

POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES



HANDBALL

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

BY ERIC KOREEN, NATIONAL POST

Venue

Exhibition Centre

Venue acronym

EXC

Landmark status

Medium

On the grounds of Exhibition Place, where the Canadian National Exhibition visits Toronto each August, the Exhibition Centre has over one million square feet of space. The facility hosts plenty of other events during the year, including the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November, which fills the building with horse feces and animal psychics.

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Other events at venue

Indoor volleyball, roller figure skating, handball, squash, racquetball.

Transit options

It is one of the easiest venues to reach from downtown Toronto; it's only about three kilometres from Union Station. There are several public transit options:

- 509 Harbourfront streetcar from Union Station (Line 1)
- 511 Bathurst streetcar from Bathurst Station (Line 2)
- 29 Dufferin bus from Dufferin (Line 2) and Wilson (Line 1) stations
- 193 Exhibition Rocket temporary express bus from Dundas West Station (Line 2)

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You can also take the GO Train to the Exhibition stop on the Lakeshore West line.

For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

[TTC trip planner](#)

Schedule

Women

July 16, 18, 20 Round robin matches

July 22 Semifinals

July 24 Classification, bronze- and gold-medal games

Men

July 17, 19, 21 Round robin matches

July 23 Semifinals

July 25 Classification, bronze-

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and gold-medal games

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

How the sport works

A favourite of lazy physical education teachers everywhere, handball includes the dribbling of basketball, the huge playing space and disciplinary system of soccer and the shot blocking of hockey. A match consists of two 30-minute halves.

Teams/Nations competing

Women

Group A: Brazil, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada

Group B: Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Cuba

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Men

Group A: Brazil, Dominican Republic, Canada, Uruguay

Group B: Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Puerto Rico

Canada's team

Men

Alexis Bertrand, Levis, Que.; Geoffrey Bessette Colette, Brossard, Que.; Casper Bilton, Glostrup, Denmark; Daniel Devlin, Edmonton; Niklas Etter, Toronto; Maxime Godin, La Prairie, Que.; Tyrell Johnston, Edmonton; Oliver Jung, Ancienne Lorette, Que.; Jonathan Leduc, Marieville, Que.; Norbert Pavlisin, Presov, Slovakia; Tim Sartisson, Hamburg, Germany; Lyndon Suvanto, Onoway, Alta.; Philippe Thibeault, La Prairie, Que.; Alexandre Touzel,

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Saint-Constant, Que.; Mark Alan Walder, Steffisburg, Switzerland

Women

Christina Arès-St-Onge, Granby, Que.; Kim Barette St-Martin, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que.; Nassima Benhacine, Montreal; Amanda Desnoyers, Montreal; Kimberley Ewanovich, Ardrossan, Alta.; Vassilia Gagnon, Montreal; Myriam Laplante, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que.; Valerie Locket, Toronto; Audrey Marcoux, Sherbrooke, Que.; Abbey Perry, Sherwood Park, Alta.; Catherine Poirier, Arthabaska, Que.; Janel Rogiani, Sherwood Park, Alta.; Emily Routhier, Marbleton, Que.; Brenna Sanderson, Sherwood Park, Alta.; Taylor Sterling, Sherwood Park, Alta.

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Tournament format

A round robin within the group is followed by two semifinals and medal matches.

Results from 2011 Pan Ams

Women

1. Brazil; 2. Argentina;
3. Dominican Republic

Men

1. Argentina; 2. Brazil; 3. Chile

Why it's worth watching

For one, this is an Olympic qualifier — both the men's and women's tournament winners advance to the Olympics. If Brazil wins, the silver medalist will advance. For another, it could give you a flash of nostalgia to gym class.

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Competition outlook

Cuba, Argentina and Brazil are the men's favourites, ranked 23rd, 24th and 26th in the world, respectively. (Canada comes in at a solid 48th.) The United States replaces Cuba as potential winners in the women's competition.