



18th World Maccabiah Games
World's 3rd Largest International Sports Event
July 2009
ISRAEL



Dear Applicant:

Shalom and thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the United States Maccabiah Team that will compete at the 18th World Maccabiah Games to be held in Israel from **Monday July 13 - Thursday July 23, 2009** in Open, Youth, Juniors and Masters Divisions. Open, Youth and Juniors athletes will depart for Israel on or about July 2nd to attend a mandatory Pre-Camp. The Maccabiah Games is a celebration of Jewish unity, culture, and heritage through world athletic competition. The Maccabiah Games is officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

MACCABI USA/SPORTS FOR ISRAEL

Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel, the sponsor of the U.S. Maccabiah Team, was founded in 1948, only weeks after the dream of a Jewish homeland had finally been realized. Its purpose was two-fold: (1) to help Israel develop as a nation through physical education and sport; and (2) to promote fitness and athletics among Jewish youth in the U.S. and Israel. The organization strives, through sports competitions, to provide American athletes with a Jewish experience - to enrich their lives, to heighten their sense of Jewish identity, to strengthen their connection to Israel and to foster feelings of Jewish pride. As the official representative of Maccabi World Union in the United States, the organization oversees all international Maccabi activities in the U.S.

MACCABIAH HISTORY...

Since their inception in 1932 the Maccabiah Games have grown in many ways, but the vibrant feelings and the excitement experienced by the participants remain the same. From 1953, the Games have been held every four years in Israel in the year following the Olympics. In 2009, more than 8,500 world-class athletes from more than 55 countries are expected to participate in the 18th Maccabiah, which promises to be the biggest and most exciting ever held. The U.S. expects to bring a team of more than 900 to Israel. Olympians such as swimmers Mark Spitz and Lenny Krayzelburg, gymnasts Mitch Gaylord and Kerri Strug (honorary Team Captain), NBA basketball players Dolph and Danny Schayes and Ernie Grunfeld, tennis star Brad Gilbert and World Cup soccer player Jeff Agoos have previously participated as members of the U.S. Maccabiah Team.

YACHAD

In Hebrew, "Yachad" means together. For the U.S. Maccabiah Team, Yachad is a program that requires a shared financial commitment from all of us to fund the U.S. Team and to ensure the success of the Games. Every member of the U.S. Team must contribute a minimum amount in support of the Maccabiah and Maccabi USA. Yachad funds are a contribution to Maccabi USA and are non-refundable. **The money need not be an out-of-pocket expense; it may be raised.** Maccabi USA has a variety of programs that may assist you in your fundraising efforts. Together, we will make this the best Maccabiah ever.

The required shared commitment amounts for USA Team members, which includes the cost of the entire trip with airfare from NY/Israel/NY, are as follows:

- Open athlete – \$3,300
- Juniors and Youth athlete - \$6,600
- Accommodations Managers, Coaches, Physician Assistants - \$1,650
- Athletic Trainers - \$850
- Physicians - TBD

The Yachad obligation for a Masters athlete is \$6,000 plus the cost of the trip and registration.

The USA 18th Maccabiah Executive Committee may, upon written request, grant partial relief of an athlete's (Open, Youth and Juniors only) Yachad commitment. Details regarding such written requests will be included with the official appointment letters that are mailed to athletes who are selected to the U.S. Team.

Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel Policy Statements for the U.S. Maccabiah Team include the following:

1. An Open, Youth or Juniors athlete can participate in three (3) Maccabiah Games. There is no limit on the number of times Masters athletes can compete. Team, assistant team and accommodations managers can participate in three (3) Games, coaches in two (2) Games, assistant coaches in two (2) Games, and in the aggregate, three (3) Games. Trainers and nurses can participate in three (3) Games. An individual may participate in each category.
2. All USA citizens are eligible for the U.S. Maccabiah Team (even if they competed for another country before becoming a USA citizen). Any non-citizen in possession of an USA Green Card, may participate as a member of Team USA in one Maccabiah, and only if approved by the USA 18th Maccabiah Executive Committee. Applicants in possession of a Green Card or in the process of applying for a Green Card will receive a supplementary form to complete. This form will be sent to the applicants after they have submitted their application. Appointment of Green Card applicants is subject to the discretion of the USA 18th Maccabiah Executive Committee. The Green Card eligibility rule applies to athletes only (coaches, etc. are exempt.)
3. Please be aware that for 2009, Maccabi USA will be instituting background checks for coaches, managers and medical staff.

The application **must** be completed online or by mail and the signature page **must** be returned with your \$40 application fee if you are to be considered for the United States Team. (Team selection may begin as early as March 1, 2008). Applicants for staff positions please complete the application and the separate sheet titled "Staff Application Addendum." Any questions concerning the application, tryouts, or team selections should be directed to Ami Monson, Program Director **(215) 561-6900 Ext. 116** or amonson@maccabiusa.com.

* * * *

Please join us in Israel in July 2009 for the 18th World Maccabiah Games.

Shalom,

Ron Carner, General Chairman
USA 18th Maccabiah Organizing Committee
Israel, 2009

All applicants for all positions must submit a \$40 application fee with the completed application form.

A deposit of \$500 will be required by all Juniors, Youth, Open and Staff and \$1,000 will be required by all Masters Team members soon after appointment to the team, payable to MUSA/SFI. (check, Visa, MasterCard, and Amex)

Travel Notes:

We are organizing a Maccabi USA Mission, a travel program designed specifically for Masters athletes and families of U.S. team participants. The information concerning this program will be shared with team members and their families upon appointment to the team.

General Notes:

1. The selection process may be determined by tryouts, national ranking, verified times, or other means. After applications are submitted, you will be notified about the selection process by the chair of your sport. Any questions about the process should be directed to Ami Monson (215) 561-6900 Ext. 116 or maccabi@maccabiusa.com.
2. Notwithstanding the tryout process described in section 1 above, the USA Maccabiah Committee reserves the right to make final decisions on all appointments to the U.S. Maccabiah Team.

18th World Maccabiah Games

The United States plans to participate in the following sports. All sports and age categories listed are **tentative as of January 2008**, and may be subject to change or cancellation. Other sports, not listed here, may be added. If you are interested in a sport not on the following list, feel free to contact the office by e-mail amanson@maccabiusa.com or phone, (215) 561- 6900 Ext 116, to inquire about your sport. You are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, with the understanding that application fees will be fully refunded if the U.S. does not participate in your sport for any reason.

OPEN SPORTS COMPETITION:

Basketball (M,F)	Judo (M,F)	Ten Pin Bowling (M,F)
Beach Volleyball (M,F)	Karate (M,F)	Tennis (M,F)
Cycling (M,F)	Rowing (M,F)	Track & Field (M,F)
Fencing (M,F)	Rugby (M)	Triathlon (M,F)
Field Hockey (F)	Soccer (M,F)	Volleyball (M,F)
Futsal (M)	Softball (M,F)	Water Polo (M)
Golf (M,F)	Squash (M,F)	Wrestling (M)
Gymnastics (M,F)	Swimming (M,F)	
Half Marathon (M,F)	Taekwondo (M,F)	

JUNIORS SPORTS COMPETITION:

(Athletes must be born in 1993-94):

Basketball (M)	Karate (M)
Judo (M)	Soccer (M)

(Athletes must be born in 1991, 92, 93, 94):

Baseball (M)	Karate (F)	Tennis (M,F)
Basketball (F)	Soccer (F)	Track & Field (M,F)
Golf (M)	Squash (M,F)	Volleyball (F)
Gymnastics (F) <i>(born 1994-96)</i>	Swimming (M) <i>(born 1993-95)</i>	
Gymnastics (M) <i>(born 1992-94)</i>	Swimming (F) <i>(born 1993-96)</i>	

YOUTH SPORTS COMPETITION *(The Youth Division is part of the Junior Category):*

(Athletes must be born in 1991-92):

Basketball (M)	Karate (M)
Judo (M)	Soccer (M)

MASTERS SPORTS COMPETITION:

(Age categories are listed per sport as of Dec. 31, 2009):

Basketball (M)	40 and over; including a maximum of 3 players 35-39
Cycling (M,F)	40 and over, 50 and over
Golf (M,F)	50 and over
Half Marathon (M,F)	35 and over
Lawn Bowls (M)	35 and over
Soccer (M)	35 and over
Soccer (M)	45 and over
Softball (M)	35 and over
Squash (M,F)	35 and up, 40 and up, 45 and up, 50 and up, 55 and up, 60 and up, 65 and up
Swimming (M,F)	35 and over
Tennis (M,F)	35 and up, 40 and up, 45 and up, 50 and up, 55 and up, 60 and up
Tennis - Grand Masters (M)	65 and up, 70 and up, 75 and up
Triathlon (M,F)	International Rules