

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 identification or Provincial Metis 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.

United States

NAIG Governing Rules

Tribal Card, or Bureau of Indian Affairs Card

2.2 Age Classification

The NAIG has established five (5) competitive age classifications, which are determined by the athlete's year of Birth. They are as follows:

In the Junior category, there are four (4) classifications, which include athletes who are 13 to 21 years of age.

1. Bantam (13 and 14 year olds)
2. Midget (15 and 16 year olds)
3. Juvenile (17 and 18 year olds)
4. Junior (21, 20 and 19)

The Senior category is open to all athletes 22 and over

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 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.

Full time students are forbidden to try out/ compete for both teams and therefore must submit a Student Residency Declaration Form identifying the Province/Territory/State that he/she will be tryingout/competing for.

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.

2.5 Single Sport Participant Policy

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

NAIG Governing Rules

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 (comprising Bantam, Midget, Juvenile and Junior in the age classifications) of a Provincial, Territorial, or State team participating in the sport component of the Games is five hundred (500) (athletes, coaches, managers, and chaperones). Any team exceeding the maximum will not be provided the core services of food, accommodations, and transportation for the number of participants over the 500 maximum. Teams would therefore be responsible for providing alternative arrangements for the additional Junior 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:

NAIG Governing Rules

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.

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 Appeals Committee

Prior to each day of competition, the Host Society will conduct morning Chefs de Mission meetings. These meetings will deal with any disputes /results from the previous day's competition, and written appeals concerning 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.

6.0 Core 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

Team Sports

Baseball
Basketball
Lacrosse

NAIG Governing Rules

Boxing	Soccer
Canoeing	Softball
Golf	Volleyball
Rifle Shooting	
Swimming	
Take Kwon Do	
Wrestling	

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.

Lacrosse, as a competitive sport traditional to Indigenous peoples, is 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

NAIG Governing Rules

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.

9.0 Registration

9.1 Registration Deadlines:

The registration deadline is set jointly by the Host Society and the NAIG Council at a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 6 months prior to the starting date of the NAIG.

9.2 Registration Fee:

The amount of the Registration fee is to be set through consultation and consensus 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. 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 Host Society is responsible for the creation and distribution of the NAIG Technical Package. 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:

NAIG Governing Rules

- 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 2002 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 test for banned substances and methods as established by the International Olympic Committee. Random drug testing may be conducted at the Games. Any drug testing will be conducted in accordance with the internationally recognized drug testing body of each country. Games hosted in Canada shall follow the policies and procedures established by the Canadian Center for Drug Free Sport. Games hosted in the United States of America shall follow the policies and procedures established by the United States Olympic Committee.

Any athlete 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 2002 NAIG. The NAIG Council Disciplinary Committee 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.

NAIG Governing Rules

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 Disciplinary Committee 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.

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 2002 NAIG.

To further protect participants, all Provincial/Territorial/State teams must 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 depart 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.

16.2 Competition Uniforms

NAIG Governing Rules

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) provided there are a minimum of three participants/teams competing in the event.

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 in the Technical package.

17.3 Honorary Awards:

Any awards to be named after, or presented in honour of an individual must be designated by the NAIG Council. Any Province/Territory/State that wants to establish an Honorary Award must do so through application to the Council. There will be a maximum of one (1) Honorary Award designated per NAIG. Any Honorary Awards are to be permanent fixtures of the NAIG.

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, only in writing, relating to matters of the Rules and Regulations of the Sport, signed by either the head coach, mission staff, or chef

NAIG Governing Rules

de mission. Any decisions of the Sport Jury of Appeal are final. Jury of Appeal cases will be accompanied by a \$50.00 (Cdn) fee 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:

A. Competition Format for Team Sports

(Baseball, Basketball, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball)

- 1) If there is 1 team per division the event will be cancelled in that division, but the team has the option of moving up a division to compete.
- 2) If there are two teams in a division - format is best of three matches for championship (2 out of 3 competitions)
- 3) If there are three teams in a division - simple round robin - then top 2 teams play for gold and silver (4 competitions)
- 4) If there are four teams in a division - single round robin - top 2 teams play for gold and silver, teams 3 and 4 play for bronze. (8 competitions)
- 5) If there are five teams in a division - single round robin - top 2 teams play for gold and silver, teams 3 and 4 play for bronze. (12 competitions)
- 6) If there are six teams in a division - 2 pools of 3 round robin - semi finals, 1st pool A vs 2nd pool B and 1st pool B vs 2nd pool A, final winners for gold and silver losers for bronze (10 competition)
- 7) If there are seven teams in a division - 2 pools (1 of 3 and 1 of 4) round robin in the pools, semi finals 1st pool A vs 2nd Pool B and 1st Pool B vs 2nd Pool A . Final winners for gold and silver, losers for bronze. (13 competitions)
- 8) If there are eight teams in a division - 2 pools of 4 round robin, semi finals, 1st pool A vs 2nd Pool B and 1st Pool B vs 2nd Pool A. Final winners for gold and silver, losers for bronze. (16 competitions)

NAIG Governing Rules

9) If there are nine teams in a division - 2 pools (1 of 4 and 1 of 5) semi finals, 1st Pool A vs 2nd pool B, 1st Pool B vs 2nd Pool A. Final winners for gold and silver, losers for bronze. (20 games)

10) If there are ten teams in a division - 2 pools of 5 ,semi finals, 1st Pool A vs 2nd pool B, 1st Pool B vs 2nd Pool A. Final winners for gold and silver, losers for bronze. (24 games)