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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONNECTICUT CONVENTION CENTER SECURES NEW ENGLAND REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION’S 2015 NORTHEAST JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Continued Partnership to Bring Thousands to Hartford for Memorial Day Tournament

Hartford, CT (March 4, 2014) – The New England Region Volleyball Association (NERVA) announced that it will bring its first-ever Northeast Junior Championships to the Connecticut Convention Center over Memorial Day weekend in 2015. The tournament, featuring junior teams from the Northeast, is expected to bring over 2,000 players, 400 coaches, 75 officials and volunteer tournament staff, and 3,500 family members and fans downtown with over 3,000 overnight rooms and 1,100 rooms on peak from Friday, May 22 through Monday, May 25, 2015.

The four-day event does not require teams to qualify to participate. While it will serve as a season-ending tournament for some, the event will allow for additional preparation to teams continuing on to nationals. Tournament organizers are planning to max out the event with 200 teams playing on 25 courts inside the Convention Center’s exhibit halls.

“We have had the pleasure of working with NERVA since 2010,” says Michael Costelli, General Manager of the Connecticut Convention Center. “We are very excited to be teaming up with them once again for the Northeast Junior Championships beginning next year.” NERVA has committed to holding the event at the venue for the next three years, through at least 2017.

Each year, NERVA holds its annual Mizuno New England Winterfest at the facility in January, over the long Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. Winterfest, which is the largest volleyball tournament held in New England, is designed to showcase female high school volleyball players to college coaches and recruiters from throughout the Northeast. The event brings in around 6,000 visitors to the area every year.

“We have always valued our partnership with the Connecticut Convention Center and the Connecticut Convention and Sports Bureau,” states David Peixoto, NERVA Commissioner. “For over 5 years, the partnership has grown to develop Winterfest as the Premier Volleyball tournament in the Northeast. We look forward to making the Northeast Junior Championship just as successful.”

Joseph Volleyball Camps (JVC), who has supplied the sport courts and associated staff for Winterfest since its inception, has partnered with NERVA. Their first joint endeavor was the New England Pre-Qualifier in Boston this year.

“This year was the first year I personally attended Winterfest and was impressed with the facility, staff, and the downtown area in general,” comments AJ Joseph President of JVC. “We look forward to the 2015 Northeast Junior Championships in Hartford and to a long-term relationship with NERVA and the Connecticut Convention Center growing the Northeast Junior Championships to its full potential.”

About the New England Region Volleyball Association (NERVA)

The New England Region is one of many Regions in the United States that aid in the governing of the sport of volleyball. Regional Volleyball Associations (RVAs) are member organizations of USA Volleyball (USAV). The RVAs serve as the grassroots function for the USAV and individually and collectively serve as a catalyst for USAV functions. Each Region is independently operated and is led by a Regional Commission. For more information, please visit www.nevolleyball.org.

About the Connecticut Convention Center

The Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford is the state’s premier meeting venue and the largest full-service convention facility between New York and Boston. Overlooking the beautiful Connecticut River, it features 140,000 square feet of exhibition space, a 40,000-square-foot ballroom and 25,000 square feet of meeting space, as well as ample sheltered parking. The facility is served by more than 6,500 local area hotel rooms, including the 22-story Marriott Hartford Downtown, adjacent to the Convention Center. The venue is professionally managed for the State of Connecticut by Waterford Venue Services, an affiliate of Waterford Hotel Group. For more information, please visit www.ctconventions.com.

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