



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Kansas City is awarded 14 NCAA Championships**

KANSAS CITY, MO (December 11, 2013) – The Kansas City Sports Commission is pleased to announce that Kansas City has been selected to host 14 NCAA Championships covering the years of 2014-2017. Kansas City was awarded more championships than any other city.

For three months, the Kansas City Sports Commission, Kansas City Convention and Visitors Association, Sporting KC, Sprint Center and the MIAA Conference worked tirelessly to assemble bid materials for 32 championships over a five year period. Kansas City made the cut as a finalist for 21 championships in various divisions and four different sports.

Of the 21 host opportunities, the following championships were awarded to Kansas City: Division I Women's Volleyball (2017); Division I Men's Soccer (2015); Division II Football (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017); Division II Men's and Women's Soccer (2016 and 2017); Division III Men's & Women's Soccer (2014 and 2015). Division II Football and Division I Men's Soccer will be played at Sporting Park. Division II and III Men's and Women's Soccer will be played at the new Swope Soccer Village. Division I Women's Volleyball will be played at the Sprint Center.

"We were humbled by the quality and quantity of the number of bids received from the Kansas City Sports Commission in conjunction with several NCAA member institutions and conferences," Jeff Jarnecke, NCAA Director of Championships and Alliances. "This quality is evidenced by the multiple championships being awarded to Kansas City and we look forward to great experiences there. Additionally, we want to thank our members, Kansas, MIAA, Missouri, UMKC, and Rockhurst as well as the Kansas City Sports Commission for their great commitment to this endeavor and their continued support of NCAA student-athletes."

"This is an exceptional result for Kansas City, and reflects the important work of the Kansas City Sports Commission in bringing to our region sporting events that make Kansas City a national destination and provide meaningful economic benefits," said Thomas W. Butch, chairman of the Kansas City Sports Commission. "Our attracting more NCAA championships to our region than any other over the next four years reflects hard work and great cooperation among the Sports Commission and our many partners in this effort, including the Kansas City Convention & Visitors Association, Sporting KC, Sprint Center, and the MIAA Conference and the City of Kansas City. This outcome cements Kansas City's place as a leading sports destination."

Four hundred and thirty sites submitted bids on the 81 different championships with 213 hosting opportunities. Of the 430 sites, 150 cities were named as finalists. A few of the other cities in the final selection process were Pittsburgh, Chicago, Louisville, Minneapolis, Orlando, Houston, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Cleveland.

"We are pleased that the NCAA and the governing sports committees recognize Kansas City as a city that will provide a great experience for the student-athletes, coaches and fans that travel here in the next several years," said Cindy Smith, Vice President of Business & Partner Development. "Since 2000, Kansas City has served as host to 11 NCAA National Championships and we look forward to hosting many more in the future."

The Kansas City Sports Commission would like to thank the host institutions who helped make the bids possible. Division I Women's Volleyball – UMKC and University of Kansas; Division I Wrestling – University of Missouri; Division I Men's Soccer - UMKC and Division II and III Men's and Women's Soccer – MIAA Conference and Rockhurst University and Division II Football – MIAA Conference. NCAA Infographic:

<http://i.turner.ncaa.com/dr/ncaa/ncaa7/release/sites/default/files/images/2013/12/11/bidinfographic.jpg>

Kansas City is in the process of bidding on the Division I Women's Basketball Final Four, which will be announced in the fall of 2014. Future Division I Men's Basketball preliminary rounds will be out for bid late 2014.

### **About The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation**

The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation benefits the Kansas City region through sports by creating, attracting and managing major sporting events for Kansas City. And, promote the lifetime benefits of sports for youth through educational initiatives, tournaments and clinics.

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