



JCC Maccabi Games 2023 Information Packet



Hi!

We are thrilled that you are interested in learning more about the JCC Maccabi Games, and possibly participating with the 2023 J-Team.

As the largest Jewish Youth event in the world, the JCC Maccabi Games create an experience that you will remember for a lifetime. Our teens, coaches, and families form meaningful relationships that transcend the week of JCC Maccabi and the boundaries of geography. JCC Maccabi teens have gone on to compete in the World Maccabiah Games®, the Pan American Maccabi Games®, professional sports, and even the Olympics. The community of alumni includes familiar names like Olympic swimmers Lenny Krayzelburg and Jason Lezak, Survivor's Ethan Zohn, actor Jason Segal, and American Idol's Brett Lowenstern.

Get ready to feel the spirit of JCC Maccabi when representing your community, getting to know your roommates and teammates, meeting new friends, participating in community service, compete on an international stage, and party at a one of a kind social event each night.

You will receive a SWAG bag with your uniform and delegation gear that you will wear throughout the week and when we march together into the opening ceremony. Picture yourself walking into a stadium in front of thousands of spectators and looking around knowing all the other teens participating are also Jewish. You will make new friends from across the globe as you trade your gear for kangaroos, sombreros and British Union Jack attire.

Whether you bring home the best swag, a gold medal, or new lifelong friendships there is no doubt that you will have the time of your life at the 2023 JCC Maccabi Games.

This year there are two incredible opportunities! The JCC Maccabi Israel Games July 5-25, 2023 AND The JCC Maccabi Games and Access in Fort Lauderdale August 6-11, 2023.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the J-Team delegation head, Sam Lefkowitz s.lefkowitz@jcca.org or 212-786-5128.

We can't wait to have you as part of J-Team!

Sam Lefkowitz

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are The JCC Maccabi Games®?

The JCC Maccabi Games are an international athletic competition for Jewish teenagers run much like the Olympics. Athletes can compete against Jewish teens from all over the United States as well as delegations from Israel, Great Britain, Mexico, Canada, and more. The Games are played with a focus on “rachmanus” or sportsmanship with the intent to foster long-lasting friendships, memories and connection to Judaism and Israel. This unique event is not only about being a part of the Jewish people; it comes with a mission– to make the world a better place and to make ourselves better people. We express these values or midot to help us remember the greater mission of the Games and Judaism. We emphasize Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), Kavod (respect), Rina (joy), Ga’ava (pride), Lev Tov (big hearted), and Amiut Yehudit (Jewish peoplehood). The Games also promote community involvement, and teamwork. The Games are one of the largest Jewish teen events in the world; each summer over 3,000 Jewish teens participate. Over 100,000 teens have benefited from the JCC Maccabi Games since 1982. At this Jewish Olympic style event, each athlete participates in one of fifteen sports, social events, and an opportunity to give back to the community during this week-long experience, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

2. Where are the Games this year?

 <p>JCC maccabi games ISRAEL JULY 5–25, 2023 <small>IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MACCABI WORLD UNION</small></p>	 <p>JCC maccabi Games • Access AUGUST 6–11, 2023 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL <small>DAVID POSNACK JCC</small></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 14-17 • Sports Offered: baseball, basketball, ice hockey, girls volleyball, boys and girls flag football, soccer, tennis, swimming, dance* • Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Week-long JCC Maccabi Games in Haifa in partnership with Maccabi World Union. Olympic-style sporting events, including competitions, opening and closing ceremonies, large cultural events, and more. ○ An unforgettable 12 day tour of Israel’s most culturally, religiously, and historically significant sites. ○ Exploring Israel through a sports lens, including opportunities to meet with influential Israeli speakers, coaches, and professional athletes ○ Participating in volunteer service projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 12-16 • Sports Offered: baseball, basketball, ice hockey, girls volleyball, flag football, boys lacrosse, soccer, table tennis, tennis, swimming, dance* • Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Olympic-style sport competitions, including opening and closing ceremonies, and a tribute to the Munich 11 ○ Home hospitality with local Jewish host families ○ JCC Cares community service projects ○ Hangtime programming with Israeli schlichim ○ Evening social events • JCC Maccabi Access is for athletes with cognitive and developmental disabilities who will be competing in their own tournament parallel to the Games athletes.

Check out this JCC Maccabi video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DrnAu2IZnI&list=PLIAC9y1v6tUoxZcq18ICg0BXFFoBdVXAT&index=6&ab_channel=JCCAssociation

3. Who is eligible to participate in the JCC Maccabi Games?

a. In **Israel**, Jewish teens between the ages of 14-17 as of July 5, 2023 are welcome to compete at the Games. In **Fort Lauderdale**, Jewish teens between the ages of 12-16 as of July 31, 2023 are welcome to compete.

b. 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. In the spirit of the Games, if the parent or child does not believe that they are Jewish on a year-round basis, then the child should not participate in JCC Maccabi. In the athlete online registration, there is a declaration that contains the eligibility requirements; both the athlete and his/her parent(s) must sign this declaration.

c. All athletes must have current medical insurance and up to date on all age-appropriate vaccines including the Covid-19 vaccinations and boosters as per CDC guidelines.

3. What sports are offered?

Israel Sports include: Baseball, Basketball, Dance, Boys and Girls Flag Football, Girl's Volleyball, Ice, Hockey, Soccer, Swimming, and Tennis

4. What is the athletic competition like?

The competitive level of the participants will vary. There are teens that are elite athletes and then those that are there for the experience, the level of play is very diverse. Some of the sports will have different divisions based on skill levels. Throughout the week, players can expect to play at least four games/matches before tournament play begins on Wednesday. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded to the top three winners. Although it is competitive the JCC Maccabi Games emphasize the Rachmanus Rule, which is good sportsmanship and fair play. The experience is about more than just sports. It focuses on an all-around experience including friends, community service, social and educational activities.

5. What is a mixed team?

A mixed team is comprised of athletes from multiple delegations. This is common and happens when a delegation does not have enough athletes to field a full team. Where our delegation is unable to field a full team, athletes will be combined in a mix team with one or more other delegations' players. Being on a mixed team can be a great experience and foster lasting friendships with Jewish teens around the world!

6. How does community service play a role in JCC Maccabi?

Community Service is a key component to the JCC Maccabi Games experience. Each set of Games includes a JCC Cares project where athletes step away from competition and workshops for a part of their day and work to improve the local community, through activities like planting a community garden, bowling with adults with special needs, or doing art projects one-on-one with children from underserved communities.

7. How will my child get to and from the Games?

Parents will be responsible for bringing athletes to the designated airport and ensure teens get on their flights safely. Some flights will be organized in groups and the delegation head will communicate the logistics plan based on which teens are from which areas.

8. What is the fee for the JCC Maccabi Games?

For **Israel**: the all inclusive fee is \$4500. Registration includes submitting the completed registration, personal contact info, a \$1500 non-refundable deposit paid upon signing up, and agreement to the non-refundable remainder of the payment to JCC Association of North America. Additional registration steps are required at later dates including medical forms, roommate requests etc. Please see registration form or contact your delegation head for details.

9. What does the fee include?

JCC Maccabi is an all-inclusive experience. Program fees include Games registration fees, transportation during the Games, uniform, J-Team gear, adult supervision and coaches, practices, meals, social events/team activities, and all other accommodations throughout the program.

For Israel, it includes flights to and from and the 2 week tour following the week of competition.

For Fort Lauderdale, it also includes a pre- weekend for all athletes to get to know each other and celebrate Shabbat together the JCC Maccabi way.

10. Are there scholarships available?

Limited scholarships are available locally for families in need of financial assistance. All funding is need-based and you can apply through a confidential process.

To apply please email s.lefkowitz@jcca.org

There is also a national scholarship available through JCC Maccabi. Please visit jccaccabigames.org/richard-cohen-memorial-scholarship/ for more information on the Richard Cohen Memorial JCC Maccabi scholarship.

11. Are there adult chaperones at JCC Maccabi?

Of course! There is a mandatory ratio of 1:8 adults to teens during the week of JCC Maccabi. We have a delegation head, and coaches and chaperones. Every athlete is assigned to a coach/chaperone whether they are on a team sport, individual sport, or a mixed team with a coach from another. Head coaches are all over 21 and have passed extensive background checks.

12. Where will my teen stay?

In **Israel**, all participants will stay in a combination of hotels, dorms, and hostels.

13. Can you tell me about security at JCC Maccabi?

Security is taken very seriously at the JCC Maccabi Games. Background checks are utilized for all adults involved and all participants, spectators, coaches, host families, volunteers, etc. are required to wear a credential to access any JCC Maccabi facility. The host community also works closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

14. Our family keeps kosher. Will my teen's needs be met at JCC Maccabi?

In **Israel**: Yes, all food served at the JCC Maccabi Games is kosher and Shabbat will be respected.

15. Can I use my son or daughter's school or camp medical form for JCC Maccabi?

No. Maccabi Central will only accept the JCC Maccabi Medical Form.

16. What happens if there is a medical emergency?

In the case of a medical emergency, the Delegation Head will act as the participant's guardian and will communicate with the parents to get any treatment necessary. Information such as the parent/guardian's birth date and social security number is sometimes necessary to utilize insurance.

17. Can parents be spectators at the JCC Maccabi Games?

Yes! Parents, family members, and friends are welcome to attend the Games as spectators. A spectator pass gives access to the opening ceremony and sport events. No one will be admitted to a Games site who is not wearing an approved credential. To register as a spectator, you will use the same website as when registering your teen. Please note registration and fee deadlines

While we encourage families to consider attending to support their teens, the athletes have programs and activities going on for the entirety of their time at the Games and thus only see visitor's courtside at sporting events. At no point during the week can spectators or parents remove the teens from the program or take them off-site for any reason.

18. How can I sign up to be part of the J-Team at the JCC Maccabi Games 2023?

Registration is open NOW! Please contact your Delegation Head, Sam Lefkowitz, to secure your spot on the J-Team.

s.lefkowitz@jcca.org or 212-786-5128