

Summer Empire State Games tryouts slated

Tryouts for the Western Region's teams for the 31st annual Empire State Games will begin May 3 and continue through June.

The games will be held July 23-27 in Binghamton.

All participants must be New York State residents and a resident of the Western Region as of April 30. For more information on eligibility, including restrictions about age, visit www.empirestategames.org.

Below is a listing, by sport, with gender, dates, times and locations for the tryouts. However, all dates, times and locations are subject to change. For more information on tryouts, contact the regional office at 836-3910.

Open Division

- Archery (MW): June 1 and 8; 9 a.m.; Bergums, Angola [Must attend both trials]
- Athletics: Track and Field (MW): June 21; 9 a.m.; Brockport State College; Racewalks; June 7; 8 p.m.; Beaver Island State Park, Grand Island; Decathlon (M) and Heptathlon (W); June 21-22; 9 a.m.; Orchard Park High School [Bring pole, shot, discus, javelin and starting blocks]
- Basketball (M): June 14; 10 a.m.; Medaille College, Buffalo; June 15; 10 a.m.; Nazareth College, Rochester
- Basketball (W): May 17; 11 a.m.; St. Bonaventure University, Olean; June 1 and 8; 10 a.m.; University at Buffalo's Triple Gym
- Bowling (MW): May 10-11; 2 p.m.; Bowl-A-Roll, Rochester [Contact Ray Bardol at 585-637-4300 or brockport-bowl@aol.com for more information.]
- Boxing (MW): June 7; 3 p.m.; North St. Recreation Center, Rochester

- Canoe/Kayak (MW): June 17; 7 p.m.; University of Rochester Wilson Blvd. Launch Site, Rochester

- Cycling (MW): June 1; 9 a.m.; Levi Course Park, Bristol Center [For more information, contact Jonathan Howard at 585-734-6156. One-day license will be available.]

- Diving (MW): June 8; 8 a.m.; University at Buffalo, Amherst campus

- Fencing: June 1; noon; Rochester Fencing Club [All weapons electric]

- Gymnastics (M): June 1; 9 a.m. stretch; 10:15 a.m. competition; Stumpf's Gymnastics Center, Williamsville

- Gymnastics (W): May 23; 6 p.m. stretch; 6:45 p.m. competition; Stumpf's Gymnastics Center, Williamsville

- Judo (MW): June 7; 3 p.m.; Kin-Tora Fitness Center, Buffalo

- Rowing (MW): June 27; 3 p.m.; Genesee Waterways Center [Athletes must register online prior to June 22 and contact Will Greene at 585-271-6072.]

- Sailing (MW): May 31; 9 a.m.; Willowbank Yacht Club; contact Peter Bushnell at 315-655-5477; June 7; 9 a.m.; Ithaca Yacht Club; contact Chas Williamson at 607-272-0630; June 14; 9 a.m.; Saratoga Sailing Club, Saratoga Springs; contact Allen Miller at 518-885-5510; June 21; 9 a.m.; Newport Yacht Club (Irondequoit Bay), Rochester; contact Jim Cuddihee at 585-266-8686.

- Shooting - Rifle/Pistol (MW): rapid-fire pistol; May 17; 9 a.m.; Rochester Rifle Club; free pistol; May 24; 9 a.m.; women's sport pistol; 11:30 a.m.; air pistol; 1 p.m.; Niagara County Sportsman's, Ransomville; May 31; 9 a.m.; three-position rifle; Elma Conservation Club

- Shooting - Skeet/Trap (MW): May 3; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; May 4; 9 a.m.; Rochester Brooks; May 18; 9:30 a.m.; Hendrick Hudson; May 22; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; May 24; 10 a.m.; DeWitt Fish & Game Club; May 31; 10 a.m.; Blue Mountain; June 5; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; June 7; 9 a.m.; Binghamton; June 8; 9 a.m.; Hendrick Hudson; June 14; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; June 21-22; 9 a.m.; Rochester Brooks
- Soccer (M): May 16, 17 and 20; 7 p.m.; May 31, noon; University at Buffalo, Amherst campus
- Soccer (W): May 4 and 17; 7:30 p.m.; Kenney Field, Town of Tonawanda; June 14; 3:30 p.m.; East Rochester High School
- Softball (W): May 25 and June 1; 9 a.m.; Sheridan Park, Town of Tonawanda
- Swimming (MW): June 13; 5 p.m. warm-up; June 14; 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. warm-up; University at Buffalo, Amherst Campus [Entries will close on June 11.]
- Synchronized Swimming (W): June 15; 9 a.m.; Sweet Home High School, Amherst
- Volleyball (M): June 3 and 5; 6 p.m.; Nazareth College, Rochester
- Volleyball (W): June 2 and 9; 7 p.m.; Buffalo Niagara Courts Center, West Seneca; June 5 and 7 p.m.; Nazareth College, Rochester
- Weightlifting (MW): June 18; 11 a.m.; Steel Mill Gym, Lackawanna
- Wrestling (M): Freestyle on June 7; Greco-Roman on June 10; 8 a.m. weigh-in for both days; Eden High School

Scholastic Division

- Archery (MW): June 1 and 8; 9 a.m.; Bergums, Angola [Must

attend both trials.]

- Athletics: Track and Field (MW): June 21; 9 a.m.; Brockport State College; Decathlon (M) and Heptathlon (F); June 21-22; 9 a.m.; Orchard Park High School [Bring pole, shot, discus, javelin and starting blocks.]

- Baseball (M): May 18; 9 a.m.; Cub's Field, Amherst Pepsi Center; May 25; 9 a.m.; Gowanda High School; June 1; 9:30 a.m.; St. John Fisher College, Rochester

- Basketball (M): May 20; 7 p.m.; Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester; May 21; 7 p.m.; University at Buffalo's Triple Gym, Amherst; May 28; 7 p.m.; Batavia High School

- Basketball (W): May 17; 2 p.m.; Honeoye Falls-Lima High School; May 3 and 10; 2 p.m.; Williamsville East High School

- Boxing (MW): June 7; 3 p.m.; North St. Recreation Center, Rochester

- Diving (MW): June 8; 8 a.m. warm-up; 10 a.m. competition; University at Buffalo, Amherst campus

- Fencing (MW): June 1; 11 a.m.; Rochester Fencing Club, Rochester [All weapons electric]

- Field Hockey (W): June 3 and 10; 6 p.m.; University at Buffalo, Amherst campus; June 8 and 15; 9 a.m.; Irondequoit High School

- Gymnastics (M): June 1; 9 a.m. stretch; 10:15 a.m. competition; Stumpf's Gymnastics Center

- Gymnastics (W): May 23; 6 p.m. stretch; 6:45 p.m. competition; Stumpf's Gymnastics Center

- Ice Hockey (W): June 21; 1 and 4 p.m.; June 22; 1 p.m.; Amherst Pepsi Center

- Lacrosse (M): June 21 and 28; 9 a.m.; June 18, 19, 20, 23; 4:30 p.m. Nazareth College (turf field), Rochester [Bring appropriate equipment and shoes to the trials.]

- Lacrosse (W): June 15; noon; June 23; 5 p.m.; Penn Yan Acade-

my; June 16; 4 p.m.; Monroe Community College [Bring goggles, turf shoes, and reversible jersey.]

- Shooting - Rifle/Pistol (MW): May 31; 9 a.m.; three-position and prone rifle; Elma Conservation Club

- Shooting - Skeet/Trap (MW): May 3; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; May 4; 9 a.m.; Rochester Brooks; May 18; 9:30 a.m.; Hendrick Hudson; May 22; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; May 24; 10 a.m.; DeWitt Fish & Game Club; May 31; 10 a.m.; Blue Mountain; June 5; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; June 7; 9 a.m.; Binghamton; June 8; 9 a.m.; Hendrick Hudson; June 14; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; June 21-22; 9 a.m.; Rochester Brooks

- Soccer (M): May 4 and 18; 10 a.m.; University at Buffalo, Amherst campus
- Soccer (W): May 4; 4 p.m.; Williamsville South High School; May 17; 4 p.m.; Mendon Center Elementary School, Pittsford; June 14; 2:30 p.m.; East Rochester High School, upper fields

- Swimming (MW): June 13; 5 p.m. warm-up; June 13; 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. warm-up; University at Buffalo, Amherst campus [Applications must be received by June 11.]

- Tennis (MW): June 28; 9 a.m.; University at Buffalo, Amherst-Ellicott Courts; June 29, rain date [Applications must be received by June 24. Bring a new can of balls.]

- Volleyball (M): May 11; 10 a.m. Midlakes High School, Clifton Springs; May 11; 5 p.m.; Eden High School

- Volleyball (W): May 7 and 16; 5:30 p.m.; Hot Shots Volleyball Club, Rochester; May 14; 5:30 p.m.; Buffalo Niagara Courts Center, West Seneca

- Wrestling (M): Freestyle on June 7; Greco-Roman on June 8; 8 a.m. weigh-in for both days; Eden High School

Amherst softball wins sloppy opener

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

It wasn't a masterpiece, but the Amherst Central softball team won its first game of the season.

The Lady Tigers only mustered two hits and scored three unearned runs to beat Tonawanda, 3-1, on April 7 at Tonawanda.

Trailing 1-0 in the top of the third inning, Amherst took the lead because of a number of Tonawanda miscues.

Junior shortstop Eva Lankes reached on a fielder's choice and stole second base. Freshman Jessica Banning struck out, but the Tonawanda catcher dropped the third strike. Banning took off to first base, the catcher threw to first base and the Tonawanda first baseman dropped the ball. This allowed Lankes, who was headed to third anyway, to beat the throw home and Banning to make it to second. Banning would score on the play after the Tonawanda catcher overthrew a center fielder who was covering second.

Amherst scored another unearned run in the sixth inning. Banning reached on an error, was moved over to second by a fielder's choice from sophomore Kara Stein and scored when a throw to third went past the Tonawanda third baseman.

Stein and senior Katie Bardak recorded Amherst's two hits.

Banning tossed a three-hitter with a strikeout and no walks. Banning received good defense behind her from sophomore sec-

ond baseman Abby DeFrancis (four putouts, five assists) and Lankes (putout, five assists).

"It's always important to get a league win," said Amherst coach Mike Chatelle.

The Lady Tigers' first nonleague game didn't pan out as well.

Amherst dug themselves an 11-0 hole at Grand Island on April 8 before scoring a run in the fourth after Banning led off with a single and stole second, and Bardak doubled her in.

Amherst added a run in the sixth when DeFrancis scored on a fielder's choice, but the team lost 14-2.

"Grand Island has a nice hitting team," said Chatelle. "I think we could have played better defense...I don't think we had the same enthusiasm or jump in our

step as the Tonawanda game, but we have to score more runs."

Lankes and Banning each had two hits. DeFrancis singled.

Amherst also committed two errors. They had none versus Tonawanda.

Amherst (1-1) doesn't return to action until Monday, April 21, when they start league play at 4:30 p.m. at Depew. Other league games that week include road games at Cheektowaga and Maryvale, April 22 and 23, respectively, followed by the home opener versus Iroquois on April 24. All are 4:30 p.m. starts.

"If we can string a few more hits together and keep playing well defensively, we should be OK," said Chatelle.

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Clarence shuts out Sweet Home

The Sweet Home varsity softball team was shut out by Clarence, 4-0, on April 7 at Clarence.

Junior Natalie Vazquez hit 1 for 2 with a walk. Junior Jillian Reeser went 1 for 3. Junior Jessica Forti threw out a runner attempting to steal.

Sweet Home lost to Kenmore East, 2-1, on April 8 at Sweet Home.

Senior Amanda Cannizzo hit a home run in the bottom of seventh inning. She finished with two hits. Forti had a hit, stolen base and one pickoff play to first base. Junior Rachel Cimerman recorded the team's first double play with a line drive catch and a throw behind the runner to get the out at first.

Sweet Home (0-2) returns to action on Saturday by competing in the 25th North Tonawanda Varsity Invitational Softball Tournament at the Edward Belbas Fields. The Lady Panthers face Grand Island at 2:30 p.m. and Fredonia at 4:30 p.m.

Sweet Home opens league play against Williamsville East at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21 at Transit Middle School.



HOCKEY SHOWCASE — Sweet Home's Dominic Puntillo goes for a loose puck during the juniors game of the Bowman Cup last Thursday at HSBC Arena. The event pitted the top juniors and seniors from Buffalo and Rochester against each other. Puntillo and the Buffalo juniors beat the Rochester juniors, 3-2. In the seniors game, Sweet Home's Ryan Marko scored with 42.3 seconds remaining in overtime to help the Buffalo seniors edge the Rochester seniors, 5-4.

Photo by Patrick McPartland
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