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## PRESS RELEASE

Re: 2022 Southern Alberta Regional Events

April 19, 2022

On behalf of the Southern Alberta Recreation Association (SARA), we are pleased to announce that communities across Southern Alberta will be hosting Regional Events this summer!

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Southern Alberta Summer Games were scheduled to take place in the Town of Raymond from July 6-9, however with support from the Town of Raymond and the Southern Alberta Recreation Association, the Hosting Committee determined it was best to postpone these Games until a later date.

“We are disappointed that we won’t be able to host a full Games this year but are excited we are still hosting some events,” says Hugh Simpson, Community Services Director for the Town of Raymond. “We appreciate the support from SARA and the other regional partners and look forward to hosting a full SASG in the near future.”

“We thank Raymond for stepping up and trying to host this year,” says Adam Grose, Chair of the Southern Alberta Recreation Association. “We appreciate all the time and planning that went into the 2022 and fully support their decision to postpone a full SASG until a later date with the ongoing pandemic.”

The 2022 Summer season will not be left without Regional Events though, as each of the thirteen (13) regions across Southern Alberta are hosting events! Activities include sporting, demonstration, and cultural events, such as Pickleball, Disc Golf, Swimming, Photography and so much more. A list of these events can be found on our website and calendar at <https://www.southernalbertasummergames.ca/>.

If there are any regions that do not have events planned for this summer or any local organizations that would like to get involved in the 2022 Regional Events, please contact your regional SARA representative for how to get involved. Events can be incorporated into an already existing competition or event.

“The SARA Board and all of our regional partners are eager to welcome athletes back to our communities by hosting various Regional Events this summer,” says Grose.

SARA’s mission is to *“promote the benefits of sport & recreation and facilitates related initiatives in Southern Alberta to help develop healthy and active individuals and communities”*. We are excited to keep Regional Events going in 2022 and look forward to bringing back a full Southern Alberta Summer Games event in 2023.

Due to the pandemic and ongoing restrictions to reduce the spread of Covid-19 the games have not ran since the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Pincher Creek in 2019 which had more than 2500 attendees.

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**About SARA:**

SARA is a non-profit organization formed in the late 1960s and incorporated in 1973, making it the longest, consecutively-running, multi-sport event in Western Canada. Our largest initiative is the Southern Alberta Summer Games (SASG), which is hosted annually in a select community in Southern Alberta, although restrictions halted the 2020 and 2021 games. The Southern Alberta Summer Games to provide a vehicle by which all communities have the opportunity to become involved in a meaningful sports program, which, through mass participation is dedicated to the development of the individual and encourages sportsmanlike conduct.

**For interviews, please contact:**

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