



Aurora Games tickets on-sale beginning International Women’s Day, Friday, March 8

Initial lineup of 175 athletes features Olympic medalists and national champions with more star power to be announced in coming weeks

All-women’s sports and entertainment festival to be held at the Times Union Center in Albany, NY, August 20-25, 2019

ALBANY, N.Y.; March 4, 2019 – Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza, two-time Olympic basketball gold medalist Lindsey Whalen, three-time U.S. National figure skating champion Ashley Wagner, and Finland’s Olympic bronze medal hockey star Susanna Tapani will be among the estimated 175 athletes from around the globe to compete in the Aurora Games, the inaugural all-women’s sports and entertainment festival to be held at the Times Union Center in Albany, NY, on August 20-25, 2019.

Fans will have an opportunity to purchase tickets to witness this historic gathering of athletes beginning on Friday, March 8 at 10 a.m. to coincide with International Women’s Day.

Individual session tickets for the Aurora Games may be purchased at www.Ticketmaster.com. Tickets will range in price from \$15 to \$129 and will include access to the Aurora Games FanZone featuring music, athlete meet and greets, food and entertainment. Children may qualify for half-price tickets based on seating selection.

All-session ticket packages, which provide a seat for all six days of the multi-sport competition, will also be available at www.Ticketmaster.com beginning Friday, March 8.

“It is with great excitement that we announce that tickets to the Aurora Games will go on sale March 8 to coincide with International Women’s Day. When I look at the initial lineup of current athletes, sporting legends, celebrities, corporate sponsors and others that have committed to the Aurora Games, it underscores the timeliness of this undertaking,” said Aurora Games Executive Producer Jerry Solomon. “The Aurora Games will be an unprecedented celebration of women in sports that will provide a week full of memorable moments that you won’t want to miss. We look forward to welcoming the world to Albany.”

"One hundred years ago Albany County and the Capital Region played a critical role in the emergence of the suffragette movement so it is only fitting that the Aurora Games comes to our area to celebrate women in sports," said Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy. "In our discussions with the organizers, we see an opportunity to create a women's sports facility that can

become the leading destination for training, advancement, rehab and competition for women's sports. The County is excited about the potential for becoming the permanent home of the Aurora Games so I encourage local fans to secure their tickets as Albany demonstrates to the national and international community its support for world-class competition, events and athletes."

The Aurora Games will feature competition in women's tennis, gymnastics, basketball, figure skating, ice hockey and beach volleyball. The Games will showcase an estimated 175 athletes from over 20 countries representing more than 100 Olympic and World medals.

The athletes will compete for Team Americas versus Team World as they contend for the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Trophy, the official trophy of the Aurora Games. Didrikson Zaharias was named the "Greatest Female Athlete of the First Half of the 20th Century" by the Associated Press for her achievements in multiple sports, including golf, basketball, baseball and track and field.

Among the initial list of athletes includes the following Olympic medalists and national champions:

- **Garbine Muguruza (Tennis, Team World):** Garbine Muguruza is the 2017 Wimbledon champion and 2016 French Open champion. She was the number one ranked women's tennis player in the world in 2017.
- **Lindsay Whalen (Basketball, Player/Coach Team Americas):** Lindsay Whalen won two Olympic gold medals as a member of the United States women's national basketball team and is a four-time WNBA champion and five-time WNBA All-star.
- **Ashley Wagner (Figure Skating, Team Americas):** A three-time U.S. national figure skating champion, Ashley Wagner captured an Olympic bronze medal during the 2014 Winter Games in the team event.
- **Michele Timms (Basketball, Coach Team World):** Michele Timms captured Olympic silver and bronze medals as a member of the Australian women's national basketball team. A former WNBA star with the Phoenix Mercury, Timms was inducted into both the FIBA Hall of Fame and Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.
- **Haley Skarupa (Ice Hockey, Team Americas):** A member of the 2018 United States Olympic Gold Medal winning hockey team, Haley Skarupa currently stars with the Boston Pride of the National Women's Hockey League.
- **Susanna Tapani (Ice Hockey, Team World):** A professional hockey player who captured an Olympic bronze medal with the 2018 Finnish national team, Susanna Tapani has also won three bronze medals during the IIHF Women's World Championships.
- **Bethanie Mattek-Sands (Tennis, Team Americas):** U.S. Open tennis champion and Olympic Gold medalist Bethanie Mattek-Sands has won five Grand Slam titles in women's doubles and three in mixed doubles.

- **Sarah Pavan and Melissa Humana-Paredes (Beach Volleyball, Team Americas):** This Canadian duo is fresh off winning the 2018 Commonwealth Games and poised for a big year in 2019. Pavan represented Canada in beach volleyball at the 2016 Rio Olympics and is a former professional indoor volleyball player. As a team, the pair have won five FIVB World Tour beach volleyball events.
- **Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Nadia Comaneci (Honorary Captains, Team Americas and Team World)** Three-time Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey and five-time Olympic gold medalist Nadia Comaneci will serve as honorary team captains. Joyner-Kersey, an American track and field icon, will lead the athletes representing Team Americas. Comaneci, the legendary Romanian gymnast, will guide those competing for Team World.

The Aurora Games schedule of events is as follows:

Tuesday, August 20 -- Opening Ceremonies and Tennis: The Aurora Games will get underway with Wimbledon and French Open Champion Garbine Muguruza leading Team World against Team Americas headed by Puerto Rico's Olympic Champion Monica Puig and six-time Grand Slam champion Bethanie Mattek-Sands from the United States. The international competition will feature three singles and two doubles matches utilizing fast paced "no ad" scoring.

Wednesday, August 21 -- Gymnastics: In a modified format competition, six athletes from Team World will compete against six athletes from Team Americas in floor exercise, beam and bars.

Thursday, August 22 -- Basketball: Lindsay Whalen, the five-time WNBA all-star, leads Team Americas into battle against Team World coached by Australian Legend and former WNBA star Michelle Timms.

Friday, August 23 -- Ice Hockey: Legendary coach Digit Murphy leads a star-studded Team Americas roster featuring Haley Skarupa, Lisa Chesson and Blake Bolden against Team World coached by Sarah Murray and led by Finland's Venla Hovi, Japan's Yuka Hirano and Sweden's Rebecca Sternberg. The Aurora Games introduces a two-shot line which could be decisive in a close game.

Saturday, August 24 -- Figure Skating: Team World and Team Americas will square off on the ice in a team competition that will include skaters from around the world representing the past, present and future of the sport.

Sunday, August 25 -- Beach Volleyball and Closing Ceremonies: Teams from the United States and Canada will take to the sand against two teams to be named for Team World in a straight knockout format competition that will see them battle for Gold Medal bragging rights as volleyball comes indoors for a one-day beach party to conclude the competition. The Gold Medal match will be followed by a closing ceremonies celebration championing women's empowerment.

Group sales and VIP Experiences can be reserved by contacting Carrie Berger at (617) 688-6128.

For sponsorship information, contact Karen Scott Happer at karen@champagnetennis.com.

The official hotel of the Aurora Games is Hilton Albany, located approximately .2 miles from the Times Union Center at 40 Lodge Street in downtown Albany. Aurora Games guests can save on overnight stays by using code 5AGCB when securing reservations by phone at 1-866-691-1183 or online at <https://bit.ly/2U2n1mC>.

For up-to-date information about the Aurora Games, visit AuroraGamesFestival.com or follow the Games on Twitter [@AuroraGamesFest](https://twitter.com/AuroraGamesFest).

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ABOUT THE AURORA GAMES

Aurora Games Festival, LLC owns and operates the Aurora Games and holds all of the rights and intellectual property associated with the Games. The Aurora Games were conceived of and created by Jerry Solomon. Mr. Solomon has been one of America's top sports marketing executives for more than 30 years. The Aurora Games, named in honor of the Roman goddess of the dawn, will be held every two years beginning with the inaugural edition at the Times Union Center in Albany, NY, August 20-25, 2019. Designed to celebrate the best in women's sports, entertainment and culture, the Aurora Games will welcome all-star athletes, as well as coaches and trainers, representing more than 15 countries to downtown Albany to compete in an international competition of teams comprised of the Americas vs. the World. The six-day event will include team and individual competitions in basketball, tennis, figure skating, gymnastics, ice hockey and beach volleyball. Fans will also enjoy musical performances, food tastings, sports clinics, autograph sessions and seminars in the Aurora Games Fan Zone at the Albany Capital Center. For up-to-date information about the Aurora Games, visit AuroraGamesFestival.com or follow the Games on Twitter [@AuroraGamesFest](https://twitter.com/AuroraGamesFest).