

HCBC Response Regarding 2026 55+ Games Participation

We want to provide clarity on why equestrian currently is not included in the 2026 55+ Games program.

Each year, the Games select a host community and work with Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) to secure venues for individual sports. Venues must meet specific criteria, including:

- Proximity to the central Games hub to ensure efficient logistics and volunteer support.
- Facility suitability and condition for athlete safety and event quality.
- Capacity for sponsor activations and operational requirements.
- Availability within the Games' operating budget.

For sports using municipal infrastructure, these arrangements are usually straightforward. However, equestrian usually relies on private facilities, which can make negotiations more challenging. These facilities often have their own schedules, commitments, and operational priorities, and may not have interest or availability to host an event of this scale.

For 2026, despite extensive outreach by HCBC and the Games Society, local facilities were either unavailable or declined to participate. When facilities are available but do not meet requirements, we work with communities to explore upgrades or temporary solutions. Unfortunately, in this case, there were no facilities that met the criteria or expressed interest in hosting.

If a venue can be secured, the Games Society and HCBC then work to match an event program and discipline list based on the infrastructure available. This means the disciplines offered can vary from year to year depending on the host facility and local club support to ensure sustainable participation.

We are still exploring alternative options for 2026, but any new venue would require approval from the Games Society. If participation is not possible this year, HCBC remains committed to re-engaging for future Games and will follow the same process for 2027.

We share your disappointment in this news for 2026. But please be know we are committed to maintaining a presence with the 55+ Games going forward.