

POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES



VOLLEYBALL

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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Venue

Exhibition Centre

Venue acronym

EXC

Landmark status

Called the Direct Energy Centre outside the Pan Am Games, this massive convention centre is home to much of the retail space during the Canadian National Exhibition, as well as the Superdogs.

Other events at venue

Handball, roller figure skating, squash and racquetball

Transit options

It is one of the easiest venues to

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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)

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](#)

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Schedule

July 16-20 Women's preliminary rounds

July 17-21 Men's preliminary rounds

July 22 Men's and women's quarter-finals

July 23 Women's semifinals

July 24 Men's semifinals

July 25 Women's bronze- and gold-medal matches

July 26 Men's bronze- and gold-medal matches

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

How the sport works

This isn't the one-bump, real-life version of pong you played in gym class. Indoor volleyball at an international level features

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powerful spikes, precise sets and breathtaking digs. Matches are best-of-five sets with each set being won at 25 points (and leading by at least two), excluding the fifth set which goes to 15.

Teams competing

Men

Group A

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba

Group B

Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico,
United States

Women

Group A

Argentina, Canada, Cuba,
Dominican Republic

Group B

Brazil, Peru, Puerto Rico,
United States

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Canada's team

Women

Tesca Andrew-Wasylik, Unionville, Ont.; Lisa Barclay, Brandon, Man.; Lucy Charuk, Tsawwassen, B.C.; Dana Cranston, Fort St. John, B.C.; Marisa Field, Kelowna, B.C.; Tabitha Love, Dauphin, Man.; Jennifer Lundquist, Surrey, B.C.; Shanice Marcelle, Victoria; Brittney Page, Vernon, B.C.; Kyla Richey, Roberts Creek, B.C.; Danielle Smith, Beaverlodge, Alta.; Jaimie Thibeault, Sylvan Lake, Alta.

Men

Nicholas Hoag, Sherbrooke, Que.; Dan Lewis, Oakville, Ont.; Steve Marshall, Abbotsford, B.C.; Gord Perrin, Creston, B.C.; T.J. Sanders, London, Ont.; Gavin

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Schmitt, Saskatoon, Sask.; Dustin Schneider, Brandon, Man.; Adam Simac, Ottawa, Ont.; Toontje Van Lankvelt, Rivers, Man.; Rudy Verhoeff, Calgary; Graham Viggrass, Calgary; Frederic Winters, Victoria

Tournament format

Eight teams are divided into two groups, which play a round robin. The top team in each group advances directly to the semifinal while the No. 2 and 3 teams in each group cross over and play in two quarterfinals. Winners advance to the semis.

Results from 2011 Pan Ams

Men

1. Brazil, 2. Cuba, 3. Argentina

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Women

1. Brazil, 2. Cuba, 3. U.S.

Why it's worth watching

Unlike the Olympics, where the world's best gather, the Pan Am Games is restricted to the Americas. Lucky for volleyball, though, many of the top teams reside in this region. Between the men and women, seven of the top 15 countries will be represented at the Games so you truly do get a glimpse at the best volleyball the world has to offer.

Competition outlook

Brazil will be the heavy favourites in both the men's and women's competition. The South American nation swept the events in volleyball — including beach

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— during the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara. The United States could also be considered a threat to win. According to the FIVB world rankings, Brazil is the top ranked men's team, while the U.S. women's team is No. 1 in the world. Canada is ranked No. 14 on the men's side, while the Canadian women are ranked No. 16.