



NEWS

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

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2012 USA National Netball Championships coming to Delray Beach

Delray Beach, FL-The USA Netball Association (USANA) is partnering with the Florida Netball Association and the Palm Beach County Sports Commission to host the 2012 USA National Netball Championships on June 23 -24, 2012 at Atlantic High School in Delray Beach. Netball is one of the most popular sports for women on a global basis. The National Netball Championships is an invitational for national and international netball clubs, which will crown a national champion in several divisions. Over 20 teams consisting of more than 250 athletes will compete in several age groups, which include 14u, 16u, 21u, and senior. Both men and women teams will participate. The USANA will use the tournament to identify potential talent for the United States National Team, which will compete in the World Championships.

Carole Hokrein, administrator for USA Netball, said "The support for this event shown by the Palm Beach Sports Commission and the City of Delray Beach has proved invaluable. The excellent facilities at Atlantic High School will enhance the event as we welcome teams from all over the USA. We expect a strong showing from teams out of the Northeast region and have no doubt that there will be fierce competition from the Florida teams on their home soil. Several international players will be present as we lead up to the upcoming Americas Regional Championships in Trinidad & Tobago as well as the World Youth Championships in Glasgow, Scotland". The national championship will also feature a strong international presence, attracting teams from the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, and Wales.

The 2012 National Netball Championships will represent the first time the event has taken place in the state of Florida. The event has most recently taken place in Queens, NY, Boston, MA, and Seattle, WA. Although invented in the United States in 1891, it is considered a "new" sport in its country of origin. However, netball is a high profile, televised sport in the United Kingdom, the Caribbean, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Netball continues its rapid growth in the United States, Africa and Europe, as the strong lobby of Olympic inclusion builds. Netball's foundation is based on the sport of basketball and was founded by James Naismith, the creator of basketball. The rules of netball parallel basketball in many ways. The first netball game was played in England in 1895, and it has grown across the globe over the last century. Today, the sport is played by 20 million people in more than 70 countries. The President of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, Michael Brady, said "Hosting the National Netball Championships

shows that Palm Beach County is becoming one of the elite sports destinations in the United States. The Palm Beach County Sports Commission supports a diverse portfolio of sporting events and we strive to attract events to Palm Beach County that will create both national and international impact. We believe the sport of netball will gain momentum in Palm Beach County and the Sports Commission will be the advocate for this exciting sport.”

In addition to excitement and the opportunity to witness a major international sport, the National Championships will bring a surge of new dollars to Palm Beach County. The event is expected to generate over \$350,000 of economic impact and an estimated 500 hotel room nights.

The games will begin on Saturday, June 23rd and Sunday, June 24th at 9am each morning. The nation’s best club teams will play on Saturday, while elite level teams will play on Sunday. Admission is \$6 per day or \$10 for both days. For more information, visit www.usanetball.org

About Netball:

NETBALL is the world's most popular team game for women, and is played on all continents, in over 70 countries. Within the Commonwealth, netball has a higher number of active participants than any other sport. It actually began here in the United States as women's basketball in 1895, before it was exported to Britain and the British Commonwealth, which is where it gained in popularity. Teams may include up to 12 players but only 7 may take the court at any one time. Netball is registered as an official Olympic sport and has been part of the Commonwealth Games program since 1990.

Netball is similar to basketball, but has some distinct differences. Netball players may only catch and throw passes to advance the ball. Rules prohibit dribbling or carrying the ball. Once a player catches a pass, she has three seconds to either shoot or move it to a teammate. Passes cannot be made across the two lines, meaning a pass can't travel from the defensive third directly to the offensive third. A pass must also be long enough for a third player to travel between the passing teammates, making it illegal for players to merely hand the ball to one another. The goal post is 10 ft. in height, which is the same as basketball. However, the goal does not have a backboard, just a net.

About Palm Beach County Sports Commission

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is a private, not-for-profit organization contracted by Palm Beach County to promote and market the county as a sports and sports tourism destination. The Commission brings sporting events and activities to the county, enhances economic impact, stimulates bed tax revenues (primarily in the off-season) and maximizes utilization of county facilities. The Commission offers a full range of event service support, corporate partnerships, sponsorships and a local membership program that supports its goals. Local, regional, national and international marketing efforts are ongoing by the Commission

with sports organizations and event owners. The Commission also produces sports-related programs for the residents of Palm Beach County including the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame, the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award and the Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches. For more information on the Palm Beach County Sports Commission go to **www.palmbeachsports.com**.

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