



## San Diego, CA | August 2-7, 2020

## Pace University, NY | August 9-14, 2020

Results and Updates: [www.facebook.com/TeamGreaterWashington](https://www.facebook.com/TeamGreaterWashington)

### GET READY FOR THE GAMES!

The JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest were created to promote community service, sportsmanship, and religious pride. The Games are a week-long Olympic-style event for young athletes aged 13-16 and Artists aged 13-17 (as of July 31, 2020). But sports and arts are only one part of the experience. Delegates interact with teens from all over the world through various social activities, participate in community service projects, and go home with friendships and memories to last a lifetime!

### TEAM SELECTION AND REGISTRATION

Team Greater Washington will be comprised of the following teams and individual sports:

#### SAN DIEGO:

U14/U16 Baseball  
U14/U16 Boys Basketball  
Girls Soccer  
Ice Hockey  
ArtsFest

#### PACE UNIVERSITY

U16 Baseball  
U14/U16 Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Dance  
Boys Soccer  
Swimming  
Tennis  
Girls Volleyball

The Host Communities limit the number of athletes and artists allowed on team rosters and in some sports the tryout process is quite competitive, which is why tryouts are required for all sports. Athletes are invited to try out for more than one sport, and if accepted on both teams, the athletes will make the decision on which team to participate. In sports where Team Greater Washington is unable to fill a full roster, we will send athletes to participate on a mixed delegation team. If there are more athletes in Baseball and Boys Basketball than roster spots allotted in San Diego, we will send those athletes to Pace University to participate on a mixed delegation team. This means teammates may be comprised of athletes from around the country, and it is not an uncommon practice at the Games. At the conclusion of the tryout process, registration material is sent by email to parents with strict timelines for registration. Coaches will schedule team practices at their own discretion throughout the spring and summer. Athletes are encouraged to attend as many practices as their schedule affords them.

## REGISTRATION

The registration process requires athletes to register in two places: with the Bender JCC and with the Host Community (either San Diego or New York). Athletes register with the Bender JCC as part of their sports team within **two weeks** of being selected for a team. **A \$1,000 deposit is due at the time of registration.** This deposit will hold your athlete's place on the team. In the event that your athlete does not participate, this will cover any losses incurred and therefore only a portion may be refunded. Remaining balances are due by **May 1, 2020**. The online Host Community registration is where athletes register as part of the Greater Washington delegation. During this online registration athletes have the opportunity to request a roommate and identify any allergy or medical issues. Uploads of the following are required for all registrations: photo headshot to be used for security purposes; copy of passport or birth certificate for age verification; copy of the front and back of their health insurance card; and the Maccabi medical form and a vaccination record.

## PARTICIPATION FEE

The participation fee for the 2020 JCC Maccabi Games includes: coached practices and facility rentals leading up to the Games; all JCCA registration fees; all tournament fees, meals, entertainment, security, and travel during the week; travel arrangements to and from the Games; Team Greater Washington uniforms, Team jacket, bag and souvenir trading pins; a one-year teen Maccabi membership to the Bender JCC is included for athletes paying the general public price.

San Diego: \$2000 members, \$2100 general public

Pace: \$1900 members, \$2000 general public

## FUNDRAISING

Every member of Team Greater Washington is expected to participate in fundraising opportunities to help defray the cost of the Games for our athletes. In addition to local restaurant night fundraisers, we hold a Calendar Raffle for the month of June to win AMEX gift cards valued at \$25-\$100. More information about these opportunities will be provided. Some financial assistance is available – please inquire about the application process and the delegations scholarship policy.

## GAMES WEEK

What to Expect?

3,000+ Athlete/Artist participants

70 Delegations

500 Coaches, Chaperones, Delegation Heads

1,500 Volunteers

900 Host Families

12,000 Spectators

In San Diego, home hospitality is an integral part of the JCC Maccabi Games experience, creating bonds between teens and local Jewish families. More than just providing a bed, host families make visiting athletes feel at home. During the week of the Games, host families: provide sleeping arrangements for at least two JCCGW athletes, provide breakfast every day and dinner when not provided by the host community, drop off and pick up participants daily; entertain participants on the Host Family Night; and get involved in the experience by attending Opening Ceremonies and cheer on your athletes at their events!

New this year is the JCC Maccabi Campus Games at Pace University. Athletes will have the exciting experience of living in a secure, Olympic village-style setting, with single-sex dormitories, breakfast and lunch on site and expanded Hang Time and evening activities opportunities.

## **Sample Schedule - more details will be released later in the spring**

Sunday – Delegation Travel, Evening Opening Ceremonies

Monday – Athletic competition all day, Evening Activity

Tuesday – Athletic competition all day, Evening Activity

Wednesday – Athletic competition half day, JCC Cares, Host Family Night/Evening Activity

Thursday – Athletic competition all day, Closing Celebration

Friday – Delegation Travel

## JCC CARES

Since 1982, the JCC Maccabi Games have always been more than an athletic competition. The JCC Cares program is an opportunity for athletes to enhance their experience at the Games by taking a few hours out of their competition schedule to participate in a community service project with their teammates. The basic American concept of community service is closely tied to the basic Jewish value of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), which urges us to make a difference in the lives of others who may be less fortunate than ourselves. Examples of past projects are: Packing school supply kits for Family Centers and Israeli children; Visiting sick kids and teens at local hospitals; Spending time with older adults in nursing homes; Improving neighborhoods or local facilities. (i.e. Habitat for Humanity).

## PARENTS ATTENDING THE GAMES

The families of athletes are certainly encouraged to attend the Games. Parents, family or friends attending the Games will need to purchase Spectator Credentials for attendees 6 years and older. Most of the Games events are open to visiting parents. You may attend Opening Ceremonies and all athletic competitions. However, other programs are reserved only for official members of the delegation because of space or other factors.

Registration information and discount hotel information will be provided for each location will be forwarded at a later date.

### **A few points for families going to the Games to keep in mind:**

- The Games are an experience designed for athletes, and not a family vacation. Athletes are required to participate in ALL activities scheduled during the Games even on days that they may not have competition. Athletes are required to have all meals with the Games, and use only the Games transportation system.

- Respect the role of the JCC Maccabi Games Coaches. Parents should stay within the designated spectators' area and should not be with athletes on team benches.

- Home hospitality is an important part of the athlete experience in San Diego, and parents should appreciate that the host family is providing more than just a room for their child. It is important to respect the host family's plans and schedule. Athletes cannot be in a Games hotel under any circumstances. A violation of this will result in the expulsion of the athlete.

- At the Campus Games, only credentialed Athletes, Coaches, Delegation Heads, and Chaperones will be permitted in the dormitories.

- Parents attending the Games are expected to be models of good sportsmanship, and adhere to the rules of conduct set by the host community and the delegation. While your enthusiasm and support are certainly welcome during the competition, unruly behavior is unacceptable. Parents as well as athletes are bound by the RACHMANUS RULE - trash talk, running up the score on a weaker opponent, making fun of opposing players or teams are not tolerated. Referees, officials, and the sports chairs have the authority to eject spectators from a game or eject them from the Games entirely in serious situations.

## RACHMANUS RULE

What distinguishes the JCC Maccabi Games from all other athletic competitions? Is it simply the fact that the Games are made up of Jewish athletes or is there something Jewish about the Games themselves? If we begin to infuse the Games with Jewish values then we can make them a more meaningful experience for our athletes and their families.

Sometimes, Jewish values conflict with other values though. We want our athletes to strive for excellence yet we also want them to have compassion for their teammates and their opponents. What takes precedence? How should they act?

Judaism has always viewed compassion, or RACHMANUS, as a definitive value. The Talmud goes so far as to say that one can identify a Jew by observing whether they are compassionate or not! As Jews we seek to emulate G-d. As one of G-d's defining characteristics is compassion, so too must we be compassionate. RACHMANUS plays a key role in athletics and the JCC Maccabi Games. The level of competition at the Games varies considerably due to delegations from varying city, size and delegations fielding teams with younger players. Although several sports have mercy rules, blowing out a much weaker team for the sake of scoring points or getting runs across the plate is contrary to the spirit of the Games and shows a lack of RACHMANUS.

Athletes and spectators are not exempt from the RACHMANUS RULE. Lashon Harah, (slander, gossip, trash talk), putting down opposing players, making fun of a weaker team or athlete shows a lack of RACHMANUS. The atmosphere of the JCC Maccabi Games, and their significance as truly Jewish events, can be enhanced if participants and spectators have an understanding and commitment to following the RACHMANUS RULE. Let's win one for the Jewish people!