



NEWS

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

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Netball returns to Delray Beach

Delray Beach, FL-Netball in the United States takes another leap forward as its first ever 3-match international ranking series against Bermuda will be held Friday, December 7 at 6pm and Saturday, December 8th at 9:30am and 6:30pm at the Pompey Park Recreation Center in Delray Beach. Netball has been played in Bermuda for over 50 years and is a main stay sport in their educational system and is played recreationally across the island producing world-class netball athletes. However, the USA beat Bermuda in the recent regional championships in Trinidad, but Bermuda will be fielding a very competitive team that will give the USA intense competition for this weekend's rematch. USA's team depleted by the loss of players from the Northeast,



who are still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, will be fielding several new faces, two of whom are slated for the U21 team competing in the World Youth Championships in Glasgow, Scotland next year. Although just a two country competition this year, it is anticipated that this year's competition dubbed "The Atlantic Cup" will become an event for countries that surround the Atlantic Ocean in years to come.

Netball is played by 20 million registered players around the world and probably double that number recreationally. The USA is currently ranked 17th out of over 80 registered countries. The importance of this event is recognized by the anticipated attendance of The Honorable Molly Rhone,OJ, President of the International Federation of Netball Associations, along with its CEO, Clare Briegal, and Stan Brassie, a representative of the International University Sports Federation (FISU), the World University Games organization.

Come out this Friday and Saturday and cheer on this international netball competition. This weekend's event is located at Pompey Park Recreation Center and is free to the public.

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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