



NCTTA Leaders Select Greensboro, North Carolina for 2019 Championships

By Andy Kanengiser, NCTTA Media Chair

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Greensboro, NC, has been selected by the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) to host the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association Championships, April 11 – 14, 2019, where over 250 of the best collegiate table tennis players from the United States and Canada are expected to compete.

NCTTA leaders have selected Greensboro over competing sites in such cities as Monroeville, Pennsylvania, and Bloomington, Minnesota. The NCTTA leadership team also studied plans from cities in Hershey, Pennsylvania; Iowa City, Iowa; and in Florida. Willy Leparulo, President of the St. Peters, Missouri – based NCTTA, thanked all of the bidders for submitting proposals.

"Greensboro is a new location for us," Leparulo said. "The community is rolling out the red carpet." Leparulo is excited to soon work with Hill Carrow and his Sports & Properties, Inc. (SPI) team leading up to the three-day college tournament. SPI, a North Carolina sports and entertainment marketing and development company, produced the 2015 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. Sports & Properties has successfully recruited, hosted, or promoted more than 100 major projects for sports commissions, facility owners, convention & visitors bureaus, and other sports tourism organizations.

SPI will lead the Greensboro Local Organizing Committee (LOC) in hosting the 2019 NCTTA Championships. The Greensboro LOC is a collaborative effort among the Greensboro Coliseum Complex, the Greensboro Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the Greensboro Sports Commission. This same team has previously hosted national events in gymnastics, figure skating, swimming, table tennis, and multi-sport competitions in Greensboro.

Hill Carrow, who will serve as Chairman of the Greensboro LOC, was delighted to hear about the decision by NCTTA officials. "Greensboro is thrilled to be named the host of the 2019 National Collegiate Table Tennis Association Championships," Carrow said. "The community has great volunteers and an excellent venue, and we look forward to hosting the top college athletes and teams from across the country."

Carrow and others in North Carolina first expressed interest to NCTTA leaders after North Carolina hosted the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials for Table Tennis. "The excitement and great crowds at that event made us realize we should try to host more high-level table tennis in North Carolina," he said. "But it took a few years to figure out the right venue. When we hosted the U.S. Olympic Trials – Table Tennis for the second time in 2016, it was at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. The competition went very well, USA Table Tennis and the U.S. Olympic Committee praised the setup, and we knew we had identified a potential great location for the NCTTA Championships."

NCTTA leaders sized up potential sites based on costs, the quality of table tennis facilities, nearby hotels, convenience to airports, banquet accommodations, the availability of volunteers, seating for fans, concession stands, and other factors.

Greensboro won't be a long drive for schools in the region like Duke and Virginia Tech that traditionally send teams to NCTTA championship games. Players should begin arriving in Greensboro on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. The tournament wraps up on Sunday, April 14. The gathering of talented student-athletes represents the NCTTA's biggest tournament of the year.

The 250-plus players, along with family members, coaches, fans and volunteers, will find plenty to do in Greensboro away from the table tennis action. Greensboro Grasshoppers minor league baseball games are less than 15 minutes from the venue. Extensive shopping options are available at Four Seasons Mall, just down Gate City Boulevard from the Coliseum Complex. The mall has more than 144 stores and a food court. Also, Round 1 Bowling and Amusements, a large new multi-entertainment venue, recently opened at the mall. It features arcade games, bowling, billiards, karaoke, ping pong, food, and more.

The downtown Greensboro restaurant and entertainment district is close by and the North Carolina Zoo, a science center, and several museums are other popular area attractions that table tennis lovers will enjoy.

This year's 2018 NCTTA Championships will be played in Round Rock, Texas, in April. Round Rock also hosted the 2016 NCTTA Championships. Last year, the Championships were hosted in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. "The 2018 championships in Texas will be here soon," Leparulo said. "Once that event concludes in late April, we will begin to turn our attention to Greensboro."



The venue for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Table Tennis at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex.

About the NCTTA: The National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) is the governing body of Collegiate Table Tennis. The mission of NCTTA is to promote the sport of table tennis by providing collegians an opportunity to compete in this enjoyable lifetime sport and to provide student athletes the avenues to compete in serious intercollegiate table tennis competition at a club or varsity level. Based in St. Peters, Missouri, the NCTTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is seeking to have table tennis included as a varsity sport of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). For more information about the NCTTA, visit www.nctta.org.

About the Greensboro Coliseum Complex: The Greensboro Coliseum Complex (GCC) is the premier sports and entertainment complex in the southeast. The Complex features the 22,000-seat Greensboro Coliseum; 7,500-seat White Oak Amphitheatre; 2,500-seat Greensboro Aquatic Center; the 2,200-seat Fieldhouse; and the ACC Hall of Champions. The complex also includes the 167,000 square foot Special Event Center which will serve as the venue for the NCTTA Championships. The GCC has hosted many of the country's top sports events including the NCAA Final Four, U.S. Figure Skating Championships, YMCA National Swimming Championships, USA Gymnastics Championships, and the U.S. Olympic Trials – Table Tennis, among others. For more information about the Greensboro Coliseum Complex, visit www.greensborocoliseum.com.

About Sports & Properties, Inc.: Sports & Properties Inc. is a sports marketing and development firm based in Cary, NC. SPI focuses on sports tourism, facility analysis and planning, major sponsorships such as naming rights, and major event management. SPI clients include Capitol Broadcasting Company, the Asheville-Buncombe Regional Sports Commission, the Cobb-Marietta Convention & Exhibit Hall Authority, Darlington Motor Speedway, the Seminole County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the ESPN Wide World of Sports at Walt Disney World, among others. For more information on Sports & Properties, Inc, visit www.sportsproperties.com.