

POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES



ROLLER SPORTS (SPEED SKATING)

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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Venue

CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am
Aquatics Centre and Field House

Venue acronym

PAC

Landmark status

Medium

Built in the lead-up to the Games, the Scarborough venue features four large gymnasiums, to be used for various purposes. Organizers have pegged the \$205-million complex as “the largest investment ever in Canadian amateur sport history.”

Other events at venue

Diving, fencing, modern pent-

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athlon, swimming, synchronized swimming

Transit options

Catch the TTC's non-stop Aquatics Centre shuttle, also known as the No. 194 bus, which leaves from Don Mills Station (on subway Line 4). Other options: the 198 U of T Scarborough express bus from Kennedy Station (Line 2); the 95 York Mills from York Mills Station (Line 1); or the 38 Highland Creek bus from Scarborough Centre Station (Line 3) or from the Rouge Hill Go Station.

For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

[TTC trip planner](#)

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Schedule

July 12 200m time trials

July 13 500m qualification and final; 10,000m point race

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

How it works

Sporting four-wheel inline skates, skaters compete in three different medal-event races. First is the 200m time trial, in which athletes are timed individually on raw speed.

In 500m sprint races, skaters race in heats, with the top two finishers in each group continuing on to the next round.

The final event is a 10,000m

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“points race”, in which points are awarded to the first three racers to cross the line during particular laps. Late-race laps are typically worth more. The skater with the most points at the very end wins.

Nations competing

A total of 40 speed skaters (20 men and 20 women) qualified, including four Canadians.

Canada's team

Men

Jordan Belchos, Scarborough, Ont.; Christopher Fiola, Montreal

Women

Morgane Echardour, Mississauga, Ont.; Valerie Maltais, Saguenay, Que.

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Tournament format

Medals are on the line in each of the three events. The 200m time trial and 10,000m points race occur in one go, while a string of preliminary heats build up to the 500m sprint final.

Results from 2011 Pan Ams

The road to speed gold ran through Colombia: three of the country's skaters won a combined five gold medals. Ecuador claimed the other first-place result. Canada and the United States left Guadalajara without a medal.

Why it's worth watching

It's a chance to see someone other than the Dutch win. The Netherlands, of course, are outside the

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Pan Am region, and they usually ply their speed skating dominance on ice: they have won 105 all-time Olympic medals, and 23 of 36 at the 2014 Games in Sochi.

Competition outlook

Yes, Canada's roster includes *that* Valerie Maltais, a member of the successful Canadian Olympic short-track speed skating team. Where the winter version is strong in Asian nations like China and South Korea, this sport is strong in South America. Pedro Causil Rojas won the men's time trial and sprint races in Guadalajara; he will compete in Toronto. So will Argentina's Ezequiel Capellano, a dual silver medallist in 2011, and Chile's Emmanuelle Silva, who finished second in the

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time trial. Chilean Maria Moya, meanwhile, won women's time trial silver in 2011, and could be in line for multiple golds if she maintains that pace over longer races.