



Rules Book

2017

BC Seniors Games Society
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Terminology

Definitions:

1. **“Host Committee”** is a committee within a community which is formed to prepare and submit a bid application to host the 55+ BC Games. When a community is awarded a Games, the committee registers as a Society.
2. **“Host Society”** is the registered Society consisting of a Board of Directors elected by the Host Community to administer the 55+ BC Games. “Host Society” is also referred to when relating to Games financial and/or community matters.
3. **“Host Community”** is the overall community which has been awarded to host the 55+ BC Games. “Host Community” is a general term and may be used interchangeably with “Host Society”. Where joint communities are awarded to host the Games, they will be referred to as “Host Communities”; however, only one Society will be registered and formed, which will encompass joint communities.
4. **“A Zone”** refers to any of the 12 BCSGS Zones pertaining to geographical regions of British Columbia as established by the BC Seniors Games Society (see map and Zone descriptions on our website).
5. **“Host Zone”** is the geographic location of the community which is hosting the 55+ BC Games.
6. **“BCSGS”** refers to BC Seniors Games Society.
7. A **“team”** consists of two or more persons.

General Rules

1. Eligibility

- (a) The 55+ BC Games are open to all permanent residents of British Columbia who are 55 years of age or older by December 31st of the year of the Games. Participants will fall into the age category as of December 31 of the year of the Games (with the exception of Track and Field, which is the first day of the competition). “Permanent Resident” is defined as a person who has a principal residence in BC. The manager/coach of a team may be under 55, and from any zone, but must be registered as a Non-Participant.
- (b) Participants must be permanent residents of the Zone in which they are participating. In Zones 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12, if unable to register enough players to complete a team may obtain participants from any other Zone. A person wishing to compete for another Zone may apply to the “player pool” or observe the following procedures.
 - 1) Contact both Zone Directors
 - 2) The non-resident Zone Director must be satisfied that no in-Zone Participant would be displaced by the “transfer”
 - 3) The resident Zone Director must be satisfied that the participant does not have an opportunity to compete in their own Zone.

50% of the participants MUST be from the resident zone. Ice Hockey, SloPitch, and Soccer must have eight players on the resident team.

If Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 are unable to register enough participants to complete a team they may ask the Rules Chair to obtain participants from any other zone. Participants without a place to compete for their resident zone may place their name on a waiting list in the event another zone is looking for someone.

All zones may export, and all zones may import, just the procedure is different.

All cross zone participation must be approved by the Rules Chair or designate.

Refer to Policy and Procedures Page 17 (item 5) for complete details for Cross Zone Participation.

- (c) Participants must have competed in Zone Playoffs in the category for which they are registered in the 55+ BC Games, unless the Zone determines that a playoff is not necessary in their particular sport.
- (d) ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE BC SENIORS GAMES SOCIETY BEFORE COMPETING IN ANY ZONE PLAYOFFS / TRYOUTS OR BEING NAMED TO COMPETE IN ANY SPORT. (All persons trying out for the Games at any level and prior to Zone playoffs, eliminations, etc. must be members in good standing of the BC Seniors Games Society.)
- (e) Isolation Zones have been declared in four areas of the Province: Bella Bella (Zone 2), Haida Gwaii (Zone 10), *Atlin and *Dease Lake (Zone 11), and Fort Nelson (Zone 12).

*These communities have been given the option of transferring to the Yukon Seniors Games Society.

Participants from Isolation Zones:

- (1) are eligible to compete for their Isolation Zone rather than for their geographical Zone;
- (2) may advance directly to the Games from their Isolation Zone playoffs;
- (3) can register as for a regular zone, but the number of their registered Participants will not count against the eligible numbers for the geographical Zone;
- (4) Five-Pin Bowlers from Isolation Zones must compete as part of overall Zone Team.

Isolation Policy

- (1) 55+ BC residents in some areas of the province have difficulty participating in Zone Playoffs because of distance or transportation restrictions. These areas have been given Isolation Status and will not represent any Zone in the Games but will be eligible for medals.
- (2) Participants will normally travel to the Games with the Zone in which their area falls.
- (3) Participants from an isolation status area must register for the Games through the Zone in which they reside. The Zone will send the Membership Form; Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Assumption Risk Form; Registration Form; Sport Form (if necessary) and Fees to the Host Society, but the form must be marked "Isolation Status".

- (4) All Isolation Zones will be classified as Zone 13 for participation at the Games. Where two or more communities are involved in hosting the Games, both or all communities will be treated as a single unit for the purpose of this rule.
- (5) Medals won count towards the Zone they live in.

2. Membership

- (a) All registered Participants and Non-Participants must be members of the BC Seniors Games Society. The membership year is from January 1 to December 31.
- (b) Memberships are available throughout the Zones from Area or Zone Representatives at any time during the year but must be obtained before competing in any Zone Playoff or Area Playoffs.
- (c) As a requirement of our Risk Management, the Membership and Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Assumption of Risk Forms are a condition of membership into the BCSGS and must be filled out by all participants prior to entry in Zone Playoffs for the 55+ BC Games. The Membership and Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Assumption of Risk Forms must be kept within the Zone as per the File Retention Policy and would be available if requested. (see sample of Forms on the 55+ BC Games website www.55plusbcgames.org under 'Registration\Registration and Sport Forms').
- (d) Membership in a Provincial Sport Organization is not a requisite for participation in the 55+ BC Games (with the exception of a select few). Participants are encouraged to join such Provincial Sport Organizations to be eligible for benefits other than those, which may stem from their participation in the 55+ BC Games.

3. Participation and Categories

- (a) Participants are allowed to participate in only one Sport at the 55+ BC Games.
- (b) Participants may compete in more than one event within their Sport, i.e. tennis - singles and doubles.
- (c) In team sports with 5 or more players, a participant can play on one team only, except in Dragon Boat Racing.
- (d) Participants may compete in more than one Sport at the Zone Level providing that Zone Playoff scheduling enables this. However, once you have qualified for a sport you cannot attempt to qualify for another sport.
- (e) Prior to competing at Zone Level, Participants must inform the Zone Sport Co-ordinator whether or not they will compete in the Games should they qualify in the Zone Playoff.
- (f) Some Sports have more than one age category. A participant must not be displaced by someone wishing to play in a younger or more competitive category.
- (g) Registrants for Zone Playoffs or the Games may be required to produce proof of age in the form of a birth certificate or similar document. Where the age of a Competitor is questioned in protest, such a Participant shall be required to show proof of age.
- (h) Every team with more than 5 participants must have a unique and different name (maximum 2 words). This will be entered on the Sport Form.

4. Zone Playoffs

- (a) Zone Playoffs will be held in all Sports for which there are entries sufficient enough to require eliminations to meet Zone entry limits.
- (b) Zone Playoffs are held for the purpose of determining which eligible Zone Participants qualify to represent the Zone at the Annual 55+ BC Games. Medals shall not be awarded at Zone Playoffs in any Playoff Sport. Some other form of recognition for performance may be considered such as ribbons, gift certificates, etc.
- (c) Participants in the Games must have competed in Zone Playoffs, except where these are determined not to be necessary by the Zone Committee.
- (d) Zone Playoffs should be completed by May 31. (if possible)

5. Medical

- (a) It is highly recommended that all Participants in a physically active sport have a medical examination prior to competing in Zone Playoffs or at the Games.
- (b) All Participants with a health problem, e.g. diabetes or heart disease, should include this information, together with medication or treatment being taken, on the Medical Form.

6. Registration Fees and Accreditation

(a) Participants

- (1) All participants, including replacements, are required to pay a BC Seniors Games Society Membership Fee. This fee must accompany the Membership and Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Assumption of Risk Forms.
- (2) Those Participants going to the Games must register with the Zone using the approved Registration Form whether or not there has been a Zone Playoff. No person will be allowed to compete who has not registered with his/her Zone.
- (3) On completion of registration prior to the transfer of the data base to the Host Society, the Zone Registrar downloads the total registration data base.
- (4) Registration Deadlines

Participants must be registered by submitting the Membership Form; Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Assumption of Risk Form; Registration Form; Sport Form (if required) with Membership, Registration and Sport Fees (if applicable) to their Zone Coordinator by a date set by the Zone.

The Zone Coordinator must submit them to the Zone registrar no later than 60 days prior to the start of the Games.

The Event Manager shall submit all registrations to the Host Society no later than 45 days prior to the start of the Games at 12 noon on that day.

- (5) All Membership, Registration and Sports Fees are to be forwarded to the Zone Treasurer within 10 days of the close of Registration. The Zone Treasurer shall forward all fees to the Society Secretary/Treasurer no later than 45 days prior to the start of the Games as stated in the Policy and Procedures, Page 11, #14.

- (6) Games registration fees for both participants and non-participants are non-refundable except when a person has been injured or because of some other unexpected circumstance, which prohibits the person from attending the Games. Request for a refund must be submitted to the Zone Director.

Teams who cancel for reasons other than illness or injuries, shall not be refunded any fees by the Society or Zone. Such Teams may register in future Games with the BCSGS Rules Committee permission.

Zones will use the 'Record of Refund Request' form to compile a list of refunds requested after the date the zone Registrar signs off on the entries. This list will be sent to the BCSGS Secretary/Treasurer no later than 7 days after the completion of the Games.

The BCSGS is not responsible for any refunds after the above dates. Any request for refunds not send in by a Zone by the above dates is the responsibility of the Zone.

- (7) Upon receipt of the refunded fees, the Zone will either return them to the Participant, if originally paid by the Participant, or to the Zone funds, if paid by the Zone.

(b) Non-Participants

- (1) Non-Participants, upon payment of the fee established by the Board of Directors, may participate in designated activities at the 55+ BC Games.
- (2) Completed forms and fees shall be forwarded to the Zone Registrar to arrive no later than 60 days prior to the start of the Games. Non-Participants will not be allowed to register after this date. Refunds of Non-Participant fees shall be subject to the same conditions, and follow the same procedures, as for Participants. A non-participant whose partner has to withdraw and is eligible for a refund shall also be given a refund.
- (3) A spouse of a replacement player may be registered as a Non-Participant after the closure date of registration.

(c) Accreditation

- (1) All Participants and Non-Participants should report to the Accreditation Centre at the Games either Tuesday or Wednesday (according to their sport). Exact Accreditation times will be posted on the 55+ BC Games and Host Society websites. Identification tags, and other information will be available at the Accreditation Centre.

If unable to attend in person, registrants must arrange to have their accreditation package picked up for them. A designated person may pick up a team's package, or a partner's, or two individual's using the "Accreditation Package Pick-up Form". The designated individual must show I.D. and sign for the package. Those not picked up will be classified as "No Show". No Show means that the participant will not be allowed to compete in the Games.

Prior to their 1st competition, participants may be required to show photo I.D. and competition badge to the Event Chair.

7. Spares, Replacements and Cross Zone Participants

(a) Spares:

“Spares” shall be defined as the registered extra player referred to in the rules of a specific sport. (**Bocce**, 5-Pin Bowling, Carpet Bowling, Floor Curling). When and how a spare may be used will also be governed by those specific sport rules, or those rules as amended for the 55+ BC Games.

When a team plays more than one game a day, the spare must play one of the games. Spares register as Participants and must be assigned to one team only as shown on the Sport form.

(b) Replacements:

Replacements shall be defined as a registered or new member who is willing to replace a participant on a team.

(c) Cross Zone Participant:

A Cross Zone Participant is a registered member who is willing to participate on a team for another zone.

- (d) The Host Committee is asked to have a list of possible replacements, in case they are needed once the Games have begun. These names are to be forwarded to the Rules Chair. See Policy and Procedures, page 17, item 5 for the procedure.

8. Teams / Individuals Not Completing Competition

- (a) Where a team/individual, once the Games have begun, is unable to complete a full competition schedule due to illness, injury or like cause, to one or more members of the team or to an individual, then:

- (1) the results/points already scored shall stand and be recorded in the final results of the competition;
- (2) the results/points scored by opponents shall likewise stand and be recorded in the final results of the competition;
- (3) the pre-arranged schedule of events shall not be altered to accommodate such a withdrawal, and scheduled opponent(s) shall be accorded a forfeit, which shall be recorded as a win;
- (4) if this happens in a gold/silver medal play-off round, the opponent(s) shall be awarded the gold medal and the team/individual affected shall receive the silver medal. Bronze medal finalists shall not be elevated to contest for the silver/bronze medals, but will continue to play-off for the bronze medal.

- (b) Where a team/individual, once the Games have begun, makes a decision to withdraw from competition for reasons other than illness, injury or like cause (e.g. a losing record, disagreement with the conduct of the competition, etc.), then:

- (1) all accrued results/points will be forfeit, and such withdrawal may result in the Zone team/individual being barred from competing in the next 55+ BC Games;
- (2) rules (a) (2) and (a) (3) above, will apply;
- (3) if the withdrawal takes place in a gold/silver medal play-off round, the opponent(s) shall be awarded the gold medal and the bronze medal finalists shall play-off for the silver and bronze medals.

9. Rules, Draws, and Schedules

- (a) The Host Committee must stage the sports in accordance with the Rules as determined in the individual sports organization rules documents, except for the

adjustment as noted in the Rules Books. Any deviations can only be permitted with the approval of the Chair of the Rules Committee.

- (b) In those events where a draw is necessary, the Host Event Coordinator shall (if possible) avoid scheduling players from the same Zone competing against each other early in the draw.
- (c) In order to balance a schedule the Host Society may be asked **by the Rules Committee** to add competitors to an event. Competitors would pay the BCSGS Membership fee and the cost of the **Friday night social event** would be optional. These competitors would be eligible for medals if they choose to pay the Registration Fee and Sports Fee (if applicable).
- (d) Draws and schedules will be completed one week prior to Accreditation day. Copies of schedules will be included in each Participant's Accreditation package for their respective sport showing the venue location, time of competition and the name of opponent and Zone, where applicable. (These schedules will be posted on the website one week prior to the start date of the Games, or earlier if completed.) All are subject to change, if necessary.
- (e) The prepared Track and Field Schedule is within the Track and Field rules and if changes are needed because of the venue, they must be given to the BCSGS Rules Chair by January 15, year of the Games.
- (f) Where an event has 3 or fewer entries, the participants will play down with medals awarded in each age class, except in Pickleball where they can only play up a level.

10. Grace Period

- (a) With the exception of Bocce, in all team competitions (including pairs and fours), any team, which has not reported to begin to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time, shall be deemed to have scratched from that round and shall forfeit that particular game. The opponents shall be accorded a forfeit, which shall be recorded as a win.
- (b) Participants in individual events who have not reported to begin the event at the scheduled start time could be subject to disqualification. (See specific sport rules.)

11. Zone Standings

- (a) While participation is the objective of the Games, an unofficial Zone standing will be based on the total medals won by each Zone.
- (b) Team events (where teams, including relay teams, consist of 4 or more players) will be awarded the value of one medal in calculating Zone standings.
- (c) Medals won by each Zone will be updated on a timely basis each day and shown on the "results board" in a central and highly visible location.

12. Disputes or Protests

1) Games Level

(a) Prior to the Games:

- (1) Any disputes in terms of the application of these rules to the eligibility/numbers of Participants from Zones, or any other matter raised by Zones with the Registration Committee of the Host Community, shall be referred to the Chair of the Rules Committee, whose ruling shall be final in such matters.

(b) At the Games:

- (1) Disputes or protests are to be made in writing, signed and given to the Event Chair within one hour of the incident.
- (2) The time, date and location of the incident must be noted.
- (3) In the case of a team event, only the Manager (or Captain if there is no Manager) of the team may sign the protest.
- (4) A Games Dispute Committee will rule on the incident.
- (5) The decision of the Games Dispute Committee shall be given in writing within 24 hours to the person who signed the protest and to the Sport Chair.
- (6) The decision of the Dispute Committee is final.
- (7) The Games Dispute Committee shall be composed of:
 - a) Event Chair
 - b) Competition Official in charge (Chief Referee or Umpire)
 - c) Chair or member of the Rules Committee.Communication procedures should be arranged for members of this Committee to follow in case of disputes or protests (i.e. cell phones).
- (8) The Sport Chair is in charge of play and no person is allowed to create a disturbance by claiming procedure is incorrect. Protest procedure, as outlined, shall be followed or person causing such disturbance may be asked to leave.
- (9) Default rule: Any team or individual that defaults a scheduled game (including exhibition games) shall be disqualified from the event.

2) Zone Level Playoffs

- (1) Disputes or protests are to be made in writing, signed, and sent to the Zone Chair within three days of the incident in question.
- (2) The time, date and location of the incident must be noted and all significant circumstances surrounding the dispute.
- (3) In the case of a team sport, only the Manager (or Captain, if there is no Team Manager) may sign the protest.
- (4) The Zone Dispute Committee will rule on the incident.
- (5) The decision of the Zone Dispute Committee will be given in writing to the person who signed the protest with a copy to the Zone Chair.
- (6) The decision of the Dispute Committee is final.
- (7) The Zone Dispute Committee will consist of 3 to 5 persons knowledgeable in the Games Rules and familiar with all the Games Sports. The Dispute Committee will be selected by the Zone Chair and the Zone Sport Chair.

13. Rules Committee

- (a) The Rules Committee for the BC Seniors Games Society shall be composed of a Chair who is appointed by the President; the Vice President and six Directors.
- (b) Any request for a change to a sport rule or sport format should be sent in writing to the Rules Chair within 30 days after completion of the Games. Support from other zones for the change would be expected.
- (c) The Rules Chair will be responsible for a roster of committee members during the Games. Duties will include presence at the Dispute Table during Accreditation and solving problems and disputes during the Games. The Chair will be responsible

for providing clear guidelines to committee members, cell phones, etc. for communication.

- (d) All Host Society schedules are checked by the Committee prior to posting on the Host Society website, one week prior to the Games date.
- (e) The Rules Committee in consultation with the Host Sports Chair, may change any sports rule to cover adequate participation.
- (f) The Rules Committee may adjust any PSO rules given to them after the November Board Meeting has finalized and passed all rule changes for the next year's Games.

14. Medals

- (a) Medals shall be awarded each year:
 - 1st place finish - Gold Medal
 - 2nd place finish - Silver Medal
 - 3rd place finish - Bronze Medal
- (b) The medals should be presented at a formal ceremony at the conclusion of the event. The time(s) should be included in the published schedule of each sport. Multi-age group sports may have more than one ceremony in a day.
- (c) Participants may sign the medal pick up form to acquire medals for fellow competitors or teams in the same sport.
- (d) The Host Society will arrange to have unclaimed medals, with a list of intended medal recipients, delivered to the **Society's office**.

Suggested Rule Change Form

Vote Results: Yes ____ No ____ Abstained ____

Note: This form must be used to request a rule change; suggested changes should take into account the rules of the National or Provincial Organizations and any Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with that body.

This form must be submitted within 30 days after the completion of the Games to:

Rules Committee, BC Seniors Games Society
203 – 2453 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC V8L 1X7
Fax: 778.426.2941 email to : bcs@shaw.ca

Rule Changes are reviewed by the Rules Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Only suggested changes made in writing on this form will be considered.

Meeting Chair: _____ **Email:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ **Fax:** (____) _____

Proposed Rule Amendment: Please use one form for each suggested Rule Change.

Sport: _____ **Page No.:** _____ **Rule No.:** _____

Change -or - New Rule - to read as follows:

Reason for suggested change/comments:

(Use back of form if necessary)

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

Meeting Participants' Signatures:

Zone 1 Signature: _____ Zone 7 Signature: _____

Zone 2 Signature: _____ Zone 8 Signature: _____

Zone 3 Signature: _____ Zone 9 Signature: _____

Zone 4 Signature: _____ Zone 10 Signature: _____

Zone 5 Signature: _____ Zone 11 Signature: _____

Zone 6 Signature: _____ Zone 12 Signature: _____