

POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES



BOWLING

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

BY SEAN FITZ-GERALD,
NATIONAL POST

Venue

Pan Am Bowling Centre, also known as Planet Bowl, 5555 Eglinton Ave W, in Etobicoke)

Venue acronym

PLB

Landmark status

Low

It's just south of Toronto Pearson International Airport, and right around the corner from Centennial Park, which host the BMX event on the opening weekend.

Other events at venue

None

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

Transit options

Save at least an hour for the one-way trip if you're taking public transit from Union Station. Take the Union/Pearson Express toward Pearson Airport. Get out at the airport (Terminal 1), and take Mississauga Transit's No. 7 bus south. Get out at Spectrum Way and Eglinton Avenue East, and take an eight-minute walk to the venue.

For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

[TTC trip planner](#)

Schedule

July 22-23 Pairs

July 24 Singles qualifying

July 25 Singles, round-robin for

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

top eight, followed by semifinals and finals.

[See the full competition schedule at the Pan Am website](#)

How it works

It works just like it works on *The Flintstones* or *The Simpsons*, or in any of the dozens of places you have watched bowling on popular television shows over the last half-century. Competitors start with a bowling ball in their hands, with the aim of knocking down all 10 pins at the other end of the alley.

Nations competing

15; 13 of them have full rosters of two men's and two women's competitors.

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

Canada's team

Women

Robin Orlikowski, St. Catharines, Ont.; Isabelle Rioux, Trois-Rivières, Que.

Men

François Lavoie, Quebec City; Dan MacLelland, Kitchener, Ont.

Tournament format

Medals will be awarded for singles and doubles. In singles, competitors have to fight their way through qualifying, progressing to a top eight round robin, then moving into semifinal play and, ultimately, a head-to-head championship showdown. In doubles, the total score from 12 games rolled in the opening two days counts for the medals.

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

Results from 2011 Pan Ams

Men's singles

1. Santiago Mejia, Colombia; 2. Chris Barnes, U.S.; 3. Marcelo Suartz, Brazil, Manuel Fernandez, Dominican Republic

Women's singles

1. Elizabeth Johnson, U.S.; 2. Jennifer Park, Canada; 3. Caroline Lagrange, Canada, Karen Marcano, Venezuela

Men's pairs

1. U.S.; 2. Venezuela; 3. Colombia

Women's pairs

1. U.S.; 2. Mexico; 3. Colombia

Why it's worth watching

At the elite level, bowlers have to contend with oil patterns on the lanes, which can impact the way the ball travels toward the pins. "Bowling is always classified

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

as a beer-drinking, pizza-eating sport,” Canadian bowling veteran Jane Vetro told the National Post earlier this year. “We’re trying to get rid of the image that bowlers don’t work out, that bowlers don’t do anything, that they just go in and have a few beers.”

Competition outlook

Men

MacLelland is the reigning world champion in singles play. This will be his debut at the Pan Am Games. He is from something of a bowling dynasty in southwestern Ontario — his late father, Leonard, owned the pro shop at a local lanes in Windsor, Ont. The men’s bronze medallists from 2011 are back to try to upgrade.

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

Women

Rioux will be making her Pan Am Games debut in Toronto, while Orlikowski will be making her first appearance in more than a decade, after a fifth-place finish in doubles play in 2003. Johnson, the 2011 gold medallist, and Marcano, one of the bronze medalists, have returned for another Games.