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REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2011 BAY STATE WINTER GAMES

Celebrating 26th year of competition in Berkshire County

WOBURN, MA – The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation is proud to announce that registration for the 2011 Bay State Winter Games is now open. From Friday, January 28 to Sunday, January 30, 2011, individual competitions in alpine skiing and figure skating, and a team tournament in masters ice hockey will take place in the northern Berkshire region of the commonwealth.

The Bay State Games is excited to announce two significant modifications to the figure skating competition at the 2011 Winter Games. The Bay State Games will now allow skaters from Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont to take part in the Winter Games. Secondly, subsequent to the USFS addition of test track and unrestricted, ISI will now offer freestyle and open freestyle divisions.

“We are very excited to have skaters from all over New England participating in the Winter Games this year,” said Kevin Cummings, executive director of the Bay State Games. “For a quarter of a century, this competition has been one of the favorites of the people of Massachusetts and we are so happy that we will now be able to share this experience with participants from all over the region.”

The National Congress of State Games, which governs all state games across the country, allow for participants in states that don't have a recognized figure skating competition to participate in a neighboring state that does have an event. This is the case for all of the New England states with the exception of Connecticut. It is important to note that medals for the competition and invitations for the 2011 State Games of America will be handed out using two different criteria: Medals in each division will be based strictly on results regardless of state affiliation, while invitations to the State Games of America will be handed out in each event based on the top three from each state.

The 2011 figure skating competition will take place at the Lansing Chapman Rink on the campus of Williams College in Williamstown, MA, and features both ISI and USFS competition for males and females. Masters ice hockey will be played in two divisions, age 40 plus and 50 plus, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Arena in North Adams, MA. Alpine Skiing, with scholastic, open and masters divisions, will be held at Bousquet Ski Area in Pittsfield, MA. Since its inception in 1985, the Berkshires have played host to all the events of the Bay State Winter Games. Athletes participating in the Winter Games represent over 200 Massachusetts communities, and range in age from 8 to over 60.

On Saturday, January 29 at 7:30pm, the Bay State Skate Figure Skating Show will take place at Williams College. The show will feature Bay State Games gold medal winners, regional figure skating champions and a special feature skater. Tickets for the event are \$10 and can be purchased at local Berkshire businesses or by contacting the Bay State Games' office. All other skating competitions are free of charge for spectators.

For more information regarding the Bay State Winter Games including schedule of events, how to become a volunteer, and to register, please visit baystategames.org, e-mail info@baystategames.org or call (781) 932-6555.

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