

Field Post Number 3 – September 8, 2005

To: Members, Friends and Supporters of the Louisiana Senior Olympic Games (LSOG)

From: Mark Rayner – LSOG Executive Director

2005 Louisiana Senior Olympic State Championship Games Cancelled

The **2005 Louisiana Senior Olympic State Championship Games in Baton Rouge** are cancelled and will not be rescheduled due to hurricane relief efforts now in place.

The **Louisiana Senior Olympic Games Board of Directors** approved cancellation of the games following a recommendation made Sept. 7 by the **Executive Committee** to **cancel the games** after hurricane Katrina's devastation of the Gulf Coast region and surrounding parishes last week. This is the first time the State Games have been cancelled. **The next State Games for the Louisiana Senior Olympic Games will be held in 2006.**

The **Executive Committee** evaluated a lengthy list of issues before recommending the games be cancelled. One of the major issues influencing the decision included the availability of facilities. The **LSU** campus is playing a crucial role by providing emergency medical services and shelter to hurricane evacuees. The **LSU Carl Maddox Field House** is being used as a special needs shelter. The **Pete Maravich Assembly Center** served as a triage unit for medical emergencies. The **Bernie Moore Track** is still utilized as a helicopter landing site for medical emergencies.

Resources of local **hotel accommodations** and **emergency services** are focused on relief efforts. More than **30% of entrants** in the 2005 games live in areas devastated by the hurricane.

The LSOG Board also approved that 2005 Entry Fees collected will be applied to the 2006 Entry Fees for those who applied in 2005. A formal letter with additional information will be mailed this week to everyone who applied for this year's games.

We tried our very best to find alternative venues and schedules to keep the games alive. We realize the disappointment of not having our games this year won't come close to the pain and despair experienced by victims of the storm. The **LSOG Board's** vote to cancel the games was a difficult decision to make, but it was the right decision.

We thank everyone for understanding why this decision was made. Many members of the **LSOG** asked us what they can do to assist hurricane relief efforts. We're investigating several ideas we might be able to offer as a group to assist hurricane victims and evacuees. You will be notified of any new developments as soon as we can provide you details.

Please visit the **LSOG** web site at <http://www.LSOG.net> for the latest information regarding the **Louisiana Senior Olympic Games**. Since many of our members are now scattered across the state and country, we'd appreciate your help in passing this message along to any **LSOG** members you know.

Our thoughts and prayers for a successful recovery go out to everyone affected by this disaster.

Mark Rayner
Executive Director

Louisiana Senior Olympic Games

<http://www.LSOG.net>

800-799-8309

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