



For Immediate Release: Nov 22, 2022

Contact: Leslie Smithson, 304-546-0046, Leslie.Smithson@CharlestonWV.com

International Youth Table Tennis Championships

Coming to Charleston July 23-30

Charleston, W.Va. – The City of Charleston and the Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) announced today the 2023 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Pan American Youth Championships will take place at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center July 23-30, 2023. This prestigious international table tennis tournament features the best young table tennis players from the Americas in the U-15 and U-19 age groups. Seven events, including team competitions by country, as well as boys' and girls' singles – and boys,' girls' and mixed doubles events are planned.

"Sports tourism is big business in our State and our Capital City – supporting jobs and being a driving force in our economy," said Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin. "We look forward to welcoming participants – from North and South America – and their families to Charleston for the 2023 International Table Tennis Federation Pan American Youth Championships."

USA Table Tennis (USATT), the US National Governing Body for the sport of table tennis, was awarded the right to host the 2023 ITTF Pan American Youth Championships and chose Charleston for the site.

"We're thrilled to bring this event to the heartland of the United States at the beautiful Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center in West Virginia. We have already received tremendous support from the Charleston community, and we look forward to having this opportunity to showcase these great young athletes in this state-of-the-art facility," said Virginia Sung, USA Table Tennis Chief Executive Officer.

Charleston CVB President/CEO Tim Brady said, "We are grateful to USA Table Tennis for choosing Charleston to host this international event. When USATT officials visited Charleston, they were greeted by friendly people everywhere they went. Ours is a welcoming and hospitable community. When you combine that with a state-of-the-art facility, drivability, convenient air service and great hotels, you have a very desirable destination. This is just the beginning of developing relationships with Team USA Olympic sports."

The Charleston CVB partners with Airstream Ventures to raise the CVB's profile with events rights holders and governing bodies in competitive sports. In just over four years, Airstream has led 95 events, 20 of which have been televised nationally.

"Seeing the 2023 ITTF Pan American Youth Table Tennis Championships be awarded to Charleston is such a testament to the entire city and their leadership," said Alan Verlander, CEO of Airstream Ventures. "We are so thankful to be partners and are grateful to Virginia and her entire team at USA Table Tennis for their selection as the destination. This event will have a huge impact on the community, but also shows what teamwork can do. We look forward to showing off Charleston to the entire sport of table tennis and using it to show off how Charleston is at the forefront of sports tourism thanks to Mayor Goodwin and the entire Charleston team."

OVG360's Patrick Leahy, General Manager of the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center said, "We are looking forward to hosting the 2023 International Table Tennis Federation Pan American Youth Championships at the Charleston Coliseum. This event gives us the opportunity to showcase our event facilities, the incredible local hospitality in Charleston, WV. We look forward to working with the Charleston CVB and the USA Table Tennis Organization to educate our local youth on the sport of Table Tennis."

For more information about USA Table Tennis, visit teamusa.org.

For more events in Charleston, visit charlestonwv.com

###