

NAIG Governing Rules

Introduction

The following handbook is a technical resource summarizing the policies and procedures to be implemented in the operation of the North American Indigenous Games. These Guidelines have been established by the North American Indigenous Games Council to insure the continuity of each event in the professional operation of the Games. It is the responsibility of the Host Society and participating teams to strictly adhere to each of the policies as outlined, unless otherwise approved by the Council.

Policy and Procedures

1.0 Team Representation

All teams participating in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) must represent the Indigenous nations of a Province/Territory in Canada, or a State in the United States of America.

2.0 Eligibility

2.1 Indigenous Ancestry:

All athletes competing in the NAIG must be born of North American Indigenous ancestry. All participants must make proof of ancestry available. The following will be accepted as proof of ancestry.

Canada:

Treaty/Status Card, First Nations Card, Inuit and Inuvait identification or Provincial Metis Card.

United States

Tribal Card, or Bureau of Indian Affairs Card

If none of the above applied (ie, no status Indians) a Declaration of Indigenous Ancestry must be complete by the athlete, submitted to the team and endorsed by the team Chef de Mission. If a protest is lodged against such a participant, the Declaration accompanied with all relevant proof of ancestry (ie birth certificate, Tribal/Band letters, and all other pertinent documents) must be presented by the team on behalf of the athlete, as proof of their ancestry.

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2.2 Age Classification

The NAIG has established four (4) competitive age classifications, which are determined by the athlete's **year of Birth**. They are as follows:

In the Junior category, there are three (3) classifications, which include athletes who are 13 to 19 years of age.

1. 13 – 14 Years of Age
2. 15 – 16 Years of Age
3. 17 – 19 Years of Age

The Senior category is open to all athletes 20 and over. There is a Masters Category for Golf only, ages 50+.

Age classification is determined by the athlete's year of birth and not their date of birth. Refer to Technical Package for details.

Exceptions to the age group rulings may be made with special requests from the Host Society and upon approval of the NAIG Council.

2.3 Residency

All non-residents are forbidden to try out/ compete for both teams and therefore must submit a Residency Declaration Form identifying the Province/Territory/State that he/she will be trying-out/competing for. This declaration form must be completed and adhere to all registration deadlines (see 9.1). All Provinces/Territories/States affected will be required to receive copies of the applicable Residency Declaration Forms.

a) Student Residency

Individuals attending educational institutions, on a full time basis, outside their Province/Territory/State of permanent residence during the year of the Games, shall be permitted to compete for either Province/Territory/State.

b) Non-Student Residency

Individuals permanently residing in a Province/State or Territory other than their Province/Territory or State of origin, must complete a Residency Declaration form,

2.4 Amateur Status

All athletes participating in the NAIG must be amateur status in the event they are entered/competing in. Each sport will abide by their National Sport Governing Body's definition of an amateur.

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2.5 Single Sport Participant Policy

Athletes participating in the NAIG can only enter/compete in one sporting event.

2.6 Athletes Registering in Older Age Classification

An athlete can only register and compete in an older age classification by first having team Chef de Mission submit An Age Classification Exemption form to the Host Society for consideration by the Chefs de Mission This procedure ensures that moving an athlete up will in no way risk their physical well being. If exemption is granted, the athlete can only compete in that particular age classification and cannot move back down to his/her original age classification during competition. With the exception of track and field, athlete may move up only one age category higher than their own.

NOTE: ***If there is no relay offered in their own age classification or there are insufficient athletes from their age group to form a relay, athletes may move up into an older age classification to participate in a relay. This will not jeopardize their competitive results in individual events at their own classification.

3.0 Standards

Currently, the NAIG operates without minimum competitive standards for entry into the sporting events. At present, the individual team selection process is the only means for ensuring a high level of competition at the Games.

4.0 Team Size

The maximum total Junior contingent (under 20 years of age) of a Provincial, Territorial, or State team participating in the sport component of the Games is five hundred (500) (athletes, coaches, managers, and chaperones). No team is allowed to send more than 500 regardless of their ability to pay for extra team members.

5.0 Chef de Missions

All teams participating in the NAIG must appoint an individual to serve as the Chef de Mission. As the Chef de Mission, he/she will represent the interest of their respective Province/Territory/State at all Chef de Mission meetings. It is the responsibility of the Chef de Mission to ensure that all NAIG information is distributed to their team, staff and the Indigenous communities of their region.

5.1 Chefs de Mission Center:

The Host Society must establish a Chefs de Mission Center in a location central to the Games Venues. This Center will serve as a rallying point for all Chefs de Mission and a communication center for team Mission Staff.

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5.2 Daily Chef de Mission Meetings

It is the responsibility of the Host Society, in their organizational efforts, to host a series of chefs de Mission meetings prior to and during the NAIG. These meetings are held for the following purpose:

Pre Games Organizational Meetings

A series of Chefs de Mission meetings are to be held during the period leading up to the Games. This forum provides Provinces/Territories/States with the opportunity for technical input into the preparation/organization of the NAIG and provides the means for the Host Society to distribute Games information.

Games Meetings - Chef de Mission Committee

Prior to each day of competition, the Host Society will conduct morning Chefs de Mission meetings. These meetings will deal with matters such as athlete eligibility, disciplinary problems, drug or alcohol concerns, as well to allow for the distribution of new information. All decisions specific to Games technical issues will be binding in the operation of the event.

Chefs de Mission will receive all sport technical information at the meeting 3 months before the start of the Games. Chefs will receive all matters as information, in a question and answer format.

6.0 Sports

6.1 Core Sport List

The following sixteen (16) sports have been identified as Core Sports to the NAIG. It is therefore the obligation of the Host Society to offer each of these events at all North American Indigenous Games. Team participation and performance in each of these events will determine the overall team title.

Individual Sports

Archery
Athletics
Badminton
Boxing
Canoeing
Golf
Rifle Shooting
Swimming
Take Kwon Do
Wrestling

Team Sports

Baseball
Basketball
Lacrosse
Soccer
Softball
Volleyball

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6.2 Additions to the Core Sport List:

Additions to the Core Sport List must meet the following criteria:

- A) A new sport can only be introduced into the Games as a Trial Sport through application and approval by the NAIG Council
- B) A new sport can only replace a current sport on the Core Sport List by exceeding its participation levels at the NAIG.
- C) The NAIG Council must approve this replacement.

6.3 Removing a Core Sport

Removing a sport(s) from the Core sport List can only be performed by the NAIG Council. Removal would be based on inadequate participation levels and/or by substituting a current sport with a new sport (introduced to the NAIG through the procedure outlined in 6.2.

The NAIG Council Technical Committee evaluates sports/competition and is tasked to recommend eliminating sports, changing sports, and/or adding sports. The maximum number of sports included in NAIG will remain at 16. Items to be considered in the evaluation include: the cost of the event to the Host Society, the cost of the event to participants, the level of team participation, the number and ages of competitors

Lacrosse, Archery and Canoeing, as competitive sports traditional to Indigenous peoples, are exempt from elimination based on minimum participation levels or substitution.

7.0 Trial Sports

Trial Sports are new sports introduced into the Games, on a trial basis, in effort to have them considered for Core Sport status. A sport can only be introduced as a Trial Sport through application and approval by the NAIG Council. See section 6.2 for further details.

Trial Sports will have full competition status and therefore results will count towards the overall team title standings.

8.0 Demonstration Sports

Demonstration Sports are offered in recognition/appreciation of Traditional Games of the various Indigenous Nations of North American. Demonstration Sports are profiled in an exhibition capacity held in conjunction with the NAIG Cultural Festival. Any Province/Territory/State that wishes to promote a demonstration sport can do so through application to the Host Society.

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9.0 Registration

9.1 Registration Deadlines:

- 6 Months prior to games start – submission of overall team numbers and 50% of registration fees
- 4 Months prior to games start – submission of team **broken down** by sport, gender and age categories and remaining 50% of registration fees
- 21 Days prior to games start – submission of final rosters (names) with no option of changes past this date (except for extenuating circumstances, such as family or medical emergencies).

Variance

- A 10% variance DOWN will be allowed between the first and second deadline, with reimbursement provided within the 10% change
- A 10% variance UP will be dealt with between the Host Society and the NAIG Council – with the Host Society identifying any allowances for variance up within 2 weeks after the conclusion of the 4 Month deadline

9.2 Registration Fee:

The amount of the Registration fee is to be set through consultation and agreement between the Host Society and the NAIG Council. The set amount is to be based on the presentation and approval of the Host Society's Baseline Budget. Major consideration is to be given to the Host Society's revenue base, balanced with the understanding that the fee should not be cost prohibitive to participants.

9.3 Deadline Enforcement

All necessary Registration Forms accompanied by the Registration Fee must be submitted to the Host Society by the established deadline dates. A post office stamp or couriers invoice will be accepted as proof of meeting the deadline. Deadlines are to be strictly enforced by the Host Society without intervention from Chefs de Mission or the NAIG Council. Should any team miss the established NAIG Council registration deadlines, they will be deemed ineligible for that NAIG. All fees paid up to that time are considered non-refundable. Those teams who do not meet all of the deadline criteria (completed forms and fees) will not be eligible to compete at the NAIG. A report outlining both the teams who met the deadlines and those who did not, must be presented to the Chefs de Mission and the NAIG Council.

10.0 Technical Package

The NAIG Council is responsible for the creation and distribution of the NAIG Technical Package and will prepare a standardized form for consistent use over the years.

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This package must be comprehensive, providing teams with specific information on competition in each of the NAIG sport venues.

The Technical Package shall include the following information:

- The rules and regulations specific to each sport event
- All pertinent “Declaration “ forms
- Registration Forms

11.0 International Event sanctioning

All events at the NAIG must be sanctioned as International competitions through the host countries national sport governing bodies. International rules and regulations will apply to all aspects of competition, taking precedent over any domestically recognized rules and regulations.

12.0 Drug and Alcohol Policy

The NAIG is a drug and alcohol free event. For this reason, Host Societies are strictly forbidden from acquiring sponsorship from alcohol and tobacco companies.

The North American Indigenous Games Council wholly embraces the ethics of fair play in sport by unequivocally opposing any behavior deemed unethical, this includes the use of substances and methods banned by the international sport community.

12.1 Doping Controls/Drug Testing

All Games will implement an anti-doping campaign to educate participants on the negative impacts of banned substances. Random drug testing may be conducted at the games using methods as established by the International Olympic Committee. Subsequent disciplinary action is determined by the **NAIG Council**.

Any participants found to be guilty of a doping related infraction (as determined by drug testing procedures) or under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol during an event will be immediately suspended from participation in the NAIG. The NAIG Council will determine subsequent disciplinary action for an infraction. In making a decision, this Committee will be guided by holistic healing principles traditional to Indigenous peoples, while abiding by all rules and regulations governing suspensions related to doping infractions, as established by the International sport community.

Competitive results from the date a positive sample is collected shall be invalidated (individual and team events would be similarly affected). Sport scoring and team rankings will be adjusted accordingly and placing and awards shall be re-awarded as required.

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Note: The Host Society is responsible for providing each team with the most up to date List of Banned substances as established by the International Olympic Committee.

13.0 Racism and Harassment Policy

As a sporting event that celebrates the vast cultural diversity of the Indigenous nations of North America, the North American Indigenous Games vehemently opposes all conduct/behavior that is discriminatory. The Games will not tolerate any form of racial (Indigenous and non Indigenous alike) cultural, sexual, religious discrimination, disability discrimination or harassment from participants. For this reason, each Games will be designated a “Racist/Harassment Free Zone.”

The NAIG Council will deal with any action or expression of a discriminatory nature swiftly and accordingly.

14.0 Coaching Standards

All coaches must meet the predetermined coaching standards set for each set of Games. These standards are to be set through consultation and agreement between the Host Society and the NAIG Council.

(Note: The NAIG council will explore the long term feasibility of implanting standardized certification which may include the use of the ASC’s Aboriginal Coaching Manual curriculum.)

15.0 Insurance

The Host Society must carry both accident and liability insurance that provides coverage for both themselves and all participants (athletes, mission staff, coaching staff, managers, chaperones, cultural contingents, etc.) during the operation of the NAIG.

To further protect participants, all Provincial/Territorial/State teams should carry additional accident/health insurance for each team member. This coverage is in addition to any Provincial/Territorial/State Health Care Program and must span from the period of time that the teams departs for the Games, through to their return home.

16.0 Uniforms

16.1 Team Uniforms

Every Provincial/Territorial/State contingent participating in the NAIG must have a team uniform. This uniform is to be worn by all team members. The display of team uniforms is critical to the “Parade of athletes” in the opening and closing ceremonies. Traditional regalia is encouraged at the Parade of Athletes, otherwise all athletes must be dressed in their Team uniforms.

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16.2 Competition Uniforms

All participants must comply with the rules relating to competition uniforms as outlined in the Technical Package.

17.0 Awards

17.1 Event Awards

Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers of every event (age classifications and Gender).

17.2 Overall Team Title

A trophy will be awarded to the Province/Territory/State that is declared the winner of the overall NAIG Team Title as identified through the final Team Standings. Team Standings are determined by the aggregated results of all sporting events. Competition scoring for each sport is outlined the Technical package.

17.3 Honorary Awards:

Any awards to be named after, or presented in honour of an individual must be sanctioned by the NAIG Council. Any Province/Territory/State that wants to establish an Honorary Award must do so through application to the Council. Any Honorary Awards are to be permanent fixtures of the NAIG.

a) John Fletcher Spirit Award

The John Fletcher Spirit Award is presented to the contingent that demonstrates the spirit of teamwork, fair play, respect and integrity throughout the North American Indigenous Games competition week.

18.0 Results

The Host Society will provide up to date competitive results from every sport venue on a daily basis. To distribute those results, a results center must be established that provides printed copies of results and Team Standings to the chefs de Mission. In addition, results must be displayed for viewing by coaches, athletes and spectators in a central results area established at each sport venue.

19.0 Formal Protest Procedures

19.1 Sport Jury of Appeal Committee

There will be a Sport Jury of Appeal Committee appointed for each of the sports. If the protest involves the delegation of 1 member of the Jury they shall remove themselves from the decision making process. This Sport Jury will deal with any protests / disputes /

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results from the previous day's competition, and written appeals relating to matters of the Rules and Regulations of the Sport, signed by the Head Coach and any one member of the Mission Staff or Chef de Mission. Any decisions of the Sport Jury of Appeal are final. Jury of Appeal cases will be accompanied by a \$250.00 fee (currency of the Host Society) only refunded if the appeal is won.

20.0 Opening and Closing ceremonies

The Host Society must provide both opening and closing ceremonies for the Games. These ceremonies must center on the "Parade of Athletes" and organized with the full participation of the Province/Territory/State teams foremost in mind. For this reason, the operation of all competition venues must be suspended at least 2 hours prior to the ceremonies.

21.0 Sport Competition Format:

There will be no walk-over medals awarded

Individual sport competition format is listed specifically by sport.

There is a minimum requirement of three (3) teams in a Team Sports (Baseball, Basketball, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball) in order for the competition to continue.

There is a minimum requirement of two (2) competitors in the combative sports (Tae Kwon Do, Wrestling and Boxing) in order for the competition to continue.

There is a minimum requirement of three (3) competitors in all other individual sports (Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Canoeing, Golf, Rifle Shooting and Swimming).

NOTE: If under extenuating circumstances, only two competitors show up at the time of the event, the competition will be held and medals awarded (no walk-overs).

In the event of the competition being cancelled in that division, the team has the option of moving up a division to compete, only if that Province/State/Territory does not have a competitor already in that division.