



California Police Athletic Federation
World Police & Fire Games Federation
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History of the World Police & Fire Games

The First “Police Olympics”

Today, there are a number of Police and Fire multi-sport athletic programs taking place throughout the United States and in several countries. The California Police Olympics, the first of these, was held in 1967 in San Diego, California. In 1970, the California Police Athletic Federation was established as a non-profit corporation to administer and perpetuate the Games. The CPAF is governed by a Board of Directors made up of active and retired police officers. The creator of the Games, Duke Nyhus, is Executive Director of the CPAF. The mission of the CPAF is to promote physical fitness and sport as a means to alleviate stress, as well as foster better physical conditioning for fire and law enforcement officers.

The California Games have been held annually for over 35 years. The name was changed in 2000, to the California Police and Fire Games, when firefighters were invited to compete. Every year, an average of 5000-6000 law enforcement officers and fire service personnel participate in more than 60 different sports. (Beginning in 2005, the name will change once again, to become the Western States Police & Fire Games.)

The World Police & Fire Games Begin

With the thought of bringing this type of sports program to police and fire services around the world, Bob Burke, another founding CPAF director, advanced the idea of the World Police & Fire Games. The first WPFG was held in 1985 in San Jose, California. The aim of the World Police and Fire Games is to offer the same variety of sports, and same high quality of venues, officials and athletic achievement as the California Games, but on a global scale.

Subsequent World Police & Fire Games have been held biennially in San Diego, California; Vancouver, Canada; Memphis, Tennessee; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Melbourne, Australia; Calgary, Canada; Stockholm, Sweden; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Barcelona, Spain. In 2005, the WPFG will be staged in Quebec City, Canada; to be followed in 2007 in Adelaide, South Australia; and, Burnaby/Vancouver in British Columbia for 2009.

The size and scope of the WPFG continues to grow. Attendance has steadily increased as have the number of countries involved. The 2003 WPFG in Barcelona had over 10,500 athletes competing in 63 sports from almost 70 countries. At least 10,000 competitors are expected to attend the Quebec City Games in 2005. With family and traveling companions, the number in attendance should exceed 25,000.

While the World Olympics is indisputably number one in the term of competitors attending, the two sport programs administered by the CPAF are second and third in number of entrants. In addition, our Games offer far more sporting disciplines than the Summer and Winter Olympics combined.

World Police & Fire Games Administration

To better manage the WPFG, the World Police and Fire Games Federation was created under the umbrella of the CPAF. The WPFG Federation Board of Directors includes fire service personnel from the U.S., Australia, Canada, and law enforcement officers from Belgium and Australia.