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## Pan am masters games 2024

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The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. May 12, 2024 (by Steve Hopkins, photos Pan Am Masters Games) The 2024 Pan Am Masters Games will be hosted in Cleveland this year, and Butterfly will be there. Butterfly and Bowmar Sports will be the sponsors for this huge, Olympic-style event that will include twelve age categories (starting at age 30 and increasing up to 80+) across a range of singles, doubles, and mixed doubles events. Para athletes are also invited to compete in the same age divisions – competing against all other athletes. The Games will be held from July 12-21. The venue is the Cleveland Public Auditorium in the heart of downtown – a 220,000 square foot event space known for cultural, art, and sports events. Nearby hotels include Aloft, Marriott, Comfort Inn, Crowne Plaza, Drury Plaza, and Doubletree. The Pan American Masters Games were first organized in Vancouver in 2016. These Games are organized by the International Masters Games Association, which hosts regional “masters” (or seniors) events and has hosted a World Masters Games since 1985. The World Masters Games has grown to include more than three times as many athletes as the Olympic Games making it the world’s largest international participatory multi-sport event. Bowmar Sports is a natural partner of the Pan American Masters Games, as Bowmar has helped bring Butterfly sponsorship to events not just in the United States but also in Canada, Puerto Rico, and throughout this Hemisphere in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Next month, as an example, Bowmar Sports will be supporting the 2024 Butterfly Puerto Rico Open, another international event bringing table tennis athletes together from throughout this Hemisphere. Join thousands of athletes from around the world as senior athletes compete in 26 medal-contending sports from table tennis to cycling to basketball to track and field. A full sports program for the Pan Am Masters is available here. We look forward to seeing you in Cleveland this Summer. Visit ButterflyOnline.com for the latest table tennis news and results. We see you are using Internet Explorer as your browser. Microsoft no longer supports Internet Explorer so you will experience issues on our website and others. Please use another browser like: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Apple Safari. { "ContactInfo": { "FirstName": null, "MiddleInitial": null, "LastName": null, "Email": null, "Address": null, "City": null, "State": null, "Zip": null, "Gender": null, "Month": 0, "Day": 0, "Year": 0, "Phone": null, "Country": null, "BirthDate": null, "SalesforceId": null }, "Club": { "SelectedClub": null, "SelectedLmsc": null, "SelectedWorkoutGroup": null }, "Interests": { "SelectedInterests": null, "Magazine": null, "Coach": false, "SelfIdentifiedCoach": false }, "RegistrationStatus": { "Active": false, "Renewal": false, "SwimmerId": null, "IsLapsed": false, "TrialCount": 0, "PendingMember": false, "InRecurringBilling": false } } CLEVELAND, Ohio – A celebration with thousands of athletes is coming up this month across a range of sports and places, with a global flair that puts its home venues on the map.And we’re not talking about the Summer Olympics in Paris.It’s the Pan-American Masters Games, an international multi-sport event that rotates throughout the world for athletes ages 30 and older. They are scheduled to take place at venues throughout Northeast Ohio Friday, July 12, to Sunday, July 21.Organizers have been working for seven years to bring the games to Cleveland. And as challenging as it can be to stage any large-scale sports event, the coronavirus pandemic threw logistical stop-and-start concerns into the process.But the folks at the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission are confident the city will shine – not only in its role as host but also in the marketing spotlight that will be cast when the athletes arrive to compete in more than two dozen sports.At the core of the organizational effort to draw the games is Rachel Stentz-Baughner, senior vice president, community and corporate engagement for the sports commission, and executive director of the Pan-American Masters Games.The games are expected to attract 4,000 athletes from 70-plus countries and 48 states. That global convergence “does give us a good opportunity to share our message that Cleveland is a really fun place to be,” she said. “We have a lot of world-class amenities with a smaller-city feel.”She said David Gilbert, executive director of the sports commission, was the genesis in landing the games. Gilbert has been at the forefront of every major rotating sports event that has come to Cleveland in recent years. Through contacts that connected Gilbert and the Pan American Masters Games’ governing body, the seeds were planted back in 2017.A bid-site visit followed, anticipation built, and the games were awarded – to Rio de Janeiro for 2020.“But as we all know, it was a blessing in disguise,” Stentz-Baughner said, “because that event never happened.”The pandemic halted the event. In 2022, Cleveland officials received word about hosting in 2024. “It just took a long time to coordinate, mainly because the pandemic put a wrench into everything. The world stopped, as we all recall,” she said.Here’s how it works: Typically, Stentz-Baughner said, the International Masters Games Association hosts an event annually, a rotation around the globe. One year, it’s Pan-American – so the games are held in North, South or Central America, although athletes from all over can compete. Then the following year it moves to Asia. Then on to Europe, and finally it’s the world games.“So they rotate three regional games with the world games,” she said. “That whole schedule got messed up with the pandemic.”But now the pandemic dust has settled. The timeline is clear. And Cleveland is waiting for its closeup.“We love doing the thing that’s hard. We love to do things here that other cities don’t want to do or don’t have the infrastructure to do. ... We’ve really made a name for ourselves with the multi-sport events,” Stentz-Baughner said.The Pan-American Masters Games has never been held in the United States. In 2016, host-city Vancouver was hosted about 6,000 athletes. But Cleveland’s resume has been filled with major events, from the Republican National Convention in 2016 to subsequent large-scale events – Major League Baseball and NBA All-Star Games, the NFL Draft and others. But it doesn’t stop there.Other global events held in Cleveland include the International Children’s Games (2004), Senior Games (2013), Gay Games (2014) and Transplant Games (2016). “There’s a history there to this multi-sport concept,” she said. “These events are super difficult to host. It’s a lot of different sites, you need a lot of staff, a lot of coordination between operations and medical and hospitality and all the things that it takes to run an event like this. This event, though, is different because it’s international competition. It’s a really big deal for us, especially post-pandemic. Just as important as the medals won by athletes is the widespread visibility that the city gains.”It puts Cleveland on the international map. We want to be known as a city that is open for international travel and international business and international leisure,” Stentz-Baughner said.About 60 to 65 percent of the events will be in Cleveland, but all will take place within a 30-minute drive from downtown. The hub will be Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland, where half a dozen sports are scheduled to take place.One of the venues participating is League Park and its accompanying Baseball Heritage Museum at Lexington Avenue and E. 66th Street. The park will be used for baseball, but the location also is considered an off-day activity site being promoted for visitors.Museum director Ricardo Rodriguez said his staff is “just thrilled to be part” of the games. “Obviously we’re excited to have the baseball component of the Pan-American Games at League Park and really excited to host. Even if a quarter or half of those athletes come into the museum, the opportunity to have a couple thousand international physical impressions is very important to us,” he said.About 11 games are slated to be played at the historic park, which was home to Major- and Minor-League teams in Cleveland for more than 50 years. Cleveland’s 1920 team, which won the World Series, played there. The ballpark also was graced by Babe Ruth slamming several historic home runs. “Getting some international action on Cleveland’s historic League Park is one of the biggest benefits that anyone can get,” said Rodriguez, who added the staff is “all hands on deck” because of the thousands of incoming athletes, friends and family. “Getting access to international players to the park, letting them be part of the major bit of history sitting in the middle of Cleveland – that is part of our mission at the Baseball Heritage Museum, increased accessibility not only at League Park but the history that it involves. And having this influx of people come in with the Pan-American Games gives us a great opportunity to do that.”It’s also a potential economic boon for the region.Initially, the Pan-Am Masters Games were projected to boost the economy to the tune of about \$18 million. Stentz-Baughner said that figure has been adjusted to about \$15 million, since early visitor projections were downsize. Attendees initially were put between 6,000 to 9,000 athletes, but it looks to be closer to 4,000 now, she said.The state of world economies and travel costs to the United States also affect the games. And competition bites into the entertainment-tourism-travel pie: The National Senior Games were held last summer in Pittsburgh. The Huntsman World Senior Games is held annually in Utah. Stentz-Baughner said.“There’s a lot of competition in the U.S. for older athletes,” she said.Competition on fields and courts isn’t the only one. Restaurants, attractions, rental cars and hotels all will stand to gain. Stentz-Baughner said her office has heard many incoming athletes are looking at the Airbnb route.A welcome celebration is Saturday, July 13, at Mall C. A handful of Cleveland attractions will be promoting themselves, including the Pro Football Hall of Fame, University Circle, Cleveland History Center, Playhouse Square and others, all to “catch people’s attention to get them to want to come out,” Stentz-Baughner said.Area restaurants and attractions are participating in PAN-AM Perks. Athletes showing credentials can receive discounts.The Pan-American Masters Games also serves as an indirect precursor to the Olympics, which will be July 26 to Aug. 11. “We’re hoping that (Summer Games) piques folks’ interest,” Stentz-Baughner said, while noting the Pan-Am Masters Games “are not necessarily for the most elite athletes.” Anyone over 30 can compete, you don’t have to qualify, and there’s no minimum performance standard. “International competition? Yes,” she said. “Elite competition? Not necessarily.” “We’re so excited for the 4,000 athletes who are coming. We are elated that they are from so many places around the world. And we are ready to roll out the red carpet and give them an excellent experience in Cleveland.”If you go: 2024 Pan-American Masters GamesWhat: The multi-sport event rotates throughout the world for athletes ages 30 and above.Competition: The games will encompass more than two dozen sports across 28 venues in Northeast Ohio. Athletes of more than 70 nationalities and 48 states are slated to compete.Sports: For a list of sports, from archery to curling, go to clevelandmasters2024.com.When: Friday, July 12, to Sunday, July 21.Location: Venues are across Northeast Ohio, with the main one being Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland, 300 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland. Sports and venues include:• Swimming, Cleveland State University. • Baseball in three city of Cleveland baseball fields, including League Park • Triathlon, Edgewater Park. • Cycling, Cleveland Metroparks. • Soccer, Strongsville. • Orienteering, Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Kent State University. • Tennis, Beachwood-Mayfield. • Curling, Cleveland Skating Club, Shaker Heights.Events• Welcome celebration is 5:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at Mall C. • A ticketed Rock and Roll Party at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame is 6 to 10 p.m. Tuesday, July 16. • A World on Stage cultural celebration with garden tour, tree dedication and more is 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, July 20. • Many other events are scheduled, from a community day, 5K, night at Progressive Field and farewell celebration. Go to clevelandmasters2024.com/events.More coverage: Pan-American Masters Games choose Cleveland as 1st U.S. competition site! cover restaurants, beer, wine and sports-related topics on our life and culture team. For my recent stories, here’s a cleveland.com directory. WTAM-1100’s Bill Wills and I talk food and drink around 8:20 a.m. Thursdays. Twitter and IG: @mbona30. My latest book, co-authored with Dan Murphy: “Joe Thomas: Not Your Average Joe” by Gray & Co.Want to know what’s going on in the weekend? Sign upfor cleveland.com’s weekly “In the CLE” email newsletter.Our weekly DineDrink C-L-E podcast covers North Ohio’s food and drink scene. Go to cleveland.com/topic/dinedrinkcle. And follow @DineDrinkCLE on Instagram. Cleveland was the proud host of the 2024 Pan-American Masters Games from July 12-21, 2024. A major event of the International Masters Games Association, the Games offer an opportunity to showcase competitive spirit and athletic ability of masters athletes on a global stage. Thousands of athletes from 6 continents (sorry Antarctica), 48 states and more than 70 countries came to Cleveland in a celebration of health, vitality, friendship and an active lifestyle at any age. Participants competed in 24 medal-contending sports including track and field, tennis, basketball, archery, volleyball, pickleball, softball, baseball, rowing, squash, table tennis, badminton, karate, cycling, curling, triathlon and more. See Videos and Photos of Athletes and Competitions The Welcoming Celebration on Saturday July 13, 2024 included a Parade of Athletes from Cleveland’s Public Square to Mall C for the ceremony. Before the Parade athletes gathered on Public Square by sport. Pan Am Masters Games athletes from MongoliaCanadian Pan Am Masters Games Athletes Parading to Mall CSee Photos and Videos of the gathering on Public SquareSee Photos and Videos of the Parade to Mall C Once the athletes reached Mall C, local representatives from the 70 or so communities carried the flag of the country down the High-5 Tunnel. Then the athletes were called up by sport and began to fill up Mall C. They were led by the John Marshall HS drum line. There was music, food, fun and a brief welcoming ceremony that included the Athlete’s Oath, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, Sergey Bubka, David Gilbert and others. Pan Am Masters Games 2024 Welcoming Ceremony See Photos and Videos of the Welcome Ceremony There was an opportunity to Meet and Greet with ten-time world champion, Olympic Gold Medalist and 35-time world record holder Sergey Bubka. As a pole vaulter, Mr. Bubka was the first pole vaulter to clear 6.0 meters and 6.10 meters. He held the indoor world record of 6.15 meters for almost 21 years. Mr. Bubka is currently the president of the International Masters Games Association. PAMG Community Day was held on Monday July 15 at Aura at Innovation Square in Cleveland. At a ceremony, six multi-purpose fitness machines were installed to support social and emotional health and wellness opportunities for people of all ages. A Rock and Roll Party was held at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum on Tuesday evening July 16. Guests toured the exhibits, ate and drank great food, danced to a DJ and were able to try guitars, drums, etc. in the hands-on room. PAMG Executive Director Rachael Stentz-Baughner at Rock Hall Athletes visited Progressive Field Friday evening as the Cleveland Guardians defeated the San Diego Padres followed by Fireworks! You could hear PAMG cowbells throughout the ballpark!First Pitch by PAMG’s Makoto ChoghaharaSee Photos and Videos of the above Special PAMG Events On Saturday July 20, there was a World on Stage Concert in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. The event included performances from 3 continents - the Kwan Family Lion Dance, the PIAST Polish Folk Ensemble and the Djapo African Drummers and Dancers. There was also a brief ceremony for the 24 trees that were planted in the Cultural Gardens as a legacy of the Cleveland PAMG. Tree Dedication Ribbon CuttingPhotos and videos of the World on Stage event Kwan Family Lion DanceSee photos and videos of the Kwan Family Lion Dance PIAST Polish DancersSee photos and videos of all the PIAST dances and songs Djapo Cultural Institute dancers and drummers See photos and videos of all the Djapo dances and drumming The Farewell Ceremony took place on Sunday July 21 at the finish line of the Road Race 10K, Half Marathon and Community 5K. Athletes gathered to get their medals and step up on the medal stand. Colombian athlete Brief remarks were given by leaders and sponsors.Cleveland PAMG closing ceremony remarks Farewell Ceremony Main Page Farewell Ceremony Athletes Photo Page It was a bittersweet moment as the thousands of athletes and visitors who had been competitors and companions for 10 days headed back to their homes. Many will meet again in 2025 in Taipei Taiwan. One thing for sure. Thanks to the hard work of the Cleveland PAMG team led by David Gilbert and Rachael Stentz-Baughner, all the visitors had a great time in The Land. We can’t wait till they come back for a visit. Top of PageBack to ClevelandPeople.Com Community and Special Events Nike FreezeFest Returns to Cleveland Nike FreezeFest is returning to Cleveland on December 6-7, 2025 - registration opens... more Pickle in the Land 2024 Highlights Pickle in the Land 2024 in Cleveland, Ohio more 2025 USA Artistic Swimming Youth Championship and 12U Invitational on... more 2025 Dru Joyce Classic Highlights from the 2025 Dru Joyce Classic hosted at the FX Center on... more 2025 NCAA DIII Outdoor Track & Field Over 850 student-athletes from across the country will travel to Northeast Ohio to... more 2025 NCAA DIII Baseball Championship Cleveland is set to host the NCAA DIII Baseball Championship! The top Division III... more 25th Greater Cleveland Sports Awards Backstage - Quinn Woidke 25th Greater Cleveland Sports Awards Backstage - Nathan Zegura & Jay Crawford 25th Greater Cleveland Sports Awards Backstage - Mike Hargrove & Charles Nagy 25th Greater Cleveland Sports Awards Backstage - Luke Chicone Registration has opened for the Pan-American Masters Games Cleveland 2024 next summer, which is taking place in Ohio, USA, July 12-21. Hosted by Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, the multi-sport festival for masters athletes, those competing over 30 years old, is expected to be the largest international gathering in Northeast Ohio’s history. Held every four years in the Americas, the Games will bring over 7,500 masters athletes from more than 50 countries along with thousands of spectators, families and friends. The squash competition will be held at the Cleveland Racquet Club and will be open to players of all abilities. Squash was part of the debut Pan-American Masters Games in 2016 and enjoys a large and diverse player base at the masters level, including across the Americas, with world masters champions coming from a wide variety of nations. Speaking earlier, WSF President Zena Wooldridge reflected on the diversity of squash’s masters community and the success of the 2016 event: “Squash has one of the most vibrant masters communities in the world, with players from 10 different nations – four of those Pan-American – winning gold medals at last year’s WSF World Masters Championships. “The 2016 Games in Vancouver were a brilliant showcase of our sport and our masters community and I have every confidence that the Cleveland 2024 Games will be another spectacular celebration of what squash can bring to a multi-sport Games.” Click here to register for the squash competition at the Pan-American Masters Games Cleveland 2024.