

OSGA Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

In-person,
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Belleville ON

Chairperson: Daria Thompson

In Attendance:

Cyntia Woodland	1- Northwest (Thunder Bay)	Jackmen Chong	21 - Halton
Elizabeth Fleming	2a - Timmins-Temiskaming	Tim Porter	26 - Waterloo/Wellington
		John Paterson	27 - Grey Bruce
Georges Martin	5 - Renfrew County	Karen Hill	29 - Huron/Perth/Middlesex
Val Hinsperger	5 - Renfrew County	Johanna Richards	29 Huron/Perth/Middlesex
Frank Szostak	5 - Renfrew County	Russ Brown	29 - Huron/Perth/Middlesex
Laurie Cox	5 - Renfrew County	Brad Richards	29 Huron/Perth/Middlesex
Guy Chaput	7 - North Lanark	Kim Benke	30 - London
David Cave	7 - North Lanark	Otto Benke	30 - London
Dan Youmelle	8 - Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry/Prescott/Russell/Akwesasne	Ernest Morenz	33 - Lambton
Linda Vickers	Glengarry/Prescott/Russell/Akwesasne	Daria Thompson	President
Jennifer Coates	11- Muskoka/Haliburton	Ellen Paterson	Vise president
	12- Kawartha Lakes/Peterborough/Northumberland		
Eva Ferguson		Mark Ling	Treasurer
Maureen Keeping	13 - Durham Region	Ed Mark	Secretary
John Honsberger	13 - Durham Region	Rae Kingsbury	Board Member
Barb Armstrong	14 - York Region	Vince Lubrano III	Board Member
JueMeili Olaes	15 - North York	Sheran Barker	Board Member
Roger Wallis	17 - Etobicoke York	Don Rider	Board Member
Emil Szinegh	19 - Brampton/North Peel/Dufferin	Jordana Osetti	Office Manager
Petra Halk	21 - Halton	Dana Bekeshova	Office Admin

Regrets:

District 2 – Cochrane

District 16 – Scarborough/East York/Toronto

District 20 – Mississauga

District 22- Hamilton/Wentworth

District 25 – Brant/Haldimand/Norfolk

District 28 – Simcoe County (vote by proxy)

District 31 – Oxford/Elgin

Minutes

- I. **Call to order:** 9:00 am
Ed Mark to serve as secretary
- II. **Determination of a quorum** – 19 districts, quorum declared.
- III. **Appointment of scrutineer** - Russell Zavitz, Ministry of Sport.
- IV. **Approval of the agenda** - approved
- V. **Declaration of any conflicts of interest** – none.
- VI. **Approval of Minutes to AGM 2023** – approved.
- VII. **Board Report** – approved as presented.

- VIII. **Report of Auditors** – Baker Tilly has been our auditor for the past three years. They conduct our annual audit, which we are required to provide to the Ministry of Sport to receive funding.

Motion to retain Baker Tilly as OSGA auditor April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025. *Mover:* Mark Ling, *Second:* Dan Youmelle (District 8). **Carried.**

Motion- accept auditors report 2023-2024. *Mover:* JueMeili Olaes (District 15). *Second:* Ellen Paterson. **Carried.**

IX. **Election of new Directors:**

Vice President: Ed Mark

Treasurer: Ellen Paterson

Secretary: Vincent Lubrano

Board of Directors:

Kim Benke (District 30) - Director at Large (Confirmed)

Georges Martin (District 5) - Director at Large (Confirmed)

Maureen Keeping (District 13) - Director at Large (Confirmed)

Regional Representatives for 2024:

Southwest: Johanna Richards

South Central: Emil Szinegh

Central: Eva Ferguson

Eastern: Georges Martin

Northern: Cynthia Woodland

X. **New Business**

A. **Presentation by the Ministry of Sport (See Appendix A)**

Announcement of the new Ministry of Sport, effective June 6, 2024, led by the Honourable Neil Lumsden.

Key Updates for Ontario Games 2026-2029:

Participation Fees: Reduced from \$199 to a range of \$75-\$99.

Accommodation: Participants will now select their own accommodations. Room blocks will still be arranged by hosts.

Transportation: hosts will not be required to provide full internal transportation. Existing external travel subsidies will still be available.

Food: hosts will provide some meal services like 2 lunches and 1 dinner. Reduced from prior events. Participants can select their preferred meal options when not at sports venues.

Keyword to changes: flexibility for participants to determine their own accommodations, transportation, and food.

Location for the 2025 Summer Games: no decision has been made as of this meeting.

Discussion question: How did the province determine these changes?

Answer: Despite receiving over 80% approval for the last two Games, there were still enough complaints regarding food and accommodations that the Ministry has decided not to continue managing these aspects. More importantly, for the sustainability of the Games, it has become increasingly challenging to secure host cities, as they struggled to meet expectations within the allocated budget. The Ministry believes they are offering us "flexibility" by allowing us to make our own decisions about accommodations and meals, with the expectation that it will enhance the overall experience. This decision is final and non-negotiable. We will need to adapt to ensure the continuation of the Games we all love.

Suggestions to the Ministry from the group of DCs: Acknowledge that housing participants by event provides a logistical advantage for shuttle service and communications, as well as fostering a sense of community for like-minded participants. Individual athletes (golfers, bowlers, swimmers, etc.) will be especially isolated if they are not accommodated as a group from their event. Without a mechanism to match them with roommates from other districts, they may be forced into isolation in more expensive single rooms. Participants are sometimes already isolated from their home district teammates unless an effort is made to bring them together for common meals and ceremonies.

Hosts need to improve communication and provide more timely information—such as maps, schedules, hotel details, parking, and shuttle transportation—to help participants make timely and appropriate decisions about their accommodations and determine whether a district bus is feasible.

We acknowledge the heartfelt sincerity of all the volunteers who work at our Summer/Winter Games. However, we must again emphasize the need for them to be trained in running our specific events. Our rules and formats are posted on our website. We have offered “experts” to act as “consultants,” and we need their help to be solicited and accepted. This is a matter that must be taken seriously.

We would like the OSGA Summer/Winter Games Opening Ceremonies to appear, at the very least, as if they were run by the OSGA. It is the only opportunity for our participants to see and meet our Executive Board members. The input and support of local politicians is essential and appreciated but should not dominate the proceedings.

Districts would like to be informed about all events being offered at the 2025 OSGA Summer Games, including details on divisions (age groups, skill levels, etc.) and the participant caps for each, no later than February 15th. This would give districts enough time to plan their qualifying events and ensure participants are well-informed.

B. Proposal for Changes to Age Divisions

A proposal from JueMeili (District 15) was presented to align age divisions with the Canada Games, suggesting categories such as 55+, 60+, 65+ and so forth.

Discussion: Ideal structure in a perfect competitive scenario. However, many pointed out it would be difficult to implement from the organizer's perspective, as it depends on the sport, participation rates, and whether the host can accommodate.

Summary: The idea is sound, but implementation would be nearly impossible to apply uniformly across all sports. Russell Zavitz advises that situations be handled on a case-by-case basis, allowing for changes to be made as needed.

XI. **Meeting adjourned:** 11:30 am.

Appendix A

Ministry of Sport

Ontario Senior Games Association:
Annual General Meeting 2024

Ministry of Sport
September 24, 2024



Overview

1. NEW Ministry of Sport
2. Ontario 55+ Games Updates
3. 2025 Ontario 55+ Summer Games



Ministry Update

- As of June 6, 2024, now the **NEW Ministry of Sport**
- Minister: The Honourable Neil Lumsden
- Deputy Minister: Keith Palmer

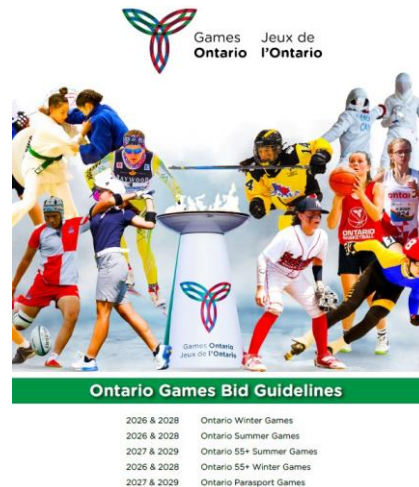


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2026-2029 Ontario Bid Guidelines

- In June 2024, the ministry released its next set of bid guidelines
- Guidelines included updates for the Ontario 55+ Games structure to enhance participation at the Games
- Changes reflect feedback from the 55+ community and Hosts



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Ontario 55+ Games Updates

- Participation fee will decrease from the previous \$199
- Participants given flexibly to make own arrangements for the Games that will meet their preferences and needs for the following:

Accommodations	Transportation	Food Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will arrange and pay for accommodations of their choosing • Participants can select their preferred accommodation or stay at home (if possible) • Host will work to arrange room blocks that participants may choose to use to provide the best rates and will include a variety of options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host will provide <i>some</i> internal transportation services from central locations (hotels) to Opening Ceremony, sport venues and Middle Night • Participants will have the flexibility to use their own transportation, if preferred • Existing External Travel Subsidy will still be available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host will provide <i>some</i> meal services at sport venues and at night (all lunches (2) and 1 dinner) • Dinner will be provided on Opening Ceremony or Middle Night (pending Host's planning) • Participants can select their preferred meal options when not at sport venues

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2025 Ontario 55+ Summer Games

- Host city announcement will be coming soon.
- 2025 will adopt the new Games format for Accommodations, Transportation, and Food Services
- More information to come!
- Questions?



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