



17 E. Taylor St., Champaign, IL 61820 | 217.351.4133
experiencecu.org

Media Contacts:

Mark Brown: (217) 351-4133 or markb@experiencecu.org

Ashley Collier: press@usquadball.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2024

Sport Inspired by Quidditch Hosts National Qualifier in Champaign County

18 college and adult club Quadball teams travel to Rantoul Family Sports Complex in March 2025

Champaign, IL—Quadball, the real-life sport inspired by the magical game of Quidditch, is hosting a national qualifier for the first time in Champaign County. On March 8–9, it will be brooms up at the Rantoul Family Sports Complex as 18 college and adult club Quadball teams from across the country compete for qualification spots at the US Quadball Cup 2025.

Quadball is a mixed-gender, full-contact sport played by around 600 teams in almost 40 countries. The rules, originally adapted from the *Harry Potter* book series by Middlebury College in Vermont students, incorporate a mix of elements from rugby, dodgeball, and flag football. A Quadball team is made up of seven athletes who must keep a broom between their legs at all times. While other field sports like lacrosse have players using sticks to pass a ball across the playing field, Quadball's use of a broom during play intensifies this game by forcing players to coordinate holding the broom while also tackling an opponent or passing and catching the ball.

"We're looking forward to partnering for a second time with Experience Champaign Urbana and US Quadball on another US Quadball Cup Qualifier," explains Ryan Reid, Director of Operations for the Rantoul Family Sports Complex. "The 2023 event was a great success, and we look forward to hosting this niche sport this spring and hopefully in coming years!"

"We're thrilled to host the US Quadball National Qualifier at the Rantoul Sports Complex," states Mark Brown, Director of Event Services & Film for Experience Champaign-Urbana. "This festival atmosphere will introduce this truly unique and fun sport to our community and present opportunities for growth in Quadball in our area."

The event is expected to generate over \$300,000 in economic impact for the area, with at least 1–2 hotel stays for participating athletes.

Area residents are encouraged to meet, see, try, and experience the sport that is bringing over 350 athletes to the region. On the evening of Friday, March 7, all 18 teams will stop by The Fringe located at 849 Stone Ridge Dr., Rantoul, where residents can meet the US Quadball athletes and ask questions about the game during an informal meet and greet.

Starting at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 8, residents can see athletes play this full contact sport at Rantoul Family Sports Complex located at 744 Murry Rd. It is suggested to bring your own chair so to get a seat right on the sideline close to the action.



17 E. Taylor St., Champaign, IL 61820 | 217.351.4133
experienceecu.org

To learn more about the sport of Quadball, visit usquadball.org.

Media Advisory

Media is strongly encouraged to attend the tournament on Saturday for footage and interviews. Players and organizers will also be available at The Fringe on Friday evening.

About US Quadball

US Quadball (USQ) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and the national governing body for the sport of quadball. USQ advances the sport by organizing events and programs that build community and empower adult and youth athletes of all identities, including all races and genders, to compete together. For more information, email press@usquadball.org or visit usquadball.org.

The name of the sport [changed](#) from quidditch to quadball in 2022. The governing bodies, US Quadball and Major League Quadball, made the decision to distance themselves from *Harry Potter* author J.K. Rowling and open sponsorship and broadcast opportunities. The new name refers to the number of balls and the number of positions in the sport.

US Quadball and its activities are not licensed by, sponsored by or associated with Warner Bros., J.K. Rowling, or their affiliates. "Quidditch", "Harry Potter", and all related names, characters and indicia are trademarks of and © Warner Bros. - Harry Potter publishing rights © J.K. Rowling.

About Experience Champaign-Urbana

Experience Champaign-Urbana is the certified destination management organization for the greater Champaign-Urbana area. Their mission is to promote a welcoming destination experience for visitors to strengthen economic opportunity and enhance the lives of residents. ECU bid on the US Quadball National Qualifier and are assisting event organizers in creating a successful event. Visit experienceecu.org to learn more.