



MACCABI GAMES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the Maccabi Games?

The Maccabi Games are an Olympic-style international athletic competition for Jewish teens. They serve a larger purpose than athletic competition — they promote community involvement, teamwork, and pride in being Jewish.

Who is eligible for the JCC Maccabi Games?

For the 2025 games, Jewish teens between the ages of 13-17 years (*teens must be born between August 9, 2007-August 2, 2012*). All athletes must be Jewish, which is defined as follows: one of the athlete's parents is Jewish and the athlete is being raised Jewish or is a Jew by choice and is being raised Jewish. All athletes must have current medical insurance and be up to date on all age-appropriate vaccines as per CDC guideline.

Is Maccabi just a one-week commitment?

Being a part of Maccabi is more than just the week of the games. Athletes will attend meetings, tryouts, practices, and team events before and during the Maccabi Games. If the athlete attends sleep away camp, they will be required to leave camp to attend the Maccabi Games from start to finish.

What is the fee for an athlete to participate with Sid Jacobson JCC for 2025?

The Maccabi Games are an all-inclusive experience with a non-refundable cost of \$2,650* to participate with Sid Jacobson JCC's Team LI Jacobson. This fee includes the JCCA program and registration, travel and transportation to and from the games, uniforms and gear, adult supervision and coaches, housing at the University of Pittsburgh for athletes, and meals during the games.

Once your child is selected to be a part of our delegation, a non-refundable \$650 deposit is required to confirm their spot.

Scholarships, fundraising opportunities, and payment plans are available, please contact Alyson Goodman, agoodman@sjjcc.org, for more information.

**Please note, the price is subject to change in the event JCCA fees increase for the games. In the event an athlete can no longer participate in the Maccabi Games due to a medical reason, if documentation is provided before June 1, 2025, \$400 will be refunded to the athlete.*

How does my child get to the host city for the games?

The delegation head makes all travel arrangements for all athletes to fly to and from the host city, and that is included in the overall fee.

Please note, Sid Jacobson JCC only purchases plane tickets for the athletes and our staff, if families are joining as a spectator, they are responsible for their own transportation.

What is transportation like during the games?

The host community will have a bus system for all athletes and coaches that will get them to and from their game venues, the Hub, and additional activities. Athletes can also use this bus system if they would like to watch other teams compete when they have downtime.

Please note, this bus system is only to be used by athletes, coaches, and Maccabi staff. No spectators are allowed on the buses.

What do athletes do in between their games?

In between games, athletes will go to the Hub for meals, participate in Hang Time, and recharge. They can also go watch other athletic competitions if they would like.

My child is playing on a mixed team, what is that?

A mixed team is made up of athletes from multiple delegations to field a full team. Being a part of a mixed team is a great experience for all involved. The athlete still travels with Sid Jacobson JCC and marches in with us at the Opening Ceremony, their uniform will just have different names on it.

Who is responsible and involved in providing security for the games?

The host community works with a wide variety of local, state, and federal agencies to determine all the security needs for the games.

What are credentials and why does everyone need to wear them?

Credentials are a visible identification badge for athletes, coaches, Maccabi staff, spectators, and volunteers that must be worn at all times to help the host city's security team determine who can be admitted to venues and help keep them secure. In the event credentials are lost, please go to the Hub to obtain a replacement.

Spectator passes are an additional cost, and information on purchasing them will be available in spring 2025.

What happens if my child gets injured during the games?

Medical personnel are at all athletic venues and Maccabi Medical Central will be located at the Hub. When an athlete is injured, the medical staff will evaluate the situation and determine the next course of action. In the event of an injury, the athlete's delegation head will be notified immediately and the delegation head will then be in contact with the athlete's family.

Who is authorized to give clearance for an athlete to play after they are injured?

Clearance may be given only by the Maccabi Medical Central personnel after they have examined the athlete and are confident they are well enough to participate and would not risk further injury.

How do I communicate health issues about my child?

Families are asked to fill out full medical information about their child during the registration process, and should also reach out to the delegation head to discuss and medical conditions. All information is kept strictly confidential.

Is the food served at the games Kosher?

Yes, all food, snacks, and drinks served each day are Kosher. Food options are also available for vegetarians and those who are gluten free.

Please note, the food served during the games is only for the athletes, coaches, and Maccabi staff.

I'm coming as a spectator, what can I participate in?

Spectators are invited to the Opening Ceremony and can attend all athletic events. Spectators are not permitted to attend the evening activities, Closing Ceremony, travel on buses with the athlete, dine at the Hub, or have the snacks or drinks provided to the athletes and coaches.

When can I spend time with my child?

Families are welcome at all athletic events, but they cannot take their child out for meals, sightseeing, drive them to their next game, or bring them to their hotel because they choose not to go to an evening activity.

Once an athlete is in the Maccabi system, they must remain in it. Any athlete who leaves the system, will be removed completely from the games.