

**TEAM MINNESOTA**  
**JCC MACCABI GAMES® 2026**  
Kansas City\* and Toronto



Hi!

We are thrilled that you are interested in learning more about the JCC Maccabi Games, and possibly participating with the 2026 Team Minnesota for the Kansas City Games.

As the largest Jewish Youth event in the world, the JCC Maccabi Games create an experience that you will remember for a lifetime. Our teens, coaches, and families form meaningful relationships that transcend the week of JCC Maccabi and the boundaries of geography. JCC Maccabi teens have gone on to compete in the World Maccabiah Games®, the Pan American Maccabi Games®, professional sports, and even the Olympics. The community of alumni includes familiar names like Olympic swimmers Lenny Krayzelburg and Jason Lezak, Survivor's Ethan Zohn, actor Jason Segal, and American Idol's Brett Lowenstern.

Get ready to feel the spirit of JCC Maccabi when representing your community, getting to know your roommates and teammates, meeting new friends, participating in community service, compete on an international stage, and party at a one-of-a-kind social event each night.

You will receive a SWAG bag with your uniform and delegation gear that you will wear throughout the week and when we march together into the opening ceremony. Picture yourself walking into a stadium in front of thousands of spectators and looking around knowing all the other teens participating are also Jewish. You will make new friends from across the globe as you trade your gear for kangaroos, sombreros and British Union Jack attire.

Whether you bring home the best swag, a gold medal, or new lifelong friendships there is no doubt that you will have the time of your life at the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games.

This year there are two incredible opportunities! The JCC Maccabi Games and Access in Toronto August 2-7, 2026, AND The JCC Maccabi Games in Kansas City August 2-7, 2026. **The Minnesota JCC delegation will be attending the JCC Maccabi Games in Kansas City.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Team Minnesota Delegation Head, Alyssa Engelson, at [alyssac@minnesotajcc.org](mailto:alyssac@minnesotajcc.org) or 952-381-3495. Check us out on social media @jccmaccabi\_minnesota on Instagram!

We can't wait to have you as part of Team Minnesota!

Alyssa Engelson

## **TEAM MINNESOTA**

\*The Minnesota JCC is thrilled to be taking a delegation of eight (8) athletes to the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games in Kansas City.

**Registration for Team Minnesota opens on Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 9am at**

<https://minnesotajcc.org/programs/maccabi-games/>

**All-inclusive cost:** \$2,150 per athlete

Spots will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis. A spot on Team Minnesota is secured only after you register online through the Minnesota JCC and submit your non-refundable deposit of \$780.00. If you have multiple athletes, one (1) registration is required to be completed for each individual athlete. If all spots on Team Minnesota are filled at the time of registration, your athlete(s) will be added to the waitlist. After submitting your registration and deposit, you will receive a confirmation email. Also, Team Minnesota's Delegation Head, Alyssa Engelson, will contact you via email with information regarding next steps that include completing your athlete's online profile through JCC Association of North America.

Please contact Team Minnesota's Delegation Head, Alyssa Engelson, for more information at [alyssac@minnesotajcc.org](mailto:alyssac@minnesotajcc.org).

## **WHAT ARE THE JCC MACCABI GAMES®?**

The JCC Maccabi Games®, a weeklong, Olympic-style sports competition, is hosted each summer by one or several communities throughout North America. The Games have brought more than 180,000 teen athletes together for one-week summer events in host communities throughout North America since 1982. Each year teen participants in these programs from more than 100 JCCs and communities across North America and around the world connect to explore their identities, develop lasting memories and friendships, and to work together to make a real difference in the Jewish world.

The JCC Maccabi® brand programs offer Jewish teens the chance to give something back to their communities through JCC Cares, as well as the ability for many to feel, for the first time, part of Am Yisrael, a sense of connection to the global Jewish community. The weeklong program includes athletic competition, cultural activities, and a community service component as well as evening social activities.

Athletes 13-17 can compete against Jewish teens 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 memories and identification with 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 JCC Maccabi® 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) while promoting community involvement, and teamwork

*Program highlights include:*

- Olympic-style sport competitions, including opening and closing ceremonies, and a tribute to the Munich 11
- Evening social events
- Home hospitality with local Jewish families or hotel accommodations with your delegation
- Hang time/Jewish Programming with Israeli Shlichim
- JCC Cares community service projects

**TEAM MINNESOTA IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

*\*The deadline for online registration through CampDoc is TBD and will be communicated by the Delegation Head as soon as possible*

<b>Dates &amp; Deadlines</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Sunday, February 1, 2026 @ 9am	Team Minnesota registration opens! *Non-refundable \$780 deposit due upon registration
Monday, March 2, 2026	Final payment due – remaining balance of \$1,370 will be automatically charged to card on file  If different than delegation travel, athlete travel plans due to Delegation Head *see <i>Minnesota JCC Financial Policy</i>
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	Completed athlete profile in RegPack is due
Tuesday, June 2, 2026 @ 7-8pm at Minnesota JCC Sabes Center	JCC Maccabi Games Team Minnesota Delegation Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2026 @ TBD at the Minnesota JCC Sabes Center	Team Minnesota Maccabi swag pick up

## **MINNESOTA JCC FINANCIAL POLICY - ADDITIONAL FEES, CANCELLATIONS, AND REFUNDS**

**All-inclusive cost:** \$2,150 per athlete *\*this includes, but is not limited to, airfare plus one (1) checked bag, accommodations, uniforms, Team Minnesota gear, backpack, food, entertainment, etc.*

It is encouraged to pay in full, otherwise there will be two (2) payment installments as described below.

1. Non-refundable deposit of \$780.00 per athlete due upon registration
2. The remaining balance of \$1,370.00 is due by March 2, 2026 and will be automatically charged to the card on file on that date.

*\*If you need to set up a payment plan after registration, please contact Team Minnesota's Delegation Head, Alyssa Engelson, at [alyssac@minnesotajcc.org](mailto:alyssac@minnesotajcc.org).*

In the event that a payment deadline is not met, you will be contacted by a representative of the Minnesota JCC and must respond within two (2) business days to complete payment. If the Minnesota JCC is unable to contact you after two (2) business days, the Minnesota JCC reserves the right to replace the athlete with another eligible athlete.

### **ADDITIONAL FEES**

Team Minnesota participants and parents/guardians are financially responsible for any late fees that Team Minnesota acquires from JCC Association of North America because of not meeting ANY registration deadlines outlined by the Minnesota JCC and JCC Association of North America.

Team Minnesota participant(s) are strongly encouraged to travel with the delegation. Participant(s) and parents/guardians are financially responsible for airline fees, including the checked bag fee and new ticket cost, if they require a change in travel itinerary after March 2, 2026. The participants' parent(s)/guardian(s) will also be responsible for arranging the new travel itinerary and logistics and submitting it to Team Minnesota's delegation head.

### **CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS**

A full refund will be issued if the Minnesota JCC makes the decision to no longer participate in the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games at any time.

The \$780.00 deposit made upon registration is non-refundable. If your cancellation is received on or before March 31, 2026, you will be eligible for a refund of up to \$1,370. Any cancellations received on and/or after April 1, 2026 will not be eligible for a refund.

All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to Team Minnesota's Delegation Head.



**JCC Association  
of North America**



### **JCC Maccabi 2026 Eligibility Requirements**

In order to participate in the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games, all teens must be:

- A. Between the ages of 13-17 for the full duration of the program.
  - a. For Kansas City and Toronto, the eligible birthdates are August 8, 2008- August 2, 2013
  
- 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/his parent(s) must sign this declaration.
  
- C. All athletes must have current medical insurance and are up to date on all age-appropriate vaccines as per CDC guidelines.

To reaffirm, all athletes eligible to participate in the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games must be between the ages of 13-17 as of the dates listed above, Jewish, have current medical insurance, and are up to date on all age-appropriate vaccinations.



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### **Team Minnesota 2026 JCC Maccabi Teen and Parent Code of Conduct**

All participants must adhere to the Code of Conduct while participating with the 2026 JCC Maccabi Team Minnesota Delegation.

#### **Participant:**

- I will attend all required JCC Maccabi functions leading up to, and while attending, the 2026 JCC Maccabi Experience
- I will respect my coaches, chaperones, teammates, opponents, officials, parents, spectators and Delegation Heads.
- I will not strike, push, threaten to strike, or otherwise physically or verbally intimidate another participant, official, or spectator before, during or after a JCC Maccabi experience activity.
- I will not use rough tactics during the course of a game, practice, or other event.
- I will not engage in an abusive, verbal attack upon any individual while participating in or leading up to the 2026 JCC Maccabi Experience.
- I will not use trash talk, profane, obscene or vulgar language, under any circumstances.
- I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct such as throwing equipment or any other forceful action at any time.
- I will always accept and abide by the decision of all officials associated with the JCC Maccabi Experience.
- I will not use tobacco products; consume alcoholic beverages and/or drugs, except for the appropriate use of over-the-counter or prescribed medications.
- I will not engage in any “sexual activity”, including but not limited to groping, exposure, or other sexual acts.
- I will not engage in any non-consensual sexual activity or intimate contact, both physical and verbal, that is forced without someone’s consent.
- I will abide by the rules of the JCC and respect all JCC property at all times.
- I will not drive any vehicle at any time during JCC Maccabi.
- I will conduct myself in a manner consistent with Jewish values and traditions of sportsmanship and kindness to others.

#### **Parent/Guardian:**

- I confirm my child meets the eligibility criteria to participate in JCC Maccabi- they are between the ages of 13-17, Jewish, and are up to date on all vaccinations as required by the CDC/JCCA.
- I understand that my full deposit of \$780.00 is NON-REFUNDABLE.

- I understand that a portion of the balance of my payment is only refundable if my child has a medical injury and is not cleared to TRAVEL to JCC Maccabi by his/her doctor. In the event that the teen participant is not cleared for travel, I will provide documentation from his/her doctor stating they are not cleared for travel. The balance is NOT refundable if the Teen is cleared to travel, but not cleared to participate in athletic competition. I understand that I will not receive a full refund and can only receive funds that can be reconciled.
- I understand that if my child's online RegPack registration and registration paperwork are not completed by March 31, 2026, I will be responsible for any late fees that Team Minnesota acquires from JCC Association of North America.
- I understand that if my child's medical form and vaccination record is not completed by a doctor and submitted by March 31, 2026, I will be responsible for any late fees that Team Minnesota acquires from JCC Association of North America.
- I understand that if my child's full balance has not been paid by March 2, 2026, my child will forfeit their spot on Team Minnesota, and we will not receive a refund.
- I recognize the importance of volunteer coaches/chaperones. They are very important to the development of my child and the sport. I will communicate with them and support them.
- I will not make negative remarks or gestures to the opposing team, coaches, officials or spectators. I understand that parents/spectators are subject to having technical fouls called by an official on their team for negative comments.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all participants and officials at all times.
- I will create a safe and healthy environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, alcohol and abusive language, and I will refrain from their use at all JCC Maccabi events.
- I will remember that the game is for the athlete and not the parents.
- I will review the JCC Maccabi Code of Conduct with my teen upon registration, and make sure they are prepared to abide by all JCC Maccabi policies.
- I understand that if my child is sent home early due to behavioral concerns, I am responsible for the additional travel costs.
- I understand that the Minnesota JCC Maccabi Delegation reserves the right to revoke the privilege of any participant to be a member of Team Minnesota if the teen or teen's family does not exhibit appropriate conduct or otherwise fails to meet the obligations set forth in this agreement. Destructive and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in immediate dismissal from the team and as a member of the Minnesota JCC. No fees will be refunded upon dismissal.

***Non-adherence to the above stated Parent and Teen Participation Agreement will result in disciplinary action to be determined on a case-by-case basis***



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## 2026 JCC Maccabi Vaccination Policy

All athletes wishing to participate in JCC Maccabi must be up to date with the following age-appropriate vaccines recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Athletes will have to upload proof of vaccinations in CampDoc. PLEASE NOTE – there has been a shift in the required vs. recommended vaccines since 2023.

Required vaccinations are:

- Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis)
- IPV (Poliovirus)
- **Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b bacteria)**
- **'PCV 13 (Pneumococcal) vaccine or PCV 23**
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) or serologic evidence of immunity  
Varicella vaccine (Chicken Pox), or serologic or historical evidence of immunity
- Meningococcal vaccine – age 11 and again at age 16 (5 year interval)
- **Hepatitis B – if required by the state that the Games is taking place in (in order to attend public school)**

Recommended, but not required:

- COVID-19 and current available booster
- Hepatitis A
- Influenza (flu)

JCC Maccabi reserves the right to update this policy at any time and without prior notice. Please see the [CDC's vaccine schedule](#) for more information.

Policy Exceptions: There will be no exceptions to the vaccination policy granted in 2026, however, if your child is interested in following the catch up schedule to be able to participate this summer – please find all the necessary information [here](#).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What are The JCC Maccabi Games®?

The JCC Maccabi Games are an international athletic competition for Jewish teenagers run much like the Olympics. Athletes can compete against Jewish teens 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. At this Jewish Olympic style event, each athlete participates in one of fifteen sports, social events, and an opportunity to give back to the community during this week-long experience, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

### 2. Where/When are the Games this year?

<b>Kansas City, KS August 2-7, 2026</b>	<b>Toronto, Canada August 2-7, 2026</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages 13-17</li> <li>• Sports Offered: baseball, basketball, dance, flag football, girls volleyball, soccer, tennis, swimming, star reporter*</li> <li>• Highlights include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Olympic-style sport competitions, including opening and closing ceremonies, and a tribute to the Munich 11</li> <li>○ Home hospitality with local Jewish host families or hotel accommodations with your delegation</li> <li>○ JCC Cares community service projects</li> <li>○ Hangtime programming with Israeli schlichim</li> <li>○ Evening social events</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages 13-17</li> <li>• Sports Offered: baseball, basketball, dance, ice hockey, girls volleyball, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track, swimming, star reporter*</li> <li>• Highlights include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Olympic-style sport competitions, including opening and closing ceremonies, and a tribute to the Munich 11</li> <li>○ Home hospitality with local Jewish host families or hotel accommodations with your delegation</li> <li>○ JCC Cares community service projects</li> <li>○ Hangtime programming with Israeli schlichim</li> <li>○ Evening social events</li> </ul> </li> <li>• JCC Maccabi Access is for athletes with cognitive and developmental disabilities who will be competing in their own tournament parallel to the Games athletes.</li> </ul>

\*Sports are subject to change

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

**a.** Jewish teens between the ages of 13-17 (Must be 13 on August 2, 2026 and 17 on August 7, 2026) 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 sports are offered?**

- **Kansas City** Sports include: Baseball, Basketball, Dance, Flag football, Girls volleyball, Soccer, Tennis, Swimming, Star reporter\*
- **Toronto** Sports include: Baseball, Basketball, Dance, Girls Volleyball, Golf, Ice hockey, Soccer, Tennis, Track, Softball Swimming, Star Reporter\*

### **5. What is the athletic competition like?**

The competitive level of the participants will vary. There are teens that are elite athletes and then those that are there for the experience, the level of play is very diverse. Some of the sports will have different divisions based on skill levels. Throughout the week, players can expect to play at least four games/matches before tournament play begins on Wednesday. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded to the top three winners. Although it is competitive the JCC Maccabi Games emphasize the Rachmanus Rule, which is good sportsmanship and fair play. The experience is about more than just sports. It focuses on an all-around experience including friends, community service, social and educational activities.

### **6. What is a delegation?**

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

### **7. What is a mixed team?**

A mixed team is comprised of athletes from multiple delegations. This is common and happens when a delegation does not have enough athletes to field a full team. Where our delegation is unable to field a full team, athletes will be combined in a mix team with one or more other delegations' players. Being on a mixed team can be a great experience and foster lasting friendships with Jewish teens around the world!

### **8. 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.

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

Parents will be responsible for bringing athletes to the designated airport where delegation staff will be there to check teens in and accompany the group to the Games.

**10. What is the fee for the JCC Maccabi Games?**

Kansas City: The all-inclusive fee is \$2,150 per teen.

**11. 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, Team Minnesota gear, adult supervision and coaches, practices, meals, social events/team activities, and all other accommodations throughout the program.

**12. Are there scholarships available?**

We strongly encourage you to reach out to your local Federation, Jewish Community Foundation, and synagogue to enquire about local funding opportunities.

The Minnesota JCC also has limited scholarships available locally for families in need of financial assistance. All funding is need-based and you can apply through a confidential process.

You can find the scholarship application [here](#). To apply please email Alex Fisher at alexf@minnesotajcc.org.

**13. What does registration entail?**

Registration includes submitting the completed registration, personal contact info, a \$780.00 non-refundable deposit paid upon signing up, and agreement to the non-refundable remainder of the payment to the Minnesota JCC. Additional registration steps are required at later dates including medical forms, and online registration, roommate requests etc. Your delegation head will supply detailed information as next steps are required.

**14. Are there adult chaperones at JCC Maccabi?**

Of course! There is a mandatory ratio of 1:8 adults to teens. 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.

**15. Where will my teen stay?**

In **Kansas City and Toronto**, the week of JCC Maccabi (Sunday-Friday), all teens will stay with a host family. Host families are Jewish homes that are part of their greater JCC communities. Host families are background checked, screened, and required to attend a mandatory orientation. Vaccines will be required for all members of a host family who will be age eligible to receive it. The home hospitality experience is an important part of the Games experience. We are very gracious to these host families as they serve as interim parents for the week transporting the teens to and from JCC Maccabi, provide breakfast, laundry, and give your teen an unforgettable home hospitality experience. Many teens will stay in touch with host families for years to come! Teens can request specific homes that meet their needs such as dietary restrictions and pet allergies.

Teens can request a specific roommate. Participants may not arrange their own housing unless approved and discussed by their Delegation Head.

**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. Can I use my son or daughter's school or camp medical form for JCC Maccabi?**

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

**18. 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.

**19. 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 teen. Please note registration and fee deadlines, be aware of early bird prices.

While we encourage families to consider attending to support their teens, 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. At no point during the week can spectators or parents remove the teens from the program or take them off-site for any reason.

**20. How can I sign up to be part of Team Minnesota at the JCC Maccabi Games 2026?**

Registration is open NOW! Please contact your Delegation Head, Alyssa Engelson, to secure your spot on Team Minnesota!  
alyssac@minnesotajcc.org or 952-381-3495