

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



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ABOUT

USA ULTIMATE IS THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY
FOR THE SPORT OF ULTIMATE IN THE UNITED STATES.



USA Ultimate is a member of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and serves as the official national governing body for the sport of ultimate in the United States. USA Ultimate is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit membership organization with its national headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo. Founded in 1979 as the Ultimate Players Association, USA Ultimate is the largest flying disc organization in the world with more than 38,000 members, including athletes, coaches, observers and league and event organizers.

USA Ultimate organizes the full spectrum of ultimate in the U.S. and hosts several major events annually, including national championships for youth, college, elite and masters divisions, as well as the U.S. Open, a major international tournament. It also owns and operates the Triple Crown Tour, the highest and most competitive level of ultimate in the United States, consisting of men's, women's and mixed-gender divisions.

As one of 91 member organizations of the World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) – the international federation for flying disc sports and member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) – USA Ultimate is responsible for the selection of U.S. National Teams for all major international events, including junior, U24, elite and masters world championships and the quadrennial World Games.

Governed by a core principle called Spirit of the Game™, ultimate is proud of its heritage and continuing practice of being a self-officiated sport from local, recreational play to elite-level, international competition. The sport was created in 1968 by students at Columbia High School in Maplewood, NJ and is now played worldwide across three primary disciplines – grass, beach and indoor.



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.

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 that 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.

GOALS

1

INCREASE ACCESS TO AND PARTICIPATION IN THE SPORT, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON INCLUSION AND LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

TACTICS

- A. Promote initiatives that focus on local inclusion and engagement of members who identify with areas of diversity that are under-represented.
- B. Develop a demographic baseline of the USA Ultimate membership and establish benchmarks for advancement.
- C. Incentivize local opportunities that aim for equal value and support of both single-gender and mixed-gender play.
- D. Establish USA Ultimate as the center for leadership and resources in support of state-based organizations and local affiliates.
 - Continue to build out the regional and local infrastructure of our sport's organization through ongoing investment in and support of state-based organizations and local affiliates.
 - Develop and offer equity, diversity and inclusion training opportunities for affiliates, state-based organizations and local organizers.
 - Support and sanction an increasing number of local competition events and development programs around the nation.
 - Expand the number of qualified coaches, observers and event directors via training and certification programs.
- Introduce the sport to more and more youth through targeted outreach programs, operated in conjunction with local playing opportunities and aligned organizations.
- Continue to tailor the development and improve the delivery of coaching education and certification for a variety of competition, age and experience levels.
- Finalize the development of and implement effective strategies related to long-term athlete development of ultimate athletes.
- E. Encourage local organizers and organizations to promote SOTG both on and off the field in their communities and programs.
- F. Expand competition opportunities for middle-school-aged and elementary-school-aged players across the nation.
- G. Implement parent-focused and youth-oriented communications strategies to introduce and spread general knowledge of ultimate.
- H. Utilize Play It Forward fundraising with The Ultimate Foundation to help youth participants overcome financial challenges.

2

ENRICH THE COMMUNITY'S EXPERIENCE WITH USA ULTIMATE BY ENHANCING THE EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT OF PROGRAMS, STRUCTURES AND EVENTS.

TACTICS

- A. Create, direct and facilitate the highest-quality competitive events in the United States.
- B. Provide the highest level of competition in the U.S. for the best athletes and teams across all disciplines, ages and gender divisions.
- C. Facilitate accessible and meaningful playing opportunities for athletes and teams at all levels of competition.
- D. Establish an attractive, accessible and clear framework for youth competition across seasons, levels of play and geography.
- E. Expand educational resources for event planning, including raising awareness of standards and expectations for high-quality events.
- F. Evolve competition structures to support and integrate both match play and tournament formats, incorporating the best elements of each in order to maximize the positive impact on players, fans and communities.
- G. Enhance the impact of U.S. National Teams at home and abroad.
 - Continue to build and support a national team program that showcases the best of the sport on and off the field.
 - Expand and support a U.S. National Team coaching program that incorporates and models the best elements of coach, player and team development.
 - Expand access to the U.S. National Team Program for players across geographic and socioeconomic boundaries.
 - Promote national teams, athletes and coaches as role models for players and fans at all levels of the sport.
- H. Facilitate communication with external organizations offering competitive ultimate playing opportunities.
 - Explore and build relationships with organizations that align with USA Ultimate's values and do not conflict with USA Ultimate programs.
 - Emphasize values with and work to influence organizations that do not align with USA Ultimate's values and/or conflict with USA Ultimate programs, seeking to pull the community together to reduce conflicts and achieve common goals.
- I. Oversee and evolve the rules of the sport, including ensuring effective, meaningful and appropriate integration of Spirit of the Game, self-officiating and observers.
 - Design and implement process for regular review and revision of rules and standards of play, based on systematic input and experience, and integrated across key elements of the sport, including SOTG, officiating and rules.
 - Create a structure where rules can be adapted across disciplines, skill levels and playing environments, while maintaining consistency and clarity in core philosophies.
 - Develop educational resources to make rules, officiating and SOTG clearer to players, coaches and organizers at all levels.
 - Expand, improve and refine officiating programs and resources, including training and deployment of observers and training of players to better implement self-officiating at all levels.
 - Develop and implement rules, policies and philosophies that promote a safe environment for healthy competition.
 - Work with experienced organizers to evolve communication around the SOTG philosophy to better reach and positively impact a more diverse population of players.
 - Promote the character-building impacts of SOTG and self-officiating beyond the field of play.
 - Expand use of the SOTG scoring and tracking system, making it more meaningful and accessible to local organizers and teams.
 - Promote and celebrate players, teams and organizations that successfully demonstrate SOTG values on and off the field.
 - Help and hold accountable players, teams and organizations that fall short of demonstrating SOTG values in line with the community's standards and expectations.

3

INCREASE AWARENESS AND CREDIBILITY OF ULTIMATE AS AN INNOVATIVE AND HIGHLY RESPECTED SPORT, THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING AND BRANDING.

TACTICS

- A. Maintain and build relationships with current and future partners and organizations that help introduce new audiences to our sport.
- B. Continue to develop and enrich a positive relationship with the ultimate community.
- C. Pursue networking opportunities and/or speaking engagements that put the sport of ultimate in front of organizations such as the National High School Federation, NCAA, U.S. Olympic Committee, International Olympic Committee and others, as appropriate.
- D. Stay attuned to the ever-changing landscape of media, and position USA Ultimate to leverage the best possible relationships for maximum exposure and fan-friendly touch points.
- E. Pursue Olympic national governing body status and inclusion on the Olympic program for LA28.
- F. Continue to expand all structures of the sport, including the state-based initiatives and training programs to ensure we are able to successfully safeguard the values of ultimate in the event of a stepwise increase in participation as a result of increased awareness.
- G. Look for opportunities to celebrate the successes of USA Ultimate around equity, diversity and inclusion.
- H. Build a reputation in the sports world as a welcoming and inclusive community.
- I. Develop a marketing and promotional plan to target diverse and underrepresented communities.
- J. Build and execute sales, marketing and branding campaigns to grow the sport, with a focus on youth, parents and fans.

4

ENSURE USA ULTIMATE IS A COMMUNITY-FOCUSED, MODEL NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY BY INVESTING IN ITS ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY.

STRATEGIES

- A. Take incremental steps to develop and maintain a culture that reflects a deep respect and appreciation for equity, inclusion and diversity, within the organization and across the community.
 - Develop a dynamic and comprehensive equity, diversity and inclusion plan for the organization.
 - Revise the organization's existing equity policy to align with and support the equity, diversity and inclusion plan.
 - Continue developing and offering equity, diversity and inclusion training opportunities for board members, HQ staff, volunteers and the larger community.
 - Engage a consultant to help weave equity, diversity and inclusion into everything we do.
 - Share tangibly the work that USA Ultimate is doing to grow understanding, better communicate and evolve in the equity, diversity and inclusion space.
- B. Attend U.S. Olympic Committee and Association of Chief Executives of Sport (ACES) best practices seminars/retreats, and put into operational plans all relevant national governing body best practices.
- C. Create and maintain a culture that leads to the recruitment and retention of top talent on the USA Ultimate staff and Board of Directors.
- D. Develop vehicles for gathering, utilizing and communicating feedback from and to the community.
- E. Maintain transparent and sound financial practices.
- F. Maintain financial stability through proper operating reserves and sound investment of assets.
- G. Continue to pursue diversifying revenue streams while increasing revenue annually.
- H. Evolve risk management and Safe Sport policies and procedures to minimize organizational liability and protect athletes and participants.

MEMBERSHIP



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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 that 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

Designed for multisport organizations that would like to add ultimate to their menu of programs for youth.

EVENT ONLY

Available to youth and adults who need access to play in specific 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 at discounted prices, along with all 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.



MEMBERSHIP

USA ULTIMATE AFFILIATE PROGRAM

In 2013, USA Ultimate officially introduced the Affiliate Program. The program was created with the express purpose of supporting and formalizing the development of local area ultimate organizations and 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 its geographic area. Through this closely connected partnership, affiliates will benefit from additional resources and opportunities to increase their reach.

AFFILIATES

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

In 2021, the ninth official year of the Affiliate Program, USA Ultimate has greatly improved its count, bringing the program total to 36. 2021 USA Ultimate Affiliates include:

- Tucson Ultimate (Arizona)
- Bay Ultimate Youth Affiliate (California)
- OC Ulti (California)
- Santa Barbara Youth Ultimate (California)
- Southern California Youth Ultimate (California)
- Youth Ultimate of Colorado Springs (Colorado)
- Connecticut Ultimate Club (Connecticut)
- Jacksonville Ultimate League (Florida)
- Atlanta Flying Disc Club Jrs. (Georgia)
- Neuqua Valley Ultimate (Illinois)
- Oak Park and River Forest Youth Ultimate Organization (Illinois)
- Center Grove Ultimate Club (Indiana)
- Indiana Ultimate Foundation (Indiana)
- Louisiana Youth Ultimate (Louisiana)
- Valley Ultimate (Massachusetts)
- Maine Ultimate (Maine)
- Capital Area Disc Association (Michigan)
- Detroit Ultimate Association (Michigan)
- Kalamazoo United Youth Ultimate (Michigan)
- Zig Zag Ultimate (Michigan)
- St. Louis Ultimate Association (Missouri)
- Missoula Ultimate Federation (Montana)
- Asheville Ultimate Club (North Carolina)
- Triangle Ultimate (North Carolina)
- Delaware Valley Youth League (New Jersey)
- Mercer County Ultimate Disc League (New Jersey)
- Albany Ultimate Disc Association (New York)
- Nickel City Ultimate (New York)
- Columbus Ultimate Disc Association (Ohio)
- Oregon Youth Ultimate (Oregon)
- San Antonio Ultimate Community (Texas)
- Austin Ultimate (Texas)
- Charlottesville Ultimate Disc Organization (Virginia)
- Vermont Ultimate (Vermont)
- Seven Hills Ultimate Club (Washington)
- Wisconsin Ultimate (Wisconsin)

PLAY IT FORWARD

USA Ultimate originally 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.

Everyone should have the chance to experience the joy of ultimate, and no one should be denied the opportunity to be a part of the ultimate community because of their socioeconomic status. Play It Forward provides financial aid and membership support for youth from underserved communities. In 2021, this program helps eliminate some of the financial barriers to playing ultimate, such as event fees, membership dues and other commonly required costs.

Into the 2021 season, Play It Forward has increased opportunities for many individuals to experience the game of ultimate. From 2020 to 2021, Play it Forward jumped from just under \$10,000 up to over \$20,000, one of the biggest leaps in the program's seven-year history.



MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

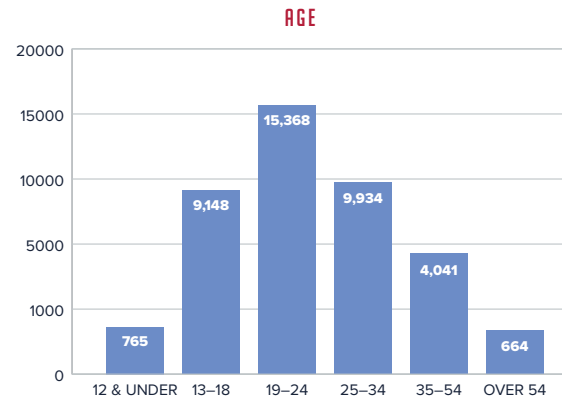
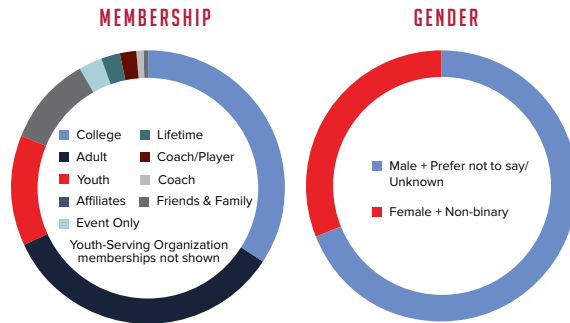
USA Ultimate memberships grew from 2020 but still struggled to get back to pre-pandemic numbers as the total membership count totaled just over 38,000. Membership growth from 2020 to 2021 was 7.7% while youth membership was down 18.9%. The college membership was USA Ultimate's largest membership category in 2021 with over 13,000 memberships. Adult memberships came in second largest with just under 13,000 memberships. While most memberships grew back from 2020, the membership numbers still dropped heavily from pre-pandemic USA Ultimate membership trends.

MEMBER RETENTION

Membership retention rates dipped heavily in 2021, with 52 percent of the 2020 membership returning in 2021. The membership numbers from 2020 were heavily skewed due to the pandemic which explains why the retention rate for 2021 dipped.

2021 MEMBERSHIPS

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
Lifetime	851
Adult	12,953
College	13,096
Youth	4,971
Coach/Player	734
Coach	381
Friends & Family	118
Youth-Serving Organizations	1
Affiliates	4,102
Event Only	1,007
Total	38,214





MEMBER BENEFITS

USA Ultimate annual members may participate in an unlimited number of sanctioned events during the calendar year, participate in the USA Ultimate insurance program, take advantage of partner discounts and much more!

- Members can attend USA Ultimate clinics and conventions and participate in USA Ultimate sanctioned and championship events.
- Members may apply for grants or kits to assist with developing local programs, become a certified coach or observer, or apply to sanction a local event and receive benefits such as insurance.
- Members are covered through the USA Ultimate insurance program when participating in USA Ultimate sanctioned events.
- Members receive discounted rates on USA Ultimate general merchandise such as team kits, learn to play kits, rule books and more.
- Members are eligible for merchandise, ticket and travel discounts from our partners, including:
 - 20% off at Wyndham Hotels
 - 20% off at Red Roof Inn
 - 20% off custom-printed Ultrastar discs from Discraft
- As part of the Olympic Family, USA Ultimate members have access to scholarship opportunities through DeVry University.
- Members can make a difference in the sport with their eligibility to vote in USA Ultimate elections and have the option to seek election to the organization's 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.

WYNDHAM
HOTEL GROUP

**Red
Roof
Inn**

DISCRAFT

COMPETITION



Each year, hundreds of ultimate tournaments take place across the United States. In 2021, USA Ultimate sanctioned 45 recreational tournaments, 20 regular-season club events, 18 sanctioned leagues, 72 club sectional events, 24 club regional events, 88 college conference events and 30 college regional events. In addition, USA Ultimate delivered four high-quality championship events across the youth, college, club, and masters divisions.

USA Ultimate provides competition programs for every age group of its almost 40,000 members. All divisions struggled with recovery since the pandemic, although each year back has seen more and more growth.

YOUTH ULTIMATE

The youth division suffered in 2021, losing almost 5,000 members. Traditionally, the youth division has been USA Ultimate's fastest-growing divisions. However, the division is working to grow back to its pre-pandemic numbers where the number of youth teams participating in USA Ultimate's competition programs outnumbered the number of participating club teams.

The Youth Club Championships saw 44 teams participating in 2021 across the U-20 Boys, U-17 Boys, U-20 Girls, and U-20 Mixed divisions.

The youth division also saw several state championships take place in 2021, across nine states.

U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Ultimate held its ninth-annual U.S. Open Championships from August 6-9 in 2021, hosting teams from across the United States in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Twenty teams from across the nation competed in the event, with over 400 athletes participating. The competition is invite-only and highlights the best teams, athletes and competition the sport has to offer.

The event was held in conjunction with the Youth Club Championships across the three-day period.

CONVENTION

In 2021, the convention was split into two sessions, with coaches in one session and organizers in the other. The two sessions took place early in 2021 as the organizer convention was held in late January and the coaching convention in early February.

The 2021 coaching convention provided sessions on skills progression, creating player-centered environments, practice planning, substitutions, recruiting underrepresented groups into coaching as well as panel discussions with members of the coaching community, in and outside of ultimate.

The organizer's convention had several sessions across four days which included volunteer management, leadership development, increasing volunteer activity in the community, organizational strategic planning, engaging underserved communities, equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives, building community and more.

YOUTH COMPETITION



HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Ultimate hosted the 16th annual Youth Club Championships (YCC) in 2021 in Blaine, Minnesota.

The Youth Club Championships saw 44 teams participating in 2021 across the U-20 Boys, U-17 Boys, U-20 Girls, and U-20 Mixed divisions, comprising nearly 900 athletes. The teams represented around 22 different communities, with several communities sending more than one team to the event.

COLORADO

DI Girls: Monarch Girls A
DI Boys: Monarch Boys A
DII Boys: Compass Montessori
Mixed: The University School

MAINE

Mixed: Greely

MISSOURI

DI Boys: De Smet Jesuit
DII Boys: Edwardsville High School
(Lower)
Girls: Kirkwood High School

NORTH CAROLINA

Boys: Jordan High School
Girls: Chapel Hill

VIRGINIA

Girls: Skymall
Boys: Yorktown
Mixed: Madison

YOUTH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

U-20 BOYS' DIVISION

- 1 Oregon Trainwreck
- 2 Utah Swarm
- 3 Washington DC Foggy Bottom Boys
- 4 Minnesota Superior
- 5 Oakland smOAK
- 6 Colorado Cutthroat
- 7 Chicago Red Hots
- 8 Charlotte Flight
- 9 Cincinnati Flying Pig
- 10 Nashville Villains
- 11 St. Louis Storm
- 12 Minnesota Superior B
- 13 Texas United
- 14 Madison MUFAbots

Spirit Winner: Cincinnati Flying Pig

U-20 GIRLS' DIVISION

- 1 Oregon Downpour
- 2 Washington, D.C. Rogue
- 3 Utah Swarm
- 4 Texas Tango
- 5 Minnesota Superior U-20
- 6 Minnesota Superior U17G
- 7 Cincinnati Belle
- 8 Minnesota Superior U20 B

Spirit Winner: Minnesota Superior U17G

U-17 BOYS' DIVISION

- 1 Utah Swarm
- 2 Minnesota Superior X
- 3 Portland clear/cut
- 4 Texas Double Trouble
- 5 Colorado Springs COSmic Elite
- 6 Chicago Nightmare
- 7 Oakland OAK Sparks
- 8 Michigan Stubble
- 9 Cincinnati Flying Piglet
- 10 Davis Spokes
- 11 Minnesota Superior Y
- 12 Madison MUFAbots

Spirit Winner: COSmic Elite

U-20 MIXED DIVISION

- 1 Oregon Downpour
- 2 Washington, D.C. Rogue
- 3 Utah Swarm
- 4 Texas Tango
- 5 Minnesota Superior U-20
- 6 Minnesota Superior U17G
- 7 Cincinnati Belle
- 8 Minnesota Superior U20 B

Spirit Winner: Minnesota Superior U17G

COLLEGE COMPETITION



COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The college division continues to be USA Ultimate's largest member segment; a total of 13,096 athletes participated in the 2021 college series.

The College Championship Postseason Series was again held to qualify teams for the 2021 College Championships. Championships were held for Division I and Division III schools in Norco, California. The college championships were pushed to December of 2021 and held in a three-day period for both Division I and Division III.

College membership and participation both fell in 2021, due to the pandemic.

The College Championships were broadcast live for the eighth consecutive year by the *Worldwide Leader in Sports*, ESPN. The semifinals and finals were broadcast around the nation on ESPN over the three-day weekend in December and were followed up by three hours of primetime coverage on ESPNU the week after the event. Thousands of people were able to tune into the ultimate coverage.



COLLEGE COMPETITION



DIVISION I COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS

- 1 North Carolina
- 2 Georgia
- T3 Brown
- T3 Michigan
- T5 Washington
- T5 Colorado
- T5 Cal Poly-SLO
- T5 Texas
- T9 Ohio State
- T9 North Carolina-Wilmington
- T11 North Carolina State
- T11 Tulane
- 13 Northeastern
- 14 Pittsburgh
- T15 Wisconsin
- T15 Utah State
- 17 Illinois
- 18 Cornell
- DNF California-San Diego
- DNF Carleton-CUT

SPIRIT AWARD

- Seth Lee
Theodore Sifianos
Elliott Rosenberg
Alvin Wang
Nate Wipfler
Daniel Landesman
Jeremy Dolezal-Ng
Chris Layden
Marshal Paz
Colin White
Allen MacMillan
Nick Vilamil
Simon Carapella
Michael Sodini
Pieran Robert
Trey Raymond
Rishav Rout
Leo Decter
Stefan Samu
Tony Ngo

Team Spirit Award Winner: Georgia

WOMEN'S DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS

- 1 North Carolina
- 2 Washington
- T3 Carleton-Syzygy
- T3 California-Santa Barbara
- T5 Virginia
- T5 California-San Diego
- T5 Pittsburgh
- T5 California-Davis
- T9 Western Washington
- T9 Colorado
- T11 Texas
- T11 Chicago
- T13 Vermont
- T13 Georgia
- T15 Florida State
- T15 Ohio
- T17 Pennsylvania
- T17 SUNYBinghamton
- T19 Michigan
- T19 Boston University

SPIRIT AWARD

- Jess Wu
Robyn Gamboa
Ada Wright
Vienna Lee
Brooke Meinhart
Emma Ellefson-Frank
Miranda Kosowsky
Julianna Madigan
Paige Jeantette-Coca
Emma Capra
Summer Wilson
Briana Morales
Maya Fein-Cole
N/A
Natalie Wilson
Kelly Simons
Emma Francis
Faith Summers
Katie Wagner
Olivia Tom

Team Spirit Award Winner: Colorado



DIVISION III COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS

- 1 Oklahoma Christian
- 2 Middlebury
- T3 Richmond
- T3 St. Olaf
- 5 Whitman
- 6 Berry
- 7 Carleton-CHOP
- 8 Claremont
- 9 Colorado College
- 10 Franciscan
- 11 Kenyon
- 12 Rochester
- 13 Mary Washington
- 14 North Park
- 15 Wesleyan
- 16 Brandeis

SPIRIT AWARD

- Emmanuel Kameri
 Jack Landrigan
 Dan Scherzer
 Benji Keillor
 Sam Dale-Gau
 Caleb Enright
 Gavyn Spingles-Johnson
 Logan Stouse
 Josh Felton
 Noah Spieldenner
 Peter Reinhart
 Ian Clingerman
 Parker Gulbranson
 N/A
 Adam Sussbauer
 Josh Wan

Team Spirit Award Winner: Kenyon

WOMEN'S DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS

- 1 Middlebury
- 2 Portland
- T3 Truman State
- T3 Carleton-Eclipse
- 5 Occidental
- 6 Michigan Tech
- 7 Union
- 8 Vassar
- 9 Rice
- 10 Brandeis
- 11 Rochester
- 12 Lehigh
- 13 Richmond
- 14 Puget Sound
- 15 Kenyon
- 16 Wheaton

SPIRIT AWARD

- Josie Bourne
 Christine Burchinal
 Sarah Finley
 Emily Hall
 Margery Wilson
 Anna Schmazel
 Abby Bone
 Sophie Wanzer
 Amanda Lopatin
 Solana Jolly
 Brighid Bugos
 Aimee Teplitskiy
 Victoria Davis
 Bailey Ulrich
 Lucy Gibbs
 Sophie Winnes

Team Spirit Award Winner: Rice University

CLUB COMPETITION





TRIPLE CROWN TOUR

The Triple Crown Tour was introduced as the new club division competition format in 2012, making the 2021 season the eighth year of the Triple Crown Tour structure. 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

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 regular season and the National Championship in the same year.



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 Championships



TEAMS: Unlimited
QUALIFICATION: Any USA Ultimate registered team eligible to compete in the regular season or the postseason Championship Series



CLUB COMPETITION



TRIPLE CROWN TOUR

CONTINUED



With a more formal regular season, games played at TCT events over the summer leading up to the 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 2021 club season as tour stops for each flight.

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.

EVENT	DIVISION	LOCATION
U.S. Open Championships	M	Minneapolis, MN
Pro-Elite Challenge - Colorado Cup	M, X	Aurora, CO
Elite-Select Challenge	M, W, X	Lebanon, OH
Select Flight Invite - West	M, X	Norco, CA
Select Flight Invite - East	M, X	Columbus, OH
Pro Championships	M, W, X	Boulder, CO
National Championships	M, W, X	San Diego, CA

POSTSEASON CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

With the launch of the Triple Crown Tour (TCT), 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 2021, the second leg of the Triple Crown was the Pro Championships. The third and final leg of the TCT is the National Championships.

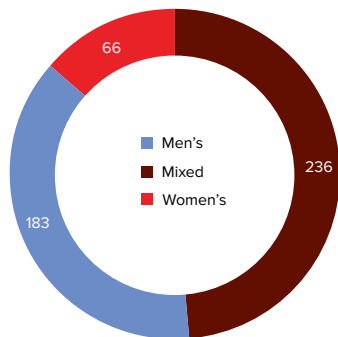
Seattle Sockeye took home first place finishes in the men's division for the U.S. Open and Pro Champs but it was Raleigh Ring of Fire who won first place at the National Championships. That was the first championship for the team from Raleigh.

In the mixed division, Seattle BFG won a national championship while Seattle Mixtape claimed first at Pro Champs. BFG also claimed their first championship in 2021.

In the women's division, it was Denver Molly Brown who claimed first at the Pro Champs. For the National Championship, San Francisco Fury topped the club world again, picking up a twelfth national title, the third in four years.

Team participation numbers in the club division increased from 2020 to 2021 for all divisions although numbers were still low due to the pandemic. Overall participation was low, with 485 participating teams in 2021. Mixed was the largest competition division with 236 teams, followed by the men's division with 183.

With team participation improving from 2020 to 2021, athlete participation improved but still struggled from 2019 standards. All divisions saw marked decreases although the pandemic had a big part in those numbers.



U.S. OPEN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS CITY

1	Sockeye	Seattle, WA
2	Machine	Chicago, IL
3	Chain Lightning	Atlanta, GA
4	Sub Zero	Minneapolis, MN
5	Truck Stop	Washington, D.C.
6	SoCal Condors	Calico, CA
7	PoNY	New York, NY
8	Rhino Slam!	Portland, OR
9	DiG	Boston, MA
10	Emerald City	Seattle, WA
T11	Yogosbo	Madison, WI
T11	Black Market I	Lombard, IL
T13	Inception	Denver, CO
T13	Mallard	Minneapolis, MN
T13	Flash Flood	Dallas, TX
T13	Knights of Ni	Golden Valley, MN
T17	Surly	Minneapolis, MN
T17	Cryptic	Iowa City, IA
T17	Overdrive	St. Louis Park, MN
T17	Mallard II	Minneapolis, MN

Team Spirit Award Winner: Surly

CLUB COMPETITION



PRO CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS CITY

1	Sockeye	Seattle, WA
2	Truck Stop	Washington, D.C.
3	Machine	Chicago, IL
4	Rhino Slam!	Portland, OR
5	Revolver	San Francisco, CA
6	Temper	Pittsburgh, PA
7	Johnny Bravo	Denver, CO
8	Lotus	Boulder, CO
9	PoNY	New York, NY
10	DiG	Boston, MA
11	Inception	Denver, CO
12	Fungi	Golden, CO

MIXED DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS SPIRIT AWARD

1	Mixtape	Seattle, WA
2	shame.	Fort Collins, CO
3	BFG	Seattle, WA
4	Lawless	Phoenix, AZ
5	Love Tractor	Denver, CO
6	Public Enemy	Dallas, TX

WOMEN'S DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS SPIRIT AWARD

1	Molly Brown	Denver, CO
2	Brute Squad	Boston, MA
3	Phoenix	Raleigh, NC
4	Schwa	Portland, OR
5	Nemesis	Chicago, IL
6	Grit	Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the third consecutive season, the National Championships were held in San Diego, California. From Oct. 21-24, more than 1,100 athletes from 48 different teams competed in San Diego with eyes on taking home national titles in the men's, mixed and women's divisions.

Also, for an eighth consecutive year, seven games from the semifinal and final rounds of play at the National Championships were broadcast live from San Diego on ESPN.

MIXED DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD
1 BFG	Seattle, WA	Linnea Soo, Sam Pickel
2 Hybrid	Ann Arbor, MI	Mya Hernandez, Joe Besser
3 Mixtape	Seattle, WA	Steph Lim, Billy Katz
4 NOISE	Madison, WI	Ashley Leyden, Jimmy Sykora
5 Drag'n Thrust	Minneapolis, MN	Sarah Mondschein, Marty Adams
6 Sprocket	Lexington, MA	Tahlia Quartin, Brett Tan
7 AMP	Philadelphia, PA	Natalie Bova, Mike Campanella
8 Love Tractor	Denver, CO	Britta Bergstrom, Eric Hubbard
9 Slow	Boston, MA	Hannah Baranes, Scott Gatto
10 Lawless	Phoenix, AZ	Kody Lippincott, Jake Hadziev
11 Lochsa	Boise, ID	Shannon Montaño, Ryan Van Hook
12 'Shine	Nashville, TN	Mary Turner, Mikeie Reiland
13 Polar Bears	San Francisco, CA	Amanda Meroux, Robert Yeagle
14 shame.	Fort Collins, CO	Sarah Pesch, Joe Anderson
15 Space Heater	Washington, DC	Ashleigh Buch, AJ Merriman
16 XIST	New York, NY	Genny De Jesus, Matt Baum

Team Spirit Award Winner: Drag'n Thrust
Spirit and Equity Award: Mya Hernandez - Hybrid, Joe Anderson - shame.

MEN'S DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD
1 Ring of Fire	Raleigh, NC	Matt Gouchoe-Hanas
2 PoNY	New York, NY	Harper Garvey
3 Sockeye	Seattle, WA	Jacob Janin
4 Rhino Slam!	Salem, OR	Spencer Latarski
5 Machine	Chicago, IL	Walden Nelson
6 Truck Stop	Washington, DC	Christian Boxley
7 DiG	Boston, MA	Gus Norrbom
8 Temper	Pittsburgh, PA	Patrick McMullen
9 Johnny Bravo	Denver, CO	Mark Rauls
10 Chain Lightning	Atlanta, GA	Kelvin Williams
11 Condors	Calico, CA	Calvin Brown
12 Sprout	Amherst, MA	Christopher Bartoli
13 Revolver	San Francisco, CA	Simon Higgins
14 Sub Zero	Minneapolis, MN	Kristian Johnson
15 Killjoys	Orem, UT	Dayne Meyer
16 Lotus	Boulder, CO	Thomas Brewster

Team Spirit Award Winner: Revolver
Farricker Award Winner: Walden Nelson - Machine

WOMEN'S DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS	CITY	SPIRIT AWARD
1 Fury	San Francisco, CA	Carolyn Finney
2 Brute Squad	Boston, MA	Lièn Hoffmann
3 Phoenix	Raleigh, NC	Maya Powell
4 Molly Brown	Denver, CO	Claire Chastain
5 Traffic	Vancouver, BC	Marie-Eve Beauchemin
6 Riot	Seattle, WA	Charlie Eide
7 Nemesis	Chicago, IL	Sammi Wong
8 Schwa	Portland, OR	Natalie Hancock
9 Tabby Rosa	Gainesville, FL	Bridget Johnson
10 Parcha	Pittsburgh, PA	Kayla Emrick
11 Nightlock	San Francisco, CA	Iris Leung
12 Pop	Minneapolis, MN	Adrienne Baker
13 Rival	Columbus, OH	Tracey Lo
14 Siege	Boston, MA	Jo-Z Coppinger
15 Wildfire	San Diego, CA	Lindsay Lang
16 BENT	New York, NY	Samiya Ismail

Team Spirit Award Winner: Rival
Kathy Pufahl Award: Carolyn Finney - Fury

MASTERS COMPETITION





MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2021 Masters Championships were held in Aurora, Colo., July 16-18. The event included the men's masters, men's grand masters, men's great grand masters, mixed masters, women's masters and women's grand masters divisions. After a down year in 2020 with no masters championship series, team participation increased at the 2021 Masters Championship, with 97 teams participating. Mixed masters led with 24 teams participating, followed by men's masters with 23 teams.

MEN'S MASTERS

FINAL STANDINGS	CITY
1 Volttron 2020	Seattle, WA
2 Johnny Encore	Denver, CO
3 Boneyard	Raleigh, NC
4 Pacemaker	Chicago, IL
5 Viejo	Austin, TX
6 Woolly Mammoth	Gainesville, FL
7 Royal Stag	Madison, WI
8 King Louie	St. Louis, MO
9 Join or Die	Philadelphia, PA
10 Wasted Talent	Lincoln, NE
11 Surly	Minneapolis, MN
12 Beyonders	Santa Barbara, CA
13 All Bashed Out	Albany, NY
14 Urnmen	Birmingham, AL
15 Rest Stop	Baltimore, MD
16 Naptown	Indianapolis, IN
17 Jalopy	Ann Arbor, MI
18 Geronimo	Dallas, TX
19 High Mileage	Colorado Springs, CO
20 The Bayou Boys	Houston, TX
21 Minimum Effort	Cincinnati, OH
22 Danger Mouse	Seattle, WA
23 Wolfhounds	Madison, WI

Team Spirit Award Winner: Minimum Effort

WOMEN'S MASTERS

FINAL STANDINGS	CITY
1 Reboot Squad	Somerville, MA
2 Molly Grey	Denver, CO
3 Ripe	Chapel Hill, NC
4 Soar/Sore	Dallas, TX
5 PUMAS	Collins, IA
6 Oldzone	Atlanta, GA
7 Surly COUGARS	Minneapolis, MN
8 PDXtra	Portland, OR
9 Unraveled	Columbus, OH
10 Aged Cheddar	Madison, WI
11 Loose Cannon	Philadelphia, PA
12 Hot Flash	Indianapolis, IN
13 Yeehaw	Austin, TX

Team Spirit Award Winner: PUMAS

MASTERS COMPETITION

MIXED MASTERS

FINAL STANDINGS CITY

1	SLOWer	Boston, MA
2	Descent	Washington, DC
3	SOS	Seattle, WA
4	Members Only	Los Angeles, CA
5	Old #7	Lynchburg, TN
6	Snowbirds	Phoenix, AZ
7	Hey Babe	Minneapolis, MN
8	512	Austin, TX
9	Pizza Rats and Bodega Cats	New York, NY
10	Shipwreck	Cincinnati, OH
11	Smice Cream	Oakland, CA
12	Old Rush	Boulder, CO
13	Antiques Roadshow	Asheville, NC
14	Distilled Fink	Lewisberry, PA
15	Old Money	Charlotte, NC
16	Hoarse n Draggin	Fort Collins, CO
17	GRUMP	Houston, TX
18	Default	Burlington, VT
19	Run Like the Winded	Littleton, CO
20	Salty Action	Denver, CO
21	Old Pueblo	Tucson, AZ
22	Pittsburgh Iron City Ultimate	Pittsburgh, PA
23	Bust	Tulsa, OK
24	Old Fashioned	Madison, WI

Team Spirit Award Winner: Pittsburgh Iron City Ultimate

WOMEN'S GRAND MASTERS

FINAL STANDINGS CITY

1	Molly Blue	Denver, CO
2	Stretch Mark	Minneapolis, MN
3	Prime	Chicago, IL
4	Not My First Rodeo	St. Louis, MO
5	Peak Bloom	Rockville, MD

Team Spirit Award Winner: Stretch Mark

MEN'S GRAND MASTERS

FINAL STANDINGS CITY

1	Johnny Walker	Denver, CO
2	Surly GM	Minneapolis, MN
3	Eldors	Santa Barbara, CA
4	Black Cans and Highlands	Washington, DC
5	Shadows	Oakland, CA
6	Endless Sunset	San Diego, CA
7	Bighorn	Boulder, CO
8	Burnside 40	Portland, OR
9	Reckon	Nashville, TN
10	Chicago Archive	Chicago, IL
11	Sick Hammers	Austin, TX
12	Big D.N.R.	Dallas, TX
13	Joystick	Brooklyn, NY
14	Creaky	Walnut Creek, CA
15	GrandMaster Flash	Gainesville, FL
16	Endless Sunset Blue	San Diego, CA
17	Rust	Birmingham, AL

Team Spirit Award Winner: Surly GM

MEN'S GREAT GRAND MASTERS

FINAL STANDINGS CITY

1	Relics	San Francisco, CA
2	No Country 50	Sudbury, MA
3	Surly GGM	Minneapolis, MN
4	Recycled	Alabama
5	Chronic	Chicago, IL
6	Johnny Cashed	Denver, CO
7	HURT	Chapel Hill, NC
8	Thirst'N' Howl	Sunnyvale, CA
9	Burnside Five-0	Portland, OR
10	Silverhorn	Boulder, CO
11	Archive GM	Chicago, IL
12	Endless Sunset GGM	San Diego, CA
13	SICK	Texas
14	AGE Against the Machine	Cincinnati, OH
15	TriAged	Triangle, NC
16	Oxymorons	Glastonbury, CT

Team Spirit Award Winner: Archive GM



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 to USA Ultimate, insurance coverage, access to additional resources and materials and much more.

In 2021, USA Ultimate sanctioned 45 recreational tournaments, 20 regular-season club events, 18 sanctioned leagues, 72 club sectional events, 24 club regional events, 88 college conference events and 30 college regional events. In addition, USA Ultimate delivered four high-quality championship events across the youth, college, club, and masters divisions.

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 years has helped further the development of the regular season with improved validity of results, thereby improving the quality of regular-season rankings.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

In 2015, 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 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 collaboration with USA Ultimate staff and a passionate and experienced group of volunteers, including excellent tournament directors and national volunteers.

USA Ultimate's certification program directly attempts to complete the goal of 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, 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.

In its first year of conception, 270 tournament directors had been certified through TDCP. Through the 2021 calendar year, that number has increased to 1,031.

FINANCIAL REVIEW



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,638,425
Certificate of deposit	\$506,923
Accounts receivable, net	\$463,491
Due from USA Ultimate Foundation	\$15,683
Inventory	\$25,379
Prepaid expenses & deposits	\$46,092

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS \$3,680,310

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

IT infrastructure system	\$579,349
Furniture and equipment	\$44,643
Computer equipment	\$52,469
Event equipment	\$29,456
Leasehold improvements	\$11,959
Other depreciable projects	\$17,886
Software	\$4,222
Less accumulated depreciation	-\$617,983

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT - NET \$110,042

Long-Term Investments	\$1,522,397
Other Assets	\$1,300

TOTAL ASSETS \$5,314,049

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$819,164
Due to USA Ultimate	-
Accrued liabilities	\$105,369
Current portion of deferred revenue	\$708,991

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES \$1,649,207

Deferred Revenue \$651,590

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$2,300,797

EXPENSES

Marketing and communications: \$664,135	\$664,135
College events and programs:	\$422,422
Triple Crown Tour event and programs:	\$405,643
National teams:	\$191,714
Youth events and programs:	\$273,522
Member services and community development:	\$595,512
Masters events and programs:	\$150,426
Education:	\$93,655
Beach events and programs:	\$33,097
International:	\$47,031
Event standards/Spirit of the Game/disc standards:	\$49,871

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES \$2,927,028

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Equity, diversity and inclusion:	\$206,683
Operations:	\$134,935
Safe Sport/judicial:	\$92,535
Board of Directors:	\$74,649
Fundraising:	\$16,295

TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES \$525,097

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,452,125



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