



BlazeSports America Awarded Rings of Gold Recognition by United States Olympic Committee

For Immediate Release

ATLANTA (September 22, 2016) - BlazeSports America is honored to announce it is the recipient of the 2016 Rings of Gold award by the United States Olympics Committee. BlazeSports America is the only Georgia based organization to receive this award. The USOC will present BlazeSports America with this award on Friday, September 23 at the 2016 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Assembly in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“It is an extreme honor to be acknowledged by the United States Olympic Committee as the top national sports program serving children for this year, especially during the 20th anniversary of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic and Paralympic Games,” said Cynthia Frisina, Executive Director of BlazeSports America. “It’s very humbling to know the adaptive sports programming and leadership training we are providing for children with physical disabilities is being recognized on this national stage.”

BlazeSports America is the first Georgia organization to receive this award.

For 20 years, BlazeSports America has been at the forefront of advancing the lives of children and teens with physical disabilities through adaptive sport and recreation. BlazeSports America began in 1996 as the nonprofit legacy organization of the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics and has since served more than 800,000 children with physical disabilities with more than 18 million hours of Paralympic and adaptive sports programming. Through BlazeSports America, children and veterans can participate in adaptive sports and programs including wheelchair basketball, soccer, track and field, golf, rock climbing, archery, bowling, table tennis and more, along with clinics, camps and more.

According to the United States Olympic Committee, BlazeSports America was selected the 2016 Rings of Gold award not only for their focus on the athletic development and Paralympic potential, but for also providing opportunities for young athletes to gain independence, self-confidence and leadership and academic skills.

About the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Assembly www.teamusa.org

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Assembly was initiated in 2005 to give a voice to the various member organizations of the USOC; to keep dialogue open between members, staff and volunteer leadership; and to help further the Olympic and Paralympic movements in the United States. The two-day event – themed “Future of Sport” – welcomes more than 250 participants, representing Olympic, Paralympic and Pan American National Governing Bodies; U.S. Olympians and Paralympians; Multi-Sport Organizations; the Athletes’ Advisory Council; the Paralympic Advisory Committee; and USOC board members and staff.

About BlazeSports America www.blazesports.org

Based in Atlanta and celebrating 20 years in 2016, BlazeSports America’s mission is to change the lives of children and adults with physical disabilities through adaptive and Paralympic sport. In addition to its US efforts, BlazeSports America has served individuals and communities in 11 countries and partners with organizations around the world utilizing sport as a vehicle for social

change and greater inclusion. The interdisciplinary approach includes sport and community programs, youth leadership, competitions, camps and clinics, professional continuing education and certification and sport diplomacy. BlazeSports America serves children and adults as well as military veterans with physical disabilities.

BlazeSports America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is the legacy organization of the 1996 Paralympic Games held in Atlanta, Ga., offering programs and services that encourage lifelong health, build leadership skills, foster independence and inclusion, and promote an inclusive society. BlazeSports America is a member of United States Olympic Committee – Multi-Sport Organization and the USA Member Organization of Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association. www.BlazeSports.org

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