

Policy A-001 Ohio Senior Olympics General Rules and Regulations

1. A person must be 50 years of age or older by December 31 of the year of competition in order to participate in the Ohio Senior Olympics State Games. Proof of age must be available at event to confirm in which age group an individual will compete, or if questions should arise. Contestants participating in the wrong age group will be disqualified. Age divisions are based on five (5) year increments (50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99 and 100+) for individual, doubles and mixed doubles competitive events. For team sports, the age divisions are 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, and 80+ in 3-on-3 basketball only. The OSO Board, in consultation with the Event Director or designee, may adjust age groups when determined necessary to benefit the games. For example, the Event Director or designee may choose to use the age groups for Master's Swimming at the state games.

2. For individual events, a participant's age as of December 31 of the year of competition determines the age category in which they will compete at the state games. Age division for participation in doubles and mixed doubles events is determined by the age of the younger athlete as of December 31 of the year of competition. Age division for competition in team events is determined by the age of the youngest team member as of December 31 of the year of competition.

3. Senior Olympics officials reserve the right to combine age divisions for competition purposes if fewer than three (3) participants are registered in an age group in an event. If there is only one individual entered in an age group during a competition in which athletes may qualify for national competition, that athlete **MUST** compete in their chosen event in order to qualify for the National Senior Games. In this case, the athlete may be asked to compete against an individual in another age group. Awards will be presented to participants based on their official age groups. A participant must **complete** an event to be eligible for an award or medal.

4. The top three places in each age group will be awarded medals or ribbons in the event in which they are participating, regardless of which state they represent. Additional recognition beyond medals for the top three places is at the discretion of the event organizers (i.e. trophies, ribbons, etc.).

5. Participating athletes that wish to protest or appeal something specific to an event or competition shall follow the procedure outlined in [Policy A-003 Ohio Senior Olympics Protest & Grievance Policy](#)

6. In every event, the safety of each participant, spectator, official, and all other persons involved in the presentation of these games is of paramount concern. Games coordinators have the right to postpone, delay or cancel an event if safety concerns are present.

7. Participants acting in a non-sportsman-like manner may be ejected from the event in which they are participating, and may be removed from the entire Senior Olympic Games. Any violation of the OSO Policy A-02 Ohio Senior Olympics Athlete Code of Conduct is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and is grounds for disqualification. Any participant striking an official, scorekeeper, or any other contestants will be disqualified from the Senior Olympic Games. Athletes are expected to read and adhere to the Ohio Senior Olympics Athlete Code of Conduct adopted by the Board of Trustees. The OSO Board will ensure the Athlete Code of Conduct is readily available on the OSO website at www.ohio.nsga.com.

8. The OSO Event Director, in consultation with the OSO Board, reserves the right to cancel, limit or expand any or all event(s) or competition for any reason including inclement weather or insufficient registration. All attempts will be made to re-schedule in the event of inclement weather. The OSO Event Director and OSO Board shall determine the which events will be included in any OSO competition. The decision of the Board and Event Director are final.

9. Team clothing must be of like design and color. Team shirts must be numbered.

10. The Ohio Senior Olympics State Games are open to both Ohio residents and non-residents of the state. As an open state, during a state games in which participants may qualify for competition at the National Senior Games, out-of-state residents do not take away a qualifying spot from an Ohio resident. Ohio will qualify the number of state residents specified for an event in addition to out-of-state qualifiers.

11. All doubles teams made up of one in-state and one out-of-state athlete will be designated as an Out-of-state team, to comply with National Senior Games Association rules.

12. Teams are subject to the number of players specified in the current rules for the National Senior Games.

13. For all sports that are a part of the National Senior Games menu of sports, Ohio Senior Olympics follows the rules for competition established by the National Senior Games Association.

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