



News Release

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Annual DoD Warrior Games canceled amid COVID concerns

SAN ANTONIO – As the U.S. continues to navigate the challenges posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the U.S. Marine Corps and City of San Antonio leadership remain committed to the safety and health of our service members and local communities.

As the lead planners for the 2020 Warrior Games, the Marine Corps announced the decision to cancel the Games, citing the paramount concerns for the health and well-being of the 300 U.S. military active-duty and veteran athletes, international military teams, and residents within the greater San Antonio area.

The Games, originally scheduled to occur across multiple sporting venues in San Antonio Sept. 20-28, would have marked the 10th anniversary of the annual competition of wounded, ill and injured service member athletes in 12 adaptive sports. The Marine Corps was selected to host the 2020 Games on behalf of the DoD. International participants originally scheduled to attend included wounded, ill and injured athletes from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Denmark and the Netherlands.

“While the Warrior Games is truly an amazing event for our recovering service members, our top priority has always been their journeys to recovery,” said Col. Richard Pitchford, commanding officer of the Marine Corps’ Wounded Warrior Regiment. “After careful consideration for all parties involved, canceling this year’s Games is the best option to ensure our athletes and their supporters remain healthy and safe during these times.”

The DoD Warrior Games are a part of the larger DoD Warrior Care program. Within this program, a multitude of resources outside of adaptive sports are provided to support service members throughout the recovery and transition process.

“Adaptive sports, while one of the many resources within the Warrior Care program, does play a large role in the recovery of our service members,” said Maj. Leslie Harkness, operations officer of the Marine Corps’ WWR and lead planner for the 2020 Warrior Games. “The entire warrior care community is disappointed we cannot provide this specific opportunity for so many men and women who look forward to it every year. We will, however, continue to offer every other resource we can safely provide.”

For more information on the Warrior Games, please contact wariorgamespao@gmail.com. For more information about the Warrior Care Program and the resources they provide, please contact osd.warriorcare@mail.mil.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the DoD Warrior Games?

A: The Department of Defense holds an annual competition of adaptive sports for recovering service members from the U.S. armed forces and our international counterparts. The Games highlight the exceptional physical skills and mental toughness of wounded, ill, and injured active-duty and veteran service members representing the Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force, and U.S. Special Operations Command.

Q: What are adaptive sports?

A: Adaptive sports are designed to allow athletes with life-altering injuries to continue to compete. Many combat (or combat-related) and non-combat wounded, ill and injured service members are currently recovering from a variety of conditions that have altered their lives. These wounds, illnesses, and injuries may include amputations, visual impairment, burns, traumatic brain injuries, spinal injuries, and motor skills impairment.

Q: What is the importance of the DoD Warrior Games?

A: The Games showcase the recovery and rehabilitation of wounded warriors through adaptive sports. The adaptive sports featured in the DoD Warrior Games are a part of the larger DoD Warrior Care program. Within this program, adaptive sports provide reconditioning activities and competitive athletic opportunities to all wounded, ill, and injured service members to improve their physical, mental, and quality of life throughout the recovery and transition process. Modified equipment and additional classification systems allow each athlete to compete, regardless of their injury or illness.

Q: Which sports have been adapted?

A: The sports included in the DoD Warrior Games vary from year to year, but have featured: archery, cycling, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track, field, wheelchair basketball, indoor rowing, powerlifting, golf, and wheelchair rugby.

Q: Who made the decision to cancel the 2020 Warrior Games?

A: As the lead planners for the 2020 Warrior Games, the Marine Corps announced the decision to cancel this year's Games after receiving feedback from the leadership with each of the U.S. service teams. Concurrence among Wounded Warrior Care professionals noted the paramount concerns for the health and wellbeing of the nearly 300 U.S. military active-duty and veteran athletes, international military teams, and residents within the greater San Antonio area.

Q: Are you still planning on hosting the Warrior Games in 2021?

A: Next year's DoD Warrior Games are unaffected by this decision. The U.S. Army is selected to conduct the planning and host the 2021 Games. Additional details have not been finalized at this time. When more information is available regarding the 2021 Games, it will be released via the official DoD Warrior Games website, www.dodwarriorgames.org, and associated social media platforms. In the meantime, we'll continue providing important resources to our wounded warriors through the Warrior Care programs, which operate year-round.

Q: Can you give us the details (location, dates, etc.) for the 2021 Warrior Games?

A: The U.S. Army has been selected to conduct the planning and host the 2021 Games. Additional details have not been finalized at this time. When more information is available regarding the 2021 Games, it will be released via official DoD Warrior Games platforms. In the meantime, we'll continue providing important resources to our wounded warriors through the Warrior Care programs, which operate year-round.

Q: Will the Warrior Games ever come back to San Antonio?

A: The Games are hosted by a different branch of the U.S. armed forces each year, allowing for the location of the Games to rotate. San Antonio is an amazing city with a rich history of supporting the military, and there is always a possibility the Games could return to San Antonio at a later date.

Q: How are athletes selected to compete in the DoD Warrior Games?

A: Each U.S. service team (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Special Operations Command) holds a trials or team selection event to determine their final roster for the DoD Warrior Games.

Q: What is the connection between the DoD Warrior Games and the DoD Warrior Care Program?

A: The Games are just one facet of the DoD Warrior Care Program. Recover. Integrate. Triumph. Those three words are the objective of the Warrior Care Program, which proactively supports the wounded, ill, and injured service members in their recovery and reintegration or transition to civilian life. Resources include caregiver coordination, national caregiver resource directories, emergency communications services, an integrated disability evaluation system, benefits handbook, education, and employment initiatives.

Q: Why was San Antonio selected to host the 2020 DoD Warrior Games?

A: San Antonio has an inspiring military history, including serving as home to Joint Base San Antonio, which is the launching pad for the Air Force's new recruit trainees and the center of military medical training command. It is here that many young trainees and career professionals are instilled with a dedication to duty, honor, country and a profound drive toward excellence. San Antonio has approximately 250,000 veterans, 80,000 active-duty personnel; and 1 out of every 8 residents with a military tie-in.

Q: Are there medals for the DoD Warrior Games?

A: Each sport and classification has gold, silver, and bronze medals. Additionally, the athletes with the highest individual and team totals are typically recognized in a final medal award ceremony.

Q: Where can I get more information about the event?

A: To learn more, visit: www.dodwarriorgames.org. You can follow us on social media at Twitter - [@warriorgames](https://twitter.com/warriorgames); Facebook.com/warriorgames; YouTube 2020 DoD Warrior Games; and Instagram [@dodwarriorgames](https://www.instagram.com/dodwarriorgames).

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