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AVP New Orleans Open returns to Laketown in Kenner to Kick Off Olympic Year Tournament Season

AVP to bring professional volleyball athletes to Kenner, La. on April 14-17 for the opening tournament of professional beach volleyball's premiere tour

KENNER, La. (April 11, 2016) – The Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP), along with the City of Kenner, Jefferson Parish and the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation will bring the AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour back to the New Orleans area for the second consecutive year, as the AVP New Orleans Open will be held April 14 – 17 in Laketown in Kenner, La.

Highlighting the start of the Olympic year, the tournament will kick off AVP's 2016 season. The four-day, nationally televised event will bring both male and female Olympic beach volleyball hopefuls along with local standouts to the shore of Lake Pontchartrain. In addition to the world-class beach volleyball competition, the popular event will feature interactive activities for the whole family, rousing music, food and more.

"April is always festival and fair time, so this will be just like another festival weekend," said City of Kenner Mayor Michael Sigur.

"This event is free and open to the public," Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation CEO Jay Cicero said. "We're excited about having (the AVP) back in an Olympic year, which is big for us. Hopefully we'll have them back for years to come."

The AVP New Orleans Open will feature three days of main draw play preceded by a one-day open qualifying tournament. The competition will be held on four courts spread out across Laketown and will be surrounded by a high-energy atmosphere, staying true to the themes of festival season in the Crescent City.

Food and drinks will be available to purchase and outside food and coolers will not be allowed inside.

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About The AVP

The AVP, entering its 33rd season, is the premiere American professional beach volleyball tour and exclusive U.S. beach volleyball home of the nation's top male and female athletes, including those who have won gold, silver and bronze medals in the Olympic Games. Under the ownership of Donald Sun since 2012, the AVP held seven tournaments across the U.S. in 2014, eight in 2015 and is scheduled for eight more throughout 2016.

About the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation

Organized in August 1988, the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation (GNOSF) is a non-profit 501(c) (4) organization whose mission is to attract and manage sporting events that have a positive economic impact on the Greater New Orleans area. Throughout its 26-year history, the GNOSF has hosted hundreds of events and turned a \$28 million public investment in major events, into a \$2 billion economic impact for the State of Louisiana and the Greater New Orleans area.