

POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES



ROLLER SPORTS (FIGURE SKATING)

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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Venue

Exhibition Centre

Venue acronym

EXC

Landmark status

High

Near the end of every summer, the grounds are home to the Canadian National Exhibition, a carnival of food, rides, midways and discount shopping, among other attractions. Those grounds also house two professional sports teams: Toronto FC (Major League Soccer, at BMO Field) and the Toronto Marlies (American Hockey League, at Ricoh Coliseum).

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Other events at venue

Indoor volleyball, handball, squash and raquetball

Transit options

It is one of the easiest venues to reach from downtown Toronto, standing as it does about three kilometres from Union Station. It would be a relatively inexpensive taxi ride, but it is also an easy journey on public transit.

- 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

July 11 Women's and men's short programs

July 12 Women's and men's long programs

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

How it works

Just like figure skating, except on roller skates. Not inline skates. Roller skates. The kind of skates

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you — or your parents — used to wear at the local roller rink, at least before roller skating fell out of favour and the roller rinks started closing. Skaters roll through a short program and a long program. Each program has requirements, just as it would on ice: spins, jumps and combinations.

Nations competing

Six nations sent one men's and one women's competitor. Four other countries sent one skater.

Canada's team

Kailah Macri, Whitby, Ont.

Tournament format

Medals are awarded after the skaters complete a short and

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long program on consecutive days. The short program is two minutes 15 seconds long, with six bold-faced requirements — Axel jump, toe-assisted jump, jump combination, spin, spin combination and advanced footwork. The long program runs for four minutes.

Results from 2011 Pan Ams

Men

1. Marcel Sturmer, Brazil; 2. Daniel Arriola, Argentina; 3. Leonardo Parrado, Colombia

Women

1. Elizabeth Soler, Argentina; 2. Marisol Villarroel, Chile; 3. Talitha Haas, Brazil

Why it's worth watching

It is one of the eight sports to ap-

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pear in the Pan Am Games, but not at the Olympics, and it is a legitimately fascinating sport to watch in person. The movement is very similar to what you might see on the ice. The costumes are similar. The vocabulary is similar. But then there is that one key piece of equipment — the skates — and its relationship with a very different surface. “Most people, as soon as I say roller skating, they think roller derby, or disco on skates,” Macri told National Post earlier this year. “You have to explain to them, ‘it’s exactly like ice skating, except on roller skates.’”

Competition outlook

Macri, 24, finished fifth at the Pan Am Games four years ago in

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Mexico. She will be Canada's only hope again this year, having come out of retirement for the chance to compete for gold at home. "For the recognition, here in Canada, it's fantastic," her father, Tim, told the Post. "Hoping that a lot of the younger skaters get a chance to see the sport at the elite level and understand that there's somewhere to go."