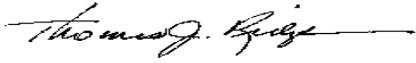


Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Subject:		Number: 1997-5
Governor's Advisory Council on Physical Fitness and Sports		
Date:	Distribution:	By Direction Of:
September 24, 1997	B	 Thomas J. Ridge, Governor

- WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is concerned with improving the health and well-being of its citizens; and
- WHEREAS, the leading causes of death in Pennsylvania include heart disease, certain kinds of cancer, stroke, and diabetes; and
- WHEREAS, physical activity can significantly reduce the risk of developing or dying from these leading causes of death, reduce symptoms of depression, and increase the quality of life for people of all ages; and
- WHEREAS, the 1996 United States Surgeon General's Report encourages a regular program of moderate physical activity to help individuals develop and maintain good health and vigor; and
- WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Health is charged with providing leadership to promote good health and healthy communities, to prevent disease, and to work collaboratively with public and private partners to achieve these goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Ridge, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, to further enhance the physical health and welfare of our citizens, hereby reestablish the **Governor's Advisory Council on Physical Fitness and Sports** (hereinafter referred to as "Council") as hereinafter set forth.

1. Appointment of Members.

a. The Council shall consist of 15 individuals, all of whom shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of the Governor representing various sectors, including but not limited to business and labor, amateur and professional sports, education, local and state governments, other state agencies, persons with special needs, and the general public. The Secretary of Health, Physician General, and the Secretary of Education shall serve as ex-officio members. The Secretary of Health and Secretary of Education may designate a representative to serve in the Secretary's place.

b. The Governor shall designate one Council member to serve as chairman. The chairman shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

2. Terms of Membership.

a. Members shall be appointed for terms of two years and shall continue to serve thereafter until their successors have been appointed. Should a vacancy occur during a member's term, a successor shall be appointed by the Governor.

b. Upon the expiration of a term of an appointed member, the successor shall be appointed for a term of two years.

3. Functions of the Council. The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports shall:

a. Enlist active community support by creating partnerships with individual citizens, civic, and professional groups, amateur and professional athletes, business and labor groups, educational institutions, health care providers, and volunteer organizations in an effort to promote and improve physical fitness activities for all Commonwealth citizens.

b. Seek to strengthen and coordinate state services and programs relating to physical fitness, recreation, and sports by making recommendations to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and other state agencies as appropriate.

c. Encourage local governments to enhance physical fitness activities and facilities.

d. Assist in promoting school health and physical education programs throughout the Commonwealth.

e. Encourage development of community-centered sports and physical activity programs throughout the state.

f. Recognize outstanding contributions and achievements by individuals and groups for their efforts to promote physical activity.

g. Promote events throughout the Commonwealth that integrate physical activity with disease prevention and health promotion initiatives.

h. Encourage physical fitness among special populations, such as older Pennsylvanians, persons with disabilities, and employees in the workplace.

i. Work with other groups concerned with promoting physical activity, such as the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and other state and national organizations.

4. Cooperation by State Agencies. The Department of Health will be the lead agency for the Council and will provide administrative support. All agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall cooperate fully with the Council and provide assistance and information as needed by the Council to carry out its functions effectively.

5. Effective Date. This order shall take effect immediately.

6. Rescission. Executive Order 1991-4 is hereby rescinded.