

Frequently Asked Questions – 18th World Maccabiah Games, Team USA

- 1) Where are the Games being held? **In various cities throughout Israel**
- 2) What are the dates of the Games? **July 13-23, 2009**
- 3) When would Team USA be departing? **Approximate departure date is July 2, 2009**
- 4) When is Opening Ceremonies? **July 13, 2009 at Ramat Gan Stadium**
- 5) When is Closing Ceremonies? **July 23, 2009 at Sultan's Pool in Jerusalem**
- 6) When would Team USA be returning? **July 24, 2009**
- 7) Where will the athletes fly from? **Cities of departure are TBD. Team USA Charter (mostly Open athletes) will depart from JFK Airport.**
- 8) How long is the flight to Israel? **11 hours (approximately)**
- 9) Who can compete in this competition? **Juniors, Youth, Open, and Masters Athletes, who identify themselves as Jewish.**
- 10) How many sports are being represented by the United States? **25+**
- 11) What Sports and Levels are being offered? **Please check the website to see what sports are offered in these Levels:**

OPEN SPORTS COMPETITION

JUNIORS SPORTS COMPETITION

YOUTH SPORTS COMPETITION (*The Youth Division is part of the Juniors Category*)

MASTERS SPORTS COMPETITION

- 12) How is the Team chosen? Are there tryouts?
Most team sports will have a tryout. Athletes will be selected by the coach and chairman of their particular sport. Tryout information will be posted on our website, www.maccabiusa.com under each sport in the "Sports Explorer Section".
Teams that are based on individual times (such as Swimming, Track and Field, Triathlon, and Half Marathon) that do not have a tryout will be selected by the coaches and chairman according to rank, level of competition, and/or recommendation and references by a coach who has seen them play.
- 13) How many athletes will represent the USA Team?
Over 900 athletes will travel to Israel to represent Team USA.
- 14) Is there a trip for family and friends of the athletes?
Yes, there will be a travel program designed specifically for families and friends of U.S. Team participants. The "Mission Package" brochure will be sent to each USA participant and their families by Fall 2008.
- 15) Where are the Missions participants staying in Israel? **Hotels TBD**
- 16) What are the special programs being offered in the "Missions Package"? **The Mission program will include fascinating tours and cultural events, exclusive dinners, cocktail parties and admission to all competitions and some special events.**
- 17) What are the costs for the "Missions Package"? **TBD**
- 18) Where are the Juniors, Youth, and Open Athletes staying in Israel? **Locations TBD. During the competition, they will be staying with athletes from other nations. For the most part, all Juniors and Youth teams will be housed together. Open teams will be housed by sport close to their venue.**
- 19) Where are the Masters Athletes staying in Israel? **Masters Athletes who choose to be on the Mission will stay at Mission Hotels TBD. All other Masters Athletes may make their own accommodations.**
- 20) Where will most of the competitions be located? **Various venues throughout Israel. Locations TBD.**
- 21) How many countries are competing? **60+**

22) What does the word “Yachad” mean? **In Hebrew, “Yachad” means “together”.**

23) What is the “Yachad” monetary commitment?

This is the monetary obligation for all participants for the 18th World Maccabiah Games. The required shared “Yachad” commitments for the U.S. Team members are as follows:

Juniors & Youth athletes, \$6600; Open athletes, \$3300; Masters athletes, \$6000 plus the cost of the trip and registration; Coaches, Accommodations Managers, and Physician Assistants, \$1650; Athletic Trainers, \$850; Full-time Physicians, cost is TBD; additional Coaches and Consulting Physicians, \$6600. (ALL OF THESE YACHAD COMMITMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.)

24) Is my “Yachad” Contribution tax-deductible?

For Juniors, Youth, Open Athletes and ALL Staff: Personal payments are not tax-deductible.

Contributions made on behalf of an athlete/staff by their guardian are not tax-deductible. Outside contributions (not raffle tickets*) are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

For Masters Athletes: The \$6000 Yachad commitment to sponsor an athlete is fully tax-deductible. The registration and cost of the trip is not tax-deductible.

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

25) 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 a sample fundraising letter and raffle tickets and brochures to assist you in your fundraising efforts.

26) Is there Yachad Relief (Scholarship) for Israel? **Yes. Juniors, Youth, and Open Athletes may formally apply for Yachad Relief within 30 days of being appointed as a member of Team USA. If you are approved for Yachad relief, it may help with a portion of your Yachad commitment.**

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

28) 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.**

29) Do the athletes receive a Team uniform? **Yes. Each team will receive competition uniforms from their respective coach and/or chairman.**

30) When will applications be available? **Applications are now available online at www.maccabiusaapp.com**

31) Will there be a training camp for each team sport before departure to Israel?

Although most team sports will have training camps, it is ultimately determined by the team’s chair and coach. Teams may have training camps in the U.S. prior to leaving for the Pre-camp, or they may depart earlier and have their training camp in Israel.

32) What is the website where we can find 18th World Maccabiah Games updated information?

www.maccabiusa.com

33) What is the blog website for Maccabi USA? **<http://maccabiusajameson.blogspot.com/>**

34) What is the Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel office contact information?

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