

Frequently Asked Questions

International Maccabi Youth Games 2018 - Israel

Below are some helpful details regarding the International Maccabi Youth Games USA Team. Please feel free to contact the Maccabi USA office if you have additional questions.

1. Where are the Games being held?
 - All Games will be held in and around the city of Haifa, except for Ice Hockey, which is to be played in Metula. After competition ends, there will be touring for a few days in Jerusalem for all team members.
 - There will be an athlete hub in Haifa, with competitions being in close proximity.
2. What are the dates of the Games?
 - July 22-August 1, 2018.
3. How old must I be to participate?
 - The Youth Games are only open to athletes, who must be born between the calendar years of 2002-2004.
4. Who can compete in this competition?
 - Youth athletes who are Jewish citizens of the United States, or hold a green card. If there is any question on eligibility, the applicant's name and information will be passed to an Eligibility Committee to determine the acceptance of their application for Team USA.
5. When will Team USA be departing?
 - Team Members will depart on July 22 and are required to stay throughout the duration (until August 1).
 - All Team Members are required to fly with the team to take one of our given flights to Israel.
6. When will Team USA be returning to the USA?
 - Approximately August 1, 2018.
7. Where will the athletes fly from?
 - Cities of departure are TBD and will be assigned by sports teams for each flight. Departure cities will be JFK, EWR, and LAX. All flights are subject to change. Flights from LAX will incur an additional \$250 charge.
 - It will be your responsibility to provide your own domestic transportation to your departure city.

- Only a certain amount of our Team will be allowed to deviate and extend their stay in Israel. You must receive prior approval from Maccabi USA for a deviation, which is on a first-come, first-served basis with an additional cost.
8. How do I know which flight I am on?
 - Flights will be assigned by teams in Spring of 2018.
 9. How long is the flight to Israel?
 - Approximately 11 hours from the East Coast and 15 hours from the West Coast.
 10. What sports are being offered?
 - Basketball (M/F), Futsal (M/F), Ice Hockey (M/F), Soccer (M/F), and Volleyball (M/F).
 - All subject to change
 11. What countries will be participating?
 - USA, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, Israel and more (subject to change).
 - Not all countries will be participating in every sport.
 12. How many people from around the world will be participating and how many is the USA sending?
 - There will be approximately 1,200 participants from around the world (subject to change).
 - The USA will send approximately 300 athletes to Israel.
 13. When will the competition begin and end?
 - Competition will begin on July 23 and will conclude on July 29 (subject to change).
 - We will not have exact competition schedules until very close to departure for Israel and all schedules are subject to change.
 14. When and where is Opening Ceremonies?
 - July 23, 2018 in Haifa.
 15. Will I need to purchase tickets to Opening Ceremonies; if so where?
 - TBD
 16. When and where is the Closing Ceremonies?
 - TBD
 17. Will I need to purchase tickets for sporting events?
 - NO
 18. What will we be doing from July 29-August 1?

- All members will participate in touring and Israeli cultural and educational experience based in Jerusalem. More information to follow.

19. Will I need to complete medical forms in order to compete?

- YES. All Team members (including staff) will need to complete medical forms, including a physical examination.

20. How do I submit all of my forms?

- In an effort to reduce waste, we have posted the required forms and materials on our website through your CAREMONKEY ACCOUNT. Accepted Team Members will receive information on that shortly after appointment. All Team members are required to access all information through CareMonkey and submit these e-forms.
- Medical forms are due by May 1, 2018.

21. What does the Hebrew word “Yachad” mean?

- In English, “Yachad” means “together.”

22. What is my “Yachad” monetary commitment?

- The required commitment for athletes is \$4,600 including flight. Flights direct from LAX will be subject to an additional \$250 charge. The required commitment for coaches and staff is \$1,500.
- These costs do not include the domestic travel for the USA participant from where they live to where the USA Team departs for the international flight.

23. Is my “Yachad” commitment tax-deductible?

- A tax-deductible contribution of \$360 is included in the Yachad commitment.
- Tax receipt will be sent for one payment, and one payment for this event, regardless of year
- Donations are non-refundable and are not tax-deductible
- *Please note that ALL raffle tickets are non-refundable, and not tax-deductible.

24. Do USA Team members have to pay for their trip out of pocket, or can the Yachad commitment be raised?

- The money need not be an out-of-pocket expense; it may be raised. Maccabi USA can provide you with sample fundraising letters or webpage and raffle tickets to assist you in your fundraising efforts.
- All donations raised are non-refundable and not tax-deductible.
- As a reminder, raffle tickets are not tax-deductible.

25. Is there an online fundraising tool for me to utilize and to track donations on my behalf?

- Yes! Maccabi USA has developed your personalized fundraising page online so you can reach out to your personal and professional contacts to donate directly on your behalf. This is a great, easy way to fundraise.

26. Are Raffle tickets tax-deductible*?

- The raffle tickets are not tax-deductible, nor are they refundable. Each raffle ticket is \$100 and the full amount can be credited to your Yachad. A drawing is held every 1,000 tickets sold for three prizes. Raffle tickets can be purchased online, or hard copy tickets can be sold by Team members.

27. 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 along with guidelines of when each apparel piece must be worn. This package will be sent a few weeks before departure, so it is extremely important that you update Maccabi USA with any address changes.

28. Who is sanctioning this event?

- Though in cooperation with JCC Association, the JCC Maccabi Games, BBYO, and Maccabi Organizations around the world, this is a Maccabi USA sanctioned event.
- Athletes and staff will be required to sign and adhere to the code of conduct put forth by Maccabi USA.

29. Do I need to purchase a SIM card for my phone?

- We strongly encourage everyone to obtain a cell phone or SIM card through our designated provider. An online registration form will be available in Spring 2018

30. Do I need a passport and visa to travel to Israel?

- You DO NOT need a visa to travel to Israel, but you will need a passport valid for a minimum of 6 months after returning home.
- Passports must be valid through at least February 2, 2019
- If you need a passport, you should apply for one ASAP. Do not risk waiting into 2018 and it being delayed. We cannot control how long it takes to issue a passport.

31. Can I visit my child during the program?

- Due to the intense nature of this program, visitation with families will be limited. At no time will athletes be permitted to leave the program without prior consent of Maccabi USA management. Athletes wishing to spend additional time with family, in Israel, should consider extending their stay following the conclusion of The Games.

32. Do I need travel insurance?

- Yes. We suggest that you take out travel insurance. This is on your own should you want this.
- <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/quote/?nc=1>

33. How do I apply to become an athlete or staff member?

- [Please click here to submit your application](#)

34. What is the Maccabi USA office contact information?

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