



Michigan Cricket Association USA (Mich-CA)

Where cricket has no boundaries ...

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For Immediate Release



Cricket joins the 2013 AAU Junior Olympic Games

The Michigan Cricket Association USA (Mich-CA) is delighted to announce that for the first time ever, the world's second-most popular team sport will be part of the AAU Junior Olympic Games this summer in Detroit, Michigan. The cricket tournament, featuring Under-19 & Under-15 teams from across North America and taking place over the weekend of July 27-28 at cricket grounds in the Detroit Metropolitan area, is a result of the collaborative efforts of Mich-CA, Detroit Sports Commission and the AAU.

The AAU Junior Olympic Games is the largest national multi-sport event conducted annually for youth in the United States and is the showcase event of the AAU Youth Sports Program. With over 17,000 athletes and coaches participating in 19 sports, the event will provide a unique opportunity to promote cricket to a wider audience locally, regionally, and nationally.

At an annual pre-season retreat in Troy, Michigan, Mich-CA Chairman Shahid Ahmed spoke of the partnership with DSC and the AAU as a "breakthrough for cricket," offering a showcase for the sport and a further opportunity for youth participation. Mr. Ahmed acknowledged the efforts of the Executive Director of Detroit Sports Commission Mr. Dave Beachnau and the work of the AAU in reaching this historic milestone for cricket in the USA. Avinash Kommireddy, Mich-CA Youth Coordinator, who worked closely with Sean Krabach of DSC to make the cricket tournament a possibility, added that participation in the AAU Junior Olympic Games was a "huge step for youth cricket in the United States". Michael Makin, Information Director of the Michigan Cricket Academy and Secretary of the Mich-CA governing body, added, "I know how long Shahid and Avinash have been working on this project. It's very exciting to see it come to fruition. We can rely on the support of a host of Mich-CA volunteers, and I expect to see a large turn-out of spectators, too. I'm sure the tournament will be a big success".

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Cricket, played at the professional level on every continent and as a recreational sport in over 100 countries, is growing fast in the United States – Mich-CA, founded in 2001, saw six teams competing in its inaugural competition; last year 24 teams from Michigan and Ohio took part in its summer leagues and this year Mr. Ahmed expects a further increase. League matches are now played every Saturday and Sunday of the summer across Metro Detroit and in many other parts of the state. The majority of local cricketers are members of the area's fast-growing South Asian population, but some come from other major cricketing countries (England, Australia, South Africa, the Anglophone Caribbean, etc.). Mich-CA has also provided an arena for American-born youth players to hone their skills – in the 2011 Americas North Under-fifteen tournament run by the international governing body of the sport, the International Cricket Council, two players from Mich-CA, both of them born in the United States, were members of the USA team that won the biannual tournament for the first time ever, defeating arch-rivals Canada in their own backyard in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

For more information on cricket event at the AAU Junior Olympic Games, please contact:

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Released on behalf of Mich-CA by Shahid Ahmed, Chairman, and the Mich-CA Governing Body.

The Mich-CA Governing Body

(Shahid Ahmed, Chairman; Susheel Bhat, Vice-chairman; Michael Makin, Secretary;
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