

The Trail Blazer – 2018 Spring Edition

We, the organizers of the Montana Senior Olympics are hoping that you senior athletes (those fifty years of age and older) are looking forward to the upcoming summer games being held June 14 – 16 in the towns of Pablo, Polson and Ronan. Despite the long cold snowy winter, you have probably found time and a way to keep in shape despite the weather. That's what our games are all about – staying active to promote fitness. An active senior is usually a happy senior.

Our 2018 games will feature the same fourteen sports which include Archery, Basketball (3 X 3 and shooting), Bowling, Badminton, Cycling, Golf, Horseshoes, Pickleball, Racewalk, Swimming, Road Race (5 and 10K) Table Tennis, Tennis and Track & Field. We expect that Pickleball will have the most entrants while Swimming and Track & Field will continue to attract many athletes. Pickleball players are asked to bring their personal nets in order to be able to provide more courts for competition. Your equipment will be treated with care. We are hoping that there will be more Basketball Teams entering this year as well as Badminton players. Badminton, however, will be played in Bozeman on June 16 since all entrants last year were from there and they asked to again host that competition. They expect to draw more players who would not be able to travel to the Flathead area. That also frees the school gym for pickleball if the weather is not cooperative. Most of our same commissioners are again on board for 2018 and most venues are at the same locations. The exception is horseshoes which will be staged at the Happy Time Bar in Ronan. Thanks to the commissioners as the games would not be possible without them. Some of our sports are lacking in participants so you athletes should attempt to interest your friends in entering our games. The more the merrier is usually the accepted rule. Our games will serve as the qualifier for the 2019 National Senior Games being held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The city of Albuquerque is pulling out the red carpet for the games. A new sport there will be that of Power Walking which is a bit easier than the traditional Race Walk. The saying goes that if you can walk, you can power walk – but you will be judged so no “creeping” is allowed. Both feet must be on the ground at all times or else you are jogging which is illegal. The Race Walk is not being replaced just supplemented. You are not required to qualify at a state game for the Power Walk since this is a newly added sport. You can find the rules for the Racewalk and all other sports at www.nsga.com. Most of our medal winners in our 2018 games will be eligible to enter the national games. The national office will send you a card in the fall telling you of your being qualified and suggesting that you submit your entry.

MSO will again be using the online registration program provided by Fusesport. Many of you have said how easy the program is while others continue to have trouble. We would encourage you to use it instead of the mail in entry forms. Those who used it last year were happy with the procedure. No matter how you enter, it is necessary for you to provide your partner's birthdate and email address if you are entering a partner sport. MSO will not be providing partners for any sport so have yours in mind before you begin the registration process. This is for all partner sports.

If registering by paper, please add your e-mail address so you will receive a receipt and confirmation of events, otherwise these will not be mailed out. By using the online program, Fusesport, you will be speeding up the submission of qualifiers for the national games. Credit cards can be used only for online registrations through Fusesport. Only checks and cash are accepted for paper entries. Thanks to Tom Hayes, from Bozeman and Polson, for handling both the results and the web page. You are encouraged

to send Tom (runski@bresnan.net) and Charles Widdicome (Facebook editor) pictures that you have taken that pertain to our games. Widd@outlook.com is the email address for Charles. Free games t-shirts will be provided for registered athletes but you must indicate the shirt size that you would like when you register. Exchanging of shirts due to the wrong size being ordered will not be possible until Saturday morning if they are available. Shirts are made of a good quality material that does not shrink and are unisex. Last year the shirts seem to run a little larger than previously. Extra shirts can be ordered for \$10.00 each on your registration form. Entry books have been mailed to former entrants of our games and to those who have requested one. Be sure to look through and study your entry book as it will provide you with lots of helpful information that will be of benefit when you arrive at the games. Packet pick up at the Red Lion will be open from 3 – 5 pm on Wednesday, June 13. It will continue on Thursday, June 14 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Hours on Friday, June 15, which is usually our busiest day, will be from 7:00am to 6:00 pm. Those who check in on Saturday can pick up items from seven to ten am. Please, note these hours. Otherwise you may find the area closed and you will have to come back at another time. Athletes who enter Cycling, Running or Walking definitely need numbers which will be provided when you pick up your packet so be sure to allow time for that before going to your event. If you have questions pertaining to the games, feel free to call Kay at 406-586-5543 or email kayjn3@gmail.com. Most of these suggestions are not new but there are always those who have a problem which had been explained in the entry book. The entry book is online as well.

The MSO Hockey Tournament was recently staged in Bozeman under the direction of Jay Henderson and Ken Younger and it was a rousing success. Results are as follows:

Over 60 Division

Gold	Flying Zambonis Bozeman, MT
Silver	St Michaels Boise, Idaho
Bronze	Bemidji Seniors Bemidji, MN

Over 50 Elite Division

Gold	Free Rangers Bozeman, MT
Silver	Ketchum Rangers Ketchum, ID
Bronze	Selects Great Falls, MT

Over 50 Recreational Division

Gold	Rockets Salt Lake City, UT
Silver	Hangloose Missoula, MT
Bronze	Mr. Rooter Bozeman, MT

Most of you are aware of the big changes coming for our games. Missoula Parks and Recreation is taking over the operation of Montana Senior Olympics. We will no longer be moving around the state but we will be permanently located there using their fine facilities. The new director of MSO is Ann

Petschauer. Ann plans to attend the 2018 games so you may get to meet her. Many of our sports will be staged at their new complex, Fort Missoula, which is having its grand opening on June 28. Our organization is looking forward to a new senior games program.

If you are interested in serving on the MSO Board, please, let us know. We are in need of two or three individuals. Usually we meet twice a year. Once in the spring in Helena and once during the summer games. Thanks to those who continue to serve and help with the planning.

MSO would like to extend our greatest appreciation to our sponsors who enable us to run our organization at a lower cost to you athletes. Many of you participants have been faithful donors to MSO as well. Sponsors are Kalispell Regional Healthcare, BlueCross BlueShield of Montana, Bozeman Health, The Peaks(Senior Apartments), Ozog Eye Care, First Interstate Bank, and Big Sky Wind Drinkers (the Bozeman Running Club.) Thank you!

Enjoy the spring, train wisely and come to the games in June!!