



## Sports & Properties Facilitates Return of USA Gymnastics American Cup and Nastia Liukin Cup Events to North Carolina



**Cary, N.C.**, May 1, 2018 - The American Cup, the USA's most prestigious international invitational and part of the International Gymnastics Federation's all-around World Cup series, returns to the Greensboro (N.C.) Coliseum Complex on March 2, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. ET. The American Cup, which was held in Greensboro in 2014, is the anchor of a week that includes four gymnastics events. In addition to the American Cup, the Triple Cup weekend includes the Nastia Liukin Cup on March 1 at 7 p.m. and the men's Elite Team Cup at 6 p.m. on March 2. The Greensboro Coliseum Complex is also hosting the 2019 Greensboro Gymnastics Invitational Feb. 27-March 3, turning the city into "gymnastics central."

"I served as Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee in 2014 when we hosted both the American and Nastia Liukin Cups in March of that year," said Hill Carrow, CEO of Cary-based Sports & Properties, Inc. "USA Gymnastics remembered that, and the favorable experience they had in NC previously; so they reached out to me about a possible return visit to North Carolina in 2019. With less than a year to the event, they needed to know the possibilities asap. We pulled in members of our 2015 host committee in Greensboro, led by the Greensboro Coliseum Complex and Greensboro CVB. They juggled existing schedules and quickly cleared the calendar for these top tier gymnastics events. It was an amazingly fast turnaround, and, as a result, we can look forward to both national and international championship-level gymnastics in North Carolina next year."

The USA's Morgan Hurd of Middletown, Del./First State Gymnastics, and Yul Moldauer of Arvada, Colo./University of Oklahoma, won the 2018 American Cup. The American Cup showcases many of the world's best male and female gymnasts in a one-day, all-around competition, and invitations to compete will be based on performances at the 2018 World Gymnastics Championships.

Held in conjunction with the American Cup, the Nastia Liukin Cup features many of the country's top Junior Olympic female gymnasts and is held at 7 p.m. on the night prior to the American Cup. Named after the 2008 Olympic gold medalist and one of the USA's most popular gymnasts, the Nastia Liukin Cup showcases gymnasts who qualify through the Nastia Liukin Cup Series. The Cup series includes many of the country's top invitationals held from January through February. The Elite Team Cup, a team event with many of the USA's top junior men, wraps up the Triple Cup weekend's events on Saturday evening at 6 p.m. ET. All event start times are subject to change.

Tickets for the Triple Cup weekend are expected to go on sale this summer.

One junior and one senior gymnast will advance to the Nastia Liukin Cup from the 2019 Greensboro Gymnastics Invitational, the final qualifying event for the Nastia Liukin Cup. This is the second time the Greensboro Gymnastics Invitational, hosted by Flip Force Gymnastics, has been part of the Nastia Liukin Cup Series. In addition, designated women's sessions for the invitational's finals will use the equipment and podium brought in for the American Cup.

The impressive list of former American Cup champions also includes Simone Biles, Bart Conner, Tim Daggett, Gabby Douglas, Paul Hamm, Jonathan Horton, Shawn Johnson, Nastia Liukin, Carly Patterson, Danell Leyva, Shannon Miller, Mary Lou Retton, Kurt Thomas, Peter Vidmar, Jordyn Wieber and Kim Zmeskal-Burdette. Past sites for the American Cup include: New York, N.Y. (1976-80, 1982-84, 2004, 2008, 2012); Ft. Worth, Texas (1981, 1996-98); Indianapolis, Ind. (1985); Fairfax, Va. (1986-90, 2003); Orlando, Fla. (1991-94, 2000-02); Seattle, Wash. (1995); St. Petersburg, Fla. (1999); Uniondale, N.Y. (2005); Philadelphia, Pa. (2006); Jacksonville, Fla. (2007, 2011); Hoffman Estates, Ill. (2009, 2018); Worcester, Mass. (2010, 2013); Greensboro, N.C. (2014); Arlington, Texas (2015); and Newark (2016-17).

The Nastia Liukin Cup made its debut in 2010. Past sites include 2018, Hoffman Estates, Ill.; 2016 and 2017, Newark, N.J.; 2015, Arlington, Texas; 2014, Greensboro, N.C.; 2013 and 2010, Worcester, Mass.; 2012, New York City; and 2011, Jacksonville, Fla. 2010 in Worcester and returned in 2013. Other sites for the Nastia Liukin Cup are Jacksonville, Fla. (2011), and New York City (2012). The Elite Team Cup debuted in 2016 in Newark, N.J., returned to Newark in 2017, and was in Hoffman Estates in 2018.

## Background information

- **Sports & Properties, Inc.** SPI is a sports marketing and sports development firm located in Cary, NC, that focuses on four primary areas of business: major sponsorships, including naming rights; sports tourism; sports facilities development; and major events. SPI's recent projects include St. Pete Pier Naming Rights, Triangle Youth Clinic, the Raleigh-Durham market's Major League Soccer Application, the USA Masters Games, greater Asheville sports tourism, and the Seminole County Sports Complex. Event projects include the ACC Baseball Championships, USA Gymnastics Championships, National Collegiate Table Tennis Championships, and the Africa Youth Games. SPI clients include Capitol Broadcasting Company, the Asheville Buncombe Regional Sports Commission, the North Carolina Football Club, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center, the City of St. Petersburg, and the Greensboro Coliseum Complex, among others. For more information on SPI, visit [sportsproperties.com](http://sportsproperties.com).

- **Greensboro Coliseum Complex.** The Greensboro Coliseum Complex is a multi-building facility designed to serve the citizens of Greensboro and the surrounding area through a broad range of activities, including athletic events, cultural arts, concerts, theater, educational activities, fairs, exhibits, and public and private events of all kinds including conventions, convocations and trade and consumer shows. The Greensboro Coliseum

Complex is one of the most actively booked facilities in the country hosting more than 1,100 events on an annual basis. With its incredible versatility, the Complex has gained worldwide acclaim from promoters, producers, event planners and patrons. For more information; [www.greensborocoliseum.com](http://www.greensborocoliseum.com).

· **Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau.** The Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is an independent, non-profit governmental authority whose mission is to aggressively market Greensboro's assets, maximizing economic impact while providing excellent visitor service. Guilford County ranks third in the state in travel and tourism expenditures, with over \$1.2 billion generated in 2015 and more than 13,000 people employed in travel-related jobs. For more information: [www.visitgreensboronc.com](http://www.visitgreensboronc.com).

· **Greensboro Gymnastics Invitational (GGI)** - Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2019, the Greensboro Gymnastics Invitational, hosted by Flip Force Gymnastics, is one of the largest gymnastics events on the East Coast. The event includes competition in men's and women's gymnastics, and power tumbling and trampoline. In 2018, GGI hosted over 3,000 athletes and was a Nastia Liukin Cup senior and junior qualifying event. 2018 was also the inaugural year of the GGI State Men's Team Competition. Held annually at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex in February, GGI is directed by Chris Young (Flip Force Gymnastics), Esau Huang (Flip Force Gymnastics), and Sarah Myers (Flip Force Kidsport Gymnastics). GGI is a sponsor of Big Brothers Big Sisters, raising \$25,000 for the local chapter. For more information, go to [www.greensborogyminvite.com](http://www.greensborogyminvite.com).

· **Nastia Liukin.** At the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, Liukin's total of five medals tied the U.S. gymnastics record for most medals in one Olympic Games. Liukin's Olympic medals are: gold - all-around; silver - team, balance beam and uneven bars; and bronze - floor exercise. Liukin was the third of five U.S. women to win the Olympic all-around crown. She also won nine World medals in her career. Liukin has graced many magazine covers and appeared on various shows, including "Gossip Girl," "Make It or Break It," and the feature film, "Stick It." Liukin was a contestant in the 2015 spring edition of "Dancing with the Stars" and was the grand marshal for the 2015 Indianapolis 500. She currently serves as a gymnastics analyst for NBC Sports and is a founder of Grandeur, a global community for the next generation of female athletes that provides access to the people who inspire, resources to help achieve dreams, and communities of like-minded people with similar ambitions. Liukin was coached by her father, Valeri, who has four Olympic medals from 1988 including two gold.

· **International Gymnastics Federation.** The International Gymnastics Federation is the governing body for gymnastics worldwide. It is the oldest established international federation of an Olympic sport and has participated in the Olympic Games since its revival in 1896. The FIG governs eight sports: gymnastics for all, men's and women's artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline (including double mini-trampoline and tumbling), aerobics, acrobatics, and Parkour. It counts 148 national member federations and has its headquarters in the Olympic capital of Lausanne, Switzerland.

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SPI is a sports and entertainment development and marketing firm specializing in sports tourism, facility analysis and planning, naming rights and major sponsorships, and major event management.

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