



BOULDER, Colo., January 30, 2015 – USA Rugby and North America Caribbean Rugby Association (NACRA) announced today that the Triangle Sports Commission has been selected to serve as the local host of the 2015 NACRA Sevens rugby tournament on June 13-14, which will be held at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, North Carolina. This event will serve as the regional qualification tournament for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The Triangle Sports Commission, based in Cary, is one of only 10 United States Olympic Committee Community Olympic Partner organizations, and, as such, has a significant focus on supporting major Olympic and amateur sports events and activities.

“To be able to host this international qualifying tournament for next year’s Rio Olympic Games is quite a coup for the region,” said Hill Carrow, CEO of the Triangle Sports Commission. “It gives us the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of Olympic participation and competition with one of the fastest growing sports in the world. In addition, this tournament will enable us to outfit WakeMed Soccer Park permanently to host major rugby events, which expands the capabilities of the park and can lead to additional long-term positive economic benefits for the area. For those of us involved with the initial plan and funding for WakeMed, as well as the recent expansion of the venue, that aspect is particularly exciting.”

Qualification Process

The initial round of qualification for the Rio 2016 Olympic Summer Games – the first Olympiad to include Rugby Sevens on the Games Program – will result from the 2014-15 World Rugby HSBC Sevens World Series (men’s) and 2014-15 World Rugby Women’s Sevens Series. The top four teams from each Series will qualify for the Olympics (in addition to Brazil, which automatically qualifies as the host country).

The United States Men’s and Women’s Rugby Sevens National Teams remain in contention to qualify for Rio 2016 in their respective Series, with the men sitting in ninth place after three of nine tournaments and the women in seventh with five tournaments remaining.

National teams that do not qualify through the Series will participate in regional qualifiers around the world, to include the NACRA Sevens in June. The top finisher from both the men’s and women’s bracket will join the Series qualifiers on their way to the Olympics.

“In light of the continued growth and popularity of rugby throughout the NACRA region and with this year’s Series also being the qualification tournament for Rio 2016, it is important that such an event be held at a high quality venue with strong local partners in order to showcase rugby sevens,” NACRA Chief Operations Officer Niall Brooks said. “WakeMed, together with the Triangle Sports Commission leading the Local Organizing Committee, fulfills this criteria and I am sure all teams, players, officials, and spectators are looking forward to a successful and thoroughly enjoyable sevens tournament.”

WakeMed Soccer Park, venue for the Qualifier, is home to the North American Soccer League’s Carolina Railhawks. The 150-acre complex in Cary, N.C., contains a 10,000-seat natural grass stadium with two

2500 Arapahoe Avenue, Suite 200, Boulder, CO 80302 | Phone 303.539.0300 | Fax 303.539.0311





additional championship fields, and multiple practice fields on site.

The full slate of teams competing in the NACRA Sevens tournament, as well as ticketing information for the June 13-14 event, will be released in due course.

About USA Rugby

Established in 1975, USA Rugby is the governing body for the sport of rugby in America and a Full Sport Member of the [United States Olympic Committee](#). Currently headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, USA Rugby is charged with developing the game on all levels and has more than 100,000 active members, with more than 35,000 playing collegiate rugby and 35,000 playing senior club rugby. USA Rugby oversees four national teams, multiple collegiate and high school All-American sides, and an emerging Olympic development pathway for elite athletes. It also hosts more than 30 national playoff and championship events each year as a service to its members. In October 2009, the International Olympic Committee announced Rugby Sevens (the seven-a-side version of the game) will appear in the 2016 Olympic Games to be held in Rio de Janeiro. Visit www.usarugby.org for more information.

About NACRA

North America Caribbean Rugby Association “NACRA” is the governing body of the 16 Unions in the region. It’ membership is diverse and currently includes, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, St Lucia, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA. In August 2011 the Turks & Caicos Islands and Curacao were admitted as Associate Members of NACRA and in 2014, the Dominican Republic were also admitted as an Associate Member.

About the Triangle Sports Commission

Incorporated in 2001 and based in Cary, NC, the Triangle Sports Commission is a North Carolina charitable non-profit organization and an all-volunteer sports commission serving the Triangle region. The TSC seeks to host events and carry out projects that involve collaboration and cooperation among Triangle communities and build the Triangle brand. The TSC led the Triangle's recruitment effort for the relocation of USA Baseball from Arizona that resulted in USA Baseball’s new headquarters at Durham Bulls Athletic Park and their National Training Complex at Thomas Brooks Park in Cary. With its strong focus on Olympic and amateur sports, the TSC is one of only 10 US Olympic Community Partners. In recent years the Triangle Sports Commission has hosted multiple Olympic Trials for Table Tennis, national soccer tournaments, Olympic Day activities, the Women's Basketball Tip-Off, the North Carolina Sports Summit, and the US Masters Swimming High Performance Camp, among others. For more information on the Triangle Sports Commission, visit www.trianglesportscommission.com.

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