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largest tournaments
in the country!

SPBA
Midwest
OPEN REGIONAL
MAY 26-28

**LAST CHANCE TO EARN RANKING POINTS TOWARDS
QUALIFICATION FOR JUNIOR NATIONALS THIS SUMMER IN MILWAUKEE!**

THIS WILL MARK THE FIRST TIME THE JUNIOR NATIONALS HAS BEEN HELD IN THE MIDWEST IN 24 YEARS!

Dear IHSA Coaches, Players, and Badminton Enthusiasts:

The Shannon Pohl Badminton Academy (SPBA) is thrilled to announce they will host the third Midwest Open Regional Tournament on Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-27th, 2018 in Vernon Hills, IL. This is two weekends after the IHSA State Championships. It's a great time for all high school players to compete while they are still sharp from their school season of badminton.

Events will be held in Under 11, Under 13, Under 15, Under 17, and Under 19 age groups for all 5 disciplines (Boys Singles, Girls Singles, Boys Doubles, Girls Doubles, and Mixed Doubles) across 12-16 courts (dependent on the number of entries). **Entry Deadline is this Thursday, April 26th, 2018.**

All players who compete will earn a US Junior National Ranking!

This tournament will not only draw the top junior players across the country to come to Illinois to compete but new up and coming high school and junior players will have the chance to experience a high level junior national competition for the first time!

This is the highest level Junior National Ranking Tournament in the Illinois this year. In case you hadn't heard, the Junior Nationals coming to Milwaukee this summer. It will be the first time the Junior Nationals have been held in the Midwest in 24 years. The SPBA Midwest Open Regional is the last chance to earn ranking points towards qualification and seeding for this historic event! The SPBA Midwest Open Regional is sanctioned by USA Badminton and is one level below Junior Nationals. It counts for 40% Junior National Ranking points. It will also count towards qualifying for the 2019 Junior International Trials which determines the US Junior National Team to compete abroad. This tournament's high level of ranking points will draw a great competitive field from across the country. Players from 15 different states have already registered! We expect hundreds of entries plus their families to attend.

USA Badminton has four levels of sanctioned domestic junior tournaments:

100% Points: Junior Nationals (1 event/year)

40% Points: Open Regionals (held in each region, players from all regions can compete)

40% Points: Closed Regionals (One in each region, only local regional players can compete)

10% points: Local Events (the Midwest hosts 2 of these each year)

The SPBA has been hosting junior badminton tournaments since 2010 and in 2014 the SPBA hosted the first Junior National Ranking Tournament in the Midwest which increased the number of nationally ranked girls by 29%, and in the Under 19 age group the number of girls ranked nationally increased by a whopping 66%! Since the Midwest started participating in junior ranking tournaments, not only has the number of ranked girls in the country increased but the level of our Midwest players has increased significantly with easier access to higher level competition, which provides valuable experience as well as inspiration for Illinois players to train harder. It's no surprise now that **11 of the top 12 2017 IHSA State Singles Finishers were regularly competing in Junior National Ranking Tournaments** both in our region and around the country and now many of them are ranked quite high in the national rankings.

It is so exciting to finally have a high level National event in our region because many players simply do not have the means or opportunity to travel across the country for tournaments, and now a tournament that would have cost \$1,000-\$2,000 to attend in past years is accessible to all players in our region for the price of annual membership to USA Badminton (\$40) and entry free (\$100-\$120 depending on if you play 2 or 3 events). Supporting this event not only helps athletes currently competing in this event, but it's due to our strong turn out the past few years that the Midwest was awarded this year's Junior Nationals! **For over 20 years, Midwest badminton players have had the huge burden of travel expenses to fly to compete to EVERY high level Junior National Event. This is our big chance to play a tournament without huge expenses and give USA Badminton a reason to continue to give us opportunities in the future!**

How to register for the 2017 SPBA Super Regional:

Entry Deadline is April 26th, 2018

Sign up **MUST** be made through [USA Badminton/simply compete website online](#):

Step 1 JOIN USA Badminton by April 19th and Upload ID Documents: Prior to signing up, players will first need to get a membership to USA Badminton if they don't have one already. Membership can be purchased for \$40 annually. Players must join USA Badminton and upload their ID Documents (Passport ID Page, Permanent Resident Card, Long term visa, etc) to their player profile at <http://usab.simplycompete.com> by April 19th. Further instructions can be found on the event prospectus (attached in the email from Shannon).

<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-badminton/membership/join-or-renew-your-membership>

Please write down your membership number and keep your simply compete login information in a safe place. You will use this information for all tournament registrations through USA Badminton.

Step 2: Sign up for the tournament. <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-badminton/tournament-signup>
Partners must both be USA Badminton members and must confirm each other's partner requests. Don't forget to pay the entry fee. Make sure not to wait until the last minute in case of any technical difficulties.
(Event Prospectus with full tournament regulations and details is available by clicking on the "i" for info)

Step 3: Closer to the event, draws and match times will be posted on tournamentsoftware.com

Event Website: <http://www.shannonpohl.com/spba-midwest-open-regional/>

Facebook Invite: <https://www.facebook.com/events/980629118755164/>

You can help spread the word about the event by inviting badminton players on Facebook to the event page.

Volunteers make this event possible. Not only is volunteering a great chance to give back to the sport, but it's also an opportunity to see the best junior badminton players in the country compete! We need volunteer help with umpiring, set up and tear down, on-deck area, registration, umpire pick up and airports, bringing food for hospitality room and more! Sign up to volunteer if you'd like to get involved! We'd love to have you join us!

Volunteer sign up: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dgfp_tJnqgJ_pEi-kbwhEINTjTRmGBcfsEe2LsHcA2M/edit?usp=sharing

Umpire Hospitality room sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GoeCbmQlyAFNyBjsGBsZoa1bLQa0VeBqydkARq96gbM/edit?usp=sharing>

Become a USA Badminton Certified Umpire: We are especially in need of umpires to help at the event. **The SPBA will be hosting a Umpire Certification Class in late may at a date TBD, but likely on May 25th from 6:30-10 pm in Vernon Hills, IL** where we can train coaches, players and badminton enthusiasts ages 18 and up to become certified umpires over the course of the tournament weekend. Players under 18 are welcome to take the class as well but are not able to be certified. It's a great chance to improve your own game, by really learning the rules in detail and understanding service faults and what to do if there are any problems on the court. Sign up here by May 14th. More details coming soon!: <http://www.shannonpohl.com/usa-badminton-umpire-clinic/>

Marketing and Sponsorship Opportunities: If you'd like to sponsor the event, have signage at the event, or place an advertisement in our program book (\$25 and up), email Shannon at badminton@shannonpohl.com. More details will also be available soon on the event website: <http://www.shannonpohl.com/spba-midwest-super-regional/>

Cheer Ads: Players, Parents, Family Members, and Supporters: Make a Cheer Ad for the program book! This is a great way to send good luck messages to your favorite players! Fill out this form (<http://www.shannonpohl.com/pdfs/cheerad.pdf>) by May 14th with your special drawing or good luck message to players, teams, classes, partners, etc!

Please help me spread the word to your high school teams about this great opportunity! Please see the following documents for more details:

1. Event Prospectus
2. Umpire Clinic information

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm happy to help.

Sincerely,
Shannon Pohl