

The Triangle Sports Commission has a busy spring and summer ahead, with a number of exciting sports activities that the TSC is hosting or supporting including the USA Badminton Masters International Championships, Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball Tournament, Olympic Day, State Games of North Carolina, Kick-It 3-on-3 National Soccer Tournament, the NACRA Sevens Rugby Championships, and the U.S. Masters Swimming High Performance Camp.

## Masters International Badminton



Approximately 200 adult badminton athletes hailing from as many as 9 countries will converge on the Badminton NC facility in the Globe Center Wednesday, March 18 through Sunday, March 22 for the 2015 USA Badminton Masters (35+) International Championships. Competitors are already entered from Canada, Denmark, and the United Kingdom, in addition to the United States. Paul Knechtel, competition director and co-founder of the Badminton NC facility, says, "Most people have had exposure to the sport of badminton, but to see an Olympic sport played at this competitive level will be a real treat for spectators. In addition the Badminton NC facility is a new, very attractive venue for the best athletes in the sport; and there is no charge to attend the event!"



The TSC is promoting and supporting the Championships and is helping to recruit volunteers (see article below). For more information on the Championships, go to [www.usabmasters.org](http://www.usabmasters.org) or visit Badminton NC's website at [www.badmintonnc.com](http://www.badmintonnc.com). You can also contact the club at 919.656.8326.

## Rugby Olympic Qualification Tournament



Rugby is the newest Olympic sport, with its first Olympic Games competition slated for the Summer Olympics in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is a tribute to our region that USA Rugby, the national Olympic governing body for the sport, has selected the Triangle as the site of the first-ever North America and Caribbean (NACRA) Olympic qualifying tournament: the NACRA Rugby Sevens Championships. The Triangle Sports Commission, together with the Town of Cary's Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources department, will be hosting the event Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14, 2015, at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary.

The Olympic Games, for the first time in history, will feature Rugby Sevens competition, or 7-person sides (versus 15 per side in traditional rugby). The competition is extremely fast-paced and exciting to watch. The national men's

and women's rugby teams from the following countries have indicated that they plan to participate: Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, St Lucia, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos, and the USA.

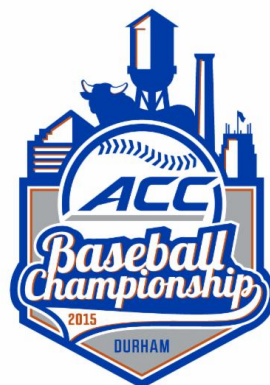
The competition will feature the top-ranked men's and women's teams from the countries above, with the winning men's team and winning women's team both securing an automatic berth in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Information on ticket pricing and availability will be coming soon, but in the meantime, you can find out more information about rugby and the tournament by visiting [www.usarugby.org](http://www.usarugby.org) or [www.trianglesportscommission.com](http://www.trianglesportscommission.com).

# ACC Baseball Championship

Preparations for the 2015 Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball Tournament are well underway, with regular meetings among ACC and Local Organizers. The Tournament will be newly expanded to 10 teams in 2015 and the Tournament has been extended by a full day accordingly. This year's tournament will take place Tuesday, May 19 through Sunday, May 24 at Durham Bulls Athletic Park (DBAP) in Downtown Durham.

Last year the ACC awarded the Tournament to Durham for the next four years: 2015 to 2018. The Local Organizing Committee for the Tournament is led by Capitol Broadcasting and the Durham Bulls, and includes the Durham Chamber of Commerce (which headed the bid for the event) and the Triangle Sports Commission.

George Habel, Vice President of Capitol Broadcasting, says, "The ACC features many of the best collegiate baseball programs in the country, and when coupled with the extensive renovations at the DBAP and the likely presence of our local teams, it should prove to be a big draw. We are looking forward to an outstanding event."



Full Tournament Ticket Books, as well as Weekend Ticket Books are [now on sale](#). For more information on the 2015 ACC Baseball Tournament, [go here](#).

## Volunteers Needed

With so much going on, there is a very strong demand for volunteer positions at virtually all of the Triangle Sports Commission's upcoming events. Specifically there are volunteer needs for the following:

- USA Badminton Masters International Championships: van drivers, registration assistants, and court maintenance volunteers are needed. With this event coming up in less than 3 weeks, please sign up to volunteer today.
- NACRA Rugby Sevens Championships: Volunteers will be needed for a range of activities at this event.
- State Games of North Carolina: Volunteers are needed for Track & Field events at Durham County Stadium on Saturday, May 30; and at a variety of sports competitions on State Games Finals Weekend, June 26-28.

To express your interest and availability for volunteering for these and other Triangle Sports Commission events, please go to <http://www.trianglesportscommission.com/volunteer>.

## Thank you from the Triangle Sports Commission!



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