following page)**

Where: **Mercyhealth Sportscore Two**
8800 E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park, IL 61111

Why: The 16U Duals was instituted as an opportunity for athletes to compete on a state team to determine bragging rights for the top Freestyle and Greco-Roman 16U teams in the United States. **More than 1,200 athletes from 26 different states will attend to this event at the Mercyhealth Sportscore Two in Loves Park, IL.** This competition, previously called the Cadet National Duals, was created in 2000 in Pueblo, CO. Illinois is only the seventh state to host this competition, and Loves Park is the 10th host city.

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Schedule:

Wednesday June 7, 2023

Greco-Roman Wrestling Session One: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Greco-Roman Wrestling Session Two: 1:30 - 7 p.m.

Thursday June 8, 2023

Greco-Roman Wrestling Session Three: 8 a.m. - to 12 noon

Greco-Roman Wrestling Session Four: 1- 5 p.m.

Friday June 9, 2023

Freestyle Wrestling Session One: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Freestyle Wrestling Session Two: 1:30 – 8 p.m.

Saturday June 10, 2023

Freestyle Wrestling Session Three: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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***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. www.gorockford.com*

*The **Rockford Park District** improves the quality of life for citizens by providing a vibrant park system that increases property values, stimulates economic development, decreases juvenile crime, and improves our communities' health. The Rockford Park District also protects the environment, employs thousands of area kids for the first time, and brings the community together to enjoy life. www.rockfordparkdistrict.org.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION & MEDIA INQUIRIES: Kara Davis, RACVB Sales Manager, 815.505.2408 or kdavis@gorockford.com