POSTS GUIDE to the PAN AM GAMES



By Nick Faris, national post

Venue

South Course at Angus Glen Golf Club, Markham

Venue acronym

ANG

Landmark status

Medium

Angus Glen's South Course opened in 1995 and the North Course followed in 2001. The club has hosted two PGA Tour Canadian Open championships, in 2002 (South Course, won by John Rollins) and 2007 (North Course, Jim Furyk). The South Course plays a little more than 7,400 yards from the Canadian Open tees with a course rating of 76.

Other events at venue None

Transit options

GO Train to Unionville station, then No. 8 bus north to venue.

For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

Schedule

July 16-19 One round each day. Men tee off at 8 a.m. Thursday and Saturday, and 10:12 a.m. Friday and Sunday; women tee off at 10:12 a.m. Thursday and Saturday, and 8 a.m. Friday and Sunday

See the full competition schedule at the Pan Am website

How the sport works

One by one, golfers whack their tiny white ball down the course into a faraway hole, ideally in as few strokes as possible. They'll complete 18 holes a day, repeated over four rounds. The lowest score at the end wins.

Unlike other sporting events, where jeers and jubilation are encouraged, golf fans are expected to remain quiet as players hit the ball. For reference, it's a level of silence usually reserved for libraries and Maple Leafs' blowout losses. (Shirt throwing is also frowned upon.)

Nations competing

There is a total of 63 golfers (32 men and 31 women) from 20

countries. Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States and Venezuela will all send two men and two women.

Canada's team

Austin Connelly, Irving, Tex.; Lorie Kane, Charlottetown; Garrett Rank, Elmira, Ont.

Tournament format

All players play all four days in a stroke-play competition. The three lowest scores will win medals in the men's and women's event. (The Olympic golf event, which debuts in 2016, will use a three-hole playoff to break ties for medals. It's unclear if the Pan Am Games will follow the same format.)

For the team event, each country's lowest men's and women's score for the day counts toward the overall total. The three lowest overall scores get medals.

Results from 2011

Golf is making its return to multi-sport games at the Pan Am Games, in advance of its re-introduction to the Olympic program in Rio.

Why it's worth watching

Golf is a great spectator sport with lots of different vantage points around the course. Kane, a standard-bearer for women's golf in this country for many years, is well worth cheering for.

Competition outlook

Americans are expected to stand atop golf's first Pan Am podium. Andrea Lee was fifth in world amateur rankings at the end of June — best among North Americans — while countrymen Lee McCoy and Beau Hossler enter the Toronto tournament ranked fourth and sixth on the men's side, respectively.

Canadians should be in the mix in Markham. Rank, a cancer survivor and an aspiring NHL referee, is the country's second-best men's amateur player; Austin Connelly is ranked first, and is 12th in the world as of June. Kane, a four-time winner on the LPGA Tour, is Canada's only entrant on the women's side after

Brooke Henderson withdrew last month. At the age of 50, Kane is the oldest golfer in the field, man or woman, by nearly eight years. Brazil's Adilson da Silva turned 43 earlier this year. Forty-four of the golfers entered were born in the 1990s.



Lorie Kane 2013 Women's British Masters.

Photo: Ben Hoskins, Getty Images