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CITY OF CHARLESTON RECREATION DOUBLE DUTCH TEAM WINS AMERICAN DOUBLE DUTCH LEAGUE'S WORLD INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Charleston, SC-- Members of the City of Charleston Recreation Department Double Dutch program competed in the Double Dutch State Championship in May. The 3rd Grade Lil Baby Jays and the High School Chuck Town Finest teams both won State Championships in their divisions.

Coached by Recreation Leader Laquetta Williams, The Lil Baby Jays, which consists of four third graders, Samiya Grant, Jonclyn Gardner, Shantell Thomas and Arzhane Brooks, went on to compete in the American Double Dutch League's World Invitational Championship on June 14th and 15th.

Double Dutch is a skip rope activity in which two rope turners turn two ropes in an eggbeater fashion while one or two people jump within the moving ropes. It is a popular sport because all that is needed to play is a pair of jump ropes and three children in the same grade for the team.

The championship was held at the Exhibition Center in Sumter, SC. The Exhibition Center hosted 1,200 competitors from New Jersey, Ohio, North Charleston, SC, Virginia, Columbia, SC, Florence, SC, New York, Rhode Island, and Japan, along with their coaches and families.

The Lil Baby Jays competed in both the singles and doubles competitions in the third grade division. The singles competition consists of two turners and one jumper, while the doubles competition consists of two turners and two jumpers. There were eight teams that competed in the third grade division.

In the elimination rounds on Friday, June 14, the Lil Baby Jays won first place in the singles competition with a score of 391 and first place in the doubles competition with a score of 436, which qualified the team for the finals of both singles and doubles competitions.

During the finals on June 15, Lil Baby Jays scored 350 points in the singles competition, second to New Jersey. In the double compulsory, speed and freestyle competition, the Lil Baby Jays improved on their score from the previous day, and won first place with a score of 489 points, securing the title of Double Dutch World Champions.

Recreation Manager Brenda Shokes said, "Coach Laquetta Williams does a great job with her teams. Lil Baby Jays' double compulsory, speed and freestyle routine was flawless. They nailed all of their tricks with the greatest of ease. They were awesome."

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