

SID JACOBSON JCC MACCABI GAMES FAQs

Who is eligible for the JCC Maccabi Games?

- Jewish teens between the ages of 13-17 years (*teens must be between these ages for the entirety of the games*)
- **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 family 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 their parent(s) must sign this declaration.
- Teens must have current medical insurance and be up to date on all age-appropriate vaccines as per CDC guideline.

Do I need to be a member of Sid Jacobson JCC to participate?

No, the Maccabi program is offered to all Jewish teens between the ages of 13-17 years in our community.

What sports are offered?

Sports may vary based on the host community, but include baseball, basketball, dance, flag football, golf, ice hockey, soccer, softball, star reporter, swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball (girls only).

What does the fee include?

The all-inclusive, non-refundable cost includes all program and registration fees, travel and transportation to and from the games, uniforms and gear, adult supervision and coaches, housing and meals during the games.

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required to confirm an athlete's spot once they are selected to participate with SJJCC. The deposit is applied towards their overall cost for the games.

Is financial assistance available?

Fundraising opportunities and payment plans are available for all athletes. Limited funds are available for scholarships. Please contact Alyson Goodman, agoodman@sjjcc.org, for more information.

Is Maccabi just a one-week commitment?

Being a part of Maccabi is more than just the week of the games. Athletes attend meetings, tryouts, practices, and team events before the Maccabi Games. Coaches will make the practice schedules for the team they are overseeing.

My child goes to sleepaway camp, can they participate?

Yes, they can participate, they will need to leave camp to fully attend the games from start to finish.

Can I participate in more than one sport at the games?

No, only one sport can be played at the games.

Where will my child stay at the games?

For the full experience of the Maccabi Games, all athletes are required to stay with a local host family. Host families go through background checks, are screened by the host community, and required to attend mandatory orientations.

Living with a host family is a vital part of an athlete's experience during their time at the Maccabi Games. These families provide breakfast daily as well as some dinners, do laundry each night, and give athletes an unforgettable experience.

During the registration process, teens can request up to three other athletes they would like to live with (they are guaranteed at least one of their requests), and also state any dietary restrictions, allergies, and languages spoken for the host community to place them with the best family.

Athletes and their family may not arrange for their own housing as a visiting host family unless it has been fully discussed and approved by Alyson Goodman first.

How do athletes get to and from the host community for the games?

All travel arrangements are made by SJJCC for athletes, coaches, and staff, which is included in the overall fee. All athletes must travel with the full delegation to the host community.

In the event of a travel deviation, this must first be discussed and approved by Alyson Goodman prior to March 1, 2027. Any approved travel deviation is at the expense of the athlete's family; refunds are not given if a deviation is approved. Please note that all travel deviations may be approved.

Families are required to drop off and pick up their child from the airport if traveling by plane or at Sid Jacobson JCC if traveling by bus.

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. *The 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 travels with SJJCC 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. Everyone over the age of 18 must go through a background check to be a part of the games whether that is as a delegation head, coach, chaperone, spectator, or volunteer.

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.

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 at each meal for vegetarians and those who are gluten free.

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 participate in Hang Time.

Spectators must register and pay for their pass in the overall registration system. Steps on how to do that will be communicated during the registration process. No spectator will be allowed in to any Maccabi venue without a pass.

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 is automatically removed from the games.