



For Immediate Release

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## **SIXTH ANNUAL BAY AREA SENIOR GAMES DESIGNATED AS CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BEGIN MARCH 10, 2012**

*Athletes Will Compete in Twenty Seven Sports at Stanford, Palo Alto and Bay Area Venues*

*Prime example of the words "the competition never ends"*

*Over 2500 Athletes Expected*

PALO ALTO – January 1, 2012 – The Sixth Annual Bay Area Senior Games open Saturday, March 26 and run to Sunday, June 3, 2012 at venues in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. These popular Games are the 2012 California State Championships.

The Bay Area Senior Games, first held in 2006 as test events for the 2009 Summer National Senior Games, are for athletes 50 and older. These men and women are shining examples of the benefits of an active, competitive lifestyle that embraces vitality.

"We continue to build on the successful 2009 Summer National Senior Games with the California Senior Games Association Board designating the Sixth Annual Bay Area Senior Games as the California Senior Games State Championships for the year 2012," explained Anne Warner Cribbs, 1960 Olympian, President of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2009 National Senior Games, now heading up the 2012 Bay Area Senior Games/State Championships.

The Games feature twenty-seven competitions including: Archery, Badminton, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Feats of Strength, Fencing, Golf, Horseshoes, Lawn Bowling, Race Walk, Racquetball, Road Race, Rowing, Rugby, Sailing, Shuffleboard, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Track & Field, Triathlon, Volleyball and Water Polo.

In response to requests from competitors, the first ever Senior Games Bocce Tournament will take place in 2012. An 8 team Rugby Tournament will return for a second year. A Bay Area Senior Games Golf Tournament will be played at Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course on March 13, Horseshoes will take place in Half Moon Bay and the Softball Tournament will return to the popular Twin Creeks Softball Complex in Sunnyvale on March 10 and 11.

The 2012 Bay Area Senior Games are centered at the world-class athletic facilities at Stanford University. "We are very happy to host the California Senior Games Championships for 2012 at Stanford, especially since this year athletes will qualify to attend the 2013 Summer National Senior Games in Cleveland." said Deputy Athletic Director Ray Purpur. "This event encourages



Californians over 50 to keep fit and live healthy, a message the University wholeheartedly supports." Sports not to be staged on campus are Bocce (Livermore) Cycling (Cañada Road, San Mateo County), Softball (Twin Creeks, Sunnyvale), Horseshoes (Half Moon Bay), Shuffleboard (Pasadena), Lawn Bowling (Palo Alto Lawn Bowls), Pickleball (Carlsbad), Tennis, Table Tennis and Volleyball (Palo Alto).

The California Senior Games have been proving for years that athletes don't need to stop competing after reaching age 50. Every year new age-group records (50-54, 55-59, 60-64, etc.) continue to be set in swimming and track & field. At California's 2011 State Championships, Track & Field alone produced 3 American Records and 3 World Records.

In 2012 California is proud to launch the ENCORE CUP SERIES for Boomer Sports including Soccer, Rugby, Water Polo, Sailing and Fencing.

These demanding sports are not yet sanctioned by the NSGA and we believe they deserve recognition," said Anne Warner Cribbs, 1960 Olympian and Chair of the California Senior Games Association (CSGA). "To honor the athletes' commitment to healthy aging and competition, we are announcing the Encore Cup Series for Soccer, Rugby, Sailing, Water Polo and Fencing. Trophies will be awarded to the outstanding men's and women's team and/or individual in each sport annually."

"Senior athletes are anything but 'retiring' - they train hard and use their life experience to deliver all-out performances, capturing a piece of the Olympic spirit that inspires us all," continued Cribbs. "These athletes provide a model for an active and engaged life for their peers as well as following generations."

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The Bay Area Senior Games and the 2012 California State Championships are conducted under the auspices of the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC). The Bay Area Senior Games were held in 2006, 2007 and 2008 as "test events" for the 2009 Summer National Senior Games and in 2010 and 2011, recognized as a "legacy" events in recognition of the successful 2009 Summer National Senior Games.

The CSGA's mission is to promote healthy lifestyles for seniors through education, fitness and the spirited competition of sports, while inspiring everyone to embrace health and appreciate and enjoy the value of sports related exercise.

In 2012 eight regional Senior Games competitions will take place around the state. Sites for regional Senior Games include San Diego, San Diego North County, Inland Empire, Pasadena, Palm Desert, San Francisco Bay Area, Manteca, and Santa Rosa. The Second Annual Winter Games was just completed at Bear Valley. A complete list with contact information for all the California Senior Games may be found at [www.californiaseniorgames.org](http://www.californiaseniorgames.org)