

Montreal

SYLVAN ADAMS
YM-YWHA

JCC
maccabi
Games

JCC Maccabi Access Games 2025 Information Packet



Hi!

We are thrilled that you are interested in learning more about JCC Maccabi Access, and possibly participating with Maccabi Montreal in 2025.

As the largest Jewish Youth event in the world, the JCC Maccabi Games and Access create an experience that athletes will remember for a lifetime. Our athletes, coaches, and families form meaningful relationships that transcend the week of JCC Maccabi and the boundaries of geography.

Athletes will feel the magic of JCC Maccabi when representing their community, getting to know their delegation mates and fellow Access athletes, meeting new friends, participating in community service, compete on an international stage, and party at a one-of-a-kind social event each night.

Athletes will receive a SWAG bag with their delegation gear that they will wear throughout the week and when they march together with their delegation into the opening ceremony. Imagine the incredible moment when the Access athletes together with the entire delegation march into a stadium in front of thousands of spectators knowing all the other athletes participating are also Jewish. Athletes will make new friends from across the globe as they trade their JCC Maccabi gear for kangaroos, sombreros and British Union Jack attire.

Whether they bring home the best swag, a gold medal, or new lifelong friendships there is no doubt that every Access athlete will have the time of their life at the 2025 JCC Maccabi Games.

Check out this [JCC Maccabi Promo Video!](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Maccabi Montreal Delegation Head, Ian Hermelin, maccabi@ymywha.com. Check us out on social media [@maccabimtl](#) or ymywha.com/maccabi-games

We can't wait to have you as part of Maccabi Montreal!

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is JCC Maccabi Games® Access?

The JCC Maccabi Games are an international athletic competition for Jewish athletes. JCC Maccabi® Access is a JCC Maccabi Games® experience for Jewish athletes (ages 12-22) with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Access athletes, with one-to-one support, participate in the JCC Maccabi Games, including both unified and specialized activities. The program offers an inclusive and meaningful way for Access athletes to join thousands of their Jewish peers from around the world in experiencing the magic of JCC Maccabi. Access athletes have the opportunity to participate in a three-and-a-half-day program as part of the JCC Maccabi Games.

Athletes can compete against Jewish peers from all over the United States as well as delegations from Israel, Great Britain, Mexico, Canada, and more. The Games are played with a focus on “rachmanus” or sportsmanship with the intent to foster long-lasting friendships, memories and connection to Judaism and Israel. This unique event is not only about being a part of the Jewish people; it comes with a mission– to make the world a better place and to make ourselves better people. We express these values or midot to help us remember the greater mission of the Games and Judaism. We emphasize Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), Kavod (respect), Rina (joy), Ga’ava (pride), Lev Tov (big hearted), and Amiut Yehudit (Jewish peoplehood). The Games also promote community involvement, and teamwork. The Games are one of the largest Jewish teen events in the world; each summer over 3,000 Jewish teens participate. Over 100,000 teens have benefited from the JCC Maccabi Games since 1982.

2. Where/When are the Games this year?

Tucson, AZ July 27 - July 31, 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ages 12-22• Sports Offered: basketball, bowling, dance/cheer, swim• Highlights include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Specialized sports programs adapted to the needs and comfort level of the Access athletes○ Opportunities to learn new skills and experience new sports○ Unified sports with JCC Maccabi athletes to compete for medals side by side

*Sports are subject to change

3. Who is eligible to participate in the JCC Maccabi Games?

a. Jewish athletes between the ages of 12-22 (Must be 12 on July 27, 2025, and 22 on August 8, 2025) are welcome to compete at the Games.

b. **All athletes must be Jewish**, which is defined as follows: One of the athlete's parents is Jewish and the athlete is being raised Jewish or is a Jew by choice and is being raised Jewish. In the spirit of the Games, if the parent or child does not believe that they are Jewish on a year-round basis, then the child should not participate in JCC Maccabi. In the athlete online registration, there is a declaration that contains the eligibility requirements; both the athlete and his/her parent(s) must sign this declaration.

c. All athletes must have current medical insurance and up to date on all age-appropriate vaccines as per CDC guidelines.

4. What is a delegation?

Athletes from across North America participate in JCC Maccabi representing their 'local' delegation. Typically, this is the delegation that represents their home city/local JCC for example Team Atlanta, Team Philadelphia, Team Toronto etc.

5. Are there adult chaperones at JCC Maccabi?

Of course! There is a mandatory ratio of 1:8 adults to athletes. Maccabi Montreal will have a delegation head, coaches, and chaperones. Every athlete is assigned to a coach/chaperone whether they are on a team sport, individual sport, or a mixed team with a coach from another delegation. Head coaches are all over 21 and have passed extensive background checks.

6. What is a 1:1?

All Access athletes are required to be accompanied by a 1:1 support person. This can be anyone over 18 who feels comfortable to be responsible to provide 1:1 support for the Access athlete throughout the program. This can be a family member, general support person, JCC staff member, volunteer etc. It is best if the 1:1 is familiar with the athlete and their specific needs.

7. What is the fee for the JCC Maccabi Games?

Tucson: The all-inclusive fee is \$1118 per access games athlete.

8. What does the fee include?

JCC Maccabi is an all-inclusive experience. Program fees include Games registration fees, transportation to and from the host community and during the Games, uniform, delegation gear, adult supervision and coaches, practices, meals, social events/team activities, and all other accommodations throughout the program.

Access Athlete registration also covers the registration of the athlete and their 1:1 support person and a single hotel room for the athlete and their 1:1 to stay in with them. Someone must stay in the room with the athlete, no athlete can sleep in a room alone.

If family is traveling with an athlete but not serving as a 1:1, the family is expected to cover the cost of the additional hotel room. They can choose how to utilize the second room – either the family can stay with the athlete and give the second room they book to the 1:1 OR they can utilize it for their family use. If notified in advance that an athlete family will require an additional room, a block hotel price can be offered.

9. How will my child get to and from the Games?

Athletes and their 1:1s will join the delegation travel to the Games with the support and coordination of the Delegation Head. It will be a great delegation bonding experience to travel to the Games together! Depending on the access athlete, it may be overwhelming to the athlete to travel with the delegation. With the support and coordination of Maccabi Montreal staff, the guardian will decide what if this is the best travel plan for their athlete.

10. Where will my athlete stay?

Access athletes will stay at The Homewood Suites in Tucson near the J. Each athlete will be entitled to one hotel room at no charge. If additional people plan to attend in support of the athlete beyond the capacity of one room, the family can book an additional room at a block rate at their own expense.

11. Are there scholarships available?

The Access games experience is already subsidized, however should an athlete require additional assistance, we strongly encourage you to reach out to Federation CJA, Ometz, your synagogue and other community organizations to enquire about local funding opportunities.

The Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA will also be offering limited scholarships for families in need of financial assistance. All funding is need-based and you can apply through a confidential process.

To apply please email maccabi@ymywha.com and we will send you in the right direction.

JCC Association also offers a continental scholarship, but an athlete must apply and be approved locally prior to applying for this needs-based scholarship.

12. Can parents be spectators at the JCC Maccabi Games?

Yes! Parents, family members, and friends are welcome to attend the Games as spectators. A spectator pass gives access to the opening ceremony and sport events. No one will be admitted to a Games site who is not wearing an approved credential. To register as a spectator, you will use the same website as when registering your athlete.

While we encourage families to consider attending to support their athletes, the athletes have programs and activities going on for the entirety of their time at the Games and thus only see visitor's courtside at sporting events.

13. What does registration entail?

Registration includes submitting the completed application followed by completing registration once approved. This will include personal contact info, a \$500 non-refundable deposit paid upon signing up, and agreement to the non-refundable remainder of the payment to the Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA. Your delegation head will supply detailed information as next steps are required.

14. What is the athletic experience like?

Access athletes will participate in several sports blocks over the course of the program. During each 1.5-2 hour sports block, athletes will learn skills and do drills and have the opportunity to compete for medals.

15. How does community service play a role in JCC Maccabi?

Community Service is a key component to the JCC Maccabi Games experience. Each set of Games includes a JCC Cares project where athletes step away from competition and workshops for a part of their day and work to improve the local community, through activities like planting a community garden, bowling with adults with special needs, or doing art projects one-on-one with children from underserved communities.

16. Can you tell me about security at JCC Maccabi?

Security is taken very seriously at the JCC Maccabi Games. Background checks are utilized for all adults involved and all participants, spectators, coaches, host families, volunteers, etc. are required to wear a credential to access any JCC Maccabi facility. The host community also works closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

17. Our family keeps kosher and is observant- will my athlete's needs be met at JCC Maccabi?

Yes, all food served at the JCC Maccabi Games is kosher and all activities will conclude prior to Shabbat. Delegations will return home on Friday with plenty of time before Shabbat.

18. Can I use my athlete's school or camp medical form for JCC Maccabi?

No. Maccabi Central will only accept the JCC Maccabi Medical Form.

19. What happens if there is a medical emergency?

In the case of a medical emergency, the Delegation Head will act as the participant's guardian and will communicate with the parents to get any treatment necessary. Information such as the parent/guardian's birth date and social security number is sometimes necessary to utilize insurance.

20. How can I sign up to be part of (your delegations name) at the JCC Maccabi Games 2025?

Registration is open NOW! Please contact your Delegation Head, Ian Hermelin, to secure your spot with Maccabi Montreal.

maccabi@ymywha.com or 514.737.6551 ext. 271

