



AUSTRALIAN ULTIMATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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ADELAIDE TO HOST AUSTRALIAN ULTIMATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The South Australian Flying Disc Association (SAFDA) will host the Australian Ultimate Championships (AUC) at West Beach in April, 2010. Held from the 24-27th of April, the AUC will bring 600 athletes in the form of 16 Men's and 13 Women's teams from all over Australia and New Zealand to Adelaide to compete for the championship trophy.

Ultimate Frisbee is played in over 30 countries worldwide, is a sport at the World Games, and has a strong presence in universities and high schools and in Australia, over 3000 people play competitively.

Ultimate is a non-contact team sport played with a Frisbee, combining elements of netball, touch football, and grid-iron into a fast paced, athletic sport featuring length of the field throws, AFL-style marks, intense man-on-man defence and diving blocks.

It is also unique because the sport is self-refereed - due to the 'Spirit of the Game', players are responsible for adhering to and overseeing the rules.

The Australian National Ultimate Championships is held annually and coordinated by the Australian Flying Disc Association (AFDA) and the respective state organisation. The AUC has attracted teams from Singapore and New Zealand in recent years and requires teams to qualify through regional tournaments (southern, northern, eastern and western).

This year, the AUC will follow the Special Olympics at West Beach and will run for four days over the ANZAC long weekend, with the playoffs for Australian champions on the 27th of April.

Representing South Australia at the National tournament are men's teams Ultimate Evolution and Karma, and women's team Indies. While all three teams have been competitive in previous AUCs, SAFDA president, Joel Pillar expects the teams to improve their previous performances on their home turf.

"All three SA teams have worked really hard to prepare for this tournament and competed exceptionally well in the warm up and regional tournaments. I expect them to do well this year" – Joel Pillar

The AUC kicks off an important year for Australian Ultimate. Nine club teams from Australia will compete at the World Ultimate Club Championships to be held in July, in the Czech Republic. Representing Adelaide in Prague will be the local mixed Ultimate club Smurf. In addition to this, the World Junior Ultimate Championships (under 19s) and the World Ultimate Under 23s Championships will be held in Germany and Italy respectively later in 2010. Australia will send a men's and women's team to both of these competitions.

Representing Australia from Adelaide are Jodie Palmer, Louisa Battista, Tessa Bilney (Under 19 Women), Robbie Andrew (Under 19 Men), Lara Dyus (Under 23 Women), Alex Britten-Jones and Brett Middleton (Under 23 Men).

If you would like any more information on this story please contact Karen Palmer – karen.palmer@adelaide.edu.au or 0433 445 720.