



USA Water Polo *Olympic Development Program*

For Immediate Release:

News Contacts: Greg Mescall, USA Water Polo, 714-500-5445, gmescall@usawaterpolo.org
Hill Carrow, Greensboro Host Committee, 919-678-1651w, 919-646-3175c, hcarrow@sportsproperties.com

Greensboro Aquatic Center to Host 2019 USA Water Polo Olympic Development Tournament

Huntington Beach, CA (September 19, 2018): USA Water Polo announced today that Greensboro, North Carolina, will be the host city for the 2019 USA Water Polo Olympic Development East Regional Tournament, to be held at the Greensboro Aquatic Center, Friday, January 11 through Sunday, January 13.

The tournament will feature 16 teams each in both boy's and girl's water polo with athletes coming from all across the United States for a weekend of high level competition. The tournament serves as a key part of the identification and selection process for the USA Water Polo Pipeline National Teams including the Developmental, Cadet and Youth National Teams. These teams lay the foundation for what will eventually become the USA Water Polo Men's and Women's Olympic Teams.

"While water polo is often thought of as a west coast sport, we have experienced increased growth in the Eastern United States; so, it makes a lot of sense for us to stage one of our premier olympic development tournaments in the east. We have been so impressed with the Greensboro Aquatic Center, and we know the athletes who will be competing there will be very happy with the venue," said Ryan Cunnane, USA Water Polo Director of Events.

At 32 teams, the 2019 USA Water Polo Olympic Development East Regional Tournament is believed to be one of the largest water polo competitions ever held in the state of North Carolina. The Greensboro Aquatic Center will be able to accommodate up to three water polo games being played simultaneously.

Hill Carrow, Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for the event, said, "We are so excited to have the Greensboro Aquatic Center and the city of Greensboro designated for this tournament! There has never been an event like this – in terms of magnitude – in the Carolinas! We actually think one of the best aspects of the event will be its significant legacy, as USA Water Polo plans to use this event as a launch point for growing the sport substantially locally and regionally."

USA Water Polo intends to help position the Greensboro Aquatic Center as a hub location for growth of the sport in the region. Towards that end, USAWP, with the help of their equipment sponsors/vendors, will donate to the aquatic center additional goals and equipment designed to get young athletes interested and participating in the sport.

Hosting of the 2019 USA Water Polo Olympic Development Tournament is a joint effort among USA Water Polo, the Greensboro Aquatic Center, and Sports & Properties, Inc. Tickets for the Tournament are expected to be very reasonably priced and will be available for sale beginning later this fall.

About USA Water Polo: USA Water Polo, Inc., is the national governing body for water polo in America, overseeing our United States Olympic program as well as 20 different championship events annually, such as Junior Olympics and Masters National Championships. With more than 45,000 members, USAWP also is the sanctioning authority for more than 500 member clubs and more than 400 tournaments nationwide. USAWP is committed to the development of the sport throughout the U.S., fostering grass-roots expansion while providing a national system of affiliated clubs, certified coaches, and officials. For more information, visit www.usawaterpolo.org. For more information on USA Water Polo, visit the website at www.usawaterpolo.org.

About Sports & Properties, Inc.: Sports & Properties, Inc. (SPI) is a sports marketing and sports development firm located in Cary, NC, that focuses on four primary areas of business: sports tourism; sports facilities development; major sponsorships, including naming rights; and major events. SPI has recruited and directed numerous national and international events in Greensboro at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex including the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, U.S. Olympic Trials – Table Tennis, American Cup International Gymnastics, U.S. Masters Swimming National Championships, USA Gymnastics Championships, USA Masters Games, Nastia Liukin

Cup, National Collegiate Table Tennis Championships, and the U.S. Masters Swimming High Performance Camp. 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 the website at www.sportsproperties.com

About the Greensboro Aquatic Center: The Greensboro Aquatic Center (GAC) is a state-of-the-art aquatics facility that opened as part of the Greensboro Coliseum Complex campus in Greensboro, NC, in August of 2011. Since its opening, the GAC has been the host venue for numerous top aquatic competitions including the U.S. Olympic Trials – Synchronized Swimming, the YMCA National Short Course Championships, the USA Swimming Winter National Championships, the U.S. Masters Swimming Spring National Championships, the Speedo Winter Junior Championships, the NCAA Division III Men’s & Women’s National Championships, the ACC Men’s & Women’s Swimming Championships, the ODAC Championships, and the U.S. Masters Swimming High Performance Camp, among others. For more information about the Greensboro Aquatic Center, visit the website at www.greensboroaquaticcenter.com.



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www.sportsproperties.com | 401 Harrison Oaks Blvd. Suite 210 | Cary, NC 27513 | Phone: 919.678.1651

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