

POST'S  
GUIDE  
*to the*  
PAN AM  
GAMES



FIELD HOCKEY

# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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**BY ERIKA GILBERT, NATIONAL POST**

## **Venue**

Pan Am/Parapan Am Fields

## **Venue acronym**

PAF

## **Landmark status**

*Low*

The facility was built on an existing field on the University of Toronto's St. George campus. It includes two pitches — one for warmup and one for competition. The two Global Class 1 fields are water-based turf fields, meaning they are irrigated before, during and after competition, reducing friction on the ball/grass. The venue will host other sports at U of T after the Games are over.

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# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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## **Other events at venue**

Soccer, five-a-side and seven-a-side, at Parapan Ams

## **Transit options**

Take the Line 1 on the subway to Queen's Park Station and walk to the corner of Hoskin Avenue and Tower Road, just west of Queen's Park. Unless you know someone who is kind enough to chauffeur you to and from the game and just hang out elsewhere while it's happening, driving is a bad idea — there is nowhere to park.

For exact directions, try:

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

[TTC trip planner](#)

# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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## **Schedule**

July 13-18 Preliminary-round matches

July 20-23 Medal and classification rounds

July 24 Women's classification, bronze- and gold-medal games

July 25 Men's classification, bronze- and gold-medal games

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

## **How it works**

It's basically hockey with a little soccer mixed in. The basic idea is hockey-like — use a stick to try to put a ball/puck into the other team's net — but it's played on grass (or turf) with 11 players per side. The sticks are shorter and rounder than the ones used in

# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

---

hockey, and only one side of it is used to touch the ball, meaning players have to turn their sticks over, and back, and over again to dribble the ball like a hockey player would handle the puck. Players other than the goalkeepers are not allowed to touch the ball with their bodies.

## **Teams competing**

### *Women*

Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, United States, Uruguay

### *Men*

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, United States

# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

---

## **Canada's teams**

### *Women*

#### *Goalkeeper*

Kaitlyn Williams, White Rock, BC

#### *Defenders*

Hannah Haughn, North Vancouver, B.C.; Danielle Hennig, Kelowna, BC; Karli Johansen, North Vancouver, B.C.; Shanlee Johnston, North Vancouver, B.C.; Sara McManus, Tsawwassen, B.C.; Abigail Raye, Kelowna, B.C.

#### *Midfielders*

Kate Gillis, Kingston, Ont.; Maddie Secco, Victoria; Natalie Sourisseau, Kelowna, B.C.; Alex Thicke, Vancouver, B.C.; Amanda Woodcroft, Waterloo, Ont.

#### *Forwards*

Thea Culley, Rossland, B.C.; Stephanie Norlander, North Vancouver, B.C.; Brienne Stairs,

# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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Kitchener, Ont.; Holly Stewart,  
North Vancouver, B.C.

## *Men*

### *Goalkeeper*

David Carter, Vancouver

### *Defenders*

Adam Froese, Abbotsford, B.C.;

Gordon Johnston, Vancouver;

Scott Tupper, Vancouver

### *Midfielders*

Taylor Curran, North Vancouver,

B.C.; David Jameson, Vancouver;

Ben Martin, Vancouver; Sukhi

Panesar, Surrey, B.C.; Mark

Pearson, Tsawwassen, B.C.; Paul

Wharton, Vancouver

### *Forwards*

Brenden Bissett, New West-

minster, B.C.; Matthew Guest,

Calgary; Gabriel Ho-Garcia,

Burnaby, B.C.; Devohn Noronha-

# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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Teixeira, Mississauga, Ont.; Matthew Sarmiento, Vancouver; Iain Smythe, Vancouver

## **Tournament format**

There are three days of preliminary matches for both men and women followed by quarter-finals and semi-finals. The top two teams play for gold, the runners-up play for bronze, and the bottom four teams play to determine fifth through eighth place.

## **Results from 2011**

### *Women*

1. U.S.; 2. Argentina; 3. Chile

### *Men*

1. Argentina; 2. Canada; 3. Chile

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

It's July, Canada. This is the hock-

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# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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ey you get. Plus, this is a tournament with repercussions beyond this month's festivities — the gold-medal winners will qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympics.

## **Competition outlook**

### *Women*

Argentina — ranked third in the world by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the proud owner of two Women's Hockey World Cup titles and every Pan Am gold medal except 2011's — is the favourite. The U.S. could challenge for the title again and Canada also has a shot.

### *Men*

Your best bet is Argentina here, too. The team placed third in last year's Hockey World Cup — the best-ever finish for a Pan Am

# GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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country at that event. Canada is a good second choice. In fact, Argentina and Canada have met in every men's gold-medal match starting in 1975. Canada last gold was in 1999.