

NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

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Registration Open for the World's Largest Senior Sports and Recreation Competition for Military Veterans

INDIANAPOLOIS – Registration for the 22nd National Veterans Golden Age Games, the largest senior sports event for U.S. military veterans, is open now through June 1, 2008. The event will be held August 20 – 24, 2008, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Games are co-sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Help Hospitalized Veterans and Veterans Canteen Service. The event encourages veterans age 55 and older to make physical activity a central part of their lives, and support VA's comprehensive recreation and rehabilitation therapy programs. It is a national showcase for the preventive and therapeutic value of sports, fitness and recreation in the lives of all older Americans. Participation is open to U.S. military service veterans who receive health care at any VA medical facility. In 2004, the annual event became a qualifier for the National Senior Games, a partner in the U. S. Olympics Committee, allowing veterans to take their competitive achievements to an even higher level.

At the Golden Age Games, competitive events include swimming, bicycling, golf, shot-put, discus, table tennis, 10-meter air rifle, dominoes, shuffleboard, horseshoes, nine-ball, bowling, checkers, and croquet. Each event has seven age categories for participation: 55-59; 60-64; 65-69; 70-74; 75-79; 80-84; and 85 and up. Additionally, veterans with visual impairments and those who use wheelchairs may compete in the visually impaired or wheelchair divisions.

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2/2/2/2 Registration Opens for National Veterans Golden Age Games

Events will be held throughout the Indianapolis community, including the Indianapolis Convention Center, Major Taylor Velodrome, American Legion Mall, and the Michael A. Carroll track and field facility at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis.

To obtain a registration package, contact Julie Jackson, Registration Coordinator for the Golden Age Games, at (317) 988-2747. On-line registration will soon be available as well at: <u>www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov</u>. Organizations wishing to become sponsors of this inspiring event may contact Linda Jeffrey, Local Games Coordinator at (317) 988-4475.

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For more information about the National Veterans Golden Age Games, or to follow the events as they happen, visit the Games Web site at <u>www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov</u>

