



# Skydive City



## SKYDIVE CITY COMMENTS FURTHER AFTER DECLINING TO HOST THE 2020 USPA NATIONALS

Zephyrhills, Florida, August 1, 2020 – Recently, Skydive City and the USPA informed the skydiving community of Skydive City’s decision not to host the 2020 USPA Nationals for reasons enumerated in a press release at [www.skydivecity.com](http://www.skydivecity.com). Skydive City has become aware of unflattering sentiment toward all involved, including the USPA, about this decision and makes this statement in response.

Skydive City is satisfied with the constant professional discussion we have had with the USPA over the last several months, including the Competition Committee, the President of the Board, the Executive Director, and the staff at USPA, including the Director of Competition, regarding this difficult decision. Although opinions have varied, everyone interacted in good faith with open and inclusive minds. Importantly, there was unity about the over-arching importance of the safety and well-being of skydivers.

We are cognizant of how charged opinions are about the ‘coronavirus environment’ and whether and how to host Nationals. Opinions differ from our judgment that it was unlikely that the Nationals could be held successfully at Skydive City. We made our decision knowing it would not be universally popular. Not everyone will come to our same conclusion, and even if they do, they may not reach it at the same time as we did or for the same reasons.

We respect the USPA’s taking extra time to explore whether the Nationals’ competitions, collectively or individually, can be held *safely* in another manner or at other venues. We believe that USPA recognizes a mandate to consider thoroughly feasible alternatives for the *many* competitors who remain committed to competing this year. After reaching our decision, Skydive City needed to move out of the way to allow the Board of Directors and the Competition Committee to do the job for which they were elected. We are confident that the USPA is acting with measured judgment, even if that is not obvious to all.

Skydive City is gratified by the positive response to our decision and support for our hosting the Nationals in a future year. However, it also takes guts in the face of substantial criticism for the Competition Committee to act on their resolve to determine whether there are *safe* alternatives for dedicated competitors who do not want the Nationals cancelled. The USPA should be given the latitude of time to be sure that they have given due consideration to all members of the community before they make their final decision.

Skydive City had hoped sincerely to host the Nationals Z-Hills Style. Our drop zone is known for the 'good vibes' that define Z-Hills Style. At Z-Hills, good vibes flow from consideration for the feelings of others and having a great time enjoying each other in the air and on the ground. We extend Z-Hills Style to the USPA, Board of Directors and Competition Committee as they reach the decisions in *their* hearts that give them comfort that *they* have done everything they could have done in the best interests of all USPA members and the sport.

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For more information, Joannie Murphy, [joannie@sunshine-factory.com](mailto:joannie@sunshine-factory.com), or Susan Stark, [susan@skydivecity.com](mailto:susan@skydivecity.com).