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DECEMBER 2023 SPORTS & CULTURE NEWS

GAY GAMES XI – GUADALAJARA AND HONG KONG



Gay Games 11 are now in the rear-view mirror, and despite some gloomy predictions, by all accounts both Guadalajara and Hong Kong were extremely successful overall.

Both locations had fewer participants than initially hoped, however each found that the smaller events resulted in a more intimate and rewarding experience for the athletes, the volunteers, and the organizers which provided a very meaningful experience for everyone involved.

Financially Hong Kong had secured sufficient sponsorship for the Games before Opening ceremonies kicked off, so they are secure. Guadalajara is still finalizing their financials at this time.

We congratulate the Guadalajara and Hong Kong organizing teams and volunteers who delivered these Games under some

very unprecedented, unusual and challenging conditions which we sincerely hope are NEVER seen again.

LOOKING FORWARD TO GAY GAMES XII, VALENCIA, SPAIN



Our focus now largely shifts to Gay Games XII scheduled for 2026 in Valencia, Spain.

The Federation was so overwhelmed in supporting the unprecedented two Gay Games locations in 2023, that they now have a compressed time schedule to prepare for Valencia in 2026.

Barring any similarly unforeseen and unexpected World Pandemic or other huge crisis, we are eagerly looking forward to a much simpler, less stressful, and more enjoyable lead up to the opening of Gay Games 12 in Spain.



TEAM SAN FRANCISCO WELCOMES BEN GILLIAM TO OUR BOARD



We are excited to introduce our newest Board member Mr. Ben Gilliam.

Ben is Managing Principal and national market leader for Coldwell Banker Commercial and Chair of the Board of Directors for the GLBT Historical Society Museum. He was instrumental in getting powerlifting back into Gay Games and joins our board in the very important Delegate to the Federation of Gay Games role, serving as one of two delegates Team San Francisco has as a full member of the Federation.

Delegates fulfill an extremely important liaison role between local San Francisco members and the Federation at large. Delegates attend FGG Annual in-person meetings of the General Assembly held in different cities around the world, and represent the needs and desires of YOU, our TeamSF members.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES



As an entirely unpaid, volunteer run, nonprofit corporation, Team San Francisco has operated for four decades through the donations of time, fiscal donations, and energy of our community and our Board of Directors. In the very beginning, before the internet became so omnipresent, we gleaned a small percentage of the fees members paid to participate in the quadrennial Gay Games, as city teams were the only way to register at that time. With the advent of the internet and on-line registrations, all city teams lost that significant revenue stream and all had to find alternatives such as sponsorships and hosting fundraising events.

Sadly, many city teams shut down as a result of these changes and the few who remain, such as Team San Francisco have had to rethink and reimagine our role within the broader LGBTQ+ sports and cultural community, and how we can continue to provide value and benefit to all our members. As the sole city team that was founded at the very genesis of the Gay Games movement itself, we feel it is historically and emotionally vital that Team San Francisco remains viable, pertinent, and influential within the Federation of Gay Games and within the LGBTQ+ sports and cultural community in general.

Our new Board of Directors is working hard to accomplish these goals and to meet this mission. We involved our membership directly with the site selection process that saw Valencia, Spain selected as the 2026 host city, and we will continue that process to allow all members to influence the site selection process for Gay Games XIII in 2030 which has already started. We are also committed to providing financial support to our members who need a little extra assistance to attend and participate in Gay Games events. In 2023 we provided SIX scholarships to Team San Francisco members, accommodating all who applied for assistance, helping them attend and participate. This is a key function for us and a role we want to continue and expand into the future.

Our Board have recognized however, that instituting a small membership fee is essential to fund our continuing operations and to allow us to focus on the broader goals and mission of Team San Francisco.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

We will ask individuals to pay just \$10 annual membership which will allow you to receive this newsletter, attend special events we organize throughout the year, vote in site selection decisions, and offer you some discounts on TeamSF merchandise. Membership will run Jan01 to Dec31 each year.

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

We will ask clubs and organizations to pay just \$100 annual membership which will allow you to list in our directory, promote your events through our email and newsletter distribution, and will allow your liaison to attend our TeamSF Board meetings and special events for clubs. Membership will run Jan01 to Dec31 each year. (We are working on a volunteer model where your members can donate volunteer hours to TeamSF during events in exchange for a reduction in your annual organizational membership. More details to follow.)

We are still working on some of the membership registration and payment processes so it will likely be sometime during 1Q24 before we will ask you to formally register with us and pay the membership fee.

We sincerely look forward to working with everyone in 2024 and beyond, to help grow our LGBTQ+ sports and cultural offerings throughout San Francisco and the greater Bay Area, to support your club meets and fundraising events, and to promote and support other sporting and cultural events around the world.

FGG Site Selection For 2030 Is UNDERWAY!



While 2030 seems very far away at this moment, and many people don't really understand how the site selection process within the Federation of Gay Games really works, we thought we'd give you a little insight into the whole process and how YOU can become a part of the process and perhaps influence the selection of the 2030 Gay Games XIII host city!

REGISTERING INTEREST BY 31 DECEMBER 2023

Invitations to host Gay Games XIII in 2060 have already gone out through social media, and cities around the world who hope to be considered will register interest formally with the Federation of Gay Games by not later than 31 December, 2023.

PROPOSAL AND SUBMISSION

Over the next year, all interested cities will submit a **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** requiring a registration fee to the FGG, and those who complete this step will then be asked to submit an initial **BID INFORMATION** package which will include an additional fee to the FGG. Both of these steps whittle down likely cities to those who actually have the financial backing and capacity to host a Gay Games event. The members of the Annual General Assembly (Team SF is one of many) will then ask questions of all bidding cities, and as a paid TeamSF member you will be invited to participate in this process through our delegates.

TOP 3 FINALISTS

The Annual General Assembly will vote on the bids and our delegates will seek your input on whom TeamSF will vote for. The three cities receiving most votes will go on to a finalist selection process, which will include a site visit from FGG Board Members and another round of more detailed and specific questions of the prospective hosts which paid TeamSF members will participate in through our delegates.

PRESUMPTIVE HOST SELECTED

In February of 2026 the FGG Annual General Assembly will come together to cast votes on who will be selected as the presumptive host of Gay Games XIII in 2030. As a paid TeamSF member, you will be invited to express your opinion through our delegates. You selected Valencia #1 and Guadalajara #2 for Gay Games XII in 2026 and Valencia was ultimately selected – so your vote and involvement is important and really does have an impact on the whole process.

We look forward to inviting you to in-person and on-line meetings over the next two years, as we work through this site selection process with you.

Join Our Board



Team San Francisco was formed in 1982 following the incredible success of Gay Games I, held in San Francisco that same year. Recognizing the potential of the Gay Games, the original San organization was split into two distinct entities, the **Federation of Gay Games (FGG)** which would organize the quadrennial games, and **Team San Francisco (TeamSF)** which would support local LGBTQ+ athletes and cultural participants.

Initially, way back in 1982 when the internet was still science fiction, the only way to sign up for the Gay Games was through a local organizing team, such as TeamSF, Team Washington, Team Berlin, Team Sydney and so on. Each local organizing team would work closely with the FGG and the Games hosts to promote participation and attendance. The widespread adoption of the World Wide Web and personal home computers changed everything after 1993 when the FGG moved to on-line registration for future games. This significantly reduced the prior key importance of the local Teams.

Team San Francisco remains “relevant” as we maintain TWO (2) delegate seats and two votes at the FGG Annual General Assembly, which as an international body vote to select future Gay Games host cities. This is a vital and time-consuming responsibility which our TeamSF delegates take very seriously indeed. In addition to voting, we also hold historical importance to the FGG, as the host city of the very first Gay Games and as such we have the honor of being the first group to enter each Games in the March of Athletes.

We are not only active in the twelve-months preceding each quadrennial Gay Games, and indeed we support our member sports and cultural organizations through the year, by promoting their calendar of events, offering volunteers to help staff events, and representing their thoughts and opinions at the FGG Annual General Assembly. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, all of our Board members are unpaid volunteers who dedicate considerable time, energy, and ideas to make TeamSF successful.

We are currently seeking some additional quality candidates to join our TeamSF Board in the following important roles:

- **Treasurer** - we are hardly a fortune 500 company, but we still need a knowledgeable treasurer to help us submit tax returns and keep our financials accurate. This probably requires no more than a couple of hours each week at most.

www.TeamSF.org TeamSFHQ@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

Add your event, tournament, or fundraiser on this calendar. Email the details to TeamSFHQ@gmail.com

January 2024

- [SIN CITY CLASSIC](#) – Jan11-Jan14: LGBTQ+ annual sports festival in Las Vegas, USA.

February 2024

- [MARDI GRAS MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT](#) – Feb25: LGBTQ+ tournament in Sydney, Australia. Contact keepsafe@ihug.com.au for more details.

March 2024

- No known events at this time

April 2024

- [RAINBOW GAMES '24](#) – Apr04-Apr08: new and inclusive multisport event, featuring 15 sports in Tamaki Makaurau Auckland, New Zealand

May 2024

- [PRAGUE RAINBOW SPRING 2024](#) – May03-May05: International sports tournament in Prague, Czech Republic.
- [TOURNOI INTERNATIONAL PARIS](#) – May17-May19: LGBTQ+ annual sports event in Paris, France.

June 2024

- No known events at this time

July 2024

- [EUROGAMES 2024 VIENNA](#) – Jul17-Jul20: LGBTQ+ annual sports event in Vienna, Austria.
- [STONEWALL SPORTS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT & SUMMIT](#) – Jul18-Jul21: 10th annual sports event in Minneapolis and St. Paul, USA

August 2024

- No known events at this time

September 2024

- No known events at this time

October 2024

- No known events at this time

November 2024

- No known events at this time

December 2024

- No known events at this time



**SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN
MARDI GRAS
MARTIAL ARTS
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024**



25 FEB 2024
KGV RECREATION CENTRE
CUMBERLAND ST
THE ROCKS NSW 2000



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or visit www.glmartialarts.com.au



Contact Penny Gulliver for more info
0411 808 451 or swpmachampionships@gmail.com

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