



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

April 19, 2019

Dear Friends:

As Mayor and on behalf of the great City of Chicago, I am pleased and excited to extend a warm welcome to all of those attending and participating in the adidas Windy City National Qualifier.

This marks the fifth year that McCormick Place has hosted this prestigious event. In 2017, the event was presented with the 2017 Champions of Economic Impact in Sports Tourism Award by *Sports Destination Management*, for bringing more than 800 teams, 15,000 participants, and 30,000 spectators to Chicago and McCormick Place. This year, the tournament will welcome over 900 teams, and more participants and spectators than ever before.

This success and positive impact is possible because of the dedicated staff at the USA Volleyball Great Lakes Region office, who have been working tirelessly in collaboration with McCormick Place, Choose Chicago, and various local event partners to make this National Qualifier possible. I recognize the hard work contributed by all staff members and committed volunteers, and wholeheartedly offer thanks to you; without your efforts this tournament could not be possible. Not only do events as large as this bring our community together, but also boost support between our outstanding local businesses and our volleyball fan-base in the Chicago land area.

It is my hope that as you enjoy your stay here in our beautiful city that you will take some time outside of volleyball to enjoy all Chicago can offer you. No other city can show you timeless, beautiful, and historical neighborhoods and architecture like those we have built. Chicago offers the chance to dine at world-renowned and positively mouth-watering restaurants. We offer a multitude of thrilling and talented sports teams and theatres to keep you entertained, and our fun, interactive, and educating museums. Please take advantage of what Chicago offers you mile after magnificent mile inside and especially outside of McCormick Place this weekend.

On behalf of the residents of Chicago, I wish to congratulate each participant in the tournament on their outstanding successes in the classroom and on the volleyball court. I also want to extend thanks to the parents and coaches for their underlying support and sacrifices in contribution to the success of these athletes. I wish all the participants the best of luck and hope all have a great time. Best wishes for success in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor