



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PLAYER FIELD ANNOUNCED FOR UPCOMING USTA GIRLS' 16s & 18s NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT BARNES TENNIS CENTER IN SAN DIEGO

*Strong Contingent of Local Competitors Included in Player Field*

**San Diego, Calif. – (July 25, 2016)** – Tournament officials have announced the field of competitors for the upcoming United States Tennis Association Girls' 16 & 18s National Championships, which are scheduled to be played August 6-14, 2016 at the Barnes Tennis Center, 4490 W. Point Loma Blvd., San Diego, CA, 92107.

Nearly 400 girls aged 16 and 18 and under from across the United States and Puerto Rico will compete for the title of National Champion. The tournament will feature the top junior players from each of the 17 USTA Sections.

Defending 18s singles champion Sofia Kenin of Pembroke Pines, Fla., is among the players entered in this year's event. Other entries in the Girls' 18s division include 2016 Wimbledon Girls' Singles semifinalist Kayla Day of Santa Barbara, Calif., and Usue Arconada of Rio Piedras, P.R. and Claire Liu of Thousand Oaks, Calif., who combined to win the Wimbledon Girls' Doubles title earlier this month.

The complete player entry list for the USTA Girls' 16s & 18s National Championships, can be viewed at: <http://tennislink.usta.com/Tournaments/TournamentHome/Tournament.aspx?T=171037#&&s=5>

The tournament also features a strong contingent of San Diego-area players. The following local competitors are entered in this year's USTA Girls' Nationals:

**Julia Deming**, Fallbrook, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Emily Dush**, Chula Vista, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Elizabeth Goldsmith**, Chula Vista, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Julia Haynes**, San Diego, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Amy Huang**, San Diego, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Cali Jankowski**, Carlsbad, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Jennifer Kerr**, Carlsbad, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Alexandra Kuo**, La Jolla, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Nicole Mossmer**, La Jolla, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Britt Pursell**, Oceanside, Calif. — Girl's 16s

**Jennifer Richards**, San Diego, Calif. — Girl's 18s

**Hannah Zhao**, San Diego, Calif. — Girl's 18s

"We are very impressed with the depth of our player fields this year in the Girls' 16s and 18s divisions and are anticipating a very competitive tournament throughout the week," said Co-Tournament Director Liz Blum. "This is a great opportunity for fans to watch some great tennis as well as some future stars."

The Girls' 16s event will begin on Saturday, Aug. 6 and conclude with the singles and doubles finals on Saturday Aug. 13. The Girls' 18s tournament will get underway on Sunday, Aug. 7 and conclude with the 18s singles championship on Sunday, Aug. 14. Both divisions will feature 192-player singles draws and doubles draws with 96 teams.

In addition to the US Open wild cards that are traditionally awarded to the 16s and 18s singles champions and 18s doubles champions, additional wild cards for the US Open Junior Championships and wild cards to various USTA Women's Pro Circuit tournaments will also be awarded this year. For the complete list of wild cards to be awarded, go to: <http://www.ustagirlsnationals.com/about.html>.

(More)

## **PAGE TWO – USTA NATIONAL GIRLS’ 16S & 18S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Opening Ceremony for the USTA National Girls’ 16s & 18s National Championships is scheduled for 5 p.m. (PDT) on Saturday, Aug. 6 at the Barnes Tennis Center.

Early-round matches will also be played at San Diego State University’s Aztec Tennis Center, 5375 Remington Rd., San Diego, CA, 92115, from Saturday, Aug. 6 through Tuesday, Aug. 9.

Admission and on-site parking at the Barnes Tennis Center is free each day of the tournament. For fans watching matches at SDSU, admission is free, but there is a nominal charge for on-campus parking. University parking regulations will be strictly enforced.

### **About USTA Girls’ 16s – 18s Nationals:**

The USTA Girls’ 16 & 18s National Championships are the premiere hard court tennis tournaments for amateur and professional American girls aged 18 and 16 and under in the United States. In 2010, both age groups began playing their events concurrently at San Diego’s Barnes Tennis Center. Tournament participants, who represent nearly every state in the United States, have been endorsed by their respective USTA Section or have received USTA special exemptions based on their results in qualifying tournaments, junior rankings, or results on the WTA Tour or International Tennis Federation Junior Circuit. Past tournament champions include Chris Evert, Tracy Austin, Andrea Jaeger, Zina Garrison, Mary Jo Fernandez, Jennifer Capriati and Lindsay Davenport.

### **About George E. Barnes Family Junior Tennis Center:**

The Center is owned and operated by Youth Tennis San Diego. It was built in 1995 and completed in 1997. The \$4.5 million junior tennis facility was made possible with generous public and private donations and is named after the lead donor family - the “George E. Barnes Family Junior Tennis Center.” The Center, which is dedicated to the youth of San Diego, offers children 18 and under court priority over adults with advanced reservations.

### **About Youth Tennis San Diego:**

Youth Tennis San Diego is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that has been in existence since 1952. Earlier this year, Youth Tennis San Diego was recognized with the USTA Organization Member of the Year Award. The award is given annually to an organization that provides outstanding service to its members and to the local community. YTSD was honored at the USTA Annual Meeting and Conference, March 11-14, at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif.

The YTSD Mission is: “To promote the educational, physical, and social development of all youth through organized tennis and educational activities.” Their community programs encourage youth participation, personal integrity, leadership, and competitive spirit in a friendly environment that builds responsible citizens. YTSD provides thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to play tennis after school at their neighborhood school. The After School Tennis program provides a safe haven for hundreds of youngsters who are not supervised after school. Through tennis, the children learn the success skills which will give them the confidence and self-esteem needed to confront the negative influences so often found on the streets where they live.

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