



Get your Games on!

For Immediate Release

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It's tryout time in the Peace country!

Throughout May and June, athletes aged 11 – 17 will be honing their skills and giving their all to earn their chance to represent Zone 8 at the 2010 Alberta Summer Games.

For some, this may be their only chance to take part in a multi-sport competition in their hometown, in front of their family and friends.

The Summer Games will feature 15 sports, played in venues spread over the ten partner municipalities: Berwyn, Falher, Grimshaw, Manning, Nampa, Peace River, Northern Sunrise County, County of Northern Lights, Municipal District of Peace and Municipal District of Smoky River.

Summer Games Sport Director Janet Fairless is looking forward to welcoming more than 3,000 athletes, coaches and officials to this region for seven days of competition and she wants to encourage anyone who is interested to get their names in for their sport. She said her son played inline hockey at the Summer Games in Red Deer in 2006 and the only thing he regretted was not trying out for the Games when he was younger.

"It was very exciting for him," she said. "He loved the experience, the atmosphere in the athletes' village, the cultural activities and playing on a team with kids he'd never met before."

But registration deadlines are approaching fast so if you want to play, you need to sign up now!

Water Polo

Water polo is basically basketball in a pool, where teams attempt to make as many baskets as possible while making their way through the water. The water polo competitions will take place July 22 – 25 and will be split between the Peace Regional Pool and the Grimshaw Pool. The registration deadline is June 9, tryout location to be announced. Contact Alberta Water Polo at 403-652-7723 or e-mail office@albertawaterpolo.ca.

Beach Volleyball

Fairless is excited to see Beach Volleyball coming to the Games as she hopes to get lots of people in this area interested in the sport. The Beach Volleyball competition goes July 19-22, with games split between Peace River High School and T.A. Norris Junior High School. The registration deadline for tryouts is June 7, tryouts go June 19. Contact Carrie Fedun at 403-415-1703 or e-mail cfedun@albertavolleyball.com.

Swimming

Swimming, which takes place at the Peace Regional Pool July 19 – 22, is the only one of the Summer Games' 15 sports that will have a competition for disabled athletes. Swimmers must register by June 1, with tryouts scheduled for June 13 at the Leisure Centre in Grande Prairie. Contact Dean Carty at 780-897-7161 or e-mail gppmm@telus.net.

Softball

Manning is proud to be hosting softball for boys and girls at their brand new diamonds, located on the north end of town. Softball competition takes place July 22 – 25. For girls, tryouts take place May 8 in Peace River and May 29 in Fairview. Deadline to register is May 8. Contact Kelli Reinders at 780-423-6627 or e-mail kelli@ualberta.ca. For boys, the registration deadline is May 8. Tryouts take place May 8 in Grimshaw and May 29 in Manning. Contact Eric Henitiuk at 780-836-3537 or e-mail hsharon@telus.net.

Soccer

Soccer will be played July 22 – 25 at four different fields in Peace River. There will be competitions for boys and for girls. Tryouts for soccer take place May 29 at Rotary Fields in Grande Prairie. Contact Chris Spiadel at 780-513-9525 or e-mail chrisgpsa@telus.net.

Rugby

According to Mike Shelley, Rugby Development Co-ordinator for Rugby Alberta, his sport is growing by leaps and bounds in Canada, particularly among girls. Canada is currently ranked 4th in the world for women's rugby; the Canadian men are ranked 12th. He explained that Rugby 7's – an abbreviated version of the sport that involves seven players per side rather than the traditional 15 – will be an Olympic sport at the Summer Games in Rio in 2016 and that it is gaining in popularity all over the world. Asked what it is about the sport that appeals to young girls in particular, he said it's the sheer physicality of the game.

"Rugby is very competitive," he said. "It's a very physical sport, lots of collisions and there are really no restrictions in terms of body size or type. Anyone can play."

He added that rugby also involves a lot of running and a chance to show off ball skills and is just a good physical contest all around.

Rugby will be played in Berwyn, July 19 – 22, at Lloyd Garrison School. Registration and tryout information is still to be determined, but Shelley said it will be updated on line as soon as it's available. The contact for girls rugby is Sandra Scott-Wilkes – ss_wilkes@yahoo.ca. The contact for boys rugby is Dave Logan – daloganator@hotmail.com.

Lacrosse

Lacrosse – now officially listed as Canada's national summer sport – has also been growing in Alberta with the fairly recent addition of professional teams in Calgary and Edmonton. According to the Lacrosse Association website, lacrosse is also known to be the first sport played in Canada, having been started by native tribes in the St. Lawrence area long before the first Europeans arrived. For the Summer Games, lacrosse will be played at the Nampa Arena from July 22 – 25. Competitors must register by May 3 and tryouts will take place May 29 and 30 in Grande Prairie. Contact Brad Schafer at 780-814-9334 or e-mail bj2004@telus.net.

Inline hockey

Inline hockey is a great way for hockey players to stay involved and interested in their sport in the summer months, Fairless said. It's also one of only three sports that will allow girls to play on the boys teams at the Summer Games, football and lacrosse being the others. Inline hockey will be played in Falher July 19 – 22. The registration deadline is May 27 and tryouts will be held June 5 and 6 in Grande Prairie. Contact Colleen L'Hirondelle at 780-624-1959 or e-mail [colleen,l'hirondelle@gov.ab.ca](mailto:colleen.l'hirondelle@gov.ab.ca).

Football

Football will be played July 22 – 25 at Glenmary High School in Peace River. Registration deadline is May 8 and tryouts go May 8 and 9 in Grande Prairie. Contact Chris Friskie at 780-624-4221 or e-mail friskiec@prsd.ab.ca.

Cycling

Downhill mountain biking is a brand new sport for the Alberta Summer Games. The Games competition will be held July 19 – 22 at Misery Mountain Ski Hill in Peace River. E-mail Pepper Harlton – pepper.live4fun@gmail.com – for registration and tryout information.

BMX, the other cycling sport at these Games, will be played July 22 – 25 at the Peace River Agricultural Society grounds. A new track is being built for the competition, which is a really exciting sport to watch, according to Games co-

ordinator James Bazan. Contact Heather Lothian at 780-427-6352 or e-mail heather@albertabicycle.ab.ca for information on registration and tryouts.

Canoe/Kayak

Canoe/Kayak will offer three very different types of competition: Canoe polo is a cross between kayaking and basketball and will take place at Wilderness Park in the MD of Peace on July 20. Slalom kayaking races will take place on July 21, starting from the West Peace Boat launch. Wildwater races will take place on July 22, also starting from the West Peace Boat Launch. Registration information is available from Chuck Lee, call 403-628-2336 or e-mail chuckle@toughcountry.net.

Basketball

The registration deadline for basketball is May 14 for boys and girls. Tryouts will be held May 15 and 16 and May 29 and 30 in Grande Prairie. Girls contact Cherish Esau at 587-877-2077 or e-mail cherishesau@hotmail.com. Boys contact Robyn Oldham at 780-427-9044 or e-mail doldham@basketballalberta.ab.ca. The Games competition will take place July 22 – 25, split between three schools in Peace River.

Baseball

Baseball will be played at the Grimshaw Ball Diamonds, July 19 - 22. Registration and tryouts will take place June 3 in Grande Prairie. Contact D. Rafferty at 780-624-8429.

Athletics

Athletics – also known as track and field – features a variety of events, including high jump, hurdles, shot put, javelin and more. One of the most exciting things about athletics is the track upgrades planned for the Glenmary track, which will be a legacy of these Games and help to draw future competitions here. Fairless is hoping the upgraded track will allow Peace River to bid on the 2011 Provincial Track and Field Championships.

Athletics competitions for the Games will be played July 19 – 22 at Glenmary and T.A. Norris. The registration deadline is June 12; tryouts will be held June 19 in Grande Prairie. Contact Bill Corcoran at 780-538-2369 or e-mail corcoran@runquick.com.

Registration and tryout information for all Games sports can be found on the Games website: www.2010albertasummerngames.ca.

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ABOUT THE 2010 ALBERTA SUMMER GAMES

On July 19 – 25, 2010, the Peace Country is hosting the 2010 Alberta Summer Games. Over 3,000 athletes, coaches and officials will be visiting the Peace region to participate in Alberta's premier youth sporting event. The communities of Falher, Grimshaw, Manning, Peace River, Berwyn and Nampa, the MDs of Peace No. 135 and Smoky River No. 130, the County of Northern Lights and Northern Sunrise County are playing host to this multi-sport, multi-cultural extravaganza. Let's show these future Olympians some good old-fashioned Peace Country hospitality, in the spirit of the Games—good sportsmanship, competitiveness and camaraderie. For more information on the 2010 Alberta Summer Games, please visit www.2010albertasummernames.ca

Peace, Sport, Spirit