News & Notes

SPRING 2016

2016 U.S. NATIONAL TEAMS

Seven national teams will represent the United States this summer at the World Ultimate and Guts Championships (WUGC) – men's, mixed, women's, men's masters, women's masters – and the World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC) – men's, women's. Five of those teams (all except the masters division teams) were selected after a rigorous tryout process that included 48 athletes at three tryout levels. After the January tryouts, the coaching staffs deliberated and selected the teams that were announced in February.

2016 marks the first year in which tryout teams will represent the U.S. at WUGC, a common practice in other countries around the world. The 2016 World Ultimate and Guts Championships will take place June 12-25, in London.

The 2016 World Junior Ultimate Championships are set for July 31–Aug. 6, in Wroclaw, Poland, the site of the 2017 World Games.

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

In 2015, USA Ultimate created a Gender Equity Task Force to examine gender equity issues in the ultimate community. Following several months of research and collecting community input, as well as a retreat with Janet Judge, one of the country's leading experts on equity in sports, the USA Ultimate Board of Directors overwhelmingly voted to elevate the status of the task force to a standing working group and to broaden the group's scope. The task force is now the Equity and Diversity Working Group and is chaired by Vice President DoAnna Bill. Val Belmonte, Ness Fajardo, Brian Garcia and Josh Seeman are also part of the working group.

The board also committed to updating its existing policy to become more inclusive by addressing equity and diversity issues based on race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and other categories, in addition to gender.

USA Ultimate also launched an equity FAQ at usaultimate.org/equity to address community concerns about better and more consistent communication on the topic.

NORTH CAROLINA ULTIMATE

MINNESOTA ULTIMATE

NEW ENGLAND ULTIMATE

FIRST THREE STATE-BASED ORGANIZATIONS NAMED

Minnesota Ultimate, New England Ultimate and North Carolina Ultimate were announced in January as USA Ultimate's first three state-based organizations. New England Ultimate encompasses the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

These organizations are extensions and partners of USA Ultimate that serve to support the USA Ultimate vision and mission, bringing the USA Ultimate brand, programs and services to local affiliates and communities within their boundaries. They will oversee the growth and activity and aspects of ultimate within each U.S. state or multi-state region.

As part of ongoing efforts to create a sustainable national infrastructure, USA Ultimate announced the state-based organizations initiative in the fall of 2015. The initiative includes the investment of millions of dollars from USA Ultimate and The Ultimate Foundation over the next eight to 10 years.

To begin and to help get the organizations up and running, USA Ultimate will provide financial grants of at least $60,000 per organization over the first three years. The funding comes in the form of both a start-up grant and a portion of USA Ultimate's annual membership dues from members residing in a state-based organization's respective territory.

You can find more information about the state-based organizations initiative at **usaultimate.org/stateorgs**.

ILLINOIS YOUTH ULTIMATE IS NEWEST USA ULTIMATE AFFILIATE

Chicago-based Illinois Youth Ultimate became USA Ultimate's newest affiliated league early this year. They join 15 other leagues in the Affiliate Program and now have access to additional resources and support from USA Ultimate to help them assist with the expansion and promotion of grassroots programs and to serve local players.

Affiliates benefit from various materials and programs that assist with volunteer instruction and training initiatives, as well as several streams of financial support. They receive access to USA Ultimate's Learn to Play Program, as well as curricula designed for physical education in a classroom setting, coaches education and observer certification. USA Ultimate also assists affiliates with the facilitation of community recreation programs, youth camps and college program outreach.

Financial resources are also available to USA Ultimate-affiliated leagues in the form of grants, discounts and rebate dollars, while leagues can also benefit from an insurance program covering events, players, directors and officers.

CRAWFORD SIGNS SIX-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION

USA Ultimate secured the leadership of CEO Dr. Tom Crawford through at least 2020 when he signed a six-year contract extension early this year. The contract has a built-in extension that includes seasons in getting on the Olympic program. Since joining USA Ultimate in 2009, Crawford has used his considerable experience generated over years spent with major sports leagues, the United States Olympic Committee and his own successful entrepreneurial endeavors to lead the organization through many notable achievements, including:

- Significant membership growth (more than 80 percent)
- Triples revenues and more than doubling the size of the staff
- Rebranding the organization to USA Ultimate to better fit into the U.S. sports landscape
- Securing ESPN as a broadcast partner in a multi-year deal covering both the College Championships and the Triple Crown Tour and raising ultimate's top athletes on the big stage.
- Gaining U.S. Olympic Committee membership and recognition and helping WFDF secure permanent IOC recognition.
- Creating partnerships with the Catholic Youth Organization, Boy Scouts of America, Women's Sports Foundation, Jewish Community Centers and other youth-serving organizations, all helping to grow youth ultimate.
- Creating the new state organization structure to truly scale the sport and grow youth ultimate even faster through great local leadership and entrepreneurial energy.
- Launching The Ultimate Foundation to raise revenues and support outside of USA Ultimate's annual operating budget.
- Growing the Youth Club Championships into the largest single event on the annual calendar.

OFFICIAL EVENT MERCHANDISERS NAMED FOR 2016

Merchandise contracts for USA Ultimate's 11 2016 championship events, as well as the 2016 U.S. National Teams, have been awarded. The official merchandisers will provide championship merchandise at each of this year's championship events – a great way for participants, families, fans and fans to commemorate the events.

Five Ultimate

- Beach Championships
- Division I College Championships
- Division III College Championships
- National Championships
- U.S. National Teams

Savage

- High School Central Championships
- High School Northeastern Championships
- High School Southern Championships
- High School Western Championships

Breakmark

- U.S. Open Championships
- Masters Championships
- Youth Club Championships

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Beach Championships	May 14-5	Virginia Beach, Va.
High School Southern Championships	May 14-15	Atlanta, Ga.
High School Central Championships	May 14-15	Ames, Iowa
High School Northeastern Championships	May 21-22	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Division I College Championships	May 21-22	Winston Salem, N.C.
College Championships	May 27-30	Raleigh, N.C.
High School Western Championships	June 4-5	Corvallis, Ore.
USA Open Championships	July 1-4	South County, R.I.
Masters Championships	Aug. 5-7	Aurora, Colo.
Youth Club Championships	Aug. 12-14	Blaine, Minn.
National Championships	Sept. 29-Oct. 2	Rockford, Ill.

Correction: *In the Fall 2015 issue of USA Ultimate magazine, it was incorrectly noted that Kevin Monahan caught the championship pool for Denver Johnny Walker. Keith Monahan caught the pool.*

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