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PRESS RELEASE

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2024 U.S. TENNIS ASSOCIATION N.C. COMBO DOUBLES STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BRING NEARLY 3,000 TENNIS PLAYERS TO WILMINGTON

Wilmington, N.C. - October 16, 2024: Travel industry partners in Wilmington and our island beaches will welcome athletes and their guests for the <u>2024 USTA N.C Combo Doubles State Championships</u> at the end of October, into November. The Championships will be held over two consecutive weekends with at least 1,500 adult players participating in the first weekend (October 31-November 3) and approximately 1,300 adult players during the second weekend (Nov. 7-10), most of whom are traveling to Wilmington from outside the area, however, many local USTA players will also be participating. The Combo Doubles Tennis State Championship is affiliated with the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) and hosted by the Greater Wilmington Tennis Association.

Along with around 3,000 tennis athletes that are expected to participate in the two-weekend championship tournament, families and guests will also be traveling to be part of the event. The tournament is expected to bring close to 4,000 visitors to Wilmington and our island beaches.

The two-weekend Championship will take place at multiple tennis facilities in New Hanover County including: Althea Gibson Tennis Center at Empie Park, Echo Farms Park, Ogden Park, Longleaf Park, Ashley High School, Hoggard High School, Laney High School, Porters Neck Country Club, Landfall Country Club, Pine Valley Country Club and at nearby St. James Country Club and Compass Pointe Club. The tournament headquarters will be located at Echo Farms.

Championship play is for teams who won their level in their local area, which qualifies them to participate. Winners at each level will be declared State Champions in their division and qualify to attend the <u>USTA Southern Section Championships</u>. Spectators are welcome at all venues with free admission. For tournament details and schedules, please visit <u>nctennis.com/combo tournament</u>.

"The Greater Wilmington Tennis Association is proud to say we have been hosting the Combo Doubles State Championships for over 12 years! It is a wonderful way to showcase our communities and tennis facilities to players from all over the state. Anna Martin, Our Southeast Tennis USTA Leagues Coordinator for over thirty years, says folks love coming to our area to play and visit. The <u>Greater</u> <u>Wilmington Tennis Association and our community are so welcoming</u>. "The huge economic impact on our community is so helpful to local businesses and hotels. The money we receive for hosting these tournaments goes back into helping fund local programs and helping the City and County maintain our public courts. We could not have this tournament without the generous support of our local private and public facilities. We have over 100 amazing volunteers from our local USTA leagues that help us run this tournament every year. It is our goal to show a welcoming and fun experience for all!"

During both 4-day championship weekends, most participants and their guests will stay at area hotels, shop, dine and visit attractions throughout New Hanover County.

"We are pleased to welcome the N.C. Combo Doubles State Championships back to Wilmington and our island beaches." states Kim Hufham, President/CEO of the New Hanover County Tourism Development Authority. "We welcome athletes, family members and spectators with warm hospitality. It is our hope that everyone will enjoy the tournament and have an opportunity to also experience our great restaurants, attractions and tours during their visit."

The New Hanover County Tourism Development Authority (TDA), d/b/a Wilmington and Beaches Convention & Visitors Bureau, markets and develops the county and its communities' leisure and group travel experiences for economic growth and quality of place.

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Note to Media: To arrange media interviews with conference organizers and to discuss best photo opportunities for the 2024 USTA Combo State Championships, please contact Anna Martin via email <u>play10us@gmail.com</u> or 910-524-0567.