

FAST FACTS

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



NJCAA Opening Weekend Tournament (OWT) returns with over 1,000 players

This largest-in-the nation women's collegiate volleyball tournament is expected to bring an estimated 4,100 visitors to region

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 17, 2023

What: The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) and Rockford Park District (RPD) are pleased to welcome back the **National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All In Volleyball Opening Weekend Tournament (OWT)** to the Rockford region on **August 18 – 20, 2023**.

OWT is the largest two-year college women's volleyball tournament in the U.S. with teams comprised of athletes ages 18-21. Over 69 teams will be in attendance representing seventeen states including Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Florida, and others. This is the fourth year of this event and the third time it has been in Rockford. The tournament is "match play", meaning the best of 3 of 5 games. This is an opportunity for media to conduct interviews and take photos at this elite **All In Volleyball** sports tournament that will fill an estimated 700 hotel rooms with visitors projected to spend an estimated \$506,308.

When: Friday, August 18

9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Matches starting at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Saturday, August 19

9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Matches starting at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 20

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Matches starting at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Where: UW Health Sports Factory (305 South Madison Street, Rockford, IL 61104)

Why: "We always enjoy working with the Rockford Park District and Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and appreciate their expertise as we plan large events in the Rockford region. We have complete confidence in knowing we will have a great weekend and everything will be ready when we arrive," said Kyle McCall, McHenry County College head volleyball coach.

"Beyond the court, Opening Weekend Volleyball Tournament, generates a positive economic ripple throughout the Rockford Region," said Lindsay Arellano, RACVB Vice President of Sales and Service. "We look forward to welcoming all the teams this weekend and know that they will have a memorable experience throughout their time in the Rockford region."

Other: Advanced purchased tickets are \$10/day for ages 12 and older, \$5/day for seniors and children under 12 are free. General admission at the door is \$13/day. Concessions are available for purchase.

This is the largest volleyball tournament in the country for community colleges. New to the tournament this year is the addition of BallerTV, a youth sports broadcaster, who will be live streaming matches on all courts. Additional partners, Gipper Media, Hudl and NCSA will also be on site with live updates. The BIG 10 Conference has included a collection of international and nationally known referees and is utilizing the event as a line judge certification site to help with the professional development of future volleyball officials. Several hall of fame coaches and national champion coaches will be in attendance. OWT is proud to use local volleyball programs to help staff the event and has given more than \$16,000 to various fundraising efforts.

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About RACVB: 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

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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