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***Americas Masters Games 2016 announces Sports and Website Launch***

(Vancouver, BC)

The *Americas Masters Games 2016 (AMG)* are pleased to announce the 28 sports on the sport program of this new multisport competition open to athletes over the age of 30. Upwards of 10,000 athletes from Canada and around the world are expected to participate at venues across Vancouver from August 27 to September 4, 2016.

The sports in these inaugural Games include: Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Canoe Kayak, Curling, Cycling, DanceSport, Diving, Field Hockey, Figure Skating, Golf, Ice Hockey, Judo, Karate, Lacrosse, Rowing, Rugby, Soccer, Softball, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Taekwondo, Triathlon, and Volleyball.

“We are very excited to inform the Masters sport community and our partners about the incredible opportunity to compete in the Games next summer and the chance to experience the unique beauty and many attractions of Vancouver”, said Thomas Jones, Event Director of the 2016 Games. An Olympian, Jones brings a wealth of sport and Games management experience to the role and will work with local sport organizations and stakeholders to deliver the first Americas Masters Games to the Pan American region. The competition is open to all masters-aged competitors and no prior qualification or specific skill level is required.

Vancouver is well suited to hosting sport events, having played host to the 2010 Winter Olympic Games and offering a wealth of high quality sport venues, volunteers, accommodation options, tourist attractions and a robust transit system in a city known for its welcoming attitudes and mild climate. “Working with our key partners and the International Masters Games Association, we look forward to welcoming the world in the sporting spirit of the 2010 Games and building the legacy of sport hosting in Vancouver and our province”, noted Rob Newman, President and CEO of Sport BC, the body responsible for Games delivery.

The Americas Masters Games are also pleased to launch their website ([www.americasmastersgames2016.com](http://www.americasmastersgames2016.com)) today, providing information about the Games, the sports involved and links to key stakeholders and partners. Participant registration will begin later this summer. Plans are moving forward rapidly for a highly successful and enjoyable Americas Masters Games in 2016.

*About the Americas Masters Games:*



*The Americas Masters Games are an opportunity for people of any sporting ability (from past-Olympians to bright-eyed novices) to compete in an inclusive, friendly & fun atmosphere. In 2016, Vancouver will host the first ever Americas Masters Games, supported by the following Games stakeholders: The City of Vancouver, Tourism Vancouver, Vancouver Hotel Destination Association and BC Pavilion Corporation - with overall project and competition leadership from Sport BC & the BC provincial sport organizations. Masters competitions occur regularly at local, national and international levels, with a World Masters Games held every four years.*

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