

Districts Policy

Background

The OSGA 55+ (Ontario Senior Games Association) strives to promote an active living lifestyle for older adults (55+) in Ontario. It is the view of the OSGA that older adults will become involved when friendly levels of competition are maintained. OSGA 55+ programs were designed and continue to evolve, to meet the ever-changing needs of our participants.

District Definition – Districts are geographical areas that are defined by the OSGA within Ontario where participants can play in games, tournaments, and events. District boundaries generally follow city or county lines. There are more than 30 districts grouped into 5 regions: Northern, Eastern, Central, South Central and South Western.

Participant Eligibility

1. To be eligible to participate in OSGA 55+ events you must be a resident of Ontario, a current member of the organization (April 1st to March 31st) and must be of age (55+, 65+, 75+, etc.) or older by midnight December 31st in the year of competition.
Participants must limit their competition to one District (based on their residency called their “Home District”) for each set of Games (summer or winter)
2. Participants may only represent the District in which they participated in and qualified for , to compete at the Regional and/or Ontario 55+ Games , with priority to be given to the winners of your District Games, in order of how they finish and based on their desire to move on to the next level. Please see below for District Exceptions: Participation.
3. Participants may enter more than one event/category at the District level at the discretion of the District Committee.
4. Participants may only enter one event/category at the Regional and/or Ontario 55+ Games.

Adherence to OSGA Brand: also see Brand Guideline

The OSGA 55+ approved logo should be used on all materials associated with OSGA operations (District, Regional, Ontario 55+ Games, etc.). The approved logo will be made available on the OSGA website.

Member District Responsibilities

5. It is expected that each Member District shall, in order to remain in good standing:

- a. Elect/appoint a responsible Committee/Board with a minimum of 4 members: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary & District Liaison, and as many others as needed to manage operations.

Maintain good relations and communication, as necessary, with the OSGA head office by the District Liaison.

Have at least ten (10) Paid participants of OSGA by May 1st each year.

Sign annually (April 1st to March 31st), the “**District Membership Agreement**”. (Refer to Bylaws – Article II: membership and as outlined in this policy

Host at least one (1) District event.

6. Additionally Member Districts should expect to:

- a. Organize and operate District Games on an annual basis (Summer, Winter or combined) or jointly host events with a neighbouring district.
- b. Manage the finances of the District:
 - Maintain an independent bank account with three signing officers with any two officers signing all cheques (signees may not have a personal connection such as spouses, family, etc.) New bank accounts need to be able to accept e-transfers in. It is recommended that all transfers out of the account be by cheque, for accountability.
 - Treasurer will report regularly to the Committee/Board and maintain a record of all revenues/expenses.
 - Treasurer will prepare the OSGA “District Financial Report” & submit it through the District Liaison to the OSGA 55+ Office annually. <https://osga55plus.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/58cc816c7889a.pdf>
- c. Ensure that all participants in their events are current (i.e. Paid) members of OSGA. All are encouraged to join & renew online with credit card or e-transfer payments directly to OSGA through the iMembers database. Districts may elect to accept payment on behalf of individuals and forward that payment to OSGA on the participant’s behalf.
- d. Facilitate the online registration of all participants, or collect paper registration forms and waivers & input that information into iMembers, on behalf of their participants. Paper waivers will be mailed to the OSGA office where they will be stored, physically or electronically.
- e. Send representation at the District’s expense, in person or online, to the OSGA 55+ Annual General Meeting. Each district will be allotted one vote, probably the District Liaison.
- f. Hold any/all event(s) or activity based on local interest, but the use of OSGA rules for events is encouraged. Events offered at Ontario 55+ Games are determined by the host Games Operating Committee (GOC). All aspects of these Games are under the control of the GOC with courtesy

input only, from OSGA. Regardless of the district event format, all events in the Ontario 55+ Games will be at the discretion of the GOC.

Summer: <https://osga55plus.ca/rules-summer/>

Winter: <https://osga55plus.ca/rules-winter/x>

- g. Appoint a leader for their delegation to the Ontario 55+ Games, probably the District Liaison. That person will maintain contact with the host GOC to ensure timely registration of their participants. They will monitor registrations and authorize substitutions, as permitted, after the closing deadline. During the Games, districts are encouraged to establish and maintain contact with their participants. In the event of injury or dispute or other incident, participants should have a hotline number to call; and a representative of OSGA should be on hand to provide assistance, but all participants are on their own.
[On behalf of D30 – we send 120+ participants to the Ontario Games. We all play. Given the new funding formula, it would cost us \$500+ to transport and house a non-playing rep whose sole duty is to wait for mishap (if we could find a volunteer). They wouldn't likely know the injured party. They couldn't possibly know the rules for every event, and so would likely be ineffective. In case of injury, there should be support staff on hand; and partner or teammate would be more help than a stranger. And the burden would be even greater for a small district delegation.]

Districts should also be aware of the following policies:

- h. Where an event was not held due to a lack of sufficient participants, the district may name individuals or a team to represent the district in any event.
- i. Districts that enter teams (e.g., hockey, volleyball, slo-pitch, etc.) in Regional and/or Ontario 55+ Games, must provide proof that a tournament was held or at least offered (e.g., an event date/venue was booked and promoted on your District Games Registration Form). If a District does not meet these criteria, the OSGA will move to a District that does until the cap is met. If the cap is not met, the OSGA will fill all remaining entries based on the first come first serve basis criteria.
- j. Districts are discouraged from offering cash prizes to the winners.
- k. Districts may not permit Senior Centre Staff/Municipality Staff to have voting rights at meetings.
- l. Districts are prohibited from applying for a Liquor License under the OSGA and/or District name. Districts that choose to serve Alcohol at activities such as banquets or luncheons must have a 3rd party company handle the Liquor License.
- m. OSGA Staff/Board are ex-officio members of all District Committees and will be permitted to attend all District meetings, games, activities, etc.

Combined District Events

- 7. These combined District events can be used as qualifiers for either Regional or Ontario 55+ Games (Open/Invitational events are not considered qualifiers).
Districts may for various reasons hold a combined event with a bordering district (e.g. to make an event more viable)
- 8. The host district will post the event online for “Multi-District” registration. Applicable fees will be collected with registration. Each district will handle its own paper registrations, if any. Participants from the districts would be eligible to play and would represent their own district during the event as well the

highest placing participants for each district would be considered winners for their District. Invitation to Ontario 55+ Games will still be subject to caps and lotteries, and are determined by the Provincial Games GOC.

District Startup

9. The OSGA is subject to the Bylaws – Article II: Membership whereby sections relate to Member Districts (refer to sections Membership Categories 2.1, 2.2 and Admission of Members 2.3) as well as the conditions of District standing in para 6 above.
10. The OSGA will offer funding assistance up to \$500.00 when funds are available, and at the discretion of the Board.
11. The OSGA will forward any funds being held In Trust to the new committee.

OSGA Board/Staff will provide support to Member Districts as follows:

- a. appropriate liability insurance coverage for committees and volunteers;
- b. liaison for Member Districts to the applicable Ministry and other funding organizations;
- c. access to online resources, such as iMembers registration & communication database, webpages for public as well as “members only”, admin training, standardized rules for sanctioned events, and logistical support by office staff 5 days per week.
- d. Group promotions & advertising
- e. Contact information for all other districts.
- f. Invitation to Ontario 55+ Summer/winter Games, Canada 55+ Games, and Regional Games

Districts in Difficulty

12. The OSGA is subject to the Bylaws – Article II: Membership whereby sections related to Member Districts (refer to sections Withdrawal and Termination of Membership 2.7, 2.8, 2.9 and Good Standing 2.10, 2.11)
13. When a Member District has been named “not in good standing” it is understood that district activities and events cannot be recognized, and participants will not be permitted to enter Regional and/or Ontario 55+ Games.
14. Member Districts deemed “not in good standing” are required to submit to the OSGA 55+ Office in a timely manner outlined by the OSGA Board all files, records, and money to be held “In Trust” until at such time as a new Member District is formed.
15. For participants in Districts that are in good standing but not hosting any events, refer to (1. Participation under Exceptions below). In situations where Districts are defunct or not in good standing, participants from those “home” Districts are able participate in neighbouring District events but not represent their home District in Provincial or Canada Games. (Refer to Exception #3 below)

District Boundaries

16. The OSGA will consider applications for Member District realignment based on but not limited to geographic isolation, population, municipal boundary changes, etc. (“political disagreements” among residents will not be considered).
17. All applications must provide proof that a new Member District can be viable by indicating population numbers, funding sources, event locations, etc. as well as proposed boundaries, committee structure and

district name.

18. Upon receipt of an application, the OSGA Board will review and make all decisions related to realignment in the best interest of the area.

Affiliated Community Organizations

19. A community organization is a local group (e.g., 55+ sport/social club) showing interest in the OSGA 55+ program.
20. The community organization may apply to the Member District for recognition as an “affiliated organization.”
 - a. The Community Organization will recognize, support, and promote the OSGA 55+ program.
21. The Member District will set out the conditions of affiliation as pertaining to their District.
22. The Member District will provide the Community Organization a letter (copy to OSGA office) indicating acceptance and will outline all conditions of acceptance:
 - a. Including operating under the Member District name as well as their own,
 - b. Having all members of the Community Organization sign an OSGA waiver form each year,
 - c. The OSGA will provide insurance coverage under its policy if needed.

District Exceptions : *identify contexts and circumstances that this policy can be altered or modified.*

Participation

1. In the case that your home district that is in good standing (if not, refer to #3 below) and does not host events or have any involvement in OSGA activities, participants may register in a neighbouring District that borders your “Home District”. Registration may be either as an individual and/or team. Districts accepting participants from outside their District must confirm with the participants “Home District” they are eligible. District Liaison may approve of all participants. Any questions involving participation can be directed to the OSGA.
2. A participant who qualifies for Provincial or Canada Games can only represent their “Home District”. In the case of eligibility in Provincial Games, if participants from a neighbouring district win or qualify, they do not take eligible spots from the host district, therefore those who are considered to be in the “Home district” fill all eligible spots in that sport/activity.
3. In the event of a participant that resides in a District that has not been in good standing for two (2) or more years, they must receive written approval from the host District coordinator and OSGA Head Office to participate in Provincial or Canada Games.