



## **2017 Special Olympics Alberta Summer Games Overview**

From July 7-9, 2017 we look forward to hosting the Special Olympics Alberta Summer Games in Medicine Hat. Below you will find important information that each affiliate who is planning to participate in the Summer Games should be aware of.

### **1. Dates of the 2017 Provincial Games**

The dates for the 2017 Special Olympics Alberta Summer Games will be July 7-9, 2017.

### **2. Number of Participants**

These Provincial Games will plan to host approximately 1400 team members (1077 athletes and 323 coaches and mission).

We are very excited, this is our largest Provincial Games to date! We have over 300 more athletes competing than we did at our 2005 Provincial Summer Games, and over 70 more athletes competing than in our 2013 separate Provincial Spring and Summer Games combined.

### **3. Quotas**

Our organization has seen tremendous growth over the years and with so many new and returning athletes, we unfortunately cannot accommodate everyone at our Provincial Games. As a result, we had to put quotas in place for each of our sports.

The quota for each sport was based on the capacity of the venue, number of athletes in that sport, and ensuring that we could host a quality competitive experience.

Quotas were issued based on registration numbers from the 2014-15 year. In collaboration with each affiliate, the Sport Department ensured accuracy of these numbers. Affiliates were assigned a quota proportional to the percentage of overall athletes registered in each sport.

For information on how quotas are calculated, refer to *Management Policy M-3056* (attached).

#### 4. Provincial Games Sports

11 sports will be offered as part of the Provincial Summer Games:

- **5 Pin Bowling** (200 athletes)
- **10 Pin Bowling** (80 athletes)
- **Athletics** (104 athletes)
- **Basketball** (9 teams)
- **Bocce** (80 athletes)
- **Golf** (50 athletes)
- **Powerlifting** (30 athletes)
- **Rhythmic Gymnastics** (40 athletes)
- **Soccer** (9 teams)
- **Softball** (9 teams)
- **Swimming** (160 athletes)

#### 5. Athlete Eligibility for Provincial Games

The provincial games are an exciting opportunity for all athletes. In order to be eligible to compete at the Summer Games, athletes must be a registered member with their local club and be in good standing with Special Olympics Alberta.

Athletes will register for provincial games through their local Special Olympics program. Although some athletes compete and train in many sports they will only be permitted to register in **one sport** for Provincial Games and will therefore be able to compete in the Summer Games. It will be up to the athlete and their affiliate to determine which sport they will wish to compete in. I know this will be a very difficult decision for some athletes.

For an athlete to be eligible for provincial games they must meet the following criteria:

- Be ten (10) years of age as of the first day of the competition
- Is registered with Special Olympics Alberta and a member in good standing within the community
- Is a member of an accredited Special Olympics Alberta Affiliate or Community Program
- Have appropriate maturation based upon the following:
  - ❖ Ability to cope with pressures involved in traveling and competition
  - ❖ Ability to cope with being out of usual environment
- Have competed in a qualifying competition preceding the Provincial Championships/Games in that particular sport
- Have actively participated in a Special Olympics Alberta program, in that sport, for one (1) full program year prior to Provincial Games
- ***For 2017, the program year would need to fall between September 2015 and August 2016***

#### 6. Exemptions

To be eligible to compete at the 2017 Provincial Summer Games, athletes must compete in a qualifying competition in their sport. If for some unforeseen circumstance an athlete who is actively involved in their sport is unable to attend a competition, their affiliate/community program can apply for an exemption.

Choosing not to attend a qualifier is not a valid rationale. Valid rationale would include injury or sickness, being committed to an event prior to the publication of the qualifier date (eg: work commitment).

Exemption requests must be approved and submitted by the affiliate. Exemption requests made directly to SOA by individuals will not be considered.

## **7. Basketball, Soccer, Softball Team Eligibility and Divisioning**

In order for a team to be eligible they must compete at a qualifying competition. In order for that team to be eligible to compete at Provincials they must have the same roster that they competed in the qualifier with. We do understand that there may be instances where a player moves or is no longer competing in the sport anymore and replacements have to be brought in. As long as the team has a large majority of players returning the provincial year, they will be eligible.

We will be creating technical committee for basketball, soccer, and softball that will be responsible for divisioning. This committees will be formed and active this year.

## **8. Sport Selection**

Athletes are eligible to participate in one sport during Summer Games. Athletes **should** be deciding this year which sport they plan to compete in. They can still compete in multiple sport qualifiers this year but they should declare their provincial games sport. Registration will be taking place in October 2016.

## **9. Games Schedule**

The games will take place over three 3 days. The general schedule will go as follows:

**Friday:** Arrivals, registration, and opening ceremonies

**Saturday:** Competitions and Banquet

**Sunday:** Competitions, closing ceremonies, and departures

## **10. Remaining Upcoming Qualifying Competitions:**

- **Athletics**
  - June 12, 2016: Edmonton
- **Bocce**
  - June 18, 2016: Calgary
  - July 9, 2016: Edmonton
- **Golf**
  - June 12, 2016: Calgary
  - July 10, 2016: Lethbridge
  - July 24, 2016: St. Paul
  - August 13, 2016: Edmonton
- **Powerlifting**
  - June 25, 2016: Calgary
- **Soccer**
  - June 25, 2016: Edmonton
- **Softball**
  - June 11, 2016: Calgary
  - June 18, 2016: Camrose
  - July 16, 2016: Olds
  - August 27, 2016: St. Paul

If you have questions about any of the above information or any supporting documents, please contact Jill Moore at [jmoore@specialolympics.ab.ca](mailto:jmoore@specialolympics.ab.ca) or Riley McCaig at [rmccaig@specialolympics.ab.ca](mailto:rmccaig@specialolympics.ab.ca) or 780-415-0719.