



**NEWS RELEASE - US QUIDDITCH CUP 9
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**US Quidditch Cup 9 Comes to Columbia, South Carolina This
Weekend**



University of Texas faces off against Lone Star Quidditch Club for the championship at the eighth annual national championship. Photo by Isabella Gong.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Thursday, April 14, 2106) – Brooms up! Collegiate and club seekers, keepers, beaters and chasers from all over the nation, as well as Canada, will flock to the [Palmetto Health Fields at Saluda Shoals Park](#) this weekend for [US Quidditch Cup 9](#). Columbia will welcome 60 teams (1,300 individual athletes), as well as five to eight thousand friends, family and fans to this national event.

Quidditch is a fast-paced, full contact, gender-integrated sport inspired by the Harry Potter novels. Produced by US Quidditch (USQ), the Cup is the premier event of the season. Teams qualify through regional championships and have the opportunity to compete at USQ Quidditch Cup to be crowned the national champions. A quidditch match has been likened to the Super Bowl mixed with a Renaissance Festival, so you know it will be a fun, unique experience for both visitors and locals alike. The [Columbia Regional Sports Council](#) and USQ encourage everyone to welcome the players and fans to Columbia and show them the region's signature southern hospitality!

The weekend's events kick off Saturday, April 16th at 8 a.m. with the Opening Ceremony before matches continue throughout the rest of the day. T-shirts, sandwiches, pizza and even funnel cakes will be available for purchase during the event, as well as both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Notable events on Sunday, April 17th include:

- Bubble Ball at 11 a.m., courtesy of Carolina Outdoor Adventure,
- A live performance by the band Harry & the Potters at 1:15 p.m.,
- Closing Ceremony at 5:45 p.m.,
- Final Championship match at 6:30 p.m.

Additionally, youth quidditch will be taught to children at the kids' area from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A Closing Party caps off the weekend Sunday night at Tin Roof from 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. Your ticket to the party can be purchased at the main event this weekend and includes a buffet, dessert, music and unlimited soda.

Local elements have been incorporated into the event. The official US Quidditch Cup 9 t-shirts were printed by Image Ink and Silver Spoon Bake Shop is making Butterbeer cupcakes for the VIP Lounge and Closing Party.

The Sports Council has had its eye on US Quidditch since 2012. The addition of the Palmetto Health Fields to Saluda Shoals Park made the possibility of hosting a quidditch event in Columbia a reality. The quality of the facilities at Saluda Shoals Park, paired with strong relationships and resources throughout the state, contributed to USQ's decision to host the championship in Columbia.

"A lot of hard work from the Sports Council, Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC) and USQ has gone into making this weekend happen, and we are just so excited to cheer on all the teams and welcome them and their fans to Columbia," said Grayson Hopp, Sports Council Sales Manager. "We are especially excited to show off the brand new Palmetto Health Fields at Saluda Shoals Park, as well as everything the region has to offer. US Quidditch Cup 9 participants and attendees will enjoy all the things we

love about the Columbia region: world-class attractions, outdoor recreation and local restaurants and breweries.”

“The Palmetto Health Fields at Saluda Shoals Park will offer fan-friendly experiences with convenient access to popular hotel accommodations, restaurants, shopping centers and local attractions,” said Elizabeth B. Taylor, ICRC Executive Director. “We look forward to introducing quidditch competition at its highest level to the Midlands of South Carolina and showing our visitors a good time while they are here!”

This is the first national event to utilize the Palmetto Health Fields. For more information on the Palmetto Health Fields, parking, purchasing tickets and more, please visit the US Quidditch Cup 9 [website](#). Follow the fun or share your own Cup 9 experiences by using the hashtags #quidditchcup 9 and #myquidcupjourney. See what all the hype is about [here](#)!

How to play quidditch:

Three chasers must score goals by throwing the quaffle (a volleyball) through one of three hoops guarded by a keeper. Two beaters try to stop the chasers by throwing bludgers (dodgeballs) at them to make them stop what they’re doing and run back to touch one of their own goalposts before being allowed to reenter the game. Finally, a seeker must catch the snitch (a player dressed in yellow with a Velcro tail attempting to evade capture). Once a seeker has pulled on the snitch’s tail, the game is over.

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About US Quidditch:

US Quidditch (USQ), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the national governing body for the sport of quidditch, organizes US Quidditch Cup 9. USQ advances the sport by organizing events and programs that build community and empower all genders to compete together. US Quidditch is not affiliated with JK Rowling, Warner Bros. or Time Warner. To learn more about quidditch, visit www.usquidditch.org.

About Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission:

The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission exists to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of the district through the development of recreation programs that promote a lifestyle of wellness, physical activities and cultural experiences for all ages. For more information, visit icrc.net.

About Columbia Regional Sports Council:

The mission of the Columbia Regional Sports Council is to strengthen the area's economy by marketing and selling Columbia, S.C. as a premier destination for sporting events, partnering with local sports organizations to grow and develop existing events, and by recruiting new events that provide an economic benefit to the

region by generating room nights, food and beverage sales, and associated tax revenues. For more information, visit columbiasportscouncil.com.