



# 2015

ANNUAL REPORT



 **RECOGNIZED SPORT ORGANIZATION**



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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At-Large Representative

**HENRY THORNE** — Vice President  
At-Large Representative

**JOSH SEAMON** — Secretary  
At-Large Representative

**BRIAN GARCIA** — Treasurer  
Elite Athlete Representative

**AUDRIUS BARZDUKAS** —  
At-Large (Independent) Representative

**VAL BELMONTE** —  
At-Large (Independent) Representative

**MICHAEL ECK** —  
At-Large (Independent) Representative

**NESS FAJARDO** —  
Elite Athlete Representative

**KATHY HENDRICKSON** —  
At-Large Representative

**DAVE KLINK** —  
Elite Athlete Representative

**STEVE MOONEY** —  
At-Large (Appointed) Representative

**MIKE PAYNE** —  
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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**DEANNA BALL** President, USA Ultimate

It might sound cliché to open this letter pointing out the key components of our mission: character, community and competition. But each of these components was touched by the organization's accomplishments in 2015. It is, at times, difficult to fully understand how all the moving parts of our organization come together and result in increased and improved opportunities for our members. But I have seen first-hand how hard-working and dedicated the USA Ultimate staff is. From behind the scenes in Colorado Springs to working on the ground at events, the individuals who actively carry out the mission do so with pride and unbelievable resolve.

In 2015, the USA Ultimate Board of Directors continued to support the staff's success as they tirelessly work to:

- › Evolve governance model and organizational structure to support growth and quality.
- › Maintain transparent and sound financial practices.
- › Evolve risk management policies and processes to minimize organizational liability.
- › Diversify and expand revenue base including a USA Ultimate fundraising program.
- › Develop USA Ultimate's branding strategy in relation to competitive, educational and recreational ultimate.

Aside from the more visible, marquee events, USA Ultimate also continued to build and grow programs that really get at the root of who we are—community. The Girls' Ultimate Movement (GUM), affiliate organizations, the launch of state-based organizations, new relationships with groups we can now access via our recognition by the USOC (Catholic Youth Organization, Jewish Community Centers, Boy Scouts and the Women's Sports Foundation)—the efforts in 2015 in these areas were all targeted not just to reach strategic plan and revenue goals, but to keep close to heart what we are about as a sport.

From the board perspective, at our January 2015 in-person board meeting, we greeted new board members Ness Fajardo to represent our elite athletes and Mike Eck to support our marketing efforts. At that meeting, the board listened to speakers from the USOC as they shared with us attributes of well-run national governing bodies (NGBs). We learned about potential areas of weakness, and as a board, renewed our commitment to continue to listen, learn and adjust to what our greater ultimate community wants and needs, while looking ahead to the future.

2015 saw the creation of the board-based Equity Task Force—a group of board members committed to monitoring, reporting and influencing equity issues. As part of that commitment, two open forums were held: an in-person forum at the U.S. Open in July and a phone conference forum in November. The November forum was part of a retreat, facilitated by renowned equity expert Janet Judge. From that retreat, we found support in our efforts thus far, and outlined ongoing tasks to ensure forward progress continues to support gender equity and equity across competition divisions, as well as diversity. And I will add here my personal promise that our organization will continue to prioritize all efforts—ongoing and new—related to equity and diversity.

While I've touched on competition and community, I would be remiss not to mention character. Spirit of the Game (SOTG) is our hallmark. In 2015, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognized ultimate and our international governing body, the World Flying Disc Federation. SOTG was highlighted by the IOC as a recognizable advantage our sport has over all others. As we continue to move forward, whether in grassroots efforts in the community or in our larger programs that support competition, let us all remember to keep SOTG at the forefront, not only as a guide, but as a beacon.

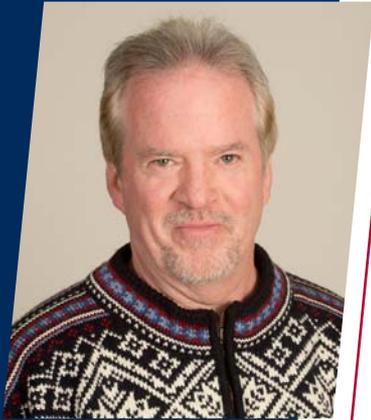
I applaud our board and our staff for a successful 2015. To our members—I ask you to continue contributing to, questioning and supporting the efforts of USA Ultimate. And with that, continue to uphold our mission: To advance the sport of ultimate in the United States by enhancing and promoting Character, Community, and Competition.

Sincerely,

**DEANNA BALL**

President, USA Ultimate





# LETTER FROM THE CEO

**DR. TOM CRAWFORD** Chief Executive Officer

It's not often that an organization and sport can have back-to-back truly transformative years, but we just did! 2015 was another huge year for USA Ultimate, with the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) permanent recognition of our sport and the World Flying Disc Federation, following our recognition by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) in 2014.

The IOC recognition officially puts us on the bench for future Olympic Games inclusion and also enhances many countries' ability to get resources from their governments or ministries of sport. It also continues to build the credibility of our sport and helps all countries pursue national development strategies.

Our membership in the USOC continued to pay off through new relationships with the Catholic Youth Organization, Jewish Community Centers, Boy Scouts of America and Women's

Sports Foundation. Aided by the relocation of USA Ultimate's headquarters to Colorado Springs, Colo. - the Olympic City - in January 2015, we hope to continue developing new partnerships with USOC members like these and other youth-serving organizations, especially as we expand the focus of our gender equity working group to include increased diversity in our sport.

Our double-digit membership growth continued in 2015, pushing USA Ultimate memberships past the 50,000 mark for the first time ever. Our youth-serving organization memberships more than doubled in 2015, along with affiliate memberships. In addition, the affiliate organizations themselves grew by an average of 25 percent. Youth participation numbers were up significantly with high school up 16 percent and youth club athletes up 38 percent.

Our tremendous growth was also reflected in the sizable increases of many of our events. Participation at the Youth Club Championships grew 16 percent, and team participation in the masters division was up 40 percent.

We also had another incredibly successful year in international competition. The seven national teams that represented the U.S. at the World Championships of Beach Ultimate (WCBU) in March brought home seven medals—six gold, one bronze—from

Dubai. In July, our three U-23 National Teams earned two gold medals and one silver medal at the World Under-23 Ultimate Championships in London. Together, the 10 U.S. National Teams earned a 125-2 record over the course of 2015. The U.S. delegation also earned three spirit awards: men's and women's at WCBU and women's at U-23.

In 2015, we announced an important and aggressive new initiative which we hope will not only keep this growth going but also serve as a catalyst for faster growth, namely our new state-based organizations. The first three USA Ultimate subsidiaries—announced in early 2016—are Minnesota Ultimate, New England Ultimate and North Carolina Ultimate. Our goal is to invest significant financial and support resources to help all these state organizations, and many more in the future, thrive and grow, while driving the growth of the USA Ultimate membership. The state-based organizations will also be developing new and creative local programming and playing opportunities, especially for youth.

On the business side, our staff and a key board member assisted Discraft in entering the sports retail space in a big way, including getting USA Ultimate-branded discs on shelves at Hibbett Sports, Dicks Sporting Goods and Sports Authority stores around the country. We also launched a partnership with VISA, creating USA Ultimate VISA rewards cards and spent a good deal of time researching advanced digital marketing and communications platforms and channels with Google in the hopes of launching an initiative in this area in 2016. Our sponsorship/licensing and merchandise revenue grew 16 percent in 2015, allowing us to continue to develop alternative revenue streams and keep membership dues down.

On the communications side, we launched our new mobile app, developed by the same partner running the USOC's Rio 2016 app. We will be constantly updating the app, adding new and improved features as our budget allows, all with lots of player input. We also launched a weekly digital newsletter in 2015 to help keep our members informed of all our activities on a consistent basis. Our social media outreach continued to grow across all channels, including garnering 9,000 followers on our new Instagram account. The Girls' Ultimate Movement (GUM) website—[gum.usultimate.org](http://gum.usultimate.org)—also launched in 2015, providing a central location for the events, resources and motivation that are helping to drive the growth of girls' ultimate around the country.

Financially, we had another sound year, netting \$87,568 before capital expenses, with a year-end loss of \$6,981 after capital expenses. Our balance sheet is strong with assets of \$2.5 million and a full cash reserve as outlined in our reserve policy.

All of these achievements are the result of an incredibly professional and hardworking staff, a smart and very supportive and creative board, and over 500 dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to advance the sport of ultimate every day. Thanks with all my heart for another great year!

## DR. TOM CRAWFORD

CEO, USA Ultimate



# ABOUT



# USA ULTIMATE

is the national governing body for the sport of ultimate in the United States. USA Ultimate's full-time staff is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., but works with volunteers all across the country to create opportunities to advance the sport. Founded in 1979 as the Ultimate Players Association, the governing body was rebranded as USA Ultimate in 2010.

USA Ultimate is a member of the World Flying Disc Federation, ultimate's international federation, and after successfully completing the arduous application and interview process, was officially recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as a Recognized Sport Organization in 2014.

Until 2013, the World Flying Disc Federation belonged to the General Association of International Sport Federations and the International

World Games Association. In early 2013, after fulfilling all criteria of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) recognition procedure, the World Flying Disc Federation became a provisional member of the IOC. WFDF became a fully recognized member of the IOC in the summer of 2015.

USA Ultimate oversees the sport at all competitive levels in the United States, from youth and recreational leagues, to college competition and elite, club-level ultimate. USA Ultimate also supports and selects national teams to represent the U.S. in international competitions around the world.

The organization has an annual membership of 50,000 and sanctions more than 450 competitive and recreational events each year.



## MISSION

The mission of USA Ultimate is to advance the sport of ultimate in the United States by enhancing and promoting Character, Community and Competition.

## VISION

Ultimate is widely known, played and respected in the United States as a sport that inspires athletic excellence and integrity among participants and fans.



# USA ULTIMATE CORE VALUES

## RESPECT

We honor the rights, views, dignity and inherent value of others, striving for an environment of mutual trust.

## INTEGRITY

We stay true to the mission of USA Ultimate and the highest ethical standards, demonstrating honesty and fairness in every action we take.

## RESPONSIBILITY

We hold ourselves accountable for our decisions and actions, while striving for excellence in all that we do; we are dedicated stewards of the sport of ultimate.

## LEADERSHIP

We drive thoughtful growth, development and innovation in competition and the ultimate community, enhancing and promoting the sport as a joy to play and watch.

## TEAMWORK

We encourage a diverse and inclusive ultimate community and work cooperatively with members and partners to achieve our mission.



# STRATEGIC PLAN

In the fall of 2012, USA Ultimate announced its new six-year strategic plan that will outline the organization's operations and goals from 2013-2018. The plan will guide decision making, resource allocation and prioritization of work through 2018. In addition, for the first time ever, USA Ultimate set out a vision and set of core values that reflect who we are and what we stand for.

The plan was developed with the help of Rader Consulting, a top-notch firm considered one of the gurus of strategic planning for national governing bodies and the Olympic movement. The strategic plan will take ultimate to the next level by increasing our visibility and driving growth across all age groups and divisions, with a particular emphasis on youth.

Eighteen months of research and community outreach was taken into account and examined throughout the process that resulted in the six goals and complementary strategies outlined here.

## GOAL

# 1

### INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF ULTIMATE.

1. Partner with media to broadcast USA Ultimate's premier 3-5 events to a mass audience.
2. Reach a broad audience via promotions done in collaboration with sponsors and other partners.
3. Reach targeted populations through emerging media channels.
4. Achieve national sports news visibility with a targeted publicity plan.
5. Develop a promotional plan specifically for youth and parents.

## GOAL

# 2

### GROW YOUTH, COLLEGE AND LEAGUE ULTIMATE.

1. Develop and oversee a broad spectrum of programs for a diverse community of youth players and administrators.
2. Facilitate knowledge transfer and program integration between leagues, other local organizations and USA Ultimate.
3. Provide tools to players and administrators to increase the number of sustainable college programs.
4. Vastly increase the number of qualified coaches and observers via training and certification programs.
5. Encourage lifetime participation in programs, competitive divisions and roles (coaching, observing, etc.).

## GOAL

# 3

### ORGANIZE THE HIGHEST QUALITY U.S. COMPETITIVE EVENTS.

1. Complete club division restructuring efforts.
2. Establish the U.S. Open as a top international event focused on premier competition, education and community building.
3. Attract the best athletes and teams to play in USA Ultimate's premier events.
4. Evolve and enforce operational quality standards for all stages of USA Ultimate's championship events.
5. Oversee event organizer certification programs, and provide resources for profitable event planning.
6. Lead a world-class marketing and promotional program to showcase USA Ultimate events and athletes.
7. Attract and retain in-person and media viewership of both ultimate-playing and other fans.

## GOAL

# 4

### MAKE SPIRIT OF THE GAME REAL FOR TODAY'S ULTIMATE PLAYERS AND COMMUNITY.

1. Lead a community-wide effort to clarify and communicate how Spirit of the Game applies to behaviors on and off the field.
2. Exercise watchful, decisive and fair oversight of SOTG and values at USA Ultimate events.
3. Develop coordinated values-focused internal publicity program focusing on exemplary teams and individuals.

## GOAL

# 5

### ACHIEVE SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE OF USA ULTIMATE TEAMS IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

1. Refine and maintain fair and effective Team USA player and team selection processes at all levels.
2. Provide training and operational support for teams at priority international competition.
3. Develop and support an ongoing Team USA Coaching Program.
4. Communicate guidelines for athlete development across all levels.
5. Support gradual progress of ultimate towards Pan-American and eventually Olympic Games participation.

## GOAL

# 6

### GOVERN THE ORGANIZATION TO ENSURE STABILITY AND EXCELLENCE.

1. Evolve governance model and organizational structure to support growth and quality.
2. Maintain transparent and sound financial practices.
3. Evolve risk management policies and processes to minimize organizational liability.
4. Diversify and expand revenue base including a USA Ultimate fundraising program.
5. Develop USA Ultimate's branding strategy in relation to competitive, educational and recreational ultimate.



# MEMBERSHIP

## **MEMBERSHIP LEVELS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL TYPES OF MEMBERS, FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO PLAYERS AND COACHES.**

### **YOUTH**

Specially priced membership for individuals who are still in high school.

### **COLLEGE**

For individuals who are enrolled at least half-time.

### **ADULT**

For individuals who are no longer in high school.

### **COACH AND COACH/PLAYER**

Includes player and non-player options for individuals age 18 and older.

### **FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

A special membership for spectators, fans and supporters of ultimate.

### **YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION**

Schools, community recreation programs and local sport organizations receive a complimentary Learn to Play kit along with many other member benefits.

### **EVENT**

Available for one-time event participation to youth and adults to play in certain USA Ultimate sanctioned events; does not qualify for championship series or regular-season events.

### **AFFILIATE**

Offered only through the Affiliate Program, these memberships provide access to local leagues and programs at heavily discounted prices, along with many other member benefits.

### **LIFETIME**

Enjoy a lifetime of benefits! Anyone is eligible.

---

Memberships are based on a calendar year (January 1-December 31).  
All memberships expire on December 31, regardless of when you sign up.  
USA Ultimate begins accepting renewals on December 1  
for the new membership cycle.

## USA ULTIMATE AFFILIATE PROGRAM

The Affiliate Program was created in 2013 with the express purpose of supporting and formalizing the development of local area ultimate organizations and organized leagues into USA Ultimate affiliates, in order to unify and promote the sport and assist with the provision and expansion of programs and services to the boys, girls, men and women playing ultimate in a local geographic area. Through a closely connected partnership with the national governing body, affiliates benefit from additional resources and opportunities to grow and increase their reach.

### AFFILIATES

An affiliate is an organization that has been approved as a partner of USA Ultimate with the goal of building lasting partnerships which USA Ultimate and the local organizations strive to develop, strengthen and maintain. Through these partnerships, USA Ultimate supports affiliates to unify, promote and provide programs and services to the players in their geographic areas. While USA Ultimate maintains a close, programmatic and strategic relationship with affiliates, each affiliate is separate and distinct, remaining its own corporation that serves its constituents, elects board members and manages affairs as deemed appropriate under the affiliate bylaws.

During the 2015 calendar year, the third official year of the Affiliate Program, six new organizations partnered with USA Ultimate, bringing the program total to 15. 2015 USA Ultimate Affiliates include:

- › **ALBANY ULTIMATE DISC ASSOCIATION** (New York)
- › **ALTITUDE YOUTH ULTIMATE** (Colorado)
- › **ATLANTA FLYING DISC CLUB JUNIORS** (Georgia)
- › **COLUMBUS ULTIMATE DISC ASSOCIATION** (Ohio)
- › **CONNECTICUT ULTIMATE CLUB** (Connecticut)
- › **DISCNY** (New York)
- › **INDIANA ULTIMATE FOUNDATION** (Indiana)
- › **JACKSONVILLE ULTIMATE LEAGUE** (Florida)
- › **NEUQUA VALLEY ULTIMATE** (Illinois)
- › **MAINE ULTIMATE** (Maine)
- › **MINNESOTA YOUTH ULTIMATE** (Minnesota)
- › **MISSOULA ULTIMATE FEDERATION** (Montana)
- › **TRIANGLE ULTIMATE** (North Carolina)
- › **ULTIMATE PLAYERS LEAGUE OF AUSTIN** (Texas)
- › **VALLEY ULTIMATE** (Massachusetts)



Each new partner received an Infrastructure Support Grant to help in the transition phase and to support the growth of the respective organization.

USA Ultimate also continued investments and efforts to increase the collaboration and partnerships between all affiliate organizations by bringing representatives from each affiliate together at the annual U.S. Open Convention. The representatives were able to share ideas and initiatives, success stories and suggestions for ways to improve and develop further at the local level. Similar efforts will continue in the future as the Affiliate Program continues to grow.

## PLAY IT FORWARD

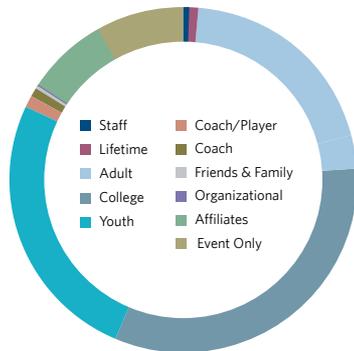
USA Ultimate launched the Play It Forward program in 2014 to provide financial assistance to youth ultimate players with demonstrated need by helping cover the cost of their USA Ultimate memberships.

The inaugural end-of-year Play It Forward campaign received enough donations in its initial push to help more than 500 kids afford USA Ultimate memberships in 2015, with additional donations continuing to be accepted throughout the calendar year.

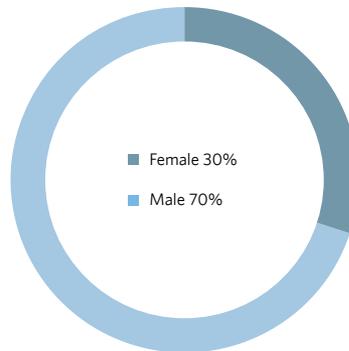
In coordination with the 2015 end-of-year donation campaign, USA Ultimate created its second Signature Series disc which commemorates players, events and moments that signify the sport and USA Ultimate over the past year. Anyone who donated \$30 or more was eligible to receive the 2015 Signature Series disc wherein the central image represents the inaugural USA Ultimate Beach Championships and is surrounded by the signatures of the 2015 Callahan, Peter Farricker, Kathy Pufahl and Marty Bakko Award winners.



### MEMBERSHIP



### GENDER

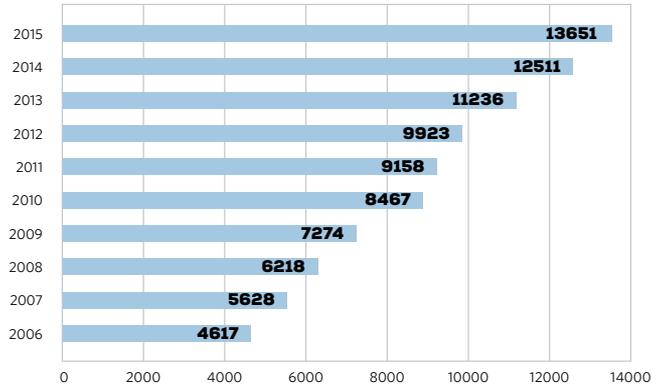


## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

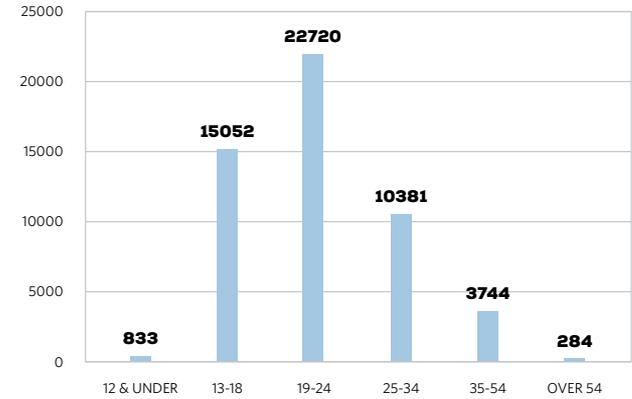
USA Ultimate membership exceeded 50,000 for the first time ever in 2015. Full-year memberships grew 13.3 percent, while total membership (including event-only members) grew 9.1 percent, amounting to a USA Ultimate membership of 53,362 across all categories at year-end. The college division remained USA Ultimate's largest membership category in 2015 with nearly 18,000 members. Affiliate and youth-serving organization memberships saw the largest percentage of growth, more than doubling from 2014 to 2015. Memberships in nearly every other category increased as well, including impressive growth in the adult, coach/player and youth groups.

# MEMBERSHIP

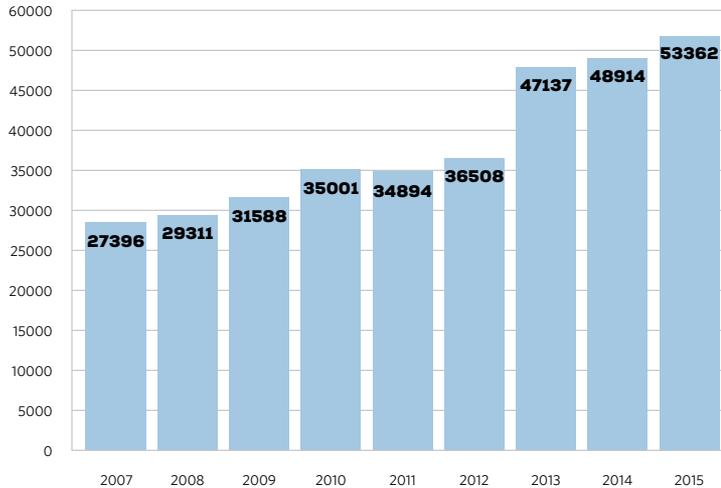
## YOUTH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH



## AGE



## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH



## MEMBER RETENTION

Membership retention rates increased slightly from 2014 to 2015, with 61 percent of the 2014 membership returning in 2015, accounting for 29,831 members. The retention rate was highest at the coach levels which saw 81 percent of members return from 2014 to 2015, as compared to 72 percent at the adult level, 63 percent in college and 57 percent in youth.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

USA Ultimate members may participate in an unlimited number of sanctioned and championship events during the calendar year, vote in elections, participate in the USA Ultimate insurance program, receive the quarterly magazine, take advantage of partner discounts, attend certification clinics and much more!

- › Attend and participate in USA Ultimate clinics, conventions, championships and sanctioned events.
- › Apply for grants or kits to assist with developing local programs, run a sanctioned event and receive benefits such as insurance, or become a certified coach, observer, or tournament director.
- › Take advantage of access to the USA Ultimate mobile app and to the quarterly USA Ultimate magazine—the top ultimate magazine in the world, featuring highlights, photos and stories from the biggest events; player tips; coaching advice; and much more.
- › Get coverage through the USA Ultimate insurance program when participating in USA Ultimate sanctioned events.
- › Get discounted rates on USA Ultimate general merchandise such as team kits, learn to play kits, rule books and more.
- › Utilize merchandise, ticket and travel discounts from our partners, including:



**20% OFF** at Wyndham Hotels



**20% OFF** off at Red Roof Inn



**20% OFF** off custom-printed Ultrastar discs from Discraft

- › Get access to scholarship opportunities through DeVry University, as part of the Olympic Family.
- › Make a real difference in the sport with eligibility to vote in USA Ultimate elections and the option to seek election to the Board of Directors; become a sectional, regional or national coordinator; or join other volunteer committees.

We continue to work hard to add additional exclusive and valuable benefits like these. Check the USA Ultimate website regularly for updates on special offers such as those listed above.



# COMPETITION

Each year, hundreds of ultimate tournaments take place across the United States. In 2015, USA Ultimate sanctioned 467 events and local programs, designating 91 as regular-season college events and 60 as regular-season club events. In addition, USA Ultimate delivered 11 high-quality championship events across the youth, college, club, beach and masters divisions. Over 300 qualifying events—including conference, sectional and regional championships, as well as high school state championships—were also held in the lead-up to USA Ultimate's 11 annual championship events.

## YOUTH ULTIMATE

USA Ultimate provides competition programs for every age group of its more than 50,000 members. The youth division has been the organization's fastest-growing division over the last several years. For the second year in a row, the number of youth teams participating in USA Ultimate's competition programs outnumbered the number of participating club teams.

In part as a result of the continued growth of the division and in part to help continue its growth, the increasing number of youth players has made competition expansions possible. The Youth Club Championships continues to expand each year, with more athletes and teams than ever competing at the 2015 edition, as well as another year of growth at the four high school regional championship events.

The future of ultimate continues to get stronger every year.

## BEACH DIVISION

After laying the groundwork in 2014, the inaugural USA Ultimate Beach Championships were held in 2015. Fifty-six teams and nearly 800 athletes took to the sand in Virginia Beach in early May where champions were crowned in five divisions: men's, mixed, women's, mixed masters and grand masters.

## U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS & CONVENTION

USA Ultimate held its fourth-annual U.S. Open Championships & Convention over the Fourth of July weekend in 2015, hosting teams from across the United States and the world in West Chester, Ohio.

Thirty-six teams and over 800 athletes competed in the event, which is set to continue as an invite-only competition that highlights the best teams, athletes and competition the sport has to offer from around the world. The 2015 event featured teams from six nations: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In conjunction with the tournament portion of the event, a convention was also held, open to anyone and everyone in the ultimate community who desires to organize, advance and develop the sport of ultimate worldwide. The 2015 convention provided sessions on the creation of a national ultimate infrastructure, long-term athlete development, Safe Sport, spirit scoring, youth club division growth, budgeting for youth event growth, affiliate organization highlights, tournament director certification and the Girls' Ultimate Movement, as well as an open forum on gender equity, all designed with organizers, athletes and coaches in mind.

# YOUTH VOLUNTEER STRUCTURE

USA Ultimate continually reviews its volunteer structures, particularly as it relates to the constantly growing and changing youth division. 2015 was another big year for additions and restructuring of national, regional and state youth volunteers.

After two years of helping spearhead the Girls' Ultimate Movement (GUM), co-founder Zara Cadoux stepped down from her role as the GUM chair. Her fellow co-founder, Heather Ann Brauer, moved from her position as USA Ultimate's National Girls' Outreach Director to fill the role and was subsequently replaced in her girls' outreach post by Rachel Johnson.

After instituting significant additions to the volunteer structure in 2014, eight new regional outreach positions, four Girls' Regional Outreach Directors and four Regional Outreach Directors, were added to the structure in 2015. The additions allow for more localized support and increase the ability of National Girls' Outreach Director Rachel Johnson and National Outreach Director Claire Chastain to focus their energies on programs and planning at the national level while supporting the new regional directors.

The Girls' Regional Outreach Directors and Regional Outreach Directors enable the sport to be extended into new communities around the country and help create additional playing opportunities for youth. With the help of these new volunteers, USA Ultimate education and outreach programs like Learn to Play, GUM clinics and the Coaching Development Program are becoming more easily accessible all around the United States. The regional directors support Girls' State Outreach Coordinators and State Outreach Coordinators, as they implement USA Ultimate youth outreach programs at the state and local level.

In addition to outreach positions, competition state outreach coordinators assist in the implementation of youth competition at the state level, focusing on high school state championship events, as well as working to grow the youth division in their state, ideally alongside the state outreach and girls' state outreach coordinators.

In all, nearly 100 community members, with openings for many more, volunteer their time each year to assist with the development of the youth division.





# YOUTH COMPETITION

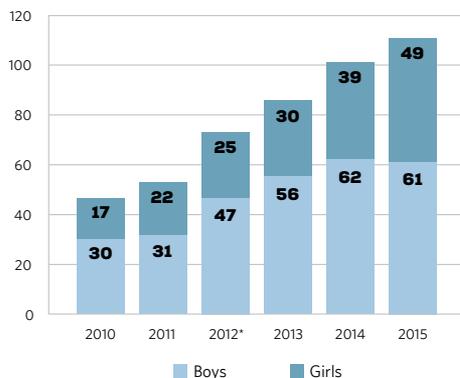
Each year, USA Ultimate hosts and helps organize dozens of youth division events across the country. Specifically hosted by USA Ultimate are high school regional championships and the Youth Club Championships. High school state championships are USA Ultimate properties but are organized locally, with USA Ultimate assisting with registration, competition formats and event guidelines.

# YOUTH COMPETITION

## HIGH SCHOOL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In 2015, USA Ultimate continued the four-region high school structure implemented in 2012 and again hosted four regional championship events: Centrals, Northeasterns, Southern and Westerns. 2015's increased participation was driven by the girls' division; 10 additional girls' teams competed across the high school regional championship events in 2015.

HIGH SCHOOL REGIONALS PARTICIPATING TEAMS



\*In 2012, the USA Ultimate High School Regional Championships transitioned from only two regional events, Eastern and Western, to four: Central, Northeastern, Southern and Western.



## RESULTS:

### NORTHEASTERNS BOYS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. <b>Pennsbury</b>	Lee Farrell
2. <b>Amherst</b>	Jordan van Emmerick
3T. <b>Columbia</b>	Harry McNamara
3T. <b>Lexington</b>	Mark Rosenberg
5T. <b>Longmeadow</b>	Nicky Taylor
5T. <b>Middletown</b>	Kennie Vaughn
7T. <b>Needham</b>	Ethan Nash
7T. <b>Stuyvesant</b>	Benjamin Zhang
9. <b>Masconomet</b>	Mitch Hebert
10. <b>Falmouth</b>	Matt Edmonds
11T. <b>Xavier</b>	Kevin Lewis
11T. <b>West Windsor-Plainsboro</b>	Randy Tang
13T. <b>Sharon</b>	Noah Kurland
13T. <b>Cape Elizabeth</b>	Daniel Menz
15T. <b>Montpelier</b>	Aidan Casner
15. <b>Watchung Hills</b>	Anthony Rodrigues

Team Spirit Award Winner: Falmouth, Montpelier

### NORTHEASTERNS GIRLS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. <b>Amherst</b>	Jackie Mathers
2. <b>Lexington</b>	Marissa Lerner
3T. <b>Amherst JVA</b>	Manali Rege-Colt
3T. <b>Watchung Hills</b>	Kim Chao
5T. <b>Cape Elizabeth</b>	Sierra Bates
5T. <b>Pioneer Valley</b>	Maddie Silverman
7T. <b>Greely</b>	Emma Massey
7T. <b>Pennsbury</b>	Olivia Alongi
9. <b>Andover</b>	Jackie Dean
10. <b>Falmouth</b>	Callie McMahon
11T. <b>Columbia</b>	Shannon Bryan
11T. <b>West Windsor-Plainsboro</b>	Poorna Dutta
13. <b>Stuyvesant</b>	Sofia Collins

Team Spirit Award Winner: Pioneer Valley



### SOUTHERNS BOYS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. <b>Carolina Friends</b>	Nick Tansey
2. <b>Paideia</b>	Gabriel Eisen
3T. <b>Carrboro</b>	Dean Merritt
3T. <b>Catholic</b>	Brandon Magazine
5T. <b>East Chapel Hill</b>	Amos Pomp
5T. <b>Independence</b>	Nick Baldwin
7T. <b>Blackman</b>	Miguel Hector
7T. <b>Grady</b>	Trent Lopata
9. <b>Brookwood</b>	Reuben Rivas
10. <b>Yorktown</b>	Johnny Malks
11T. <b>Chapel Hill</b>	Kevin Zhang
11T. <b>HB Woodlawn</b>	Joe Sanz
13T. <b>Lakeside</b>	Conor Brownell
13T. <b>NCSSM</b>	Edward Zhuang
15T. <b>Apex</b>	Aidan Todd
15T. <b>Woodside</b>	Reggie McClellan

Team Spirit Award Winner: Chapel Hill

### SOUTHERNS GIRLS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. <b>Paideia</b>	Sylvia Snyderman
2. <b>Carrboro</b>	Bhairavy Puviindran
3. <b>East Chapel Hill</b>	Jane Carsey
4. <b>Green Hope</b>	Tiffany Wei
5. <b>HB Woodlawn</b>	Christine DeRieux
6. <b>Grady</b>	Ludovica Longo
7. <b>University School of Nashville</b>	Metta Devine-Qin
8. <b>Blackman</b>	Christine Monchecourt
9. <b>Brookwood</b>	Liz Reeves
10. <b>Yorktown-Washington Lee</b>	Marlee Cobb
11. <b>Paideia JV</b>	Katie Radulovacki
12. <b>NCSSM</b>	Rachel Milkereit

Team Spirit Award Winner: Carrboro



## CENTRALS BOYS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Hopkins	Sam Kaminsky
2. Neuqua Valley A	Jake Marrapode
3T. Edina	Wystan Duhn
3T. Holy Family Catholic	John Beatrice
5T. Madison Memorial	Ryan Menninga
5T. Neuqua Valley B	Phuoc Vo
7T. Center Grove	Phillip Simcox
7T. Minneapolis South	Jojo Baldus
9. Cathedral	Jacob Schwitalla
10. Ames	Aaron Marner
11. Robbinsdale-Armstrong	Thomas Norman
12. St. Paul Charter	Aidan Clements
13T. Geneva	Michael Wagner
13T. Naperville Central	John Trowbridge

Team Spirit Award Winner: Neuqua Valley A

## CENTRALS GIRLS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Neuqua Valley	Rachel Lindsey
2. Holy Family Catholic	Emily Dorsey
3. St. Paul Charter	Jian Kettunen
4. Edina	Mara Stephan
5. Cathedral	Carmen Ebel
6. Robbinsdale-Armstrong	Zoe Bakken-Heck
7. Hopkins	Maddie Ansel
8. Minneapolis South	Sofie Everetts
9. Madison Memorial	Maddy Green
10. Walter Payton	Hindeke Tewodros
11. Center Grove	Delaney Johnson

Team Spirit Award Winner: Center Grove



## WESTERNS BOYS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Roosevelt	Michael Boyco
2. Northwest School	Sam Packard
3T. Berkeley	Ari Ball-Burack
3T. Monarch	Reed Forman
5T. South Eugene	Brooks Mikkelsen
5T. Summit	Chad Rogers
7T. Ballard	Axel Anderson
7T. Franklin	Yu Wen Chen
9. Nathan Hale	Will McDonald
10. Atascadero	Christian Baker
11. Cleveland	Ronnie Estoque
12. Garfield	Khoi Nguyen
13. Ingraham	Julien Butwin
14. Corvallis	Carson Boggess
15. Gunn	Victor Kao

Team Spirit Award Winner: Summit

## WESTERNS GIRLS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Lakeside	Julia Lober
2. Northwest School	Rowan Foote
3T. Franklin	Kennadi Hairston
3T. Nathan Hale	Ruby Cassidy
5T. Corvallis	Makayla Wahaus
5T. Roosevelt	Francis Gellert
7T. Berkeley	Emmy Curtiss
7T. Ingraham	Juliette Green
9. Crescent Valley	Maddy Otto
10. South Eugene	Raina Kamrat
11. Summit	Sarah Schwiebert
12. Cleveland	Ashley Escobar
13. Garfield	Ella Wood

Team Spirit Award Winner: Northwest School



## HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

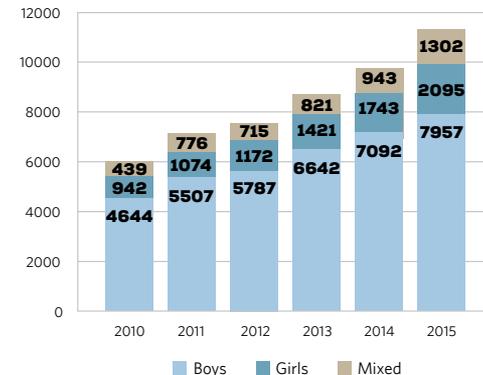
In terms of events, high school state championship play remained constant from 2014 to 2015 with 55 championship titles awarded across 26 states in the boys', girls' and mixed divisions, but participation increased by 16 percent. One new state (Kentucky) held a championship, but Vermont's championship event was run by the state's principals' association as they move toward giving ultimate varsity status statewide.

In addition to the 26 states hosting official USA Ultimate state championship events, organizers in a number of other states are working with USA Ultimate to conduct outreach initiatives, organize existing ultimate groups and promulgate the sport across their states.

Despite the number of states hosting championships remaining steady, athlete participation at the existing championships increased across all three divisions. Participation in the girls' division, often the most difficult division in which to see growth, increased 20 percent over 2014. Mixed division participation increased by 38 percent, while the boys' division saw 12 percent growth.



### HIGH SCHOOL STATES PARTICIPATION - ATHLETES



## HERE ARE THE WINNING SCHOOLS FROM 2015:

### CALIFORNIA

Boys (D-I) - **Atascadero**

### COLORADO

Boys (D-I) - **Monarch A**

Boys (D-II) - **D'Evelyn**

Girls - **Monarch**

Mixed (D-I) - **Lakewood**

Mixed (D-II) - **Heritage**

### CONNECTICUT

Boys - **Hotchkiss School**

### GEORGIA

Boys (D-I) - **Paideia**

Boys (D-II) - **Grady JV**

Girls - **Paideia**

### IDAHO

Mixed - **Bishop Kelly**

### ILLINOIS

Boys - **Harry D Jacobs**

Girls - **Neuqua Valley**

### INDIANA

Boys - **Center Grove**

### IOWA

Boys - **Iowa City West**

### KENTUCKY

Boys - **Central Kentucky Homeschool**

### MAINE

Boys - **Falmouth**

Girls - **Fryeburg**

Mixed - **Falmouth**

### MARYLAND

Boys - **Bethesda-Chevy Chase**

### MASSACHUSETTS

Boys (D-I) - **Lexington**

Boys (D-II) - **Xaverian Brothers**

Boys (D-III) - **Westwood**

Girls - **Pioneer Valley Performing Arts**

### MINNESOTA

Boys - **St. Paul Charter**

Girls - **St. Paul Charter**

### MISSOURI

Boys - **De Smet**

### NEW JERSEY

Boys (D-I) - **Columbia**

Girls - **Watchung Hills**

### NEW YORK

Boys - **Stuyvesant**

Girls - **Fieldston**

### NORTH CAROLINA

Boys - **Carolina Friends**

Girls - **Carrboro**

### OHIO

Boys - **Holy Family Catholic**

Girls - **Holy Family Catholic**

### OREGON

Boys - **Summit**

Girls - **Corvallis**

Mixed - **Crescent Valley**

### PENNSYLVANIA

Boys - **North Allegheny**

Girls - **Oakland Catholic**

### TENNESSEE

Boys - **Blackman**

Girls - **University School of Nashville**

### TEXAS

Boys - **Lake Travis**

Mixed - **Hillcrest**

### UTAH

Boys - **Sky View**

Girls - **Lone Peak**

### VIRGINIA

Boys - **Yorktown**

Girls - **Yorktown/Washington Lee**

### WASHINGTON

Boys - **Roosevelt**

Girls - **Lakeside**

### WISCONSIN

Boys - **Madison West**

Girls - **Madison West**

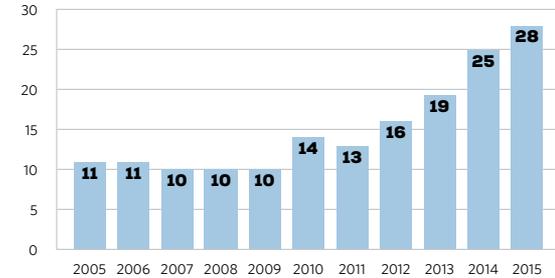
## YOUTH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Ultimate hosted the 11th annual Youth Club Championships (YCC) in 2015 in the event's perennial home of Blaine, Minn. The event grew again, playing host to 72 teams comprised of nearly 1,300 athletes representing 28 different communities, the most ever at YCC. Six new leagues from three new communities sent teams to the Youth Club Championships in 2015, helping contribute to growth in nearly every competition division. In its second year, the U-16 girls' division grew to eight teams from three, including a team comprised of free agent players from around the country.

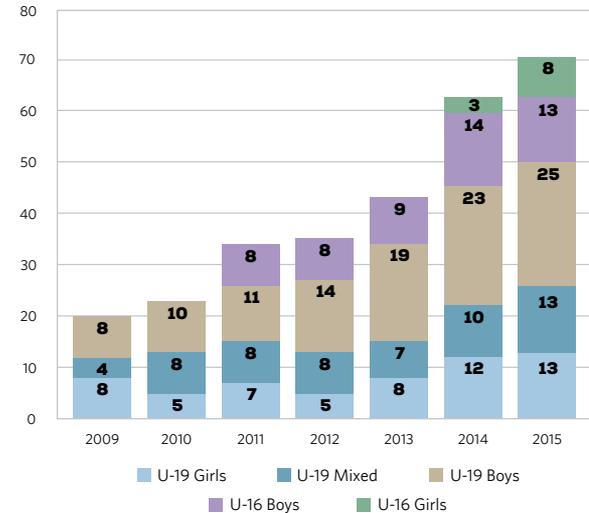
To help accommodate the consistent growth, for the first time, the Youth Club Championships took place over three days in 2015, a format expected to continue as the event continues to expand.



### CITIES REPRESENTED AT YCC



### YCC PARTICIPATING TEAMS



# RESULTS:

## U-19 BOYS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Boston BUDA	Ned Dick
2. Triangle Area Triforce	Nick Tansey
3T. Atlanta ATLiens	Yusef Abdullah
3T. Seattle Shogun	Liam Bateman
5. Chicago U-19 Elite	Maddox Hill
6. Minnesota Superior A	Josh Eufinger
7. Colorado Cutthroat	Timmy King
8. Nashville Nashvillains	Matthew Sui
9T. Delaware Valley DEVYL	Zack Cincotta
9T. Indiana INferno	David Miller
11. Texas Two Step	Emmanuel Bilolo
12. Pittsburgh Impulse	Luke Deasy
13. Cincinnati Flying Pig	Craig Kaiser
14. Triangle Area Carolina Sky	Andrew Mouw
15. New York Little PoNY	Thomas Tyson
16. Connecticut Insomnia	Brian Smail
17. Houston Helix	Colton Daigle
18. Neuqua Valley Nightmare	Michael Kwon
19. Iowa Goliath	Joey Kosterman
20. Bay Area Bear Flaggers	Sam Scherer
21. Michigan SEMI	Caleb May
22. Maine Rising Tide	Jack Hepburn
23. Washington, D.C. Deadrise	Moussa Dia
24. St. Louis Storm	Phillip Speegle
25. Minnesota Superior 2	Jacob Byron

Team Spirit Award Winner: Washington, D.C. Deadrise

## U-19 GIRLS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Seattle Seattlesaurus	Emma Goidel
2. Boston BUDA	Olivia Lederman
3. Triangle Area Warhawks	Miranda Munoz
4. Cincinnati Belle	Katie Brown
5. Neuqua Valley Nightmare	Hindeke Tewodros
6. Texas Tango	Zoe Czarnecki
7. Oregon Glory	Rachel Vega
8. Delaware Valley DEVYL	Jamie Hong
9. Maine Rip Tide	Megan Tammaro
10. Minnesota Superior	Phoebe Eisenbeis
11. Pittsburgh Moxie	Jordan Schultz-McArdle
12. Atlanta cATLANTA	Meredith Fossitt
13. Colorado Cutthroat	Emma Gann

Team Spirit Award Winner: Minnesota Superior

## U-19 MIXED DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Washington, D.C. Swing Vote	Rachel Hess
2. Bay Area Happy Cows	Michelle Slaughter
3. Seattle Royale	Keenan Albrecht
4. Minnesota Superior	Emma Jaschke
5. Philadelphia Forge	Colin White
6. Boston BUDA	Eoin McCarter
7. Oregon Flood	Kaiyana Petrus
8. South Dakota SoDak	Ethan Knobloch
9T. Atlanta fIATLine	Wyatt Thompson
9T. Madison MUFA Bots	Anders Shrophsire
11. Maine Rising Tide	Hannah Babcock
12. Colorado Cutthroat	Sam Clay
13. Vermont GMX	Lucas Wells

Team Spirit Award Winner: Maine Rising Tide

## U-16 BOYS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Seattle Olympus	Jasper Dean
2. Delaware Valley DEVYL	Ryan Moore
3. Bay Area Aftershock	Elijah Frendberg-Mates
4. Triangle Area NC Hammer	Andrew Li
5T. Atlanta ATLas	David Chalmers
5T. Indiana INTensity	Alex Henderson
7. Chicago Deep Dish	Christopher Cranston
8. Colorado Cutthroat	Charlie Erickson
9. Minnesota Superior	Leo Sovell-Fernandez
10. Pittsburgh Pulse	Alex Levine
11. Neuqua Valley Nightmare	Jonathan Tseng
12. Delaware Valley DEVYL B	Matt Pindilli
13. Cincinnati Flying Piglets	Keegan Butler

Team Spirit Award Winner: Cincinnati Flying Piglets

## U-16 GIRLS' DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Seattle Echo	Abby Hecko, Cameron Jewett
2. Cincinnati Belle	Gloria Kammer
3. Bay Area Belly of the Beast	Athena Lynch
4. Triangle Area Kitty Hawks	Jennifer Qian
5. Maine Rip Tide	Isabel Clayter
6. Minnesota Superior	Leona DeRango
7. USAU Free Agents	Betsy Siegal

\*Note: Seattle Echo competed as two teams, Echo I and Echo II, before meeting in an exhibition final.

Team Spirit Award Winner: Seattle Echo II

## COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The college division continues to be USA Ultimate's largest member segment and competition division; a total of 14,418 athletes participated in the 2015 college series.

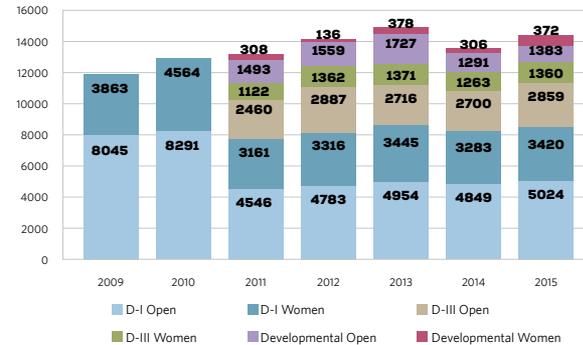
The College Championship Postseason Series was again held to qualify teams for the 2015 College Championships. Championships were held for Division I and Division III schools in Milwaukee, Wis., and Rockford, Ill., respectively.

College membership and participation both grew in 2015. College memberships increased four percent and participation grew in all divisions - men's and women's in Division I, Division III and the Developmental Division.

For the third consecutive year, the College Championships were broadcast live by ESPN in 2015. The semifinals and finals were broadcast around the nation on ESPN3 over Memorial Day weekend and were followed up by three hours of primetime coverage on ESPNU the week after the event. Thousands of people around the globe were able to tune into ultimate thanks to the coverage provided by the *Worldwide Leader in Sports*.



## COLLEGE PARTICIPATION





## RESULTS: DIVISION I COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### MEN'S DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
<b>1. North Carolina</b>	Tanner Barcus
<b>2. Oregon</b>	Tim McGinn
<b>3T. Central Florida</b>	Mike Taylor
<b>3T. Florida State</b>	Chente Ortiz
<b>5T. Colorado</b>	Oak Nelson
<b>5T. Massachusetts</b>	Ben Tseytlin
<b>5T. Pittsburgh</b>	Christian Pitts
<b>5T. Texas</b>	Garrett Idler
<b>9T. Georgia</b>	Mike Peters
<b>9T. Minnesota</b>	Brandon Haus
<b>9T. North Carolina-Wilmington</b>	Gabe Fuller
<b>9T. Texas A&amp;M</b>	Kevin Land
<b>13T. Auburn</b>	Hank Womble
<b>13T. Illinois</b>	Eric Badger
<b>13T. Western Washington</b>	Brandon McNamara
<b>13T. Wisconsin</b>	Eric von Kampen
<b>17T. California-Santa Barbara</b>	Taylor Roberts
<b>17T. Cincinnati</b>	Alex Flamm
<b>17T. Cornell</b>	Peter DelNero
<b>17T. Maryland</b>	Nathan Prior

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** Colorado

**2015 Callahan Award Winner:** Jonathan Nethercutt - North Carolina

### WOMEN'S DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
<b>1. Oregon</b>	Emily Loo
<b>2. Stanford</b>	Michelle McGhee
<b>3T. British Columbia</b>	Esther Au
<b>3T. Carleton College</b>	Clara Hazlett-Norman
<b>5T. Colorado</b>	Celeste Havener
<b>5T. Dartmouth</b>	Eva Petzinger
<b>5T. Virginia</b>	Nada Tramonte
<b>5T. Whitman</b>	Melanie Jochheim-Atkins
<b>9T. Florida State</b>	Lisa Fitton
<b>9T. Ohio State</b>	Catelen Ramsey
<b>9T. Texas</b>	Kelly LaVine
<b>9T. Victoria</b>	Monica Whitney-Brown
<b>13T. Central Florida</b>	Shayna Brock
<b>13T. Princeton</b>	Lyra Olson
<b>13T. UCLA</b>	Jamie Lam
<b>13T. Washington</b>	Nora Landri
<b>17T. Kansas</b>	Jenni Corcoran
<b>17T. Middlebury</b>	Rebecca Berry
<b>17T. Notre Dame</b>	Kelsey Fink
<b>17T. Pittsburgh</b>	Katelyn Loughery

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** Princeton

**2015 Callahan Award Winner:** Alika Johnston - Virginia



## RESULTS: DIVISION III COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### MEN'S DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Franciscan	Jay Ratajczak
2. Brandeis	Clarence Lee
3T. Bryant	Harold Veilleux
3T. SUNY-Geneseo	Stephen Ruswick
5T. Carleton College-GOP	David Goodell
5T. Georgia College	Robert Hunt
7T. Claremont	Jordan Lim
7T. Davidson	Paul Brennan
9T. St. Olaf	Dominic Bower
9T. Truman State	Thomas Crocket
11T. Middlebury	Nick Tuta
11T. North Park	Brent Gustafson
13T. Bowdoin	Aidan Penn
13T. John Brown	Jonnie Rothfus
15. Lewis & Clark	Leland Rege-Colt
16. Elon	Devon LaFrance

Team Spirit Award Winner: John Brown

### WOMEN'S DIVISION

TEAM	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Rice	Kelsey Nanneman
2. Bowdoin	Vivian Yang
3T. Carleton College-Eclipse	Katie Blise
3T. Truman State	Callie Federer
5T. St. Olaf	Tess Halac
5T. Williams	Chelsea Zhu
7T. Puget Sound	Ellie Engel
7T. Valparaiso	Miranda Sprenger-Mahal
9T. Claremont	Laurel Estes
9T. Lehigh	Christina DiNapoli
11T. Grinnell	Bethany Clarke
11T. Wake Forest	Amanda Murphy
13T. Hamilton	Kateri Boucher
13T. St. Benedict	Meghan Harder
15T. Georgia College	Katie Pulliam
15T. Luther	Luci Holte

Team Spirit Award Winner: Rice





The Triple Crown Tour (TCT) builds on the success of the longstanding club series and was developed through feedback from the ultimate community. The TCT was structured with four main goals in mind:

- Provide more meaningful playing opportunities.
- Provide more accessible playing opportunities.
- Encourage participation and growth.
- Showcase the sport at its best.

The Triple Crown Tour was introduced as the new club division competition format in 2012 and implemented in 2013, making the 2015 season the third year of the Triple Crown Tour structure.



**Teams:** Top eight teams in North America  
**Qualification:** Top eight teams based on results from the previous season's National Championship



**Teams:** 9th-16th best teams in North America  
**Qualification:** Teams placing 9th-16th at the previous season's National Championship



**Teams:** Up to four teams per geographic region, 32 teams maximum  
**Qualification:** Based on regional playoff results, in order of top teams that do not qualify for the National Championship



**Teams:** Unlimited  
**Qualification:** Any USA Ultimate registered team eligible to compete in the regular season or the Postseason Championship Series

Every club ultimate team in North America is eligible to participate in the Triple Crown Tour. Teams are slotted into four flights based on competitive performance, with the potential to be promoted or relegated dependent on the current year's results. Each year, the best of the best will get a chance to compete for the Triple Crown, the ultimate ultimate champion who wins the U.S. Open Championship, the Pro Flight Finale and the National Championship in the same year.

With a more formal regular season, games played at TCT events over the summer leading up to the Postseason Championship Series really matter. Teams in each flight are provided opportunities to play in events specific to their flight, guaranteeing at-level competition for all participating teams throughout the TCT. Cross-flight challenges are built into the season schedule as well, ensuring that teams have access to playing opportunities that will help them develop and keep the Tour competitive.

The U.S Open Ultimate Championships and other existing events, as well as some new events, were included in the 2015 club season as tour stops for each flight.

Along with the expansion of the U.S. Open, the competition field for the Pro-Elite Challenge also grew in 2015, including 16 teams in each division, up from 12 in previous years. The winner of the Elite-Select Challenge earned a bid to the Pro Flight Finale, another competition incentive added in 2015. The Select Flight Invite was added in 2015 to provide additional high-level playing opportunities for Select Flight teams around the country.

EVENT	DIVISIONS	LOCATION
<b>U.S. Open Championships</b>	M, W, X	West Chester, Ohio
<b>Pro-Elite Challenge - Colorado Cup</b>	M, W, X	Aurora, Colo.
<b>Elite-Select Challenge - Oshadega Invite</b>	M, W, X	Columbus, Ohio
<b>Select Flight Invite - Diamond Bear Brouhaha</b>	M, W, X	Little Rock, Ark.
<b>Pro Flight Finale</b>	M, W, X	Blaine, Minn.
<b>National Championships</b>	M, W, X	Frisco, Texas

The more structured TCT format provides additional showcase opportunities for the sport, for participating players, the current ultimate community, outside fans and media. The TCT system also helps develop more consistency for teams and more opportunities for sponsorships and increased exposure.



## U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The fourth-annual U.S. Open Championships were contested in West Chester, Ohio, just outside of Cincinnati, over the Fourth of July weekend. Games and many of the convention sessions were held at Voice of America Park with the semifinal and final rounds being held at Lakota West High School.

The U.S. Open competition field expanded to 12 teams in each division in 2015. In addition to the American representation at the event, the competition field included 10 international teams from five nations around the world: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Germany and the United Kingdom.



### MEN'S DIVISION

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Revolver	San Francisco, Calif.	Joel Schlachet
2. GOAT	Toronto, ON	Andrew Ouchterlony
3T. Johnny Bravo	Denver, Colo.	Craig Forshee
3T. Truck Stop	Washington, D.C.	Joe Freund
5. Ironside	Boston, Mass.	Teddy Browar-Jarus
6. PoNY	New York, N.Y.	Milo Snyder
7. Ring of Fire	Raleigh, N.C.	Jake McGoogan
8. Great Britain	London, U.K.	Ollie Gordon
9. Temper	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Mike Reeves
10. Furious George	Vancouver, B.C.	Kevin Lore
11. Inside Rakete	Berlin, Germany	Tobias Hampel
12. Team Colombia	Bogotá, Colombia	Camilo Hernandez Mejia

Team Spirit Award Winner: Great Britain

### MIXED DIVISION

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Ellipsis	Melbourne, Australia	Andrew Jackson
2. Mixtape	Seattle, Wash.	Rachel Bailey
3T. Chad Larson Experience	Ames, Iowa	Amy Sheldahl
3T. Drag'n Thrust	Minneapolis, Minn.	Mike Clark
5. Union	Montreal, QC	Alex Boross-Harmer
6. Polar Bears	San Francisco, Calif.	Megan Pera
7. Wild Card	Boston, Mass.	Emily Eisner
8. Slow White	Boston, Mass.	Adrienne Altobelli
9. Bird	Minneapolis, Minn.	Katie Claiborne
10. Cahoots	Asheville, N.C.	Ann Araps
11. Team Colombia	Bogotá, Colombia	Sergio Mariño
12. American BBQ	San Francisco, Calif.	Andrew Hooker

Team Spirit Award Winner: Ellipsis

### WOMEN'S DIVISION

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Fury	San Francisco, Calif.	Michela Meister
2. Riot	Seattle, Wash.	Charlie Eide
3T. Brute Squad	Boston, Mass.	Sarah Cook
3T. Traffic	Vancouver, B.C.	Candice Chan
5. Nightlock	San Francisco, Calif.	Briana Cahn
6. Scandal	Washington, D.C.	Sarah Itoh
7. Heist	Madison, Wis.	Kayla Emrick
8. Ozone	Atlanta, Ga.	Paige Carver
9. Showdown	Austin, Texas	Angela Lee
10. Schwa	Portland, Ore.	Kelly Hansen
11. Fusion	Winnipeg, MB	Emily Forrest
12. Phoenix	Raleigh, N.C.	Diana Lam

Team Spirit Award Winner: Scandal

## POSTSEASON CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

With the launch of the Triple Crown Tour, teams have an opportunity to win prize money for each of the three legs of the Triple Crown, starting with the U.S. Open. In 2015, the second leg of the Triple Crown became the Pro Flight Finale – a change from the overall regular-season title that made up the second leg in the first two years of the Triple Crown Tour. The third and final leg is the National Championships.

San Francisco Revolver won the Triple Crown in 2015, their second time accomplishing the feat. Their first Triple Crown win came in 2013, and they remain the only team in any division to have earned the distinction.

Regular-season rankings once again had direct implications for Nationals bid allocations. Rankings were maintained throughout the season, with a minimum threshold for inclusion of 10 sanctioned games.

The following teams finished the 2015 regular season atop the rankings:

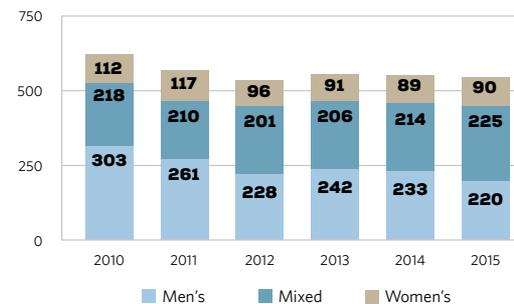
MEN'S	
TEAM	CITY
Revolver	San Francisco
MIXED	
TEAM	CITY
Chad Larson Experience	Ames
WOMEN'S	
TEAM	CITY
Brute Squad	Boston

Both Revolver and Brute Squad claimed the top spot in the rankings for a second consecutive year.

Team participation numbers in the club division increased from 2014 to 2015 for the mixed and women's divisions, mitigating the slight dip in participating men's division teams. Overall participation remained flat, with 536 participating teams in 2014 and 535 participating teams in 2015. Mixed became the largest competition division with 225 teams, followed by the men's division with 220.

While team participation decreased slightly in the men's division, athlete participation was flat from 2014 to 2015, with just three fewer athletes competing in the division in 2015 than in the previous year. Both the mixed and women's divisions saw increases in athlete participation: seven percent in the mixed division and five percent in the women's division.

CLUB SERIES  
PARTICIPATING TEAMS



# CLUB COMPETITION



# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



For a third consecutive year, the National Championships were held in at the FC Dallas soccer complex in Frisco, Texas. From Oct. 1-4, 48 teams and more than 1,200 athletes competed in Frisco with eyes on taking home national titles in the men's, mixed and women's divisions.

Also for a third straight year, seven games from the semifinal and final rounds of play at the National Championships were broadcast live from Frisco on ESPN3.

## RESULTS:

### MEN'S DIVISION

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. <b>Revolver</b>	San Francisco, Calif.	Ashlin Joye
2. <b>Sockeye</b>	Seattle, Wash.	Donnie Clark
3T. <b>Ironside</b>	Boston, Mass.	Will Neff
3T. <b>Machine</b>	Chicago, Ill.	Andrew Sheehan
5. <b>Doublewide</b>	Austin, Texas	Caleb Denecour
6. <b>Ring of Fire</b>	Raleigh, N.C.	Josh Mullen
7T. <b>Prairie Fire</b>	Kansas City, Kan.	Jesse White
7T. <b>Truck Stop</b>	Washington, D.C.	Matthew McDonnell
9T. <b>Madison Club</b>	Madison, Wis.	Chase Marty
9T. <b>Sub Zero</b>	Minneapolis, Minn.	Kyle Gill
11. <b>Patrol</b>	Philadelphia, Pa.	Jordan Winey
12. <b>GOAT</b>	Toronto, Ont.	Derek Alexander
13. <b>High Five</b>	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Ben Ayres
14. <b>Johnny Bravo</b>	Denver, Colo.	Owen Westbrook
15T. <b>Florida United</b>	Gainesville, Fla.	Danny Bumgarner
15T. <b>Rhino</b>	Portland, Ore.	Dylan Freechild

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** Sub Zero  
**Farricker Award Winner:** Ashlin Joye - Revolver

### MIXED DIVISION

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. <b>Drag'n Thrust</b>	Minneapolis, Minn.	Emily Regan
2. <b>Mixtape</b>	Seattle, Wash.	Lauren Pattie
3T. <b>Polar Bears</b>	San Francisco, Calif.	Robert Gormley
3T. <b>Slow White</b>	Boston, Mass.	Steve Sullivan
5. <b>Chad Larson Experience</b>	Ames, Iowa	Jon Staron
6. <b>Ambiguous Grey</b>	Washington, D.C.	David Hoel
7T. <b>Blackbird</b>	San Francisco, Calif.	Tommy Hendrickson
7T. <b>Metro North</b>	Mianus, Conn.	Teddy Mason
9T. <b>UPA</b>	Chicago, Ill.	Mike Egan
9T. <b>Wild Card</b>	Boston, Mass.	William Dean
11. <b>AMP</b>	Philadelphia, Pa.	Allysha Dixon
12. <b>7 Express</b>	New York, N.Y.	Ben Ivers
13. <b>Love Tractor</b>	Boulder, Colo.	David Protter
14. <b>Bucket</b>	Atlanta, Ga.	Caroline Marsh
15. <b>NOISE</b>	Madison, Wis.	Fran Kelley
16. <b>BirdFruit</b>	Seattle, Wash.	Luke Jespersen

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** Love Tractor

### WOMEN'S DIVISION

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. <b>Brute Squad</b>	Boston, Mass.	Chelsea Murphy
2. <b>Riot</b>	Seattle, Wash.	Shannon O'Malley
3T. <b>Fury</b>	San Francisco, Calif.	Alex Snyder
3T. <b>Molly Brown</b>	Denver, Colo.	Maggie Chen
5. <b>Traffic</b>	Vancouver, B.C.	Danie Proby
6. <b>Scandal</b>	Washington, D.C.	Kimberly Beach
7T. <b>Nightlock</b>	San Francisco, Calif.	Abby VanMuijen
7T. <b>Phoenix</b>	Raleigh, N.C.	Rachel Johnson
9T. <b>Heist</b>	Madison, Wis.	Arthi Padmanabhan
9T. <b>Ozone</b>	Atlanta, Ga.	Haley Reese
11. <b>Schwa</b>	Portland, Ore.	Alex Ode
12. <b>Iris</b>	Montreal, QC	Isabelle Lemay
13. <b>Capitals</b>	Toronto, Ont.	Jessica Chen
14. <b>BENT</b>	New York, N.Y.	Aki Young
15. <b>Showdown</b>	Austin, Texas	Tina Woodings
16. <b>Nemesis</b>	Chicago, Ill.	Servia Rindfleish

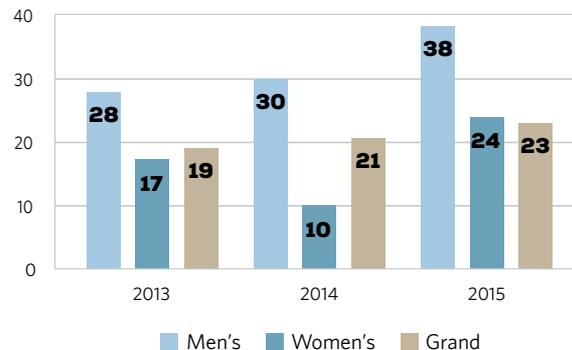
**Team Spirit Award Winner:** Riot  
**Kathy Pufahl Award Winner:** Alex Snyder - Fury

## MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2015 Masters Championships were held in Aurora, Colo., July 24-26. The event included the men's masters, women's masters and grand masters divisions. After a down year in participation for the Masters Championship Series, largely because of the 2014 event's proximity to the World Ultimate Club Championships, athlete participation in the masters division increased significantly in 2015. Sixteen teams competed in each of the men's masters, women's masters and grand masters divisions at the 2015 Masters Championships, accounting for 48 total teams.



### MASTERS SERIES PARTICIPATION



## RESULTS:

### MEN'S MASTERS

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
<b>1. Boneyard</b>	Raleigh, N.C.	Tim Lupo
<b>2. Johnny Encore</b>	Denver, Colo.	James Beeby
<b>3. Voltron 2020</b>	Seattle, Wash.	Britt Attack
<b>4. Surly</b>	Minneapolis, Minn.	Paco Enright
<b>5. Black Cans &amp; Highlands</b>	Washington, D.C.	Kevin Lenaburg
<b>6. Tejas</b>	Austin, Texas	Joe Iannacone
<b>7. OhioOld</b>	Columbus, Ohio	Rodger Oakes
<b>8. BAM!</b>	San Francisco, Calif.	Pradeep Nair
<b>9. Horse</b>	New York, N.Y.	Scott Arnold
<b>10. Flood</b>	Winnipeg, MB	David Campbell
<b>11T. Beyonders</b>	Santa Barbara, Calif.	Chris McManus
<b>11T. Crawl</b>	Phoenix, Ariz.	Pete Buckley
<b>13T. Pacemaker</b>	Chicago, Ill.	Dan Benjamin
<b>13T. Burnside</b>	Portland, Ore.	Kyle Christoph
<b>15. Woolly Mammoth</b>	Florida	Travis Tooke
<b>16. Get Off My Lawn</b>	Burlington, Vt.	Dominique Roy

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** Get Off My Lawn

**Marty Bakko Award Winner:** Chris McManus - Beyonders

## WOMEN'S MASTERS

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Baylands Kite Flying Team	Sunnyvale, Calif.	Dea Dauphinee
2. Rio Grand Dame	Denver, Colo.	Jana Krutsinger
3. Loose Cannon	Philadelphia, Pa.	Kristina Jozsef
4. Jezebel	Denver, Colo.	Leah Borsheim
5. Ripe	Raleigh, N.C.	Sharon Tucker
6. Mint	Seattle, Wash.	Elin Kuffner
7. Retro	Raleigh, N.C.	Beth Varica
8. Lame Duck	Washington, D.C.	Jenny Wellman
9. Boston	Boston, Mass.	Rosie Ano
10. Salty	San Francisco, Calif.	Kelly Mack
11. COUGARS	Minneapolis, Minn.	Meghan Cain
12. ZFG	Portland, Ore.	Kara Giaier
13. Hot Lava	California	Stephanie Decker
14. Restless	Florida	Ashlie Dummeldinger
15. Hot Flash	Cincinnati, Ohio	Betsy Basch
16. HayROLD	Denver, Colo.	Betsy Andrews

Team Spirit Award Winner: ZFG

## GRAND MASTERS

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Johnny Walker	Denver, Colo.	Tad Miller
2. No Country	Brattleboro, Vt.	Joel Thompson
3. Shadows	Oakland, Calif.	N/A
4. Alchemy	Carrboro, N.C.	Pat Vennebush
5. Georgetown Brewing	Seattle, Wash.	Jerry Keister
6. Bighorn	Boulder, Colo.	Stanley Strunk
7. Surly	Minneapolis, Minn.	Andrew Rutledge
8. Super Cali Fragile Disc	Huntington Beach, Calif.	Trey Paulissen
9. BigWheel	Huntsville, Ala.	Mo Bunnell
10. Big DNR	Dallas, Texas	Zack Rader
11. Moscow State	New Rochelle, N.Y.	Jaideep Talwalkar
12. Ozark Hillbillies	Fayetteville, Ark.	Luis Montes
13. Old Man Winter	Chicago, Ill.	Mike Hixenbaugh
14. Old Growth	Oakland, Calif.	Tom Nolan
15. Charred Guys	Sudbury, Mass.	Jeff Pollak
16. Rust Belt	Detroit, Mich.	Marc Zigterman

Team Spirit Award Winner: Rust Belt



## BEACH CHAMPIONSHIPS

After naming four regional beach directors and announcing the creation of a championship event for the new beach division in 2014, the inaugural USA Ultimate Beach Championships were held May 2-3, 2015, in Virginia Beach, Va.

Fifty-six teams and nearly 800 athletes competed across five divisions—men's, mixed, women's, mixed masters and grand masters—at the first-ever Beach Championships.



## RESULTS:

### MEN'S

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
<b>1. And the Warhawks</b>	Cambridge, Mass.	Ben Van Heuvelen
<b>2. Humiliswag</b>	Ocean City, Md.	
<b>3T. Right Coast</b>	Raleigh, N.C.	Bryan Conklin
<b>3T. Yetis on the Beach</b>	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Tom Haynes
<b>5T. Bayonet</b>	San Francisco, Calif.	Abe McKay
<b>5T. Paranoia</b>	Washington, D.C.	Nico Lake
<b>7T. Dune Squad</b>	Ypsilanti, Mich.	Mike Zaagman
<b>7T. MidRift</b>	Iowa City, Iowa	John Brisbois
<b>9. BroWatch</b>	Athens, Ohio	Cody Pettit
<b>10. FludWhale</b>	Richmond, Va.	Justin Morrison
<b>11T. Sailors</b>	Lynchburg, Va.	Jonathan Mast
<b>11T. Jaybirds</b>	Baton Rouge, La.	John Foeller
<b>13T. Garuda Triangle</b>	Boston, Mass.	Austin Raymond
<b>13T. Staffgrub</b>	Fredericksburg, Va.	
<b>15T. VA Beach Bums</b>	Virginia Beach, Va.	Eric Hartzog
<b>15T. Vest Club Heaven</b>	Blacksburg, Va.	Zach Peterson

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** Right Coast

### MIXED

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
<b>1. Point Break</b>	Los Angeles, Calif.	Trevor Smith
<b>2. No Tsu Oh</b>	Houston, Texas	Katey Forth
<b>3T. Opig</b>	Arlington, Va.	Ryan Morgan
<b>3T. The Kevin Seiler Experience</b>	Ames, Iowa	Peter Miller
<b>5T. comic sands</b>	Fort Worth, Texas	
<b>5T. Fog City</b>	San Francisco, Calif.	Eric Rivera
<b>7T. Evorg</b>	San Francisco, Calif.	Brooke Ray-Smith
<b>7T. Illegal Seafood</b>	Boston, Mass.	Alex Trahey
<b>9. The Sandlot</b>	Minneapolis, Minn.	Jake McKean
<b>10. Baltimore Flatball Club</b>	Baltimore, Md.	Zara Cadoux
<b>11T. Beachboat</b>	Cincinnati, Ohio	Kate Macri
<b>11T. The Bandits</b>	Middletown, N.J.	Ken Calello
<b>13T. Pluff Mud Panic</b>	Charleston, S.C.	Elaine Alford
<b>13T. Squirtle Squad</b>	Princeton, N.J.	Jonathan Lee
<b>15T. Donkey Play</b>	Raleigh, N.C.	Kim Soltmann
<b>15T. Hotspot</b>	Washington, D.C.	Jessie O'Connor

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** Baltimore Flatball Club

## WOMEN'S

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Skeeahreet	Boston, Mass.	Becca Ludford
2. The Mussels	Seattle, Wash.	Laura Bitterman
3. Filly LAMP	Philadelphia, Pa.	Madeline Kreider-Carlson
4. Rockford Beaches	Rockford, Ill.	Jackie Peters
5. First in Flight	Chapel Hill, N.C.	Cassie Swafford
6. Sharks & Kisses	Gainesville, Fla.	Lauren Boyle
7. SPF 50	Minneapolis, Minn.	Maggie Kenny
8. City Beaches	New York, N.Y.	Diane Palmer
9. Seasick	Ringwood, N.J.	Megan Kufuss
10. Burg is the Word	Fredericksburg, Va.	Emily Eakin

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** First in Flight

## MIXED MASTERS

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Swamp Rats	Raleigh, N.C.	Frannie Goodrich
2. Over the Hill	Washington, D.C.	Alanna Tievsky
3. Shostakovich	Brooklyn, N.Y.	Taliesin Thomas
4. Charge!	Jennieville, Md.	Abbey Elbow
5. Bottomless Brunch	New York, N.Y.	Gail Reich
6. Big Fish	Woods Hole, Mass.	Dara Schofield
7. Overrated	Rochester, N.Y.	Katie Mihalenko
8. Beaches & Cream	Nashville, Tenn.	Don Clark

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** Over the Hill

## GRAND MASTERS

TEAM	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
1. Alchemy	Carrboro, N.C.	Rich Mason
2. No Country	Brattleboro, Vt.	Fritz Burkhardt
3T. Old Line	Cockeysville, Md.	Tim Eubanks
3T. Sandblast	Chicago, Ill.	Paul Devine
5. Sol Draft	Orlando, Fla.	John York
6. Broken Codgers	Tacoma, Wash.	Colin Iosso

**Team Spirit Award Winner:** No Country



# INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Highlighted in Goal 5 of the strategic plan, achieving sustained excellence of USA Ultimate teams in international competition is a major focus for USA Ultimate. U.S. national teams participated in two international events in 2015: the World Championships of Beach Ultimate and the World Under-23 Ultimate Championships, both hosted by the World Flying Disc Federation.

Over the course of the summer, U.S. teams earned 13 medals—10 placement medals and three team spirit awards. Nine medals came from the World Championships of Beach Ultimate—six gold, one bronze and two team spirit awards; the remaining four medals came from the World Under-23 Ultimate Championships where the men's and mixed teams won gold, and the women's team brought home silver along with the team spirit award.





## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS OF BEACH ULTIMATE

The 2015 World Championships of Beach Ultimate were held in Dubai, U.A.E., March 8-13, and were hosted by the World Flying Disc Federation and the Beach Ultimate Lovers Association.

The U.S. sent national teams in all seven contested divisions: men's, mixed, women's, men's masters, mixed masters, women's masters and grand masters. Together, they combined for an impressive 66-1 record over six days of play. The lone loss came in the windy mixed division semifinals, a 6-5 defeat against Canada. The other six U.S. teams each finished undefeated and took home gold medals. The mixed team rallied to claim the bronze medal in the third-place game against Portugal.

In addition to their placement medals, the U.S.A. also earned team spirit awards in the men's and women's divisions. In all, the U.S. brought home nine medals from the 2015 World Championships of Beach Ultimate.

More than 500 athletes submitted applications to be considered for one of the seven national teams that traveled to Dubai, and more than 100 were eventually selected by the team managers to represent the U.S.



## WORLD UNDER-23 ULTIMATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Every two years, the World Flying Disc Federation hosts the World Under-23 Ultimate Championships. The 2015 event was held July 12-18, in London, U.K.

The U.S. put together teams to compete in each of the event's three divisions: men's, mixed and women's. The 500-plus athletes who initially applied to be considered for the national teams were whittled down to just 77 who were invited to join the U.S. delegation in London. The teams had a week-long training camp at North Central College in Naperville, Ill. - their only true time to train together - before heading off to face the world at the U-23 Championships.

The United States entered the event as the defending champion in all three divisions and was successful in defending two of those titles. The men's and mixed teams claimed gold, while the women took home silver after falling to Japan in a hard-fought championship final. The women's team also earned their division's team spirit award, bringing the total U.S. medal count in London to four.

## 2015 U-23 U.S. NATIONAL TEAMS

### U-23 MEN'S

**Head Coach:** Bob Krier (Denver, Colo.)  
**Assistant Coaches:** Jody Avirgan (Brooklyn, N.Y.),  
 Joe Durst (London, U.K.)

NAME	COLLEGE
Josue Alorro	Rutgers
Kevin Brown	Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Chuck Cao	California
Travis Carpenter	Indiana Wesleyan
Abe Coffin	Arkansas
Hunter Corbett	California-Santa Barbara
Chase Cunningham	Texas
Trent Dillon	Pittsburgh
Christian Johnson	North Carolina, California-Santa Cruz
Chris Kocher	George Washington
Tyler Kunsu	Pittsburgh
Jeremy Langdon	Central Florida
Chris LaRocque	Florida State
Bobby Ley	Florida
Tim McAllister	North Carolina
Stanley Peterson	Colorado
Logan Pruess	Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Marcus Ranii-Dropcho	Pittsburgh
Zane Rankin	Washington
Dalton Smith	Texas A&M
Ben Snell	North Carolina
Hunter Taylor	Virginia Tech
Max Thorne	Pittsburgh
Jack Williams	North Carolina-Wilmington

### U-23 MIXED

**Head Coach:** Martin Aguilera (Atlanta, Ga.)  
**Assistant Coaches:** Alex Snyder (San Francisco, Calif.),  
 Nancy Sun (San Francisco, Calif.)

NAME	COLLEGE
Nils Clauson	UCLA
Sarah Edwards	Washington
Khalif El-Salaam	Washington
Elliott Erickson	Georgia
Leah Farris	Cuesta College
Tim Fergus	Truman State
Clare Frantz	Kansas
Sam Greenwood	Michigan
Simon Higgins	Las Positas
Anna Hrovat-Staedter	Wisconsin
Eli Kerns	California-Davis
Emmy Kolanz	California-Santa Cruz
Sharon Lin	California
Tracey Lo	Michigan
Ariane Lozano	Whitman
Sarah Meckstroth	Minnesota
Eli Motycka	Brown
Jonathan Nethercutt	North Carolina
Michael Ogren	Central Florida
Henry Phan	Franklin High School
Lisa Pitcaithley	California-Santa Barbara
Kristen Pojunis	UCLA
Claire Revere	Whitman
Lane Siedor	Georgia
Qxhna Titcomb	Tufts
Nathan White	California-Davis, Georgia Tech
Jimmy Zuraw	North Carolina

### U-23 WOMEN'S

**Head Coach:** Mike Whitaker (Boulder, Colo.)  
**Assistant Coaches:** Lauren Boyle (Boulder, Colo.),  
 Carolyn Matthews (Boulder, Colo.)

NAME	COLLEGE
Nicola Bruce	Seattle
Meeri Chang	Michigan
Lisa Couper	North Carolina
Megan Cousins	Colorado
Caitlin Harley	Ohio State
Hannah Henkin	Michigan
Alika Johnston	Virginia
Bethany Kaylor	Oregon
Margaret Kennedy	Wisconsin
Nora Landri	Washington
Stephanie Lim	Stanford
Lisi Lohre	Colorado College
Michela Meister	Stanford
Stephanie Miller	Ohio State
Carolyn Normile	Pittsburgh
Alex Ode	Oregon
Lyra Olson	Princeton
Marisa Rafter	California
Chloe Rowe	Colorado College
Erynn Schroeder	St. Benedict
Jesse Shofner	Oregon
Julia Snyder	Carleton College
Shira Stern	Washington
Jaclyn Verzuh	Lakeside High School



## 2016 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Calendar year 2016 holds more exciting opportunities for USA Ultimate's international teams. The World Flying Disc Federation's World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC) are scheduled for August in Wroclaw, Poland, and the World Ultimate and Guts Championships (WUGC) are set to be held in London, U.K. in late June.

For the first time, the United States will send select teams to WUGC, decided after an application and tryout process. While the practice is common in other nations around the world, the U.S. has traditionally sent the reigning club national champions in each competition division. 2016 marks the first departure from that practice for the U.S., and will likely result in some of the most exciting teams to ever take the field.

The U.S. is the defending champion in the WJUC girls' division and will hope to improve on a silver-medal performance in the boys' division next summer in Poland. The event will serve as a warm-up event for the local organizing committee of the next World Games, which are set to be held in the same location in 2017.





# PROGRAM GROWTH

## SANCTIONING PROGRAM

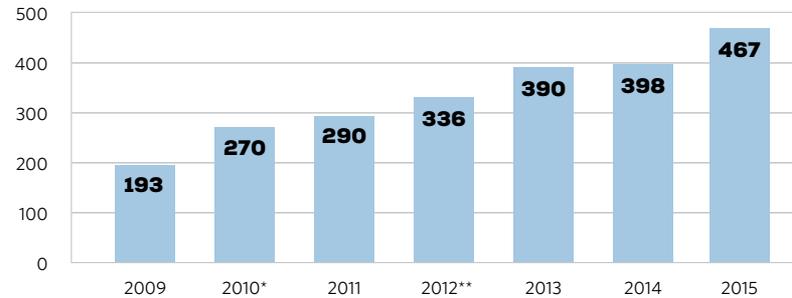
With the goal of encouraging and supporting the growth of ultimate at all levels, the USA Ultimate Sanctioning Program assists event organizers in providing their local communities with opportunities to participate and learn about the sport through high-quality, well-organized events. Tournaments and leagues sanctioned through USA Ultimate receive legitimacy through their association with USA Ultimate, insurance coverage, access to additional resources and materials and much more.

USA Ultimate sanctioned 467 events and local programs in 2015, including 119 local leagues, 53 recreational tournaments, 91 college regular-season events and 60 club events to make up the division's third official regular season in the Triple Crown Tour structure. The 467 events sanctioned in 2015 account for 17 percent overall growth over 2014.

The tiered structure used for sanctioned events allows competition requirements to be tailored to better suit the specific event level and its competitive goals. The tiers – recreational, competitive, league and insured events – ensure more uniformity across events that impact regular-season rankings and enable easier and more equal comparisons across events.

After the tiers were first implemented in 2012, their continued use over the last few years has helped further the development of the regular season with improved validity of results, thereby improving the quality of regular-season rankings.

## USA ULTIMATE SANCTIONED EVENTS



\*2010 marked the beginning of the official college regular season.

\*\*2012 marked the beginning of the official club regular season.

## TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

In November, USA Ultimate announced the Tournament Director's Certification Program (TDCP) which was designed to help provide the best possible tournament experience for athletes, coaches, chaperones, family members and fans. The cornerstone of the TDCP is the Tournament Director's Manual which includes information about safety, standards and best practices that can help organizers run the best events possible.

The TDCP was created over the course of two years, through a collaboration of USA Ultimate staff and a passionate and experienced group of volunteers, including excellent tournament directors and national volunteers.

USA Ultimate's newest certification program directly addresses goal three in the organization's current strategic plan: organizing the highest-quality U.S. competitive events. The goal addresses overseeing event organizer certification programs and providing resources for profitable event planning.

As part of USA Ultimate's continuous efforts to improve tournament experiences for participants and spectators alike, as of January 1, 2016, TDCP Level I Certification will be required for:

- › national directors,
- › regional coordinators and directors,
- › conference and sectional coordinators,
- › state youth coordinators (competition) and
- › tournament directors for any USA Ultimate sanctioned, season, championship series, or regional or national championship event.

By the end of the 2015 calendar year, 270 tournament directors had been certified through the TDCP.

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

USA Ultimate held 21 Learn to Play clinics and 17 Girls' Ultimate Movement (GUM) clinics for kids of all ages in 2015, along with one Learn to Play league (Baltimore) and one Learn to Compete league (Triangle Area, N.C.).

In all, 1,548 elementary, middle and high school kids participated in youth outreach clinics in 2015 through Learn to Play, GUM, community recreation and other programs in partnership with local disc associations.

For the fifth consecutive year, USA Ultimate also held three week-long summer camps in Boulder. In 2015, 83 kids ages seven to 15 participated in the day camps. Boulder also hosted a half-day girls-only camp once again in 2015.

For a third straight year, the Youth Club Championships (YCC) played host to a Talent ID Camp on the Monday following the conclusion of YCC competition. Top coaches from around the country were on-hand to lead clinics and training sessions with 81 of the top youth ultimate players in the United States, each of whom had elected to register for and participate in the day camp.

USA Ultimate staff members also attended two national events in 2015 to continue to spread the sport: the National Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) conference and the Bay Area Disc Association's Youth Ultimate Coaching Conference. Additionally,



USA Ultimate held a clinic for the United States Olympic Committee's (USOC) Sports Performance Division staff at the USOC training center and supported state SHAPE conferences in Maine, Maryland and North Carolina, as well as the Tribeca/ESPN Street Fair in New York City and Maine Ultimate's efforts to promote girls' ultimate and the Girls' Ultimate Movement at a Girls on the Run 5k. Conferences and events like these help USA Ultimate continue efforts to network with various community, recreation and teachers' organizations and advance the sport of ultimate amongst these key groups. In addition to spreading the sport, the relationships developed at the national events can be leveraged in future years.

During the 2015 calendar year, nearly 175 outreach kits, accounting for nearly 2,000 discs, were distributed to groups advancing ultimate as a teaching tool and recreational activity. Newly forming teams, schools, teachers, community recreation groups and organizations, YMCAs, parks and recreation programs, and Learn to Play clinic organizers all received kits thanks to USA Ultimate equipment grants to help support local grassroots efforts to expand ultimate's reach around the country.

In addition to outreach relationships with the organizations mentioned above, USA Ultimate launched a new alliance with the Boy Scouts of America and their SCOUTStrong Healthy Living Initiative in 2015. The

Healthy Living Initiative aims to integrate active lifestyles, healthy eating and emotional fitness into everything that the Boy Scouts of America does through alliances, campaigns and updated programs. Ultimate is now a part of those efforts.

Ultimate is featured on the SCOUTStrong website, and the Boy Scouts' adult leaders can apply for USA Ultimate's Learn to Play kits to help get their scout units playing ultimate. The Scouting organization is composed of nearly 2.4 million youth members between the ages of seven and 21 and approximately 960,000 volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories.

In an effort to encourage growth in the number of girls participating in the U-16 division, USA Ultimate, working with volunteers from the Girls' Ultimate Movement, created, recruited for and ran a U-16 free agent team at the 2015 Youth Club Championships that allowed girls from around the country to come to Blaine and play together.

## GIRLS' ULTIMATE MOVEMENT

The Girls' Ultimate Movement (GUM) launched in 2014 and continued their great work through 2015. GUM was designed to increase girls' participation in the sport and to work to change the gender paradigm that exists in many sports by taking a proactive approach in the creation of policies and programs that will inspire young female athletes to choose ultimate.

The Girls' Ultimate Movement focuses on creating opportunities for youth and high school-aged girls to participate in sports, lead with their peers and celebrate the beauty of sport



with their opponents. Through the Girls' Ultimate Movement, USA Ultimate is collaborating with some of the nation's most passionate and dedicated leaders to generate new and innovative ideas for programming, infrastructure and policy that will facilitate development of the girls' division!

In 2015, 17 GUM clinics were held around the country, and the first-ever GUMMIT was held at the Pro Flight Finale. At the Youth Club Championships, GUM held a full-day session for all girls competing in the U-16 division. In July, the official GUM website – [gum.usultimate.org](http://gum.usultimate.org) – was launched. The page is dedicated to advancing women in ultimate and girls' programs like GUM clinics, girls-specific curriculums and more. Also in 2015, the GUM curriculum task force got to work on their middle-school curriculum, beginning to create a program geared specifically toward girls that teaches the sport of ultimate, while also helping girls learn how to grow as leaders and serve their wider community.

The Girls' Ultimate Movement launched with five priorities that continually guide the group as they develop and implement programs that encourage more girls to play ultimate.

### GUM'S FIVE ULTIMATE PRIORITIES

1. Commit to developing enhanced media resources for the girls' division and opportunities for girls and women to connect in an online community.
2. Pilot one new girls' focused program each year from 2015 to 2019.
3. Develop a girls' ultimate curriculum that can be marketed to national Youth Sport Organizations.
4. Pilot and implement a national GUM volunteer structure.
5. Analyze data, identify best practice and establish USA Ultimate standards on gender in youth ultimate.

Learn more and stay up-to-date on the Girls' Ultimate Movement by visiting [gum.usultimate.org](http://gum.usultimate.org).

## COACHING

Through the Coaching Development Program, USA Ultimate has been running clinics to certify coaches since 2004.

The Coaching Development Program, again sponsored by Five Ultimate in 2015, is a process of educating coaches, professionalizing and growing the vocation of coaching, and creating a pool of qualified volunteers to help grow the sport of ultimate.

In an attempt to promote the professionalization of ultimate coaching and to further athlete safety, in 2012, USA Ultimate began requiring all coaches to receive background checks through our partners at NCSI.

In 2015, USA Ultimate's Coaching Development Program hosted 27 full-day Ethics & Coaching Performance Workshops across the United States and four online ethics-only workshops. Total members participating in the Coaching Development Program reached 460 in 2015, with 328 participants attending clinics.

Coaching memberships again increased significantly in 2015. Coach memberships grew by four percent, while coach/player memberships increased by 16 percent. The growth reflects a steady trend since coach memberships became a specified level in 2009.



### USA ULTIMATE COACHING MEMBERSHIPS





## OBSERVER PROGRAM

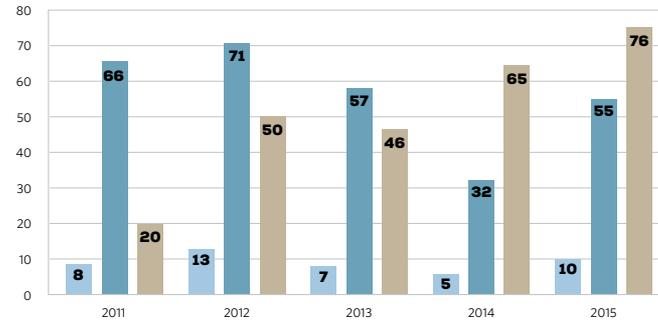
USA Ultimate endorses the use of observers in ultimate but does not endorse the use of referees. Observers have the responsibility to uphold Spirit of the Game on the field, but responsibility for the integrity of ultimate and Spirit of the Game remains with the players.

The USA Ultimate Observer Program took on its current structure in 2005 with the completion of a standardized training manual, outlining of the training clinic curriculum and development of criteria for certification. The Observer Program is overseen by the USA Ultimate Observer Committee which is responsible for determining guidelines for observing, including current standards for USA Ultimate competition, and training materials and methods.

In 2015, the USA Ultimate Observer Program held 10 successful clinics, training and certifying 55 new observers. Seventy-six observers were also recertified over the course of the year.



OBSERVER PROGRAM





# MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

## SPONSORSHIP AND MERCHANDISING

In 2015, USA Ultimate continued its marketing partnerships with virtually all apparel manufacturers endemic to the sport of ultimate, including Breakmark, Five Ultimate, Savage and VC/Spin Ultimate. All of these companies again were licensees of the USA Ultimate brand and marks and served as the official merchandise provider of at least one of USA Ultimate's 11 championship-level events.

Five Ultimate also served as the official apparel provider and sponsor of the U.S. National Teams competing at the WFDF World U-23 Ultimate Championships and World Championships of Beach Ultimate. A new sponsorship agreement was executed with Five Ultimate to support the 2016 U.S. National Teams that will compete at the World Ultimate and Guts Championships and the World Junior Ultimate Championships.

Revenues from sponsorship, licensing and merchandise revenue increased by 16 percent in 2015, and the sale of officially licensed event merchandise increased by 31 percent over 2014.

Other sponsorship, licensing and broadcast partnerships were added or renewed with partners including U.S. Sports Camps/Nike Ultimate Camps and VISA in the form of USA Ultimate-branded affinity VISA Rewards cards. Rebate revenue from hotel and other partners increased by eight percent in 2015.

Expanding on the already-existing relationship with Discraft, 2015 saw successful marketing efforts with mainstream sports retailers resulting in the addition of USA Ultimate-branded Ultrastars in Sports Authority and Dick's Sporting Goods stores across the country.

## BROADCASTING



Continuing the partnership begun in 2013, USA Ultimate championship events were again broadcast live on the ESPN family of networks in 2015. Live coverage from the College Championships, U.S. Open Championships and National Championships was available on ESPN3, with extended coverage of the College Championships broadcast during primetime on ESPNU the week following the event. Alignment with the "Worldwide Leader in Sports" provides previously unmatched exposure for the sport of ultimate unmatched in previous years and correlates directly with Goal 1 in USA Ultimate's strategic plan. The ESPN relationship also allowed USA Ultimate to place more highlight clips in SportsCenter's Top 10.

Through the ESPN partnership and a new partnership with Ultiworld, programming increased by 22 percent in 2015. Over the course of the year, 72 complete games were broadcast, the most ever in a single season.

# MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



## MAGAZINE, SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBSITE

USA Ultimate again produced its four quarterly issues of the USA Ultimate magazine. In 2015, the magazine's content continued its evolution away from event recaps and toward feature content, an intentional shift away from the type of coverage that was more standard for many years. Feature articles increase the value of the magazine's content by decreasing its reliance on publication dates relative to the conclusion of major events and by placing more value on unique content of interest to the entire ultimate community.

In addition to feature content, the USA Ultimate magazine continues to provide athletes and spectators with insight and resources for all aspects of the sport, from answering rules questions in the What's the Call column, to nutrition information in Nutrition Matters, to training advice in Above the Competition and much more.

Readership of the USA Ultimate eNews editions, sent quarterly in 2015, experienced impressive growth in readership, increasing 46 percent over 2014. Website content also increased. Fifteen percent more stories were published at [usultimate.org](http://usultimate.org) throughout the year than in 2014.

In addition, USA Ultimate Weekly was launched in early 2015. The weekly e-newsletter is an easy place for anyone and everyone to keep up to date with the goings on at USA Ultimate. USA Ultimate Weekly was published 49 times in 2015 at [usultimate.org](http://usultimate.org) and is also available via email, providing weekly news updates directly to readers' inboxes.

USA Ultimate's social media outlets each ended 2015 with impressive increases in followers, thanks to continued improvements in interaction with and engagement of followers, as well as increases in content. We also introduced the USA Ultimate Instagram account in January and reached over 9,000 followers by the year's end.

In July 2015, the Girls' Ultimate Movement (GUM) website – [gum.usultimate.org](http://gum.usultimate.org) – officially launched. The page is dedicated to advancing women in ultimate and girls' programs like GUM clinics, girls-specific curriculums and more.

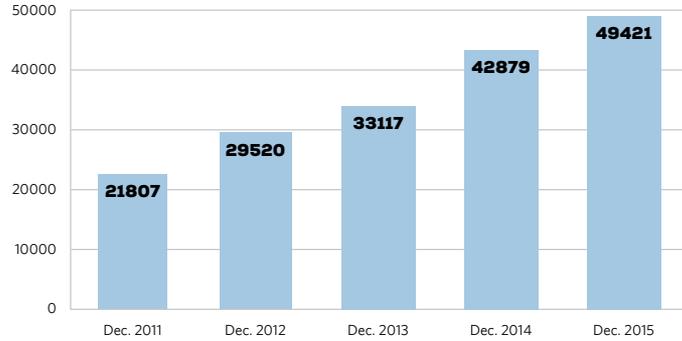
## MOBILE APP

One of the biggest highlights of the year in the marketing and communications department was the launch of the USA Ultimate mobile app. After several months of collaboration with a small focus group and New Start Mobile, the development team selected to create the app, it launched at the National Championships in October 2015 and is available on both Apple and Android devices.

The app allows ultimate fans all around the world to follow along with the latest events, keep up with news, watch videos, check rules, read the USA Ultimate magazine and more – all at their fingertips.



## FACEBOOK LIKES



**15% INCREASE IN FACEBOOK LIKES**



**20% INCREASE IN YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS**



**25% INCREASE IN TWITTER FOLLOWERS**



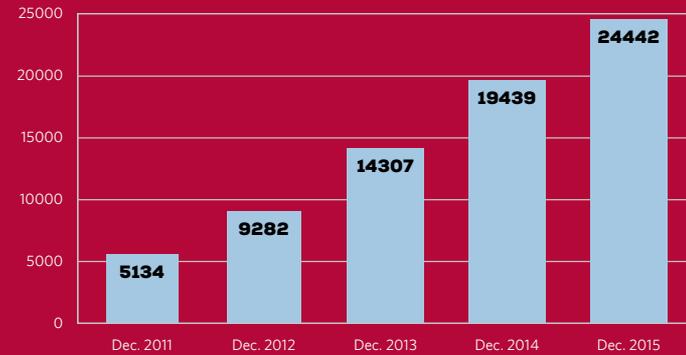
**9,154 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS IN FIRST YEAR**

## ANNUAL REPORT

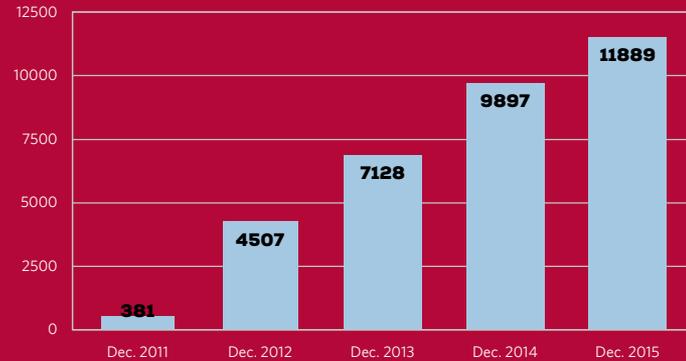
USA Ultimate published its third annual report for the organization in October 2015. The publication outlined all things USA Ultimate from the 2014 calendar year.



## TWITTER FOLLOWERS

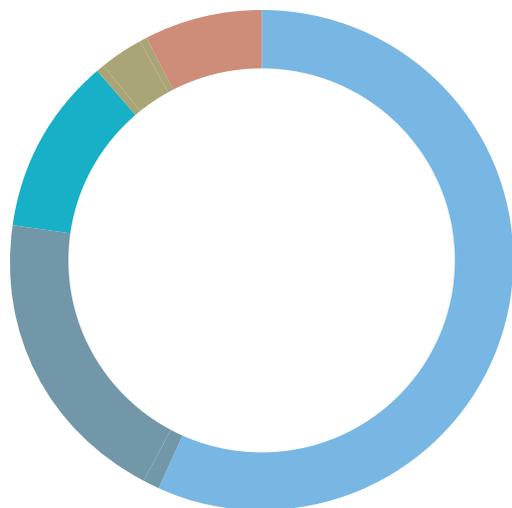


## YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS



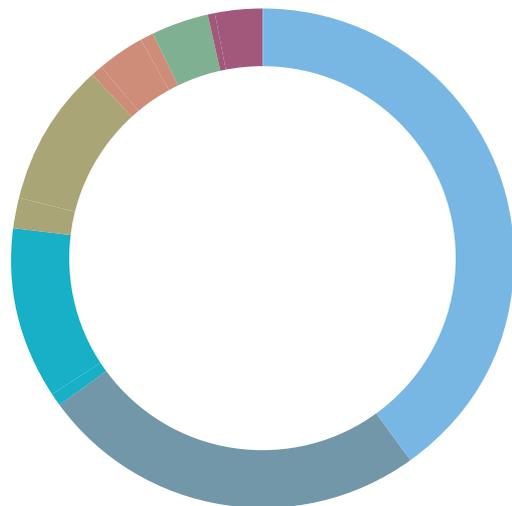


# **FINANCIAL** **REVIEW**



## REVENUE SOURCES

- MEMBERSHIP - 55%
- CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS - 22%
- SPONSORSHIP/MERCHANDISE SALES/LICENSING - 13%
- SPORT DEVELOPMENT - 4%
- OTHER - 7%



## AUDITED EXPENSES

- YOUTH, COLLEGE, CLUB AND MASTERS EVENTS & PROGRAMS - 40%
- MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP SALES - 25%
- MEMBER SERVICES & OUTREACH - 12%
- NATIONAL TEAMS - 12%
- SUPPORTING SERVICES - 4%
- COACH & OBSERVER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS - 3%
- OTHER EXPENSES - 3%

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	Dollars (\$)
Cash and cash equivalents	843,892
Accounts receivable, net	46,662
Inventory	18,711
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	43,586
Due from Foundation	9,988
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	494,049
Total Current Assets	1,456,888
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
IT Infrastructure System	292,887
Furniture and Equipment	56,591
Computer Equipment	25,182
Leasehold improvements	11,959
Other Depreciable Projects	6,600
Software	4,714
Subtotal	397,933
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(136,234)
Property and Equipment - Net	261,699
Long-Term Investments	738,230
OTHER ASSETS	1,300
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,458,207</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$302,688
Accrued liabilities	95,415
Current portion of deferred revenue	393,054
Total current liabilities	791,157
DEFERRED REVENUE	224,039
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,015,196</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

EXPENSES	
PROGRAM SERVICES	TOTALS
Triple Crown Tour, Beach and Masters events and programs	\$510,165
Youth events and programs	472,482
Communications and publications	443,427
National teams	391,637
Marketing and sponsorship	372,435
College events and programs	249,350
Member services	201,691
Community and sport development	173,422
Coach and observer development programs	132,937
Event standards/Spirit of the Game/rules/disc standards	108,850
Beach events and programs	73,512
International programs	63,113
AE system	47,107
Total program services	3,240,128
SUPPORTING SERVICES	TOTALS
Operations	\$187,413
Board of Directors	87,196
Fundraising	53,444
Total supporting services	328,053
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,568,181</b>

REVENUE	
	TOTALS
Membership dues	\$2,011,386
Competition and athlete programs	808,346
Sponsorship and licensing	399,975
National teams	236,893
Sport development and outreach	99,393
Sales	61,658
Cost of goods sold	(57,334)
Grants	51,000
Coach and observer development program	31,844
Ultimate Foundation grants	9,035
Investment income	602
Other income	3,000
Loss on sale of equipment	(49)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>3,655,749</b>

REVENUE AND EXPENSE TOTALS	
	TOTALS
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$87,568
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	1,355,443
<b>NET ASSETS, End of Year</b>	<b>1,443,011</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES 2015

**Net cash provided by operating activities: \$347,343**

**Adjustments to reconcile the change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities**

**Depreciation: \$55,251**

**Loss on investments: \$10,031**

Decrease (increase) in assets

Accounts receivable, net	\$37,487
Due from Ultimate Foundation	(1,891)
Inventory	\$5,789
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(7,750)

Increase (decrease) in liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$ 44,014
Accrued liabilities	35,073
Deferred revenue	81,771

**Total adjustments: \$259,775**

**Change in net assets: \$87,568**



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