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**USA Masters Games to Be Held Annually, Starting with San Diego 2017**

**San Diego, CA (October 20, 2016):** Due to popular demand by athletes and advanced preparations by the San Diego Local Organizing Committee, the next edition of the USA Masters Games will be held in 2017 in San Diego. The Games are planned to be conducted annually thereafter.

The USA Masters Games, the National Sports Festival for Adult Athletes, is a multi-sport event for competitors aged 21 and over. While the focus is on U.S. athletes, international participants are welcome. The first-ever USA Masters Games was held in Greensboro, NC, July 21-31, 2016, with over 2,500 competitors, hailing from 6 continents and 45 U.S. states.

At the conclusion of the Closing Ceremonies of this year's inaugural USA Masters Games in Greensboro, NC, San Diego was announced as the 2018 host of the Games. "Once we saw the enthusiasm of the athletes participating in our 2016 Games and their very positive surveys came back in support of the Games and the continued growth of the event, we said to ourselves that we need to take advantage of this strong sentiment and momentum for the Masters Games concept sooner rather than later," said, Hill Carrow, CEO of the USA Masters Games. Fortunately San Diego has great breadth and depth when it comes to facilities, sport managers, volunteers, accommodations, and multi-sport experience, and they expressed willingness and excitement for hosting the Games in both 2017 and 2018."

The primary dates of the 2017 USA Masters Games will be Wednesday, July 12 through Sunday, July 16, 2017. Similar to the 2016 Games, there will again be 24 sports in the 2017 USAMG. There are some differences from 2016, though, as next year's event will see Archery, Judo, and Powerlifting included as new sports. The sports of the 2017 USA Masters Games are Archery, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Cycling, Diving, Figure Skating, Ice Hockey, Judo, Pickleball, Powerlifting, Road Racing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Synchro Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Track & Field, Triathlon, Volleyball, Water Polo, and Weightlifting.

“We are very excited to host the USA Masters Games which will leave a lasting legacy in San Diego for hosting more Masters sports events,” said Sandi Hill, Director of the 2017 USAMG Local Organizing Committee, and Executive Director of the California State Games.

In addition to sports competition, the 2017 USA Masters Games will include Opening and Closing Ceremonies, social activities, entertainment events, and even educational programming.

**About the USA Masters Games:** The USA Masters Games is the National Sports Festival for Adult Athletes, ages 21 and over. The Games feature 24 sports, Opening & Closing Ceremonies, Games Village, social activities, and live entertainment. The inaugural USA Masters Games was held Thursday, July 21 to Sunday, July 31, 2016 in Greensboro, NC. Those Games featured 2,545 athletes, ranging in age from 21 to 91, competing in over 400 games events, at 19 venues. Games athletes established 11 new World Records, 15 American Records, 6 Zone Records, and 47 State Records. For more information on the USA Masters Games, visit [www.usamastersgames.com](http://www.usamastersgames.com)

**About the 2017 USA Masters Games:** The 2017 USA Masters Games will be held in the city of San Diego, California, July 12-16, 2017. The Games will include 24 sports staged at venues throughout the Greater San Diego area. Opening Ceremonies will take place at Qualcomm Stadium. The 2017 Games Local Organizing Committee is a collaborative effort among the California State Games, the San Diego Tourism Authority, and the San Diego Exploratory Foundation. For more information on the 2017 USA Masters Games, visit [www.usamastersgames.com](http://www.usamastersgames.com).