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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Evangel Athletics Announces Launch of Club Sports Program**

**SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI** – New opportunities for athletic involvement are coming to Evangel University in the form of collegiate club sports, with offerings in beach volleyball, CrossFit, disc golf and more. Club sports are open to all current graduate and undergraduate students, and the program will launch next semester.

Competition is already heating up for the fall season as clubs are currently on the lookout for new members. Activities such as archery, axe throwing, cornhole, shotgun and three-on-three basketball will also be introduced into the program over the next two years. Scholarship opportunities are on the way as well.

The director of club sports will be current Sports Management Program Coordinator Kelly Richardson. Richardson is also an Evangel Athletics Hall of Fame member.

“Club sports offer a variety of opportunities for students to get involved, compete against other institutions, and proudly represent Valor nation!” Richardson said. “This is just another example of how EU is working hard to enhance the student life experience here on campus.”

These additions come on the heels of Evangel’s latest announcement to build a new football stadium and basketball arena, and the program will complement EU’s already robust lineup of 17 varsity sports. An alternative to intramurals, club sports play against other schools and are led by a coach or staff advisor. While not falling under conference competition or having varsity status, some club sports will have tournament opportunities at the regional and national levels.

“I’m thrilled to have more hardworking student-athletes added to our ranks,” remarked Dennis McDonald, director of athletics at Evangel. “It’s incredible to see students so passionate about activities over the full spectrum of competitive sports.”

As of now, bass fishing, beach volleyball, bowling, CrossFit and disc golf are all expected to participate in the 2022-2023 season.

**About Kelly Richardson:**

Kelly Richardson is the coordinator for the Sports Management degree program at Evangel. She graduated in 2005 with a degree in Physical Education, and after completing graduate work at Southwest Baptist University, she returned to the EU Kinesiology Department in 2018. Richardson previously served as head volleyball coach at Western Illinois University.

**About Evangel University:**

Evangel University, with the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (AGTS), is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to serve the Church and society globally. Evangel and AGTS serve more than 2,200 students from all 50 states and numerous foreign countries, offering 70 undergraduate majors and 19 master and doctoral degrees.

Visit [EvangelAthletics.com](http://EvangelAthletics.com) for more information.

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