

## Triangle Lands USA Rugby College 7s Nationals



USA Rugby has announced that the Triangle has been selected as the site of the 2016 USA Rugby College 7s National Championships. The Championships will be hosted by the Triangle Sports Commission, in partnership with the Town of Cary, at WakeMed Soccer Park over Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-29, 2016. Unlike the NCAA Basketball (Final Four) Championships where a field of 64 teams is whittled down to four teams at the Championship site, USA Rugby brings 60 teams together from across America at one location to determine the national champions in Men's Divisions I and II and the Women's Division. With more than 600 participants, using over 500 hotel rooms, playing before a national TV audience (ESPN networks), the College 7s Championships will have a significant positive economic impact in the local market.

"Landing the College National Championships is an exciting legacy from our successful hosting of the world's first Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Rugby 7s in June of this year," said Faryn Roy, TSC Director of Events and Operations. "With the permanent upfit of WakeMed Soccer Park for Rugby, thanks to contributions of the TSC and USA Rugby, we have a premier multi-purpose facility that is well-positioned to host the top events of the newest Olympic sport and fastest growing sport in the world."

## Table Tennis Olympic Trials Return to NC



In 2012, North Carolina was the site of the U.S. Olympic Trials - Table Tennis. Hosted by the Triangle Sports Commission together with the Town of Cary, the 2012 Trials were held at the Bond Park Community Center in Cary and were rated a major success by athletes, coaches, and fans. However, USA Table Tennis let it be known in their national bid process for the 2016 host, that a bigger venue, with greater seating capacity, and expanded support spaces would be needed to stage the 2016 Trials.

The quest for an appropriate available gym-style venue during early February, the height of the local college basketball season, led to a partnership among the Triangle Sports Commission, Greensboro Convention & Visitors Bureau Greensboro Sports Commission, and Greensboro Coliseum Complex to keep the Trials in North Carolina. "We are fortunate to be partnering with a world-class facility and organizing committee," said Gordon Kaye, CEO of USA Table Tennis. The Olympic Trials will be held February 4-6 at the Special Events Center at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex in a new layout that will feature a major stadium court and 8 additional courts for competition. In a format change for 2016, competition is designed to select a male and female player each day of the event for the U.S. Olympic Team.

Tickets are on sale now for the Olympic Trials and can be purchased now by [clicking here](#).

## Women's Sports Executives Discuss Leadership

A lively audience of over 100 was educated, emotional, and

entertained as the Triangle Sports Commission and the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce teamed up for their Fourth Annual Women's Sports Leaders Luncheon, the concluding event of the Morrisville Chamber's KNOW (Knowledgeable Network of Women) year-long series, at Prestonwood Country Club on Thursday, November 12, 2015.

Featured speakers were Erika Braun, Director of Human Resources at Golden Corral Corporation (Erika is currently training to make the 2016 Swimming Olympic Trials at age 44); Marlynn Jones, Assistant Director for Athletic Compliance at North Carolina Central University; and Molly Sapienza, Vice President Corporate Sponsorships at PNC Bank. The panel was moderated by audience-favorite Deborah Morgan, News Anchor at WRAL- TV. The title for this year's luncheon was "Business is a Team Sport - Learn How to Win."

The panelists shared insights on their professional responsibilities and challenges, their personal lives and work/life balances, and winning strategies drawn from both sports competition and the sports industry that can lead to major career success.



L to R: Erika Braun, Molly Sapienza, Marlynn Jones, Debra Morgan, and Hill Carrow

"The sports-focused session is always one of our most popular KNOW programs of the year," said Sarah Gaskill, President of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce. "Attendees really enjoy getting to know these competitive women on a more personal basis, and they take away a lot of 'good learnings' they can apply to their own work and family situations."

## The TSC: A Winning Tradition

You may be aware that the Triangle Sports Commission is an all-volunteer sports commission, meaning all work, events, and programs are planned, developed, and staged on a completely volunteer basis. But just because the TSC's work is done by volunteers does not mean that tasks are not being performed by a highly-qualified team of professionals.

TSC staff capabilities were recognized in November at the Annual SportsTravel Awards, considered the "Oscars" of the Sports Travel Industry, when the 2015 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro was named Event of the Year - beating out the College Football Playoff, Women's World Cup Soccer, and the Super Bowl! Your TSC volunteer staff served as the producers for that award-winning Figure Skating National Championships. After learning about this international recognition, the Morrisville Chamber Board applauded the TSC's winning ways and expressed gratitude for the caliber of the support provided by the TSC to Morrisville and the entire Triangle region.



## Local Olympic Sports News

Hill Carrow, TSC CEO, represented the Triangle Sports Commission at the **Annual Meeting of U.S. Olympic Committee Community Olympic Partners** this fall in Colorado Springs. The TSC is one of only 8 Community Olympic Partners in the U.S., most of which are significantly larger cities such as Denver, Chicago, and San Francisco.

**Triangle Table Tennis**, which is located in Morrisville and the only dedicated Table Tennis center in the Carolinas, has been recognized by the International Table Tennis Federation as an International Training Hot Spot (one of only 28 in the world), as well as a USA Table Tennis National Center of Excellence.

[www.triangletabletennis.com](http://www.triangletabletennis.com)

The new **Triangle Curling Center** is now open on So Hi Drive, just off the 147 Expressway in Durham County. The center hosts league play, bonspiels (tournaments), private events, and learn-to-curl sessions for all ages.

Representatives of the Triangle Curling Club welcome members of the public to come enjoy one of the world's favorite Olympic sports. [www.trianglecurling.com](http://www.trianglecurling.com)

Thank you from the Triangle Sports Commission!



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