



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLORIDA REGION TO KICK OFF SITTING VOLLEYBALL INITIATIVE WITH PRESS CONFERENCE IN JACKSONVILLE

The press conference is set for Thursday, November 6th, 2014 at the Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association Training Center, located at 11661 Phillips Highway, Jacksonville, FL 32256. The conference starts at 11 AM and is open to the media and public.

Eustis, FL – November 3rd, 2014 – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball has launched an initiative this 2014/2015 season to bring sitting volleyball to the state of Florida. The goal is to grow the game and to reach out to volleyball enthusiasts with physical limitations, as well as those without.

The kick-off press conference will include information on the Florida Region sitting volleyball initiative and will raise awareness of the need for adaptive sports programs in our communities. There will also be information on the multiple sitting volleyball open houses and clinics that have been scheduled across Florida to introduce and enhance the sport.

The sitting volleyball open houses will offer information on playing, officiating and coaching sitting volleyball. They will also provide a chance for everyone in attendance to play a game. The schedule includes:

- Jacksonville Open House – November 23rd, 2014
2 PM – 3 PM – Special Guest Instructor, Bill Hamiter, US Olympic Sitting Volleyball Coach
3 PM – 5 PM
JJVA Training Center – 11661 Phillips Highway, Jacksonville, FL 32256
- Orlando Open House – December 7th, 2014
3 PM – 5 PM
The Conrad Academy – 2008 N Goldenrod Road, Orlando, FL 32807
- Tampa Open House – January 18th, 2015
3 PM – 5 PM
All People's Life Center – 6105 E Sligh Avenue, Tampa, FL 33617
- Palm Beach/Lake Worth Open House – February 8th, 2015
3 PM – 5 PM
CMAA Therapeutic Recreation Complex – 3893 Poinciana Drive, Lake Worth, FL 33467

In addition to the open houses, the Florida Region is incorporating sessions on sitting volleyball during their annual Florida Region Coaches Clinic on January 10th, 2015 at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach, FL. The classes will be taught by John Kessel, the USA Volleyball Director of Sports Development and the World ParaVolley Director of Development.

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Leading the way on this initiative is Mary Andrew, Commissioner of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. Mary commented, "I am excited for this organized initiative to bring the sport of Sitting Volleyball to our region members and the citizens of our great state. This initiative is an effort by many different organizations throughout the region to offer the opportunity for everyone to learn and participate in this fun and exciting sport. It will be rewarding for us to grow the wonderful sport of volleyball by offering Sitting Volleyball to the people of Florida."

This state-wide sitting volleyball initiative will culminate with an All-Star Sitting Volleyball Exhibition, taking place during the Florida Region Girls' Junior Regional Volleyball Championships on May 2nd, 2015 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL.

"With the addition of our new Sitting Volleyball initiative here in Florida, we can now confidently say that we offer virtually every version of volleyball that you can possibly play," said Steve Bishop, Executive Director and President of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. "Sitting Volleyball offers a fun and challenging option for both disabled and able-bodied athletes. Everyone that joins us on this initiative will be enriched and will have a new appreciation for the sitting volleyball game. We hope that you will join us at an upcoming Sitting Volleyball open house near you to learn more about the game and get involved. I challenge all Florida Region members to play at least one game of Sitting Volleyball during the 2014/2015 season!"

Sitting volleyball, as defined by USA Volleyball, is played from a sitting position on the floor. The sport is governed by the same set of rules as the able-bodied game, with a few minor rule modifications. Players are allowed to block serves, but one "cheek" must be in contact with the floor whenever they make contact with the ball.

For more information on the Florida Region Sitting Volleyball initiative, please visit <http://www.floridavolleyball.org/florida-sitting-volleyball.html>.

About USA Sitting Volleyball:

USA Sitting Volleyball is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of sitting volleyball in the United States and is recognized by World ParaVolley and U.S. Paralympics (a division of the United States Olympic Committee - USOC). Additional information on USA Sitting Volleyball can be found at: www.USAVolleyball.org.

About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501c3 non-profit that began operations in the 1960's and was officially incorporated in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is one of the 40 regional volleyball associations under the umbrella of USA Volleyball and currently serves over 12,500 members. Indoor and outdoor programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball headquarters is located in Eustis, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

For additional information contact:

Ashley Shewey, Marketing Coordinator
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.
t: 352-742-0080 e: Ashley@FloridaVolleyball.org

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