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Team Maccabi SA M25 Info Sheet

#PlayForYourTribe

Introduction

PLEASE READ THIS WHOLE DOCUMENT CAREFULLY TO ENSURE YOU HAVE ALL THE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE INFO FOR AN ENJOYABLE MACCABI EXPERIENCE.

Please follow our social media accounts (Instagram, Facebook and X) and check our website for further M25 announcements and info.

For any queries, please email info@maccabi.co.za

Introduction

- The 22nd Maccabi Games, known as M25, is taking place in Israel from 8-22 July 2025.
- This will be South Africa's 21st Games, having first entered in 1935.
- **4002** South Africans have represented Maccabi SA to date, winning over 990 medals.
- These Games are going to be an epic celebration of sport, Israel and the Jewish people. Over 10,000 athletes will take part in the biggest and most powerful Jewish sports gathering of our generation. And Team Maccabi SA will be there, proudly representing our community and continuing our winning legacy. **More than ever, we are united, proud, and stronger together. More than ever, this is the time to play for your tribe!**

Eligibility

- Eligibility rules are for athletes and exclude Convenors/Managers/Coaches.
- Athletes must have at least one Jewish grandparent, proof of which may be requested.
- Athletes must be South African citizens with valid South African passports.
- SA athletes may also enter mixed country teams (called M25 teams) in certain sports, where SA has not entered a team. Details to be advised.
- Any person serving any form of doping ban from an applicable authority, which covers the duration of M25, may not represent SA.
- Any attempt to circumvent the eligibility rules will result in the disqualification of the team/athlete and the withdrawal of the entry.

Registration

- We have entered 18 sports and three age categories: Junior, Open and Masters.
- See the next slide for the list of sports and age groups.
- Register your interest by going to www.maccabi.co.za home page or click on the link below for your age group and submit your details.

JUNIORS: <https://forms.gle/gEGySaj8p6wEfGWx7>

OPENS/MASTERS: <https://forms.gle/rR9Nx3nLjWHuMSSk7>

- After registration, you will receive a confirmation email and further info in due course. Please do not register again as it causes duplications across the database. If you need to change eg: contact info, send us an email – info@maccabi.co.za
- If there is insufficient interest in a specific sport and/or age group, we will withdraw our entry.
- If there are any sports/age groups that we have not entered that you are interested competing in, please get in touch asap and we can explore.
- NB: You have to register with Maccabi SA to be eligible to attend trials.

JUNIORS

- **Chess:** Boys & Girls (2007-10)
- **Cricket:** Boys (2007-10)
- **Football:** Boys U16 (2009-10), U18 (2007-8)
- **Futsal:** Boys U16 (2009-10), U18 (2007-8)
- **Futsal:** Girls U18 (2007-10)
- **Golf:** Boys (2007-10)
- **Netball:** Girls U16 (2009-10), U18 (2007-8)
- **Rugby*:** Boys U18 (2007-8)
- **Swimming**:** Boys (2009-11), Girls (2009-12)
- **Tennis:** Boys & Girls U16 (2009-10), U18 (2007-8)
- **Volleyball:** Boys U18 (2007-10, 2 x teams), Girls U16 (2009-10)
- **Water Polo:** Boys & Girls* (2007-10)

* These entries are under review, see M25 Info Sheet.

** Swimmers born in 2007-8 are categorised as Open but stay with Juniors.

For any queries, please email info@maccabi.co.za

OPENS (b.2006 & older, unless specified)

- **Chess:** Male
- **Cricket:** Male
- **Cycling (Road,TT, MTB):** Male
- **Futsal:** Male (1991-2006)
- **Golf:** Male (1976-2006)
- **Karate:** Male
- **Lawn Bowls:** Male & Female
- **Maccabi Run (5km, 10km, 21km):** Male
- **Netball:** Female (1991-2006)
- **Padel:** Male & Female (1991-2006)
- **Pickleball:** Male & Female
- **Rugby:** Male
- **Squash:** Male (1991-2006)
- **Swimming:** Male & Female (1991-2008)
- **Tennis:** Male & Female (1991-2006)

MASTERS

- **Football:** Male 55+ (1970)
- **Golf:** Male 50+ (1975), 65+ (1960)
- **Padel:** Male 35+ (1990), 50+ (1975)
- **Swimming:** Male 35+ (1990)
- **Tennis:** Male & Female, 35+ (1990)

- You may register interest for more than one sport on the form and attend trials but you may only compete in ONE sport at the Games. No exceptions.

JUNIORS

- **Swimmers** born 2007-2008 are categorised as Opens but stay with the Junior delegation and are managed as **Juniors. Please register on Junior form.**
- **Junior Girls Futsal (2007-10)** – as we do not have sufficient players for both Futsal and Football, we have decided to enter Futsal.
- **U18 Boys Volleyball** – we have entered two teams (born 2007-2010).
- **U18 Girls Water Polo** currently only have three entries – SA, Israel and USA. The format will be a double round with the top two teams playing in the final. We are in discussions with other countries to see who may still enter and then need to decide if we think it is worthwhile. If you are interested please register and we will be in touch.

- **U18 Boys Rugby:** There are only two entries – SA and Israel. Three teams are required to form a competition and we are exploring options. Please register if keen and we will keep you posted.
- **Junior Golf:** Juniors stay with Opens/Masters in Caesarea.
- U18's may not play for U16 teams, but in certain sports U16's may play up for an U18 team. Other sports are one mixed age group eg: born 2007-2010. Check the dates for your chosen sport.

OPENS/MASTERS

- **Open Cycling:** You may enter one or both road formats (road, TT) or MTB.
- **Open/Masters Padel:** We have entered three age categories - Male and Female Open (19-34 yrs), Masters Male 35+ and Male 50+
- **Open Pickleball:** We have entered Pickleball for the first time, both Male and Female (born 2006 and older).
- Open athletes may not play in Masters teams/categories.

- Trials will be announced by Maccabi SA and organised by Convenors. If a Convenor has not yet been appointed for your sport, trials may be postponed.
- [NB: A parent of an athlete in the team may convene/manage that team but may not be the coach of the team].
- Swimming selection is based on qualifying times which are at the discretion of Maccabi SA and will be communicated to those that have registered.
- There are no trials for Open and Masters individual sports (excluding padel and pickleball), pending the number of entries and the abilities of those that have entered.
- All trials will have external selectors.
- Trials may be held in both Johannesburg and Cape Town, if required. To note that Football is based in Jhb and Futsal in Cape Town. Other sports may also have their base in one or other city, pending where the majority of athletes live. Athletes may be required to attend final trials in the host city, and if selected are expected to attend a reasonable number of training camps in the host city at their own expense or through team fundraising.

M25 Entry Fee

- The ENTRY FEE is made up of the **LAND COST + SA COST**:
 - The **LAND COST** is in US dollars and includes accommodation, food, transport, sport, security, medical insurance, tours and Opening/Closing Ceremonies.
 - The **SA COST** includes delegation kit, admin/management fee and medical fee.
 - The **FLIGHT** cost is separate: for the Junior group it is negotiated by Maccabi with the airline. Opens/Masters organise their own flights so that may use loyalty programmes etc.
 - We recognise that the Games are expensive and do everything we can to control the cost. However, the dollar exchange rate, flights and various other hard costs are not under our control. The bigger the whole SA team, the less the cost, as various fees are shared by all. It is thus impossible to provide an exact cost until Team SA is finalised.
- We estimate the Entry Fee for Juniors and Opens to be approximately R105,000 per person *excluding* flight, and pending the exchange rate in 2025.
 - All Junior and Open accommodation is on a sharing basis. Opens in certain sports may pay an additional fee for a single room, subject to availability (cost tbc).
 - Golfers (all ages) are required to pay an additional \$800 for green fees.
 - The Masters Entry Fee is an additional \$500 (sharing) due to the better quality hotels allocated. The cost for a single room is an additional \$1850. Masters athletes **ONLY** may take the “sports package” which excludes accommodation and food. Masters may also pay to have their spouse/partner/kids stay with them, subject to room availability. Please contact us for further info.

- The Entry Fee excludes the cost of training/playing kit for your specific sport. It also excludes the cost of travel to any training camps in another city (where applicable) pre-Games.
- NB: The cost of each team sport's coach and/or manager is funded by the team through fundraising activities. This is the global Maccabi model. Please take note of this if you are entering a team sport. To note that some Open/Masters sports do not require a coach and/or manager.
- **Elite Subsidy:** Elite athletes in certain sports who have represented South Africa may qualify for a subsidy from Maccabi World Union (details tbc).
- **Flights:** Juniors generally travel together on the same flight but Opens and Masters may make their own travel arrangements (eg: via loyalty programmes). Juniors will likely be travelling on Ethiopian Airlines out of Johannesburg and Cape Town, but this is still to be confirmed.
- **Opening Ceremony:** Tickets may be purchased for family and friends (cost tbc). Please note that any spouses/partners/kids staying with Masters athletes may not take part in the Opening Ceremony.

M25 Payment

- On selection to Team Maccabi SA, a non-refundable* deposit of R5000 is payable per athlete, which will be deducted off your total Entry Fee.
- The full Entry Fee is due by April 2025 and final timelines will be confirmed in due course (see next slide for Refund Policy).
- The LAND COST must be paid in dollars directly to our Israel account and the SA COST paid in rands into our SA account. You will be invoiced separately for these.
- For Juniors (and other delegates travelling on Junior flights), payment must be made separately on presentation of invoice (payment date to be confirmed, pending airline requirements).

M25 Refund Policy

- ***Deposit (R5000):** If the Games are cancelled before 31 Dec 2024, you will be refunded in full. Thereafter, if the Games are cancelled you will be refunded R2000 of your deposit.
- **Entry Fee – Land Cost:** If the Games are cancelled, you will be fully refunded for your Land Cost within 90 days of the date of cancellation.
- **Entry Fee – SA Cost:** If the Games are cancelled you will be refunded for most of the SA Cost, excluding any items already paid for. For example, if Delegation Kit has already been ordered, you will receive the kit and not a refund for this portion.
- Athletes who are injured and cannot compete will be refunded as per above up until (*date to be confirmed by MWU*) pending provision and approval of medical documentation.
- **Flights (Juniors):** cancellation terms are being negotiated with the airlines and insurance options are also being investigated.

- Maccabi SA offers a **bursary programme for JUNIORS*** whereby financial assistance is available to those who genuinely require it.
- The purpose of this fund is to ensure that all athletes are selected based on talent and not on financial status.
- The Bursary Fund is managed by an external panel of adjudicators.
- Applicants will be required to undertake a financial means assessment, all of which will be strictly confidential. Further information regarding the application process will be shared in due course.
- Applicants may be granted a bursary for all or a portion of their LAND COST (not SA COST).
- Due to previous abuse of this programme, a non-negotiable rule in 2025 is that family of athletes who receive bursaries may not attend the Games in Israel, no exceptions.

*Includes swimmers born in 2007/8 who are classified as Open but managed as Juniors.

M25 Fundraising

- All sports are encouraged to undertake fundraising activities to pay for their manager/coach (where applicable) as well as subsidise their own fees. Activities include padel tournaments, golf days, comedy evenings, and merchandise sales. Fundraising Guidelines will be provided in due course.
- Teams/athletes may also be sponsored, whereby a company pays for a package of rights including a logo on the kit. All sponsorship must be approved by Maccabi SA and is subject to T&Cs. Sponsorship Guidelines to be provided.
- Maccabi SA will be launching an online raffle (pending NLC licence) with great prizes, for which athletes can sell tickets, the value of which will be deducted from Entry Fees (T&Cs apply).
- Maccabi SA is also in the process of finalising our Section 18A application in which donors can receive a tax rebate.



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8-22
JULY
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