



# MEDIA RELEASE



## 2022 Palm Desert Senior Games & International Sports Festival cancelled due to increase in COVID-19 cases

Palm Desert, California (January 12, 2022) – The 2022 Palm Desert Senior Games & International Sports Festival (the Games) hosted by Desert Recreation District and the City of Palm Desert, which had been scheduled for February 1 – 6, 2022 and were to include individual sports such as pickleball, track and field events, table tennis, 9-hole golf, 3-point basketball, and team events including volleyball, soccer, softball, and 3 on 3 basketball, has been cancelled.

This decision was not made lightly, and the hosts apologize for any disappointment the athletes who compete, some year after year, and volunteers, staff, spectators, and sponsors may feel; however, due to the rapid rise in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks and days, it is believed that in the best interest of public safety, the most prudent course of action is to cancel this year's games, especially in light of the vulnerable group who were registered to compete.



Desert Recreation District had sent out a survey to registered participants last week to gauge the athlete's comfort level if the games were to move forward, and by Friday, January 7, 2022, the decision to cancel indoor sports such as table tennis had been made.

In the days following January 7, with the number of Omicron instances of COVID-19 increasing at ever-alarming rates, athletes were cancelling due to health and safety concerns, and several communities in the

Coachella Valley began postponing or cancelling their events and/or closing buildings as well, including the City of Palm Springs cancelling their Film Festival and the City of Rancho Mirage closing all city buildings and the library.

We are hopeful to be able to host the Palm Desert Senior Games & International Sports Festival again by next year, and we appreciate the public's understanding in reaching this decision. Learn more about future games and all activities and programs offered at [MyRecreationDistrict.com](http://MyRecreationDistrict.com)

### About Desert Recreation District

[Desert Recreation District \(DRD\)](http://DesertRecreationDistrict.com) is the largest park and recreation district in California, covering over 1,800 square miles and serving more than 380,000 residents throughout the greater Coachella Valley. In addition to managing, maintaining, and assisting in maintaining more than 30 parks and recreation facilities and creating and delivering quality programs, services, and classes, thanks to strategic partnerships we have been able to bring essential services such as Rapid-Response Food Distributions, COVID-19 Testing, Flu Shots, a Distance-Learning Program and more to Valley residents. This community collaborative approach allows us to not only provide barrier-free and safe recreational activities, but to also bring critical resources where they are needed, thereby helping to create stronger communities and healthier citizens.

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