

POST'S  
GUIDE  
*to the*  
PAN AM  
GAMES



BOXING

# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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## **Venue**

Oshawa Sports Centre

## **Venue acronym**

OBX

## **Landmark status**

*Medium*

Under its usual name — “Oshawa Sports Centre” is its nom de guerre for the Pan Am Games — General Motors Centre is home to the Oshawa Generals, who won the Memorial Cup for the fifth time in franchise history earlier this year.

## **Other events at venue**

Weightlifting

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## **Transit options**

From Union Station, take the Lakeshore East GO Train to Oshawa stop. In Oshawa, look for the 90 Newcastle Hwy 2 Train Meet Service bus, and take that bus to the stop at King Street East and Mary Street North.

For exact directions, try:

[Triplinx.ca](http://Triplinx.ca)

[TTC trip planner](#)

## **Schedule**

*July 18* Preliminary bouts begin

*July 24-25* Finals

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

## **How it works**

Athletes try to punch each other,

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sometimes in the face. Beyond that basic concept, it can get complicated. There is a complex series of movements and strategies in boxing — a science, some might say — that is not always evident to the untrained eye. A certain punch can lead to an opening, expose a weakness in an opponent's defences, or to set up an attack later in the fight.

Three judges will score the fighters on the number of punches landed in target areas, and also on their techniques and tactics during the fight.

This will be the second time women box at the Pan American Games, having made their debut at the event four years ago, in

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Guadalajara. Men fight in bouts consisting of three rounds, with each round lasting three minutes. Women have four rounds, with each round lasting two minutes.

## **Nations competing**

21; Cuba is the established Pan Am powerhouse.

## **Canada's team**

### *Women*

Mandy Bujold, Kitchener, Ont. (51 kg); Caroline Veyre, Montreal (60 kg); Ariane Fortin, St-Nicholas, Que. (75 kg)

### *Men*

P.G. Tondo, Toronto (49 kg); Kenny Lally, Prince George, B.C. (56 kg); Arthur Biyarslanov, Toronto (64 kg); Sasan Haghighat-Joo, Co-

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quitlam, B.C. (69 kg); Clovis Drollet, Quebec City (75 kg); Samir El Mais, Windsor, Ont. (91 kg); Simon Kean, Trois-Rivières, Que. (110 kg)

## **Tournament format**

Single elimination; the number of fights needed to win gold depends on the number of entrants. The men's 49-, 91- and 110-kilogram classes begin right at the quarter-final stage, as do the women's events.

## **Results from 2011**

1. Cuba: 8 gold, 1 silver
2. Canada: 2 gold, 3 bronze
3. Mexico: 1 gold, 4 silver, 4 bronze

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## **Why it's worth watching**

Boxing crowds were among the loudest of the Pan Am Games four years ago, filling one room of a massive convention centre in Guadalajara. While debate rages about the health and vitality of the sport at the professional level, especially with competition from mixed martial arts, a boxing match in a multi-sport setting can draw a fascinating kind of energy, filling the air with nationalist bloodlust.

## **Competition outlook**

### *Men*

Canadian men won two bronze medals four years ago, but neither of those men are part of the team this time around. Kean tied for fifth in the super heavyweight

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division at the London Olympics. Samir El Mais won gold at the Commonwealth Games last year in Scotland. Boxing, though, is the domain of Cuba.

## *Women*

Mary Spencer, a fighter from Windsor, Ont., won the first gold medal awarded in women's boxing at the Pan Am Games four years ago, but she struggled through the London Olympics, and was left off the team this year. Bujold will be among the headliners, trying to defend the gold she won in Guadalajara. Fortin is taking Spencer's spot on the team, and will be fighting with a long-term eye to boxing in Rio next summer. She has been on the road to recovery from shoul-



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der surgery, and will be trying to get back on a roll, with the Olympic trials for Rio looming later this year.