2027 Event Descriptions and Rules

See the “2027 Schedule” tab for chronological order and locations.

Unless otherwise stated, gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's medal divisions.

Five-year age groups and gender divisions determine medal awards, but they do not always determine who competes together. When entries are small, groups may be combined for heats, matches, or brackets to provide meaningful competition and avoid one-person events. Medals are still awarded within the appropriate divisions.

A 5K running road race is a simple example: everyone competes in the same race, and the results are sorted into age and gender divisions afterward. The same approach may be used in other events when appropriate.

Not every Summer Games event is included on this page. Many are straightforward and need little explanation beyond the 2027 Schedule. The descriptions here are for events where additional information about format, scoring, pairings, brackets, or medal divisions is useful.

Some events have a fixed structure, while others can be organized in different ways. Event managers may adjust formats, brackets, pairings, or other procedures to fit the number, abilities, and mix of participants. Regardless of ability level, participants will have ample opportunity to take part in their chosen activities.

Participants are encouraged to offer reasonable suggestions when an adjustment might make an event work better or be more enjoyable. The event manager will consider those suggestions and use good judgment in deciding how the event will be conducted.

Arts & Crafts, Literary Arts, and Performing Arts have their own descriptions under the Rules tab.

5K Run/Walk

Held in conjunction with the Quad Cities Running Festival, organized by Fleet Feet. Participants who register through the Summer Games are entitled to unlimited other Summer Games events, a Summer Games T-shirt, and are eligible to earn medals in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Basketball – 3-Point Contest

All three basketball events have separate men's and women's divisions, with gold, silver, and bronze medals awarded in five-year age groups.

Participants take 20 shots from anywhere beyond the three-point arc. They may move between shooting positions and must retrieve their own rebounds. Each successful basket earns one point. The highest score wins.

Ties will be broken by a five-shot shoot-off under the original contest rules. If still tied, competitors will shoot one additional shot per round until the tie is broken.

Basketball – Around the World

Participants shoot from nine designated positions around the free-throw lane, progressing from one position to the next. A maximum of two attempts is allowed at each position. Participants advance after making a basket or missing twice.

The winner is determined by the most baskets made. Ties are broken by the fewest attempts, followed by the farthest successful shot.

If still tied, competitors will each take one shot from the farthest designated position at which either competitor made a basket during the contest. If both make or both miss, they repeat from that position until one makes the shot and the other misses.

Basketball – Free Throws

Participants take 20 shots from the regulation 15-foot free-throw line. Each successful basket earns one point. The highest score wins.

Ties will be broken by a five-shot shoot-off. If still tied, competitors will shoot one additional shot per round until the tie is broken.

Bean Bag Toss (Cornhole)

Competition includes singles and doubles. Depending on the number and mix of participants, the event manager may establish separate men's and women's divisions, combined divisions, or a separate mixed doubles category. There are no five-year age groups, and participants may enter more than one category.

Both partners should register for doubles. Event staff will make every effort to accommodate participants who need a partner.

Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded based on results in the divisions established for the event.

Bench Press (Tim Terronez)

Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions. Athletes are given three attempts to lift a weight of their choosing. If a lifter misses an attempt, they may lower the weight for the next attempt.

Awards are based on the heaviest successful legal lift, expressed as a percentage of the lifter's body weight rather than the weight lifted alone.

Billiards

Eight-ball competition. Men and women compete together, without age-group divisions. Medals are based on the number of competitors in the tournament.

Bocce Ball

Men and women compete together, without age-group divisions. Tournament format and medals are determined by the number of competitors entered.

Bowling

Participants bowl three games and pay their own lane fees and shoe rentals. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded separately to men and women based on total scores, without age-group divisions.

Cribbage

Six or seven games are played in round-robin fashion. Overall gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded for first, second, and third place based on total points. There are no age or gender divisions.

Standard Hoyle rules apply. No muggins—players do not receive points for an opponent's scoring mistakes or oversights.

Cycling – 10K Time Trial

Athletes are released individually at 30-second intervals. Drafting is not permitted. Riders must either pass or remain several bike lengths behind the rider ahead.

Times are recorded as each cyclist completes the 10K course. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded based on finishing times in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Cycling – 12.4-Mile Road Race

The race consists of slightly less than two loops from Prairie Lodge. The starting line is approximately 1.2 miles north of Prairie Lodge at KJD Concrete.

Prairie Lodge: 3501 207th St. N., Port Byron, IL 61275.

Race route: https://ridewithgps.com/routes/53972840

From Prairie Lodge, proceed north past KJD Concrete, where the race begins. Continue to 52nd Avenue (also called 11th Avenue) and turn right. The road has a slight jog but continues as 52nd Avenue. Turn right onto 214th Street North, then right onto Route 2/92.

After approximately half a mile, turn right onto a short unmarked road and immediately left onto 38th Avenue North. Turn right onto 207th Street North and follow the winding road back to Prairie Lodge. Complete one additional full loop.

All turns are right turns. The course will be clearly marked. Drafting is permitted. Medals are based on finishing times in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Cycling – Exhibition Bike Ride

The exhibition bike ride is a controlled, noncompetitive ride for participants who want to enjoy cycling without racing.

The ride follows the same 12.4-mile course as the competitive road race and will start at approximately 6:20 PM, after the road racers have cleared their first loop.

The ride welcomes Class 1 and Class 3 e-bikes, tandems, recumbents, adaptive cycles, and virtually any other type of cycle or human-powered conveyance. Throttle-operated e-bikes are not permitted.

There are no age-group or gender divisions and no competitive medals. Participants receive all the benefits of the regular $40 Summer Games registration and may enter other events.

Disc Golf

Participants play 18 holes and provide their own equipment. Medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions, based on the number of entries.

Disc Golf Distance Throw

Participants have three attempts, with their best distance counting as their score. Ties are broken by the second-best result.

The disc must land within the football field boundaries to count as a legal throw. Distances are rounded down to the nearest foot. Medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Euchre

Euchre is a medal event played as a tournament. Men and women compete together, without age-group divisions.

Each team consists of two partners. The tournament consists of five games, with 12 hands per game. Instruction sheets will be available at each table.

Medals are awarded to both partners on the team with the highest single-game score. Additional medals are awarded for the three highest overall tournament scores. A medal is also awarded for the lowest overall tournament score.

Football Distance Contests – Throw, Field Goal, Kickoff, and Punting

Participants have three attempts at each event they enter.

For throwing, kickoff, and punting, the best legal distance counts, with ties broken by the second-best result. Attempts must land within the football field boundaries. Distances are rounded down to the nearest foot.

For field goals, participants have three attempts from progressively greater distances. The longest successful field goal determines the winner, with ties broken by the next-longest successful field goal.

Medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Golf

Participants play 18 holes without handicaps and pay their own greens fees and cart rental. Medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Horseshoes

Participants throw 30 horseshoes. Ringers count for three points, and shoes landing within one horseshoe's width of the stake count for one point. The highest score wins.

Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded separately to men and women, without age-group divisions.

Pickleball

Sponsored by JOOLA. Competition includes singles, doubles, and mixed doubles.

For singles, competitors may be combined for tournament play depending on the number of entries. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's medal divisions, regardless of whom participants compete against.

For doubles and mixed doubles, there are no age-group medal divisions. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded based on overall results in each category.

Tournament formats and brackets may be adjusted by the event manager based on the number and skill levels of participants.

Pull-Ups

Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Athletes receive two 60-second sessions. Each repetition must begin with arms fully extended and finish with the chin above the bar to be counted by the event judge. The combined total of both sessions determines the winner.

Push-Ups

Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Athletes receive two 60-second sessions. Each repetition must include a full downward and upward movement to be counted by the event judge. The combined total of both sessions determines the winner.

Shuffleboard

Competition includes singles and doubles. Depending on the number and mix of participants, the event manager may establish separate men's and women's divisions, combined divisions, or a separate mixed doubles category. There are no five-year age groups.

Each singles player and doubles team plays two preliminary games. Singles competition begins before doubles. The first eight participants to sign in draw for the initial playing times.

At the beginning of each preliminary round, players draw for board assignments and puck colors.

Scores from the two preliminary games are combined to determine advancement. The event manager will determine the number of finalists and how they are selected based on participation and the divisions established for the event.

Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded based on results in the divisions established for the event.

Softball Throw

Participants receive three throws for distance. The best legal throw counts, with ties broken by the second-best distance.

The ball must land within the football field boundaries. Distances are rounded down to the nearest foot. Medals are awarded in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Spelling Bee

There are no age or gender divisions. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded.

When a contestant misspells a word, the next contestant must spell that word correctly to eliminate the original contestant.

Swimming

Swimming is a keystone event of the Quad Cities Summer Games and has its own tab containing complete event information, schedules, procedures, and rules. Please refer to that tab.

Track & Field

There is no limit on the number of events a participant may enter. USATF rules apply. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded based on times or measurements in five-year age groups, with separate men's and women's divisions.

Athletes must record a legal mark to qualify for an award and must provide their own equipment.

Events include 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 3000m, 50-50-100-200 medley relay, 4 × 100 meter relay, 200-200-400-800 medley relay, standing and running long jump, high jump, triple jump, discus, shot put, pole vault, weight throw, hammer, and javelin.

Age-appropriate implement weights

Discus – Women: ages 19–74, 1.0 kg; 75+, 0.75 kg. Men: ages 19–49, 2.0 kg; 50–59, 1.5 kg; 60+, 1.0 kg.

Shot Put – Women: ages 19–49, 4.0 kg; 50–74, 3.0 kg; 75+, 2.0 kg. Men: ages 40–49, 16 lbs; 50–59, 6.0 kg; 60–69, 5.0 kg; 70–79, 4.0 kg; 80+, 3.0 kg.

Javelin – Women: ages 19–49, 600 g; 50–74, 500 g; 75+, 400 g. Men: ages 19–49, 800 g; 50–59, 700 g; 60–69, 600 g; 70–79, 500 g; 80+, 400 g.

Weight Throw – Women: ages 19–49, 20 lbs; 50–59, 16 lbs; 60–74, 12 lbs; 75+, 8.8 lbs. Men: ages 19–49, 35 lbs; 50–59, 25 lbs; 60–69, 20 lbs; 70–79, 16 lbs; 80+, 12 lbs.