

POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES

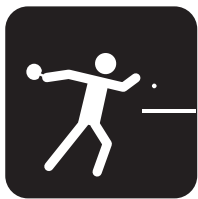


TABLE TENNIS

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

BY ERIKA GILBERT, NATIONAL POST

Venue

Atos Markham Pan Am/Parapan
Am Centre

Venue acronym

MAR

Landmark status

Medium

The \$78-million venue in downtown Markham, which will be known as the Markham Pan Am Centre after the Games, is a multi-purpose aquatics and community centre. The facility includes gymnasiums meeting international volleyball and badminton standards, an Olympic-sized pool, a fitness centre and all-purpose rooms.

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

Other events at venue

Badminton, water polo, table tennis (Parapan)

Transit options

Take GO Bus Route 70 or 71 from Union Station to Unionville. It's a 10-minute walk along YMCA Boulevard toward Main St.

Unionville to the venue. There is some parking available at Enterprise Boulevard.

For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

Schedule

July 19-21 Team competition

July 22-25 Individual events

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

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

How it works

While it's more commonly known as ping pong, the name table tennis says it all: It's like tennis, but tiny, and on a table.

Nations competing

16 in the men's events; 14 in women's

Canada's team

Women

Alicia Cote, Drummondville, Que.; Anqi Luo, Mississauga, Ont.; Mo Zhang, Chilliwack, B.C.

Men

Marko Medjugorac, Sherbrooke, Que.; Pierre-Luc Thériault, St-Fabien, Que.; Eugene Zhen Wang, Ottawa

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

Tournament format

The singles competition includes two preliminary rounds, followed by single-elimination rounds starting at the round of 32. The team event has an extra preliminary round and single-elimination play begins at the round of 16.

Results from 2011

Men's singles

1. Song Liu, Argentina; 2. Marcos Madrid, Mexico; 3. Alberto Mino, Ecuador and Lin Ju, Dominican Republic

Men's team

1. Brazil; 2. Argentina; 3. Cuba and Mexico

Women's singles

1. Zhang; 2. Wu Xue, Dominican Republic; 3. Lily Zhang, U.S. and

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

Ariel Hsing, U.S.

Women's team

1. Dominican Republic; 2. Venezuela; 3. United States and Colombia

Why it's worth watching

This not the kind of game you'll to see in your buddy's basement. The ball is hit at speeds approaching 150 km/h, with plenty of spin and different types of shots — slice shots, drop shots, knuckleball-like shots, etc. Plus, there is more than just pride and medals on the line — winners can qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Competition outlook

Canada's top female player, Zhang, is the reigning gold medalist, while American and 2011

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

bronze winner Lily Zhang has a slight edge in the International Table Tennis Federation rankings. Cote is just 15 years old and is the youngest competitor on Canada's entire Pan Am team.

On the men's side, Mexican Marco Madrid, the men's silver medallist from the Games in Guadalajara, is back, and the Americas' highest-ranked player, Gustavo Tsuboi, will be competing for Brazil.