

AUSTRALIAN SIKH GAMES

General Championship Rules, Terms & Conditions



The information contained within this document is subject to change at any time, without notice. Please confirm the latest rules or any doubts with the Organising Committee or the Australian National Sikh Sports and Cultural Council (ANSSACC).

(General Championship Rules (ver. 2018 –Sydney AGM) – Australian Sikh Games

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1. Meaning of Terms

In this document:

- 1.1. The Australian Sikh Games or ASG or the Sikh Games or the Tournament or the Carnival or the Championship refers to the national Sikh Games held during the Easter weekend, hosted by a member organization of the Australian National Sikh Sports and Cultural Council (ANSSACC).
- 1.2. The Organising Committee refers to the Sikh Games Committee formed by the hosting organization to host the Sikh Games in that year.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Australian Sikh Games is an annual event consisting of Cultural Carnival and Sports Tournament. Apart from cultural events participating teams and athletes get together from around Australia (and some from overseas) to compete in various sports, such as but not limited to, Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Golf, Hockey, Kabaddi, Netball, Squash, Soccer, Table Tennis, Tennis, Tug-O-War and Volleyball.
- 2.2. Even though this is an annual national event, international participation is welcome. These Sikh Games are subject to the Constitution of the ANSSACC and the General Championship Rules, Terms and Conditions as laid-down by the ANSSACC. The Constitution, General Rules, Terms and Conditions are subject to change without notice. All international participation is also subject to valid/suitable visas as approved by the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection. Until further instructions are received from the ANSSACC, all international teams will participate on equal grounds with all Australian teams.
- 2.3. The participant must be able to demonstrate that he/she has been residing in the state/territory/country, which he/she is representing at the Sikh Games CONTINUOUSLY for a minimum of THREE MONTHS before the Sikh Games.
- 2.4. The Australian Sikh Games is a cultural and sports extravaganza, open to all spectators to visit and enjoy. This is one of the largest events of its kind in the WORLD!

3. Basic Participation Criteria

- 3.1. Whilst there are no restrictions as to who can visit and enjoy the Sikh Games, the participation in the sporting events is restricted to Sikh individuals only. For team-based sports, a participating team must be a Member of the Association. However, from time to time, the Committee may make special provisions, for example, invitations to non-Member teams or participation by non-Sikh players in certain events. Details of such provisions currently in place, if any, are detailed in **Annex A (Special Provisions)**.

Definition of Sikh

- 32 For the purpose of the Sikh Games, a person is a Sikh, when he/she comes under one of the following categories:
- 3.2.1 A person who practices the religion of Sikhism, or
 - 3.2.2 A person by virtue of at least 1 parent practices the religion of Sikhism, or
 - 3.2.3 A person who is married to a person who practices the religion of Sikhism, or
 - 3.2.4 A person who by formal identification is registered in his/her Birth Cert., Identification Card, Passport as being Sikh.
- 33 The onus on proving the identity, in order to prove that he/she satisfies the above participation criteria, lies in the hands of the person involved. Affidavits are NOT acceptable as documents of proof.

Residency

- 34 A player is eligible to play for a team if:
- A) The player can demonstrate that he/she has represented that team at the Australian Sikh Games in at least two prior years and has been eligible to play in those years if he/she is maintaining eligible residency status with eligible visa (as per section 3.5); OR
 - B) The player can demonstrate that he/she has been residing for three months in the state / territory / country, which he/she is representing (on eligible visa as per section 3.5) before the games. Any participant who arrives in Australia after 31st May of the previous year must produce a personal travel record and visa grant letter at or prior to the Manager's Meeting. Failure to do so will result in the individual being disallowed from participating in the Games.
 - C) Clause 3.4 (B) cannot be used by holders of Sports Visas or Visitor Visas or temporary activity short stay visas or temporary activity long stay visas.
- 35 In the case of local (Australian) teams;
- A) Only Australian Citizens, Permanent Residents, Temporary Residents (holding visa with at least two years duration), genuine Student Visa Holders (of at least 2 years duration), and Employment Visa Holders (of at least 2-year visa duration) are allowed to participate, provided they have resided in Australia for at least three months before the games on that eligible visa.
 - B) Holders of Sports Visas or Visitor Visas or temporary activity short stay visas or temporary activity long stay visas can only participate provided they have been residing in Australia continuously for 12 months in a year immediately prior to the Games. Holders of such visas cannot be eligible to play with only three months of residency in Australia prior to Games.
- 36 A player's residence is determined by original of:

For a Country – Passport and Valid Visa indicating requirement in 3.4 above. Holders of Visitor Visas do not qualify as such, unless the player has been living in the relevant country and state for more than 3 months.

For a State – Driver’s Licence, School Enrolment or Utility Notice addressed to player proving residency of a State in Australia.

- 3.7 If a participant wishes to compete for a state/territory/country OTHER THAN their usual place of residence, or a club/team OTHER THAN their

usual club/team, the participant and the team manager must seek clearance from ANSSACC, through the Organising Committee, at least THREE MONTHS before the commencement of the Sikh Games.

General

- 38 If the Organising Committee has cause to suspect that a participant does not fulfil the above 'Basic Participation Criteria', they reserve the right to ask for the formal identification to be provided to prove that the participant meets the above criteria.
- 39 This right will be used whether a protest has been lodged or not. There will be random cases chosen throughout the tournament to ensure that this criterion is being adhered to.
- 3.10 In the circumstance that a person cannot provide a proof to satisfy the participation criteria, the entire team may be disqualified from the tournament. The Organising Committee, in consultation with ANSSACC, can exercise this right as soon as they find that the person does not meet the participation criteria.
- 3.11 The Organising Committee forewarns all prospective participants who fall into 'DOUBTFUL CIRCUMSTANCES' (of being able to meet the Basic Participation Criteria) to seek clearance from ANSSACC, through the Organising Committee, BEFORE the tournament and preferably before registration, to avoid any unpleasant embarrassment and disruption to the event(s).

4. Age Groupings

41. All players must meet any relevant specified Age criteria for the game. Age groupings to be based on odd numbers (as per National Australian Rules).
42. The groupings will be:
- 4.2.1. Under-13, under-15 and under-17
 - 4.2.2. Under-19 (trial for 1 year – 2008)
 - 4.2.3. Veterans – 35 years and over
 - 4.2.4. Super Veterans – 45 years and over
43. Cut-off date for age – 1 January (of year Sikh Games are being held).
44. A minimum of 4 teams is required to hold a competition. In case there are only 3 teams, the hosting organisation to decide whether to hold 'show match' or not.
45. A player's age is determined by original or certified copy of:
Birth Certificate OR Driver's Licence OR Passport.

5. Registration

- 5.1 All participants representing a particular Association/ Team/Club will only be allowed to play for the Association/Team/Club they have registered with.
- 5.2 The registration forms must be received by the Organising Committee on or before the prescribed last date, along with the prescribed registration fee.
- 5.3 After the last date for registration, if the forms are incomplete, without any required attachments (such as the Waiver of Liability Form) or without the complete registration fee, it will be assumed that the team/participant is not interested in registration and will not be registered.

6. Conduct of Participants and Their Supporters

- 6.1 To preserve the spirit of the Sikh Games and to safeguard the wellbeing of the participants and their families, the participating teams and their supporters are expected to show their best behaviour during the Sikh Games ON & OFF the field.
- 6.2 Any supporters of a particular team Invading the field of play or court during a game and engaging in misconduct of a nature that disrupts the run of play, will be reported by the umpires to the Appeals Committee and /or the Disciplinary Committee.
- 6.3 If found guilty of misconduct the team may be disqualified from the Sikh Games. Depending on the degree of misdemeanour, the offending team will be reported to ANSSACC at its annual meeting, which may then consider further action against the respective club.
- 6.4 The team managers are requested to make sure they have their supporters under control. Team managers are responsible for the conduct of its players and supporters. The Organizing Committee expresses its concern at the disturbing trend of inappropriate behaviour over the past Sikh Games and seeks cooperation from everyone on this issue.

7. Disputes and Appeals

- 7.1 The Hosting Regional ANSSACC shall appoint an Appeals Board to handle any game disputes. The decision of the Appeals Board in relation to the dispute is final, no appeals will be entertained.
- 7.2 The Appeals Board shall comprise of 4 persons, i.e. the President and Secretary of ANSSACC (or their representatives), the President or Secretary of the Hosting Regional ANSSACC's Organising Committee

(or their representative) and the ANSSACC (National) Coordinator for the relevant sports/event.

7.3 In case of a dispute, a PROTEST FORM must be lodged as per the formal procedures as outlined in item 7.4 (below).

7.4 Procedure for Appeal

7.4.1 Complete the Protest Form (see the attachment) and lodge with the Tournament Director together with the relevant fee (as prescribed on the form). The Protest Form must be lodged within ONE HOUR of conclusion of the game in dispute. No Protest Forms will be accepted without the prescribed fee. The Fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld, but will be forfeited should the protest be lost.

7.4.2 The Tournament Director will direct this Protest Form to the Appeals Committee who will then convene and make a decision. The manager and team captains from each side in question may be asked to attend this meeting. The coordinator of the relevant sport may also be required to be in attendance.

7.4.3 Decision of the Appeals Committee once made will be FINAL.

7.4.4 No further correspondence or appeals will be entertained towards the appeal for which a decision has already been made.

8. Waiver of Liability – Sports Injury and Health Insurance

8.1 While the organisers will take reasonable precautions, they cannot be held liable or responsible for any injuries to individuals or loss of property.

8.2 It is advisable for all participants to have their own (sports injury) insurance, as the Organising Committee will not be responsible in any way. In addition, all overseas teams are urged to take out a health insurance cover because medical attention/care is expensive in Australia.

8.3 Each participant/team (or team manager) must complete the Waiver of Liability form (supplied with the Registration Form).

9. Declaration by the Registering Participants

Apart from the above-mentioned Waiver of Liability declaration when registering, it is also assumed that by filling out the Registration Form for the Sikh Games, the participant/team declares that he/she accepts the following:

9.1 FITNESS TO ENTER: I am in good physical condition and health, making me capable of competing or officiating in the number and type of events for which I have entered in the Sikh Games to be organised by the Organising Committee.

- 9.2 INJURY PROCEDURE: If I sustain an injury or illness whilst participating in the Sikh Games, I authorise medical staff (as appointed by the Organising Committee) to perform and administer emergency medical attention, as they deem necessary.
- 9.3 RULES: I will abide by the rules and regulations issued by the sports body organising the Sikh Games. I will observe all oral and written instructions given by authorised personnel at the Sikh Games. I acknowledge that failure to comply with the designated rules may result in my disqualification from the Sikh Games.
- 9.4 AGE POLICY: I acknowledge that for the purposes of the Sikh Games a participant's age is determined as at 1st January in which the Sikh Games are to be held. I acknowledge that I must show proof of age when asked for. This proof may be in the form of a valid Driver's License, Passport etc. Failure to produce acceptable evidence of age when requested may result in your disqualification from the event or from the Sikh Games.
- 9.5 PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL: I hereby give the Organising Committee the unconditional right to use, at its discretion, photographic pictures and personal information in respect of the competitors in any form of media, art, advertising, trade, visual documentary, promotional material, merchandise or film coverage of any kind without compensation to me or approval by me. The competitors agree that they will not make any unauthorised reproductions of the Sikh Games logo or use the words "Australian Sikh Games" with reference to the Sikh Games, or any variation thereon, on any form of merchandise, promotional material, personal and team clothing or stationery.
- 9.6 CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION: Entries received after the cut-off date (please refer to the registration form for the last date for registration) or those received incomplete, without required attachments or registration fee may not be able to participate/compete in the Sikh Games and will only be accepted with approval of the Organising Committee and the respective sports coordinator.
- 9.7 DRUG POLICY: The Organising Committee condemns the use of classified substances for the purpose of performance enhancement. Not only these substances are dangerous to the wellbeing of the concerned person, the act of consuming such substances is unfair on other competitors and is contrary to the ethic of sport and incompatible with the Sikh philosophy. Any individual who is found/caught handling such substances risks ban for LIFE for participation in the Australian Sikh Games. Such individuals and any such events will be reported to the National Sikh Games Committee for further disciplinary action as well as to the relevant police and legal authorities.

- 9.8 REFUND POLICY: accept that some sports may fix a maximum number of participants due to venue or other restrictions. If my entry into a sport is unacceptable due to insufficient spaces being available, I am entitled to a full refund of the sports levy component of my registration fee. In the event of withdrawal of the Organising Committee from the Sikh Games after an entry has been accepted, no refund of registration/sports fees will be made.
- 9.9 INSURANCE: I acknowledge and accept that, no Sports/Personal Injury or Health Insurance is being provided by the Organising Committee, ANSSACC, the venue or the council (where the venues are located). Any insurance coverage, if required, must be arranged by the participant or their team/club/association etc, at their own cost.
- 9.10 SUSPENSIONS: In the event that I am subject to any suspension or ban imposed by any sport in which I am entering, I will make such information known to ANSSACC and the coordinator of the respective sport on the registration form. My entry may be refused or cancelled by the Organising Committee due to any suspension or ban.
- 9.11 FEES: All registration fees, games entries and sports entry fees are GST inclusive. Fees must be paid in full when requested in order to gain entry/participate/compete. The Organising Committee cannot run any credits.
- 9.12 DISPUTES & APPEALS: I will handle all disputes as per these terms and conditions. If I want to appeal a decision, I can do so by formal procedure as described below. I will abide by the final decision of the Organising Committee.
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SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. Participation by Non-Sikhs

- 1.1 One non-Sikh player may be included in a team squad for women's sports that have seven players or less on the field (e.g. netball, 7-a-side soccer, basketball, volleyball, touch football, kabaddi, tug-o-war). Two non-Sikh players may be included in a team squad for women's sports that have more than seven players on the field (e.g. full field soccer, hockey, cricket). Two non-Sikh players and mixed (male & female) teams are allowed in hockey. Residency rule and Pool teams are not applicable for hockey.
- 1.2 Teams may include Non-Sikh male and female players who have participated in previous Annual Sikh Games (i.e. prior to 2017), subject to providing satisfactory evidence to the ANSSACC Executive Committee that the players concerned had participated in the Australian Sikh Games at least twice (i.e. two years). No new Non-Sikh players are allowed to compete in men's sports from 2017 onwards.
- 1.3 The above provisions are subject to the following conditions:
 - 1.3.1 Non-Sikhs who are professional players or played at state level or higher are excluded.
 - 1.3.2 The organization/club proposing to include non-Sikh/s in an event is fielding only one team for that event.
 - 1.3.3 The organization/club has sought approval from ANSSACC, through the Games Organising Committee, at least three months prior to the Games.

2. Pool System for Team Events

- 2.1 The pool system is designed to maximise participation from eligible athletes in all sports. It is acknowledged from the very start that this is not a perfect solution but it does partly solve the problems of athletes who do not have teams in their place of residence and teams that require additional players
- 2.2 Any player who meets the Basic Participation Criteria can nominate for a Team Sport by filling out the Pool Nomination Form, and paying the appropriate fees set by the Organising Committee, prior to the deadline for Team Sheet Submission.
- 2.3 Any team that has unfilled places in their squad can nominate to take one or more players from the Player Pool by advising the Executive Committee via the National Sports Coordinator.
- 2.4 Applicants in the Player Pool will be allocated by the Executive Committee to teams prior to the commencement of the tournament, using an allocation methodology that it deems to be appropriate.
- 2.5 Once the allocation of players to teams has been completed, the player will be restricted to play for the team they were allocated to for the duration of the

tournament.

- 26 The Executive Committee reserve the right to refuse an applicant's request to nominate for the Player Pool or a team's request to be allocated a player from the Player Pool, where this is deemed to be a manipulation of the pool system. An example is where a team is continually using the pool to target a specific player from another region, rather than finding and developing its own players.

PROTEST FORM

This form must be lodged within ONE HOUR of the conclusion of the event in question and MUST be submitted to the Tournament Director along with the FEE of \$400 (team sports) or \$150 (individual sports) before it can be processed.

Protest Form Lodged by: _____

(Name of Club/Association/Team)

Event Name:

Event Venue:

Other team in the event :

Event Date:

Time of conclusion of the Event :

Report by the Team Manager

(Attach extra pages if required)

Name:

Signature:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received by:

Date:

Time:

Decision of the Appeals Committee

Appendix 5

