

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions / Participant and Volunteer Questions

Q1: What are the rescheduled dates for the 2023 Saskatchewan Winter Games? A: The Games are now scheduled to run from February 19-25, 2023 in Regina.

Q2: When were the 2022 Saskatchewan Winter Games originally scheduled to occur?

A: The 2022 Saskatchewan Winter Games were originally scheduled to occur in Regina from February 20-26, 2022.

Q3: Why were the 2022 Saskatchewan Winter Games postponed?

A: A decision not to proceed with the February 2022 Games was made under the advice of the Saskatchewan Health Authority due to COVID-19 and rising cases of the Omicron variant. Our decision was made to prioritize the health and safety of participants, and all involved.

Q4: Instead of rescheduling the Saskatchewan Winter Games to next year, why can't the Games still be held in 2022 before the end of winter?

A: The Saskatchewan Games are one of the largest amateur sporting events in Saskatchewan bringing together athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers from every corner of the province. The Games are a weeklong multi-sport event that involve significant logistic management for over 2,000 participants, 1,000 volunteers, and countless sponsors, venues, stakeholders, and supporters. In addition to the Games, there are numerous other events and activities throughout Regina before the end of winter 2022 that effected the availability of venues. Once the decision was made not to proceed in February 2022 the ability to re-arrange months of logistics to host a multi-sport Games prior to the end of this winter, was not possible. February 2023 will allow the ability to properly replan and execute a safe and memorable Games for all involved.

Q5: The new dates of the 2023 Saskatchewan Winter Games now overlap with Phase 1 of the 2023 Canada Winter Games in PEI. Will this cause conflicts for any of the Saskatchewan athletes or coaches?

A: The Canada Games are meant for athletes in the Training to Compete stage of the LTAD which attracts a higher age category and skill level of athlete than the Saskatchewan Games. The date change may cause some conflicts with coaches or technical supports for certain sports, however, the Provincial Sport Organizations are informed and have committed to ensure the 2023 Saskatchewan Games are successful.



Q6: Will all sports who were originally slated to take part in 2022 be participating in the 2023 Saskatchewan Winter Games?

A: The Saskatchewan Games Council has received confirmation from every participating Provincial Sport Organization that they will participate in 2023. The 17 sports participating in the 2023 Saskatchewan Winter Games are Alpine Skiing, Artistic Swimming, Badminton, Biathlon, Cross Country and Para Nordic Skiing, Curling, Figure Skating, Futsal, Gymnastics, Judo, Snowboarding, Special Olympics Bowling, Speed Skating, Table Tennis, Target Shooting, Weightlifting and Wrestling.

Q7: I would have been eligible to qualify and compete as an athlete at the 2022 Saskatchewan Winter Games. Will I still be able to compete in 2023?

A: Many of the sports have expressed interest in adjusting their sport technical packages; however, the eligibility requirements for the 2023 Saskatchewan Winter Games have not yet been confirmed by each <u>Provincial Sport Organization</u>. Once confirmed, the sport technical package may differ by sport. Please reach out to your <u>Provincial Sport Organization</u> with any direct questions on age eligibility. Updated technical packages for each sport will be uploaded to <u>saskgames.ca</u> once available.

Q8: Why can't every athlete who was age-eligible in 2022 still be able to qualify and compete in 2023?

A: The Saskatchewan Winter Games have a specific role within each participating sport's Long-Term Athlete Development Model (LTAD), generally in the LTAD's 'Train to Train' stage of development. Increasing the age for 2023 may alter this alignment with the appropriate athletic stage of development and may interfere with other major competitions and multi-sport games, such as the Canada Games. The eligibility requirements differ by sport, please reach out to your Provincial Sport Organization with any questions.

Q9: When will District Playdowns and qualifying events take place for the 2023 Saskatchewan Winter Games?

A: An updated list of District Playdowns and qualifying events will be made available on <u>saskgames.ca</u>. Dates and locations will begin to be announced in fall/winter 2022.

Q10: I was already selected as a District Team coach for the 2022 Saskatchewan Winter Games. What if I am no longer available to coach in 2023?

A: Please reach out to your <u>Provincial Sport Organization</u> to inquire about your status for next winter and inform them of your availability.



Q11: I've been selected for, or have applied to be, a member of a District Team mission staff at the Winter Games. What if I am no longer available to volunteer as mission staff in 2023, and/or I would like to confirm my commitment for 2023?

A: Please reach out to your District for Sport, Culture and Recreation to inform them of your availability for 2023. A list of contact information for your District <u>can be found here</u>.

Q12: I registered to volunteer in 2022. Will I still be in the system for 2023 or do I need to reapply?

A: All volunteers already registered will remain in the system. In the coming weeks, an email will be sent to all registered volunteers with instructions and updates. Please keep an eye on your spam or junk inbox as some email systems may automatically mark as spam emails from the Saskatchewan Games results and registration system.

Q13: I've signed up as a volunteer for the 2022 Saskatchewan Winter Games, but I don't know if I will be available in February 2023. Who should I contact?

A: We can keep your name in our system, and you will continue to get updates. If you are no longer available, please email <u>volunteers@saskgames.ca</u> and we can remove you from the system.

Q14: Will the current mandatory vaccination and masking policy still be in place for the 2023 Saskatchewan Winter Games?

A: The Saskatchewan Games Council will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and seek guidance from the appropriate health authorities moving forward in 2023. All changes to the Sask Games policies will be communicated at the appropriate time.

Q15: What if the current pandemic situation does not improve, and hosting the Games in 2023 is also not a safe possibility?

A: The Saskatchewan Games Council and the Regina Host Committee will continue to closely monitor the developments related to COVID-19 and are committed to keeping all stakeholders informed and safe. The Saskatchewan Games Council continues to engage with partners and stakeholders while seeking guidance from the appropriate health authorities regarding the ability to move forward in 2023.