

## Frequently Asked Questions—12<sup>th</sup> Pan American Maccabi Games, Team USA

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- 1) Where are the 12<sup>th</sup> Pan American Maccabi Games being held? **São Paulo, Brazil**
- 2) What are the dates of the Games?  
**The Competition will take place from December 26, 2011 to January 2, 2012**
- 3) When would Team USA be departing? **December 24, 2011, arriving on December 25, 2011 (overnight flight)**
- 4) When is Opening Ceremony? **December 26, 2011**
- 5) When is Closing Ceremony? **January 2, 2012**
- 6) When would Team USA be returning? **Flights depart São Paulo on January 3, returning to the US on January 3 or 4, 2012 (depending on particular flight).**
- 7) Where will the athletes fly from? **Several flights are reserved for Team USA to depart from different airports/departure cities. Juniors, Youth, Open, Masters Athletes and USA Supporters will be given their international flight information form and the athlete MUST register for their preferred flight.** Flights are given on a first-come, first-served request basis. Please note that some flights have a flight supplement fee as the rates are based on JFK and Miami departure prices. It is required that Juniors, Youth and Open Athletes take the team flight unless special approval is given. Certain teams have training camps in the USA prior to departure and will fly together. Masters athletes will have the option to take the USA Team flight or book a flight on their own and a credit will be issued. Masters athletes MUST communicate with the Maccabi USA office if they do not wish to take a USA Team flight. All USA Team members are personally responsible for their domestic travel arrangements to/from the International USA airport departure city. Maccabi USA will ask that you provide your domestic travel information closer to departure. If you would like to extend your stay and change your return flight home from São Paulo, please contact Maccabi USA immediately upon appointment to the team at [ssorkin@maccabiusa.com](mailto:ssorkin@maccabiusa.com).
- 8) How long is the flight to São Paulo? **9.5 hours (approximately) from JFK.**
- 9) Do I need a passport? **YES! You will need to have a passport that is valid through JULY 3, 2012- six months after your return from Brazil.**
- 10) Is there a VISA requirement to enter Brazil? **YES. It is extremely important that US citizens receive a visa in order to enter Brazil.** This must be done prior to departure and you must send in your actual passport to receive a VISA. It can take up to several weeks to receive the VISA once submitted. Please follow the instructions given by Maccabi USA **promptly** upon your appointment to Team USA. **YOU** are responsible for obtaining this visa and for sending a copy of your visa to Maccabi USA right away.
- 11) Do I need travel insurance? **We suggest that you take out travel insurance. Information will be available through Gil Travel when booking your flight.**
- 12) Who can compete in this competition? **Juniors, Youth, Open, and Masters Athletes, who are of Jewish Faith.**
- 13) What if my sport/level is not being offered in Brazil? **We encourage you to continue to check our website for information on the 19<sup>th</sup> World Maccabiah Games in Israel, July 2013. Applications will be available in 2012.**

- 14) How many sports are being represented by the United States? **15+ sports**  
 15) How many countries are competing? **18+ with over 2,000 athletes total!**  
 16) Which countries will be competing at the Games? **Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru, Panama, Uruguay, Venezuela, Mexico, USA, Paraguay, Canada, Israel, South Africa, and Australia!**  
 17) What Sports and Levels are being offered?

**Sports Offered\*:**

**JUNIORS SPORTS COMPETITION:**

(THOSE BORN 1993-1996): Golf (M)

(THOSE BORN 1995-1996): Basketball (M), Soccer (M), Swimming (M,W), Table Tennis (M), Tennis (M,W)

(THOSE BORN 1995-1998): Gymnastics (W)

**YOUTH SPORTS COMPETITION (THOSE BORN 1993-1994):**

Basketball (M), Soccer (M), Tennis (M,W)

**OPEN SPORTS COMPETITION:**

Basketball (M,W), Beach Volleyball (M,W), Bridge (M,W), Chess (M), Fustal (M), Golf (M,W), Judo (M), Soccer (M,W), Softball (M), Squash (M), Swimming (M,W), Table Tennis (M,W), Tennis (M,W), Ten-Pin Bowling (M,W), Volleyball (M,W), Water Polo (M)

**MASTERS SPORTS COMPETITION (Age is as of December 31, 2011. For 35+ categories, you must be born in 1976 or before)**

Basketball (M)	35+ Team and 45+ Team
Golf (M,W)	35 and over, in categories per handicap index
Soccer (M)	35+ Team and 45+ Team
Softball (M)	35 and over
Squash (M,W)	35 and over
Swimming (M,W)	35 and over, in 5 year increment age categories
Table Tennis (M,W)	35 and over
Tennis (M,W)	35 and over, in 5 year increment age categories

\* All sports subject to change

- 18) How many athletes will represent the USA Team?  
**Over 450 athletes will travel to São Paulo, Brazil to represent Team USA.**
- 19) How is the team chosen? Are there tryouts? **Coaches will select the athletes for their team by rank, and/or recommendation and references by a coach who has seen them play. There will not be a tryout unless a chairman or coach decides together that they have received an abundance of applications for their sport and the only way to determine the selection of the best possible team is by having a tryout.**
- 20) Are their training camps before the Games in São Paulo? **Some sports will have a training camp in the USA prior to departing for their international flight. You will receive those details from your respective coach or chair. Touring arrangements are dependent on sports schedules once in São Paulo.**
- 21) Is there a trip for family and friends of the athletes?  
**Yes, there is a travel program designed specifically for families and friends of USA Team participants and for anyone that wants to travel to São Paulo. The "Supporters Program" information will be sent out to each USA participant and their family. Masters Athletes will be participating in the Supporters Program except Masters 35+/45+ Soccer and Masters Softball. We highly encourage family and friends of Maccabi USA to be part of the Supporters Package to best experience São Paulo and all that the competition has to offer. Transportation and**

- accommodations at the beautiful Hyatt Hotel are included along with several cultural programs including Opening and Closing Ceremony.
- 22) Where are the Supporters participants staying in São Paulo, Brazil? **The Supporters and Masters Athletes except Masters 35+/45+ Soccer and Masters Softball will be staying at the Hyatt Hotel.**
  - 23) What are the special programs being offered in the “Supporters Program”? **The program will include several day tours and cultural events, a welcome cocktail party, a samba party, transportation and admission to all competitions and some special events such as Shabbat service and a New Year’s Eve (Reveillon) party.**
  - 24) Where do I find out more details for the supporters package? **Please visit <http://www.giltravel.com/2011-pan-american-games/index.html> or feel free to contact Cindy Lamberg at Gil Travel, 1-800-223-3855 x 232.**
  - 25) Why should my family member or Masters Athlete do the Supporters trip as opposed to making their own trip arrangements? **Piecing parts of this trip on your own such as Opening/Closing Ceremony, transportation, etc. does not become cost effective for you at all. Gil Travel and Maccabi USA will take care of you and your needs from A to Z; it is full service help before, during, and after your trip.**
  - 26) Where are the Juniors/Youth Athletes and Staff staying in São Paulo? **USA Juniors/Youth will be at the Gran Estanplaza Hotel (double occupancy).**
  - 27) Where are the Open Athletes staying in São Paulo? **The Open Athletes along with MASTERS 35+/45+ Soccer and MASTERS Softball will be at the Sheraton São Paulo WTC Hotel (double occupancy).**
  - 28) What is the single supplement fee if I want to have a single room at the Sheraton Hotel? **The single supplement fee is \$1250 for the 9 nights. There is limited availability for single rooms and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Masters Softball and Soccer will have priority on singles.**
  - 29) Where are the Masters Athletes staying in São Paulo? **Masters Athletes except Masters 35+/45+ Soccer and Masters Softball will be at the Hyatt Hotel.**
  - 30) Where will most of the competitions be located? **At the Hebraica Center which is a state of the art Jewish sports facility. Softball will be at: Municipal Stadium Mie Nishi, Soccer at the São Paulo Football Club (SPFC), Golf at Club de Campo, Bowling at Vila Olimpia, and Juniors Basketball and Beach Volleyball at the Esport Club Pinherios which is a short walk down the street from the Hebraica.**
  - 31) Where is the Opening Ceremony in Brazil? **Opening Ceremony will be on December 26, 2011 at the Ibirapuera Gymnasium in São Paulo which is about 30 minutes from the Hebraica. Over 8,000 people are expected to be in attendance for this incredible event!**
  - 32) Where is the Closing Ceremony in Brazil? **Closing Ceremony will be on January 2, 2012 at the Civic Center of Hebraica.**
  - 33) Is it safe to be in São Paulo? **Yes. The USA Team leadership has already traveled to São Paulo and met with the US Consulate. All travel, accommodation, and touring information is shared with the Embassy by our USA specially trained and certified security chairman, and strict guidelines are followed. The Brazilian Organizing Committee in charge of supervising security during the Games works with the Federal Department of Public Safety, State and Municipal, and is in constant communication. We utilize the experience of the Israeli Government, the Latin American Maccabi Confederation and the Brazilian Government.**
  - 34) What does the word “Chaverim” mean? **In Hebrew, “Chaverim” means “Friends”.**
  - 35) Do USA Team members have to pay for their trip out of pocket, or can the Chaverim commitment be raised? **The money need not be an out-of-pocket expense; it may be raised. Maccabi USA can provide you with a sample fundraising letter and raffle tickets and brochures to assist you in your fundraising efforts. Any way that you can think “out of the box” for your fundraising goals is**

certainly suggested! The Maccabi USA office can serve as a resource for you with any assistance you may need. Maccabi USA will need your initial deposit on time for your participation as outlined in your invoice. Personal deposits can be refunded on a request only basis if fundraised money exceeds the amount of the Chaverim commitment up to 8 weeks after the Games program.

36) What is the “Chaverim” monetary commitment?

This is the monetary obligation for all participants for the 12<sup>th</sup> Pan American Maccabi Games. The required shared “Chaverim” commitments for the USA Team members are as follows:

Juniors and Open Athletes, \$4850; Masters Athletes, \$5500 for those staying at the Sheraton Hotel (Masters 35+/45+ Soccer and Softball); Coaches, Accommodations Managers, \$1800; Athletic Trainers, \$1800 & Full-time Physicians \$TBD; additional Coaches and Consulting Physicians, \$4850; Masters Athletes @ Hyatt \$TBD, (ALL OF THESE CHAVERIM COMMITMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.) Prices above do not include the domestic flight cost from your home to/from your International flight departure city and back for the Maccabi international flight, the VISA that is required for all USA citizens to apply for, and any flight supplement fee’s depending on your departure city.

37) Is my “Chaverim” Contribution tax-deductible?

For ALL: Maccabi USA is a 501c(3) not-for-profit organization. Personal payments are tax-deductible only for the amounts for which you are not receiving goods/services. For Juniors/Youth/Open Athletes it is \$1000, Masters \$1650, and Staff \$350 as outlined on your invoice in your appointment package. Any other personal contribution in excess of the above amounts is not tax-deductible. Contributions made on behalf of an athlete/staff by their legal guardian(s) who declare them as dependants are not tax-deductible beyond the above mentioned amounts. Outside contributions (not raffle tickets\*) made by others who are not the team member OR the legal guardian of the team member *are* tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. You may contact your accountant for more information. Please refer to the refund policy in your appointment package or feel free to contact Maccabi USA for further detail.

\*Please note that ALL raffle tickets are non-refundable and not tax-deductible.

38) Are there Scholarship funds for São Paulo, Brazil? **No. This is a self-funded program but you are encouraged to seek financial assistance from outside organizations.**

39) Are Raffle tickets tax-deductible? **The raffle tickets are not tax-deductible, nor are they refundable.**

40) Do the athletes receive an apparel package? **Yes! A variety of apparel will be sent by Maccabi USA to each Team member prior to the Games. Make sure Maccabi USA has your updated contact information and apparel sizes at all times.**

41) Do the athletes receive a competitive uniform? **Depending on your sport, you will either receive a competitive uniform package from your respective coach and/or chairman. An additional fee may be required.**

42) Will there be a training camp for each team sport before departure to São Paulo? **This will be determined by the particular Team’s Chair and Coach. Teams may have training camps in the USA prior to leaving for São Paulo.**

43) Will there be media coverage of the games? **It is not yet determined but we will try our best to post as much information as possible for family and friends at home to share in the excitement of the Pan Am Maccabi Games.**

- 44) Will we receive daily updates of the Games if we do not travel to Brazil? **Yes. We will be emailing you several weeks before the Team departure requesting that you provide your email (and any other emails) to us that you wish to stay informed during the Games and we will be sure to send you daily updates.**
- 45) What is the website where we can find 12<sup>th</sup> Pan American Maccabi Games updated information? [www.maccabiusa.com](http://www.maccabiusa.com) and <http://pan2011.org.br/>
- 46) Who is the General Chairman for Team USA? **Fred Cohen ([seyaltr@aol.com](mailto:seyaltr@aol.com)) is our General Chairman for Team USA.**
- 47) Who are the overall sports chairs for Team USA? **Harold Friedman, ([hsf1208@aol.com](mailto:hsf1208@aol.com)) and Kenny Schwartz, ([k-vision@earthlink.net](mailto:k-vision@earthlink.net)) are serving as our Overall Sports Co-Chairs for Team USA.**
- 48) Who from the Maccabi USA Office should I speak to if I have any questions? **Please speak with Ami Monson at 215-561-6900 x 116, [amonson@maccabiusa.com](mailto:amonson@maccabiusa.com) or Stephanie Sorkin at 215-561-6900 x 110, [ssorkin@maccabiusa.com](mailto:ssorkin@maccabiusa.com) with any questions you may have. Our entire Maccabi USA staff is here to help you with anything you need.**
- 49) What is the Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel office contact information?  
**1926 Arch Street, 4R  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-561-6900  
Fax: 215-561-5470**

MAKE SURE ALL OF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS

UP-TO-DATE WITH THE MACCABI USA OFFICE.

**Obrigado (Thank you)!**