

## **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 to confirm in which age group an individual will compete, or if questions should arise. Contestants knowingly 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.
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 less 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 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. All appeals for official interpretations of the rules shall be made to the Event Coordinator. *Appeals must be filed within an hour of the conclusion of the competition or*

*the right to appeal will be forfeited.* If any appeal is filed, the ruling of the Rules Committee will be final.

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 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.

8. The Olympic Planning Committee reserves the right to cancel, limit or expand any or all event(s) or competition due to inclement weather or insufficient registration. All attempts will be made to re-schedule in the event of inclement weather.

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

Effective date 6/1/2012

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