

Media Guide



Special Olympics

WORLD SUMMER GAMES
ATHENS 2011

XIII Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011

Media Guide

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Welcome Message from the GOC President, Joanna Despotopoulou



I welcome you to Athens!

I welcome you to the wonderful world of the winners. A world full of sincere, honest smiles, genuine compassion and gentle rivalry, without fanatic extremes, deceptive star system and antagonism. The world of Special Olympics.

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt” is the oath of the athletes of Special Olympics.

These 15 words condense the meaning of the effort that these unique athletes and people make daily in order to win self-belief, respect for their diversity and an equal position in society, through their involvement in sports.

From 1962 and the first summer camp created by Eunice Kennedy Shriver for children and adults with intellectual disabilities to today where this worldwide movement flows like a river through more than 3 million athletes in 185 countries globally, it is this vision that inspires, energizes and guides their efforts. The vision of a society that prefers to embrace than to exclude, that will integrate rather than isolate.

The ATHENS 2011 Special Olympics are a milestone in this worldwide movement. They join together the timeless principles of Olympism and the modern humanitarian spirit with the source of the beautiful, the great and the true. Here where it all began, the place where logic and myths, democracy and art were born.

The Flame of Hope, which was lit 15 days ago by the life giving sun on the holy hill of Pnyx and has travelled since to more than three continents and dozens of cities in Greece, will now light the altar of the Games at Kallimarmaron Stadium. It will give some of the glow, warmth and humanity of the sun to our souls and minds. It will disperse the darkness of introversion, ignorance and alienation, and mark the beginning of the biggest sports, educational and cultural event of 2011 worldwide.

Since February 14th, 2008 when our country officially undertook the organization of the Special Olympics Games, we have worked hard and methodically so that today, in keeping with Greek tradition, we are in the position to welcome and host 7500 great athletes from 185 countries around the world, 2500 coaches, 3000 judges and referees, 3000 representatives of the press and mass media and thousands of family members of the athletes as well as officials of the worldwide Special Olympics movement, who have come to Greece to participate in this celebration of life.

Looking back on this long journey, we can only feel joy, awe and pride, as well as the assurance that each small step was worth the effort and time needed for it to take place.

Let your soul hear the meaning of the moment. Let the noble efforts of the Special Olympics athletes relay to it, a little of the inspiration and inner strength that makes them shine bright. Look into their eyes. Feel the thrill that their effort emits. Share their joy. Say too, “I’m in!” and keep a place for them within you, even when the lights of the celebration are off in a few days.

Joanna Despotopoulou
Organizing Committee President
ATHENS 2011

Welcome Message from Media Operations Team

Dear Media Friends,

It is with great pleasure to extend warm greetings and a special welcome to all attending the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011.

We are proud to host the largest multi-day summer sporting event for 2011, in Athens, which provides an extraordinary forum for healthy exchange and rigorous competition.

Over the next few days, nearly 7,000 exceptionally talented athletes will showcase their competitive skills in 21 Olympics-type sports at venues that have been designed to bring out the best in them.

Realizing the importance of media in spreading the gospel of the Special Olympics around the world, we have done our best to ensure the very best working conditions possible to allow all of you to successfully cover the ATHENS 2011 Games.

By supporting the Games, not only you are making a difference in the lives of those on the playing fields, but also you are raising awareness and altering attitudes by helping people throughout the world to understand and appreciate the values of respect and compassion, which our athletes and their supporters live by every day.

The ATHENS 2011 Organizing Committee is committed to putting on the best World Summer Games, the Special Olympics community has ever experienced, and we look forward to joining us in leaving a legacy we can all be proud of.

Media Operations Team



2. Games Information

2.1 Facts & Figures – ATHENS 2011 by Numbers

8 days of competition: Opening Ceremony on 25 July, 2011

21 Olympic-type sports: Aquatics (Swimming), Athletics, Marathon/Half-Marathon, Badminton, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Equestrian, Football (5-aside, 7-aside, 11-aside), Golf, Gymnastics, Handball, Judo, Kayaking, Powerlifting, Roller Skating, Sailing, Softball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball

ATHENS 2011 Venues

OAKA Athens Olympic Sport Complex

- Olympic Stadium (Athletics AT & Volleyball VP)
- Olympic Aquatic Centre (Aquatics AQ)
- Olympic Tennis Centre (Tennis TN)
- Olympic Velodrome (Powerlifting PL)
- Olympic Indoor Hall (Basketball BK)

Hellinikon Olympic Complex

- Hellinikon Olympic Indoor Hall/Fencing Hall (Badminton BD, Gymnastics GY, Handball HB, Young Athletes and MATP)
- Hellinikon Olympic Hockey Venue (Football 5-aside FB)
- Hellinikon Olympic Softball Venue (Softball SB and Cycling CY)

Peace and Friendship Stadium – SEF

(Bocce BC, Roller Skating RS, Table Tennis TT, Beach Volleyball BV*)

Independent Venues

- ACG Deree Gym (Judo JU)
- Blanos Sports Park, Spata (Bowling BO)
- Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre (Equestrian EQ)
- Agios Kosmas Training Centre (Football 7-aside FB)
- «Apilion» Sports Centre, Koropi (Football 11-aside FB)
- Glyfada Golf Course (Golf)
- Schinias Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Centre (Kayaking KA)
- Sailing Academy, Schinias (Sailing SA and Open Water Swimming OW)
- Panathenaikon Stadium (Marathon MA, Opening/Closing Ceremonies)

HELLEXPO

Healthy Athletes Centre

ATHENS TENNIS CLUB

Family Centre

- 7 Special Olympics Villages, 6 located at Aghios Andreas and 1 at Nea Makri
- 7.000 athletes
- 2.500 Coaches
- 3.000 Technical Officials/Referees
- 40.000 Special Olympics Families
- 25.000 Volunteers
- 700 Media Representatives

2.2 Key Media Dates

- Flame of Hope-Lighting Ceremony, Pnyx Athens, 11:00am-1:00pm, 9 June, 2011;
- Final Leg Flame Ceremony and Reception Rhodes, Rhodes, Medieval Theater, 23 June, 2011;
- Host Town Program, 50 cities in Greece, 20-24 June, 2011;
- LETR Flame Arrival Ceremony, Parthenon, 6:00pm-7:00pm, 24 June, 2011;
- Opening Ceremony Media Conference, Terpsichore Ballroom D, Hilton Hotel, 1:00pm-2:00pm, 25 June, 2011;
- Special Olympics Opening Ceremony, Panathenaikon Stadium, 08:00pm-11:00pm, 25 June, 2011
- First Award of the Games (Aquatics 800meter), OAKA Aquatics, between 2:50pm-3:05pm, 26 June, 2011;
- UNICEF Partnership Signing (TBC), 10:15am-10:45am, 27 June, 2011;
- Greek Parliament Event, Parliament, 11:00am-12:30pm, 27 June, 2011;
- Media Special Event, Glyfada Golf Course, 28 June, 2011;
- Global Youth Rally, Festival Village, OAKA, 08:30pm-11:30pm, 1 July, 2011;
- Youth Athletes Experience, Hellinikon – Fencing Hall Venue, 11:00am-2:00pm, 2 July, 2011;
- Special Olympics Closing Ceremony, Panathenaikon Stadium, 08:30pm-11:00pm, 4 July, 2011

2.3 Special Olympics Festival

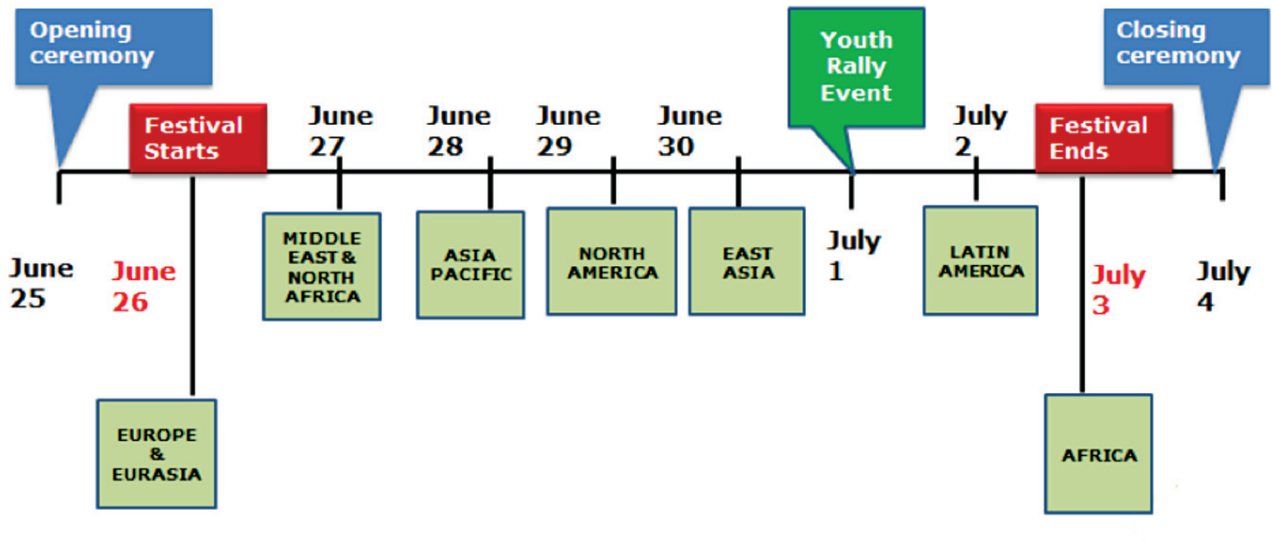
The Special Olympics Festival is established to provide fun and entertainment, educational and cultural experiences for the competing athletes, all constituent groups as well as the general public. The goals are to develop an atmosphere of inclusion, integration and learning; to highlight the achievements of Special Olympics Athletes; to provide all sponsors, supporters, and embassies with the opportunity to participate in the Games; and to showcase their support while contributing to the entertainment of the Games.

Location

The Special Olympics Festival will be located at the Common Domain of the Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA), between "Agora" and the "Wall of Nations".

Period - Operation Hours

The Special Olympics Festival will be operational throughout the Games week (26/6-3/7/11) from 10:00 to 19:00. The program will be dedicated to the Special Olympics' seven regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, East Asia, Europe & Eurasia, Latin America, Middle East & North Africa, and North America, as shown on the chart below.



Content

The Special Olympics Festival is constituted by:

Sponsors' Village

Booth Areas for sponsors, global partners, official supporters, Embassies with various activities, games, traditional music and dance events, and food corners;

Delegations Entertainment Areas

Marquees Area with electronic game corner, Internet access, educational programs, such as the TRAIN & YOUNG ATHLETES program, creative workshops, beauty corners, interactive puppetry, signature walls, 3D games, live radio broadcastings, and many more;

Fun Park – Play area

Multi-use games area, sports courts, ball courts, vitality trails, play panels, multi-play areas;

Concert Stage for live concerts and performing arts;

Café & Chill Out Area

The components of the Festival will be upbeat, interactive and age-appropriate for all participants. Some of the activities are listed below:

* Arts & crafts * Arts Events (Dancing groups, Orchestras, Interactive puppetry, Live Music & Entertainment, Youth groups Concerts) * Magicians * Stilt Walkers * Animators * Visual & Photo Exhibitions * Arcade Games * Educational Workshops * Cooperation with the Embassies * Sponsors Actions * Sports Days * Games Park Stands – Booths * Signature Walls * Recycling Park * Movies Projection * Relaxation Activities * Traditional Cultural Events * Merchandising Area *

2.4 Participating Countries and Regions

Afghanistan	Czech Republic	Libya	Senegal
Albania	Denmark	Liechtenstein	Serbia
Algeria	Djibouti	Lithuania	Seychelles
Andorra	Dominican Republic	Luxembourg	Singapore
Argentina	Ecuador	Macau	Slovakia
Armenia	Egypt	Malawi	Slovenia
Aruba	El Salvador	Malaysia	Somalia
Australia	Estonia	Maldives	South Africa
Austria	Faeroe Islands	Mali	Spain
Azerbaijan	Finland	Malta	Sri Lanka
Bahamas	France	Mauritania	St Kitts and Nevis
Bahrain	FYROM	Mauritius	St Lucia
Bangladesh	Georgia	Mexico	St Maarten
Barbados	Germany	Moldova	Sudan
Belarus	Gibraltar	Monaco	Suriname
Belgium	Great Britain	Montenegro	Swaziland
Belize	Guadeloupe	Montserrat	Sweden
Benin	Guatemala	Morocco	Switzerland
Bharat (India)	Guyana	Myanmar	Syria
Bhutan	Haiti	Namibia	Tajikistan
Bolivia	Hellas	Nepal	Tanzania
Bonaire	Honduras	Netherlands	Thailand
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hong Kong	New Zealand	Timor-Leste
Botswana	Hungary	Niger	Togo
Brazil	Iceland	Nigeria	Trinidad and Tobago
British Virgin Islands	Indonesia	Norway	Tunisia
Brunei Darussalam	Iran	Oman	Turkey
Bulgaria	Iraq	Pakistan	Turkmenistan
Burkina Faso	Ireland	Palestine	Uganda
Cambodia	Isle of Man	Panama	Ukraine
Cameroon	Israel	Paraguay	United Arab Emirates
Canada	Italy	Peru	Uruguay
Cayman Islands	Jamaica	Philippines	USA
Chile	Japan	Poland	Uzbekistan
China	Jordan	Portugal	Venezuela
Chinese Taipei	Kazakhstan	Puerto Rico	Vietnam
Colombia	Kenya	Qatar	Virgin Islands
Comoros	Korea	Reunion	Zambia
Costa Rica	Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	Romania	
Cote d'Ivoire	Kuwait	Russia	
Croatia	Kyrgyz Republic	Rwanda	
Cuba	Laos	Samoa	
Curacao	Latvia	San Marino	
Cyprus	Lebanon	Saudi Arabia	

2.5 Sports and Venue Overview

Sport	Discipline	Venue	Venue Code	
Aquatics (AQ)	Swimming	OAKA Olympic Aquatic Centre	MAQ	
	Open Water Swimming (OW) ¹	Sailing Academy Schinias	SSA	
Athletics (AT)	Track & Field	OAKA Olympic Stadium	MOL	
	Athletics - Half Marathon (MA) - USE ²	Panathenaikon Stadium	PAN	
Badminton (BD)	Badminton	Hellinikon Fencing Hall 1	HFI	
Basketball (BK)	Basketball	OAKA Olympic Indoor Hall	MBK	
Beach Volleyball (BV) ³	Beach Volleyball	SEF Beach Volleyball Venue	SEF	
Bocce (BC)	Bocce	SEF Sport Training Halls 1	SEF	
Bowling (BO)	Bowling	Blanos Sports Park – Spata	BBO	
Cycling (CY)	Cycling	Hellinikon Olympic Softball Venue	HSB	
Equestrian (EQ)	Equestrian	Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre	EQU	
	5-aside (FF)	Hellinikon Olympic Hockey Venue	HHO	
Football (FB)	7-aside (FS)	Agios Kosmas Sport Centre	AGK	
	11-aside (FE)	«Apilion» Sports Centre – Koropi	APL	
Golf (GF)	Golf	Glyfada Golf Course	GGF	
Gymnastics (GY)	Artistic (AG)	Hellinikon Olympic Indoor Hall	HFI	
	Rhythmic (RG)			
Handball (HB)	Handball	Hellinikon Fencing Hall 2	HFI	
Judo (JU)	Judo	ACG Deree Gym	ACG	
Kayaking (KA)	Flatwater	Kayaking	Schinias Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre	SKA
Powerlifting (PL)	Powerlifting	OAKA Olympics Velodrome	MPL	
Roller Skating (RS)	Roller Skating	SEF Main Hall	SEF	
Sailing (SA)	Sailing	Sailing Academy Schinias	SSA	
Softball (SB)	Softball	Hellinikon Olympic Softball Venue	HSB	
Table Tennis (TT)	Table Tennis	SEF Sport Training Halls 2 & SEF Main Hall	SEF	
Tennis (TN)	Tennis	OAKA Olympic Tennis Centre	MTN	
Volleyball (VB)	Volleyball	OAKA Olympic Stadium – “G. Kassimatis” Hall	MOL	
MATP (MA) ⁴	NON SPORT EVENT	Hellinikon Fencing Hall 2	HFI	
Young Athletes (YA)	NON SPORT EVENT			
Special Olympics Festival	NON SPORT EVENT	OAKA Common Domain – Wall of Nations	SOF	
Opening Ceremony		Panathenaikon Stadium	PAN	
Closing Ceremony				

1 Demonstration Sport

2 Unity Sports Event (Open to Spectators)

3 Exhibition Sport

4 Motor Activity Training Program

3. Media Credentials

Almost 700 representatives of the written, photographic and broadcast media have been accredited to the ATHENS 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

During the Games, access to any competition venue will be allowed only to people holding a credential card. Control is also forecast for access to non-competition venues such as: Special Olympics Village and the Main Media Centre (MMC).

Access to these sites will only be allowed to people holding a Credential Card or a Guest Pass.

3.1 Media Categories

MEDIA					
Category	Function	Zone Access	Venue Access	Media Workroom	Transport
MDA	Journalist	RED, 5	All Competition Venues, All other Venues, MMC	No	T5 ⁵
MDA	Photographer	RED, 5	All Competition Venues, All other Venues, MMC	No	T5
MDA	Broadcaster	RED, 5	All Competition Venues, All other Venues, MMC	No	T5
SOI	SOI Documentation Team	BLUE, 5,6,7	All Competition Venues, All other Venues, MMC	No	T2 ⁶ , T5

5 T5: Free Public Transport

6 T2: Shuttle Services/Motor Pools with reserved coaches, mini vans and sedans

At any event, regardless of the level of importance, media credentials will provide access to the following areas:

- Media workrooms
- Media Tribunes (dedicated media area)
- Mixed Zones
- Break Area
- Spectators Area (media will be encouraged not to work from the Spectators area)

Media credentials do not provide access to the Field of Play (FOP).

3.2 Access Codes

Each competition venue is divided into different credential zones, based on the activities that will take place in each area. All credentials will be checked at the access points to the different sites and zones. Entitlements and privileges for entry in the media zones will be displayed on the credentials, worn by the media, at all times within the venue.

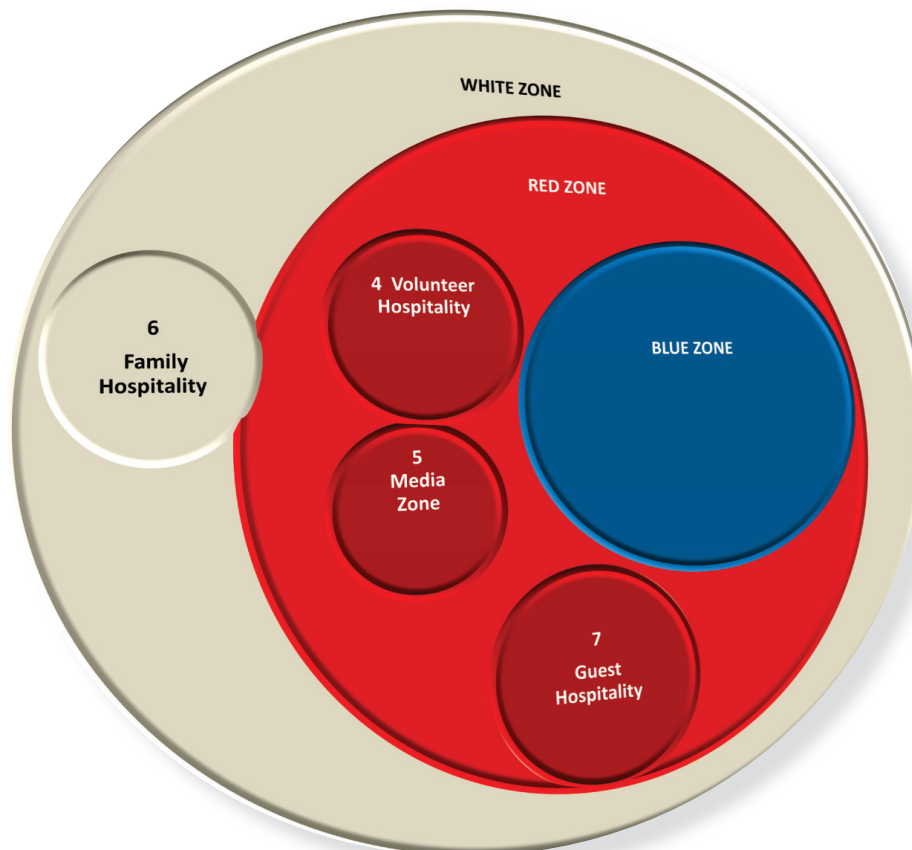
Media credentials will enable controlled access to media areas within the competition and non-competition venues, including the Main Media Centre (MMC).



Credentials will be checked at access control points from the moment credentialed media enter the venue. Entry to the various media areas will also be monitored and managed by media paid staff and volunteers. Non-credentialed media are not permitted into properties/venues, where credentialed media are allowed to cover the events. However, they may work outside the venue perimeters and areas of access control, providing they are not causing any disturbance or delays in the Games operations. In case of emergency, such as venue evacuation, credentialed access may be superseded.

Credentiaing Categories	
	Special Olympics Program
	Games Organizing Committee
	Special Olympics International
	Media

Credentiaing Zones	
Zone	Credentiaing Zones
White	Public Area
Red	Operational Area
Blue	Field of Play
4	Volunteers Hospitality
5	Media Zone
6	Family Hospitality
7	Guest Hospitality



3.3 Credential Card

The credential card for the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011 is a document, which confers on its holder the right to take part in the Games. Only those, who have received a credential card by following the correct credentialing procedure, may access the Special Olympics venues, zones and privileges entitled on his/her card. Credential cards must be worn so that they are highly visible at all times. Cards must be worn above the waistline with the photo facing outwards.

Sample

The image shows a sample credential card for Patricia Buzotta. The card features the Special Olympics logo and the text "Special Olympics WORLD SUMMER GAMES ATHENS 2011". A photo of Patricia Buzotta is on the left. In the center, there is a pink box with the text "Aa". Below the photo, the name "Patricia Buzotta" is written in bold, followed by "Athlete" and "S.O. Italy". There are two boxes with the letters "GY" and "SOV". To the right of these boxes is a blue icon of a fork and knife. Below the "GY" and "SOV" boxes, the text "Basic ID" is written. Below the fork and knife icon, the text "Registration Number" is written. At the bottom of the card, there is a blue bar with the text "T4".

Callouts on the right side of the card point to the following fields:

- Credentialing Category
- Family & Given name
- Function
- Organization
- Venue/sport codes
- Food services at all athletes' accommodation venues
- Registration number
- Transport Privileges



3.4 Credentialing Policies

Transferability

Media credentials are not transferable. All media, who receive a Special Olympics World Summer Games credential, do so with the express knowledge and understanding that each card is name-specific and non-transferable. Credentials in possession of someone, other than the person named on the card, must be presumed stolen or loaned. Both cases represent a security violation and the Main Media Manager or the Venue Media Managers will ask security to confiscate the credential and the Head of the Media Operations will be notified of the action, in order to determine what action needs to be taken.

Stolen or Lost Credentials

In principle, media credentials cannot and will not be replaced, as media are strongly advised not to lose their cards. When a credential card is stolen or lost, it may result in a serious breach of the Games' security. Lost media credentials must be reported immediately to the nearest Venue Media Manager or Main Media Manager or member of the Media Operations Department. A lost credential will be replaced only with the approval of the Head of the Media Operations and the SOI Media Office. A temporary card (Day Pass/Guest pass) can be issued at the venue, in order for the participant to perform his/her duties, but this process has only a short validity period.

3.5 Other Types of Credential Cards

Day Pass

A day pass is designed to permit temporary access to a competition venue and is valid for a single venue and only on the day issued. In case of a lost, stolen or left behind credential, media can gain access to the competition venues through a day pass. Day passes will be also provided to non-credentialed media to gain access to the venues. Day passes will be issued on-site. Media can complete and submit a request to the relevant credentialing desk at the competition venue. On arrival at the venue, the applicant must present a valid ID document with photo identification. Day passes are nominal and cannot be transferred. Visitors are not required to return day passes, when leaving the venue. Day passes for media are approved by the Main Media Manager and the Venue Media Managers and they are distributed at the entrance of the venue.

Guest Pass / Special Olympics Village access

Temporary access to the Special Olympics Village can be granted through a guest pass. The guest pass is designed to permit temporary access to the Special Olympics Village and is valid for a specific day. The guest pass application requests are submitted to the relevant Village Credentialing Centre at the entrance of each Village (SOV1, SOV2 etc) and are handled by the manager of each Special Olympics Village.

Upgrade Pass

The upgrade pass allows temporary access to a zone that the credential card of the bearer does not have access to. The upgrade pass is valid only in conjunction with the credential card and it is not nominal. It is distributed only at the competition venues by the zone owners. After the use, the upgrade pass should be returned to the relevant zone owner.

3.6 Credentialing Centres

Media credentials can be picked up from the following locations:

Airport Credentialing Centre

Location: Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos"
Spata 19019
Telephone: +30 211 2011 910
Service: Real time budging
Operation Period: 14 June – 4 July

Main Credentialing Centre

Location: Helexpo Palace Venue
39, Kifissias Avenue – Marousi (next to OAKA Complex, where the MMC will be hosted)
Telephone: +30 211 2011 905
Service: Validation, re-issuing, problem resolution, real-time budging
Operation Period: 10 June – 4 July

3.7 Media Transport - Athens Area Public Transportation

All credentialed media of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011 will be able to access this entire system at no expense, but they must show and be wearing their credentials. This service will be made available from 20 June to 4 July.

3.8 Vehicle Access Parking Permit (VAPP)/Media Parking

Possession of a media credential does not authorize someone to drive his/her car in a competition or non-competition venue of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011. In order for someone to access the appointed media parking areas at competition venues, MMC and Special Olympics Villages, he/she should have a Vehicle Access Parking Permit (VAPP) for the relevant venue. VAPPs will be issued but spaces are limited at most venues and vehicles will be parked on the basis of "first come, first served". VAPPs can be picked up from each venue.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Credentialed media should return the VAPPs, prior to their leaving from the Venue.



4. Accommodation

Media are responsible for arranging their own accommodation. Yet, to better serve media needs the **TITANIA Hotel** has been assigned, as the official media hotel for the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011.

The 4-star plus hotel located in downtown Athens, in the heart of the Historical and Commercial centre, between Syntagma & Omonia, the city's two major squares, offers easy access to the airport, port and train stations.

Hotel Contact Information

Address: 52 Panepistimiou Avenue,
106 78 Athens, Greece

Reservation Policy

Reservations are made only through the TCPA Travel Agency

TCPA Travel Agency

Att: Maria Apostolou
E-mail: tcpa@hol.gr & info@tcpa.gr
Tel.: +30 210 3310106 + 108
Fax.: +30 210 3310107
Mob: +30 6944 282025

Special rates

Special prices are reserved only if bookings are made through the TCPA Travel Agency.

Single room with Breakfast: 110,00 € (Taxes included)
Double room with Breakfast: 120,00 € (Taxes included)

Media Workroom

There will be no media workroom at the hotel.

Transport Services

Although the hotel offers easy access to all forms of public transport, since it is located between two underground stations, a media bus service to and from the OAKA/MMC will be provided (dates and hours TBA). However, to travel to some of the competition venues from the media hotel, it is necessary to go first to the OAKA/MMC hub and change busses for the competition venues.

5. Main Media Centre (MMC)

The Main Media Centre is the most sophisticated media facility created for any major sporting or news Event. A key non-competition venue in its own right, the Main Media Centre is established within the Olympic Stadium in the Athens Olympic Sports Complex, the core of the XXVIII Olympic Games of ATHENS 2004, as well as one of the main competition venues.

During the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, the Main Media Centre, which covers area of 700 m², will be the headquarters of the written & photographic media, broadcasters and the Host Broadcaster. The Main Media Centre will be also the nerve centre of the entire Media Operations at Games-time.

Operation Hours

The MMC opens from 20 June, operating from 09:00 - 17:00. From 24 June, the MMC will operate from 08:00 - 22:00. The MMC will close one day after the Closing Ceremony, 5 July, 2011.

OAKA Stadium and Main Media Centre Access

Access to the Main Media Centre will be accommodated by Gate A of OAKA stadium (Spyrou Loui Avenue).

Venue Level +1

Parking Area

A designated media parking area has been identified to cover the needs of the credentialed media. The area is located in direct proximity from the entrance of the Main Media workroom. Appropriate parking permits (VAPPs) will be required to access this area, which they will be supplied by the Main Media Manager.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Credentialed media should return the VAPPs, prior to their leaving from the Venue to the Main Media Manager.

Media Entry

Location: 1st ramp of the Main Olympic Stadium entrance

Credentialed media, as well as Family members, will share the same entrance. Upon entrance, the Main Media Workroom, and its wide range of support services, is located on the right. Family members will not be accommodated in the Main Media Workroom.

Help Desk

The Help Desk is located in the Main Media Workroom, upon entry to the Main Media Centre. The Help Desk will be devoted solely to media welcome and advice. Well-trained staff and volunteers will provide assistant and information on Games operations, including the operations of the MMC.

Main Media Workroom

A 200 square metres Media Workroom will be set up for individual media. A minimum of 100 workstations will be available at Games-time. The Media Operations shall choose the most rational layout for the rows of tables and chairs, with convenient access to power outlets. Seating in the Main Media Workroom will



be unassigned and available on a “first come, first served” basis. In addition, approximately twenty five (25) desktop computers (hot spots) with free Internet access will be provided, whereas Wi-Fi broadband Internet access will be also available. Qualified technical personnel will be onsite at Games-time for trouble shooting. Printing, fax and copy services will be also supplied, whereas two televisions will be installed one either side of the Media Workroom.

Media Break Area

The Media Break Area will be located opposite of the Main Media Workroom, next to the Family Lounge.

Venue Level 0

Media Conference Area

Location: G. Kassimatis Sports Hall

The 500 square meters area, equipped with all the requisite technical facilities, can accommodate the need of at least 250 seats. It includes a raised podium to hold up to 8-10 speakers; a camera platform to accommodate at least 10 TV cameras; a raised podium to cover the needs of the photographic media; and 4 translation booths for the provision of simultaneous interpreting. Adequate power and lighting, sound splitters, projection systems, microphones cordless microphones and headphones will be also available. The Main Media Centre Manager along with the Photo Manager will coordinate the camera and photo platforms in the Media Conference Area.

News Services

The goal of the News Services is to provide high-quality information accurately, timely and efficiently to the members of the media by various means. A constant flow of information relating to the event will be provided to the media, before, during and after the Event. Information will be posted mainly on the Official GOC website. During the Games, information will be provided through the distribution of media releases, media conferences highlights and media advisories.

Venue Facilities

Air Conditioning System

Central air conditioning is provided in the Main Media Centre to maintain comfortable temperature and humidity.

Electricity

A safe duplicate 220 volts power system is provided to ensure power continuity in the venue.

Non-smoking

The Main Media Centre is a non-smoking venue. Smoking areas will be provided outside of the venue in locations convenient to the media work areas.

Food and Beverage

Members of the media are not allowed to bring outside food and beverages into the Main Media Centre. Light concessions will be available for purchase. A cold drink service will be provided to the Media Break Area. This will be replenished during the Venue’s operating hours.

6. Venue Media Centres (VMCs) Overview

One of the responsibilities of the Media Operations is to provide a standard level of facilities and services at the Venue Media Centres (VMCs) in all competition venues. The target of the Venue Media Centres is to offer the best possible conditions for credentialed media to successfully cover the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011. The size and capacity of the Venue Media Centres depend upon the venues' capacity and condition, the level of the competition and the expected number of media. In general, each Venue Media Centre will be a smaller version of the Main Media Centre, providing similar services and facilities.

VMCs Operation Hours

Venue Media Centres in competition venues will open one day before competition starts and close the last day of competition day. On non-competition day(s), Venue Media Centres will open from 09:00 to 15:00. On competition days, Venue Media Centres will open one hour before and close one hour after the competition is conducted, although flexibility will be considered on a need basis.

VMCs Media Facilities and Services

Media Workroom

Media workrooms are in close proximity to all media areas. Media workrooms will be equipped with tables and chairs, power outlets, computers with Internet access, printers, photocopiers, phones and faxes, set out in a rational layout with enough space to permit media to move freely around the room.

Media Tribunes

The media tribune area consists of reporting positions overlooking the Field of Play (FOP), and where applicable, in direct view of the finish line or central field. The media tribune area will be strictly controlled and only the bearers of the relevant access will be admitted. At each competition site, a sufficient number of non-tabled, and in some venues tabled media tribune positions are reserved to meet the needs of media.

Mixed Zone

The mixed zone is a designated area immediately after departure from the Field of Play through which all athletes must pass upon leaving the in-field. It is usually located at the point of exit from the Field of Play or the Awards Area. The mixed zone area is designed in such a way that athletes are obliged to pass through the entire area, though they are not obliged to stop and speak to the media if they do not wish to do so. A barrier/cordon is used to delimit the athletes' passage and the area to which media do not have access. Access to the mixed zone area is restricted to athletes leaving the stadium and media representatives, as well as the indispensable organisational staff. There will be no spectators' access and security must be carefully checked. The mixed zone area will be open and accessible at all times – when not in use, before or after a competition – as an informal meeting place for media and athletes. Each Mixed zone will have a supervisor onsite at all times to ensure its smooth operation, yet there will be no priority order to determine the order of interviews.

Photo Positions

To facilitate the best possible photographic coverage of the action at the Games, suitable photo positions will be provided at every venue. In general, photo positions afford the best possible opportunities to capture peak action moments without obstruction. Photographers can either go to the officially labelled "Photo Positions" to work or access any unoccupied spectators' seats to shoot.



Media Break Area

Media and GOC staff will share the same break area.

6.1 Venue Media Operations Policies and Procedures

Rights Holding Broadcasting Organizations

Rights holding broadcasters will have access to all media areas within a competition venue, excluding the FOP. Rights holding broadcasters are allowed to take broadcasting equipment into the venues and capture footage of the Games from the media tribunes and the mixed zone. Rights holders' cameras will bear an identification sticker.

Non-Rights Holding Broadcast Organizations

The Host Broadcaster of the Games – the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation, ERT S.A – has the exclusive right to broadcast the Games, in Greece. However, ATHENS 2011 Special Olympics merits news coverage by all media outlets that cannot be excluded from reporting. Non-rights holding broadcast organizations will have access with equipment to the Main Media Centre and to all media conferences held in the MMC, as well as access, without equipment, to all other competition venues. Non-rights holding broadcasters are not entitled to originate or broadcast any programming or feed from the competition venues, including the Main Media Centre (MMC). However, non-rights holding Broadcasters may broadcast all or portions of the media conferences held in the MMC with a delay of at least 30 minutes from the conclusion of the media conference.

SOI Documentation Team

The SOI Documentation Team consists of a 50-member group of journalists / photographers / videographers enlisted by the SOI to document the Games. In order to be easily recognizable within the venue and ensure that they will have access to all media areas, including the FOP, in addition to their credential, they will wear a "red bib", provided by the SOI.

Field of Play Access (FOP)

FOP access will be provided only to photographic media, with priority given to the main agencies (AP, AFP, Reuter, Getty etc), the Host Broadcaster of the Games (the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation, ERT S.A.) and the SOI Documentation Team. In addition to the credential, a bid/bracelet is required to be worn, when working in the FOP photo positions.

Spectators Area Access

Even though all credentialed media have access to spectators area they are encouraged not to work from this area. As in the case of the media areas, the non-rights holding broadcasters are not allowed to use their cameras from the spectators area. In case of a breach, the Venue Media Managers or the Main Media Manager must be notified immediately.

Athletes and Coach Interviews Requests Procedure

Requests for athlete and coach interviews can be arranged through the Venue Media Managers or the Main Media Manager. Upon receiving the request, the Venue Media Manager or the Main Media Manager will communicate with the Sport Manager on-site. The Sport Manager will take the request directly to the appropriate individual on the FOP. If the interview is to take place at the Venue, it will take place in the Mixed Zone as close as possible to the completion of competition or at the discretion of Games official, depending on the post-event requirements of the athlete.

7. Competition Venues

7.1 Athens Olympic Sport Complex

The Athens Olympic Sport Complex (OAKA) is a multi-sport facility complex located at Maroussi, northeast Athens, Greece. The complex consists of five major venues, as well as other supplementary sport facilities. During the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, OAKA will host six (6) sports: athletics, volleyball, aquatics, basketball, powerlifting, tennis).

7.1.1 Olympic Aquatic Centre (Indoor Pool) – Aquatics

Introduction to the Venue

The Olympic Aquatic Centre was completed in 1991 and became an integral part of the Athens Olympic Sport Complex. Two contemporary swimming pools, one indoor and one outdoor, were constructed in an area of 18 acres. The pools were used for the staging of various Aquatics Events such as the Mediterranean Games, the European Championships, as well as the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games. The indoor pool, where the Aquatics Special Olympics Event will take place, has a capacity of 5.500 seats, and it includes a competition pool of 8 lanes (50m x 21m x 2m), a warm up pool (25m x 12,5m x 1.80m) and a diving pool (25m x 12,5m x 5m).

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Olympic Aquatic Centre at Athens Olympic Sports Complex
2	Venue Code:	MAQ
3	Location:	Maroussi, Athens
4	Sport:	Aquatics
4	IF Endorsement:	Endorsed by FINA, the pools are in accordance with FINA standards for international competition
5	NF Endorsement:	Hellenic Aquatics Federation utilizes the venue for National Championships, International Events and as a training venue for members of the National Team.
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	Mediterranean Games (1991), European Swimming Games (1991), Aquatics Tournament at the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games
7	Owner:	Ministry of Culture/Secretariat General of Sport
8	Competition Venue:	The Indoor Complex of Pools of the Olympic Aquatic Centre
9	Warm Up Venue:	The Indoor & Outdoor Pools of the Olympic Aquatic Centre
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
	Constructed:	1991
	Capacity:	Indoor Competition Pool: 4,000 seats
10	Accessibility:	The Indoor Pools are fully accessible by wheel chair access – both for athletes and spectators
	Transport Access:	Next to Metro, suburban rail and public bus stations, next to major avenues connecting the Venue to the City Centre (Kifisias Av.) and the ring road of Athens (Attiki Odos), 50 minutes away from the Special Olympics Village
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 ½ hours after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	June 26-July 3, 2011
	1st Head Coaches Meeting:	June 25, 2011
	Competition Sessions:	Morning Session: 09.30-13.00 (warm up @ 8.45) - Break: 13.00-14.00 - Afternoon Session: 14.00-19.00 (warm up @ 13.15)



VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Aquatics Media Areas

Areas		Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue
	Location:	West Entrance of the Venue
Media Workroom	Level:	Level 1 of the venue (FOP Level)
	Location:	On the right from the media Entrance, across the Sport Information Desk
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 3 of the Venue
	Location:	Above the VIP area
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 2 of the Venue
	Location:	Above staff entrance, across the VOC
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue, within the FOP
	Location:	Adjacent to the Competition Pick Up area
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Across from the VIP entrance
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue
	Location:	Adjacent to the FOP

7.1.2 Olympic Stadium - Athletics and Volleyball

Introduction to the Venue

Athletics will be hosted in the Olympic Stadium of Athens. The stadium is located in Maroussi of Attica, approximately 9Km from the city centre. It is the biggest stadium of Greece and belongs to the OAKA complex. Its construction started, in 1978, and finished, in 1982. The Stadium takes its name from Spyros Louis, the winner of the Marathon run in the first modern Olympic Games, in 1896, who was also a citizen of Maroussi. It has been used for the 1982 European Games, the 1991 Mediterranean Games, the 1997 World Championships in Athletics and the 2004 Olympic Games. Olympic Stadium was fully renovated with the addition of the "Calatrava" roof. The Stadium has the capacity of 74.768 seats. It is accessible by metro from the stations of Neratziotissa and Irini, as well as by bus through several bus lines nearby.

Volleyball will be held in the "G. Kassimatis" Sports Hall, hosted within the Olympic Stadium. Three (3) different Volleyball Courts will be available, whereas, the Hall can accommodate at least 700 spectators.

Athletics and Volleyball Venue Overview

1	Venue:	OAKA -Olympic Stadium.
2	Venue Code:	MOL
3	Location:	Maroussi, Athens
4	Sport:	Athletics, Volleyball, MMC
4	IF Endorsement:	Endorsed by IAAF, Class 1 Athletic Facility Certificated and meets all the technical requirements of IAAF rule. Official FIVB specifications by the FIVB
5	NF Endorsement:	Greek Athletics Federation uses the venue for the National Championships, International Events - the "G. Kassimatis" Sports Hall is used for the official volleyball competitions organized by the Hellenic Volleyball Federation
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	World Athletics Championships, 1997, Olympic Games, 2004, World athletics Cup, 2006
7	Owner:	Ministry of Culture / Secretariat General of Sport
8	Competition Venue:	Olympic Stadium (athletics) - "G. Kassimatis" Sports Hall (Volleyball)
9	Warm Up Venue:	Final Warm up area at Olympic Stadium (athletics) - "G. Kassimatis" Sports Hall (volleyball)
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
10	Constructed:	Constructed :1982 Reconstructed: 2004
	Capacity:	75.000, (athletics) - 600 (volleyball)
	Accessibility:	Yes
	Transport Access:	Next to Metro, suburban rail and public bus stations, next to major avenues connecting the Venue to the City Centre (Kifisias Av.) and the ring road of Athens (Attiki Odos), 40 minutes away from the Special Olympics Village
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 hour after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	June 26-July 3, 2011
	Head Coaches Meeting:	Athletics:25/6/11,Volleyball 26/6/2011 (09.30'-10.30')
	Competition Sessions:	Athletics: Morning Session: 09.00- 15.00 , Afternoon Session: 15.00- 21.00 Volleyball: One session: 11.00-19.00' (26.6.2011) and 09.30'-17.30' (27.6.2011-3.7.2011)



Operation Hours

The needs of the credentialed media will be accommodated by the MMC Main Media Workroom.

Athletics and Volleyball Common Media Areas

Areas	Location	
MMC Main Media Workroom	Level:	Level +1 of the Venue
	Location:	On the right side of the media entrance opposite to the Media Lounge
MMC Media Lounge	Level:	Level +1 of the Venue
	Location:	Opposite to the Main Media Workroom next to the Family Lounge

Athletics Specific Media Areas

Areas	Location	
Media Entrance	Level:	Level +1 of the Venue
	Location:	1st ramp of the Main Olympic Stadium's entrance
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level +1 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the VIP area
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the 100m finish line
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	In the FOP, under the VIP area
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the Awards Ceremony Area and Mixed Zone

Volleyball Specific Media Areas

Areas	Location	
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Same entrance with athletes and sport staff
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Main Tribune Area
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the Main Competition Court in the FOP
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the Main Competition Court in the FOP
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the Main Competition Court in the FOP

7.1.3 Olympic Tennis Centre - Tennis

Introduction to the Venue

The Olympic Tennis Centre is part of the Athens Olympic Sports Complex located in the suburb of Maroussi, just 10km (6 miles) north of Athens.

The Olympic Tennis Centre consists of 16 outdoor hard courts. The surface of all courts is Deco Turf II, same as the surface used at the US Open. The Centre Court has a capacity of 8.000 seats and the Show Court 1 has a capacity of 3.000 seats, whereas there are ten (10) other match courts, as well as four (4) practice courts. All the facilities of the Olympic Tennis Centre are fully accessible.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Olympic Tennis Centre (Athens Olympic Sports Complex)	
2	Venue Code:	MTN	
3	Location:	Maroussi, Athens	
4	Sport:	Tennis	
4	IF Endorsement:	Endorsed by ITF, the courts are in accordance with the specifications of ITF for international competition	
5	NF Endorsement:	Hellenic Tennis Federation uses the venue for the National Junior Championships and for the organization of International & Professional Tennis Tournaments	
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	Olympic Tennis Event ATHENS 2004, Paralympics Wheelchair Tennis Event ATHENS 2004, Athens Champions Cup, Athens Status Open, Vogue Athens Open, Davis Cup etc	
7	Owner:	Ministry of Culture / General Secretariat of Sport	
8	Competition Venue:	Olympic Tennis Centre	
9	Warm Up Venue:	Olympic Tennis Centre	
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet			
10	Constructed:	In 2004	
	Capacity:	Centre court: 8,000 seats Court 1: 3,000 seats	
	Accessibility:	The venue is fully accessible for both athletes and spectators- please refer to the venue drawings	
	Transport Access:	Next to metro, suburban rail and public bus stations, next to major avenues connecting the venue to the City Centre (Kifisias Av.) and the ring road of Athens (Attiki Odos), 50 minutes away from the Special Olympics Village	
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 ½ hours after competition has finished	
	Competition Dates:	June 26-July 3, 2011	
	Head Coaches Meeting:	June 26, 2011 10:00-11:00 June 28, 2011 12:30-13:30	
	Competition Sessions:	26.06.11	11:30-13:00, 27.06.11 09:00-13:00
		28.06.11	09:00-11:00, 29.06.11 09:00-15:00
		30.06.11	09:00-15:00 01.07.11 09:00-13:00
		02.07.11	09:00-13:00 03.07.11 09:00-12:00



VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Tennis Media Areas

Areas	Location	
Media Entrance	Level:	Spectators level of the Venue
	Location:	At the surrounding area, left side of the Centre Court
Media Workroom	Level:	Level -1
	Location:	Down the stairs, on the left side of the media entrance, close to the Media Conference Room
Media Tribunes	Level:	Seating area of the Centre Court and Court 1
	Location:	Close to the Presentation booth in both Courts
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level -1 of the Venue
	Location:	At the end of the corridor, past the TO's Lounge
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Next to the exit of the Centre Court and Court 1 (Level -1), and at the exit of the outside Courts (Spectators level)
	Location:	Next to the Centre Court and Court 1 and to the outside courts (FOP)
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level -1 of the Venue
	Location:	Close to the athlete's entrance in the Centre Court
Photo Positions	Level:	Level -1 of the Centre Court and Court 1 - Spectators level for the outside Courts
	Location:	In the pitch for the Centre Court and Court 1 - Outside the fence for the outside Courts

7.1.4 Olympic Indoor Hall – Basketball

Introduction to the Venue

The Olympic Indoor Hall opened for the first time in 1995. Up to now, it has hosted many International Basketball competitions: European & World Championships, the Euroleague Final-Four, as well as the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004 Basketball finals. For the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, four (4) competition courts will be used: the Main Arena plus three (3) more Courts (2 existing and 1 new) located at the Training Hall Area.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Olympic Indoor Hall (Athens Olympic Sports Centre)
2	Venue Code:	MBK
3	Location:	Maroussi, Athens
4	Sport:	Basketball
4	IF Endorsement:	Endorsed by FIBA, the courts are in accordance with FIBA standards for international competition
5	NF Endorsement:	The venue is used by the Greek Basketball Federation for International Events (e.g. the annual "Acropolis" tournament) and as a training venue by the Basketball National Team
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	European Championship, Men (1995), World Championship, Juniors (1995), World Championship, Men (1998), Olympic Games Basketball Tournament - Men's & Women's Finals (2004), Paralympic Games Wheelchair Basketball Tournament (Men & Women) , Euroleague Final Four (2007)
7	Owner:	Ministry of Culture / Secretariat General of Sport
8	Competition Venue:	The Main Arena of the Olympic Indoor Hall
9	Warm Up Venue:	For the purposes of the 2011 SOWG all courts will be used both as competition and warm-up courts
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
	Constructed:	1994
	Capacity:	Main Arena: 18,500 seats
10	Accessibility:	The Competition Courts are fully accessible by wheelchair access - for both athletes and spectators
	Transport Access:	Next to metro, suburban rail and public bus stations, next to major avenues connecting the venue to the City Centre (Kifissias Av.) and the ring road of Athens (Attiki Odos), 50 minutes away from the Special Olympics Village
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 2 hours after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	June 25 - July 3, 2011
	Head Coaches Meetings:	First HCM: June 25, 2011
	Competition Sessions:	09.00-13.00 (25/06) 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-17.00 (26/06) 09.00-13.00 & 14.00-17.00 (27/06-01/07) 10.00-16.00 (02/07) 10.00-16.30 (03/07)



VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Basketball Media Areas

Areas	Location	
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue (same level with the 4 Competition Courts)
	Location:	Left entrance of the Venue, adjacent to the Athletes and Technical Officials entry point
Media Workroom	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Close to the Competition Court 1, next to the left exit from the Athletes Seating Area
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue
	Location:	Competition Court 1 (Main Arena): On the left of the VIP Seating
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue
	Location:	At the area behind the Media Tribunes
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Competition Courts 1 & 2: Next to the Competition Staging area
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the Family Lounge
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Competition Courts 1 & 2: At the end of the Courts, beside the backboards

7.1.5 Olympic Velodrome – Powerlifting

Introduction to the Venue

The Olympic Velodrome is part of the Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA). The Venue meets all the requirements to accommodate the sport of Powerlifting during the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011. The Olympic Velodrome was built in 1991, and until 2003 it operated as an open Velodrome. In 2004, it was renovated by the famous architect Santiago Calatrava, when the roof was added, making it the only indoor Velodrome in Greece.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Olympic Velodrome (Athens Olympic Sports Complex)
2	Venue Code:	MPL
3	Location:	Maroussi, Athens
4	Sport:	Powerlifting
4	IF Endorsement:	Endorsed by IPF, the sport equipment matches the standards set by the Federation for world class events
5	NF Endorsement:	N/A
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	Olympic Games 2004, ,Paralympic Games 2004,Cycling World Cup 1995, 96, 97,Junior World Championship 1992, 1999,Mediterranean Games 1991
7	Owner:	Ministry of Culture - Secretary General of Sports
8	Competition Venue:	Olympic Velodrome (Athens Olympic Sports Complex)
9	Warm Up Venue:	Olympic Velodrome (Athens Olympic Sports Complex)
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
	Constructed:	1991
	Capacity:	5000
10	Accessibility:	Fully accessible by wheel chair access - for both athletes and spectators
	Transport Access:	Next to metro, suburban rail and public bus stations, next to major avenues connecting the venue to the City Centre (Kifisias Av.) and the ring road of Athens (Attiki Odos), 50 minutes away from the Special Olympics Village
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 1 hour prior to weigh-in and will close 2 hours after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	June 27-July 3, 2011
	Head Coaches Meeting:	June 26, 2011
	Competition Sessions:	Morning Session : 07:30 – 09:00 Weigh-in, 09:30 – 13:00 Competition Afternoon Session : 11:30 – 13:00 Weigh-in, 13:30 – 17:00 Competition

VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25 & 26, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.



Powerlifting Media Areas

Areas	Location	
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue
	Location:	1st ramp after the Athletes' entrance
Media Workroom	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue
	Location:	On the right side of the media entrance, next to the Venue Meeting Room
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue, same as FOP
	Location:	Next to the VIP area
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 2 of the Venue
	Location:	Above the Velodrome's Tribune
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue, same as FOP
	Location:	Next to the Staging area
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the Staging area
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Close to the Competition platform

7.2 Hellinikon Olympic Complex

The Hellinikon Olympic Complex is situated at Hellinikon on the east coast of Athens. It was built on the site of the former Hellinikon International Airport for the staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Games ATHENS 2004. For the needs of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, four (4) separate sports facilities will accommodate seven (7) sports: badminton, cycling, football 5x 5, gymnastics, handball, softball, as well as Young Athletes and MATP events.

7.2.1 Hellinikon Olympic Indoor Hall/Fencing Hall - Badminton, Gymnastics, Handball, Young Athletes and MATP

Introduction to the Venue

The Olympic Indoor and Fencing Halls were previously used as the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Venue for the sports of basketball (qualifiers), handball (finals) and fencing. The buildings are located in the western part of the Hellinikon Complex, in an area of 109,000sq.m. By adapting and extending the former big hangar of Olympic Airways, an indoor stadium and a warm-up and athletes service spaces, sport and media facilities were created. Also, by adjusting the small hangar of Olympic Airways the Olympic Fencing Centre was created; a compact area of 6.800 m. The two buildings are linked through a Link Building, which includes a large number of ancillary rooms and offices. In the above areas concerts, exhibitions and sporting events have been already successfully organized.

For the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011 the halls will be used as follows:

- Olympic Indoor Hall: Gymnastics (artistic, rhythmic)
- Fencing Hall: Handball, Badminton, Young Athletes, MATP
- Link Building: Uniform distribution

Access to the facility is by tram or coastal line buses.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Hellinikon Olympic Fencing and Indoor Hall
2	Venue Code:	HFI
3	Location:	In the area of Hellinikon (former Athens Airport)
4	Sports:	Handball, Badminton, Gymnastics, Young Athletes and MATP
5	Description	<p>Located along the coastal seafront of the capital, HFI is part of the Hellinikon Olympic Complex. The Venue was used for the Fencing tournament, Basketball preliminaries and Handball finals of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games, hosts multiple-type of events such as concerts and exhibitions and features state of the art equipment.</p> <p>The facility consists of the Indoor Hall which is used mainly for basketball competitions and the Fencing Hall used for exhibitions and concerts. During the ATHENS 2011 SO Games the Indoor Arena will be used for Gymnastics Competitions (Rhythmic and Artistic) and the Fencing Hall for both the Handball and Badminton tournaments.</p>
6	IF Endorsement:	<p>Badminton: The Venue courts are in accordance with BWF standards for international competition</p> <p>Gymnastics: The Venue is in accordance with FIG standards for international competition</p> <p>Handball: The Hall complies with all the measurement, fitting, lighting, ventilation and safety regulations issued by the IHF for international competition</p>
7	NF Endorsement:	The Indoor Hall has been used for Artistic and Rhythmic Gymnastics competition
9	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	Fencing tournament, Basketball preliminaries and Handball finals of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games, Wheelchair Rugby and Fencing tournament of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, European and National Basketball events, European Handball events
10	Owner:	Olympic Properties S.A.
11	Competition Venue:	<p>Badminton: Hellinikon Fencing Hall 1</p> <p>Gymnastics: Indoor Hall</p> <p>Handball: Hellinikon Fencing Hall 2</p>
12	Warm Up Venue:	<p>Badminton: Hellinikon Fencing Hall 1</p> <p>Gymnastics: Warm up court next to competition hall</p> <p>Handball: Hellinikon Fencing Hall 2</p>
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
	Constructed:	2004
	Capacity:	<p>Badminton: Temporary grandstands with 500 seats</p> <p>Gymnastics: 3000 seats</p> <p>Handball: Temporary grandstands with 800 seats</p>
12	Accessibility:	The Hellinikon Olympic Fencing and Indoor Halls are fully accessible by wheel chair for both athletes and spectators
	Transport Access:	Next to tram and public bus stations, next to major avenue connecting the Venue to the city centre (Possidonos Ave.) -75 minutes away from the Special Olympics Village
	Operating Hours:	The Venue will open one (1) hour prior to competition and will close one (1) hour after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	26 June - 04 July, 2011
	Head Coaches Meeting:	<p>Badminton: 25/06, 11:00-12:00</p> <p>Gymnastics: Artistic 24/06, Rhythmic 25/06</p> <p>Handball: 26/06, 10:00-11:00</p>
	Competition Sessions:	<p>Badminton: 26/06, 10:30-18:30; 27-29/06, 09:30-17:30; 01-03/07, 09:30-18:30</p> <p>Gymnastics: Artistic 26-27/06, 09:30-20:30, Rhythmic 30/06, 01/07: 09:30-20:30</p> <p>Handball: 26/06, 13:30-17:30, 27/06-01/07, 09:00-16:30</p>



VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 4; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Handball, Badminton and Gymnastics Common Media Areas

Areas	Level:	Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	North East side of HFI, at the VIP /media /spectators entrance of the Fencing Hall
Media Workroom	Level:	Level 1 of the Link Building
	Location:	Next to the U.D.A.C.
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 1 of the Link Building
	Location:	Next to the Media Workroom

Handball Media Areas

Areas	Level:	Location
FOP Mixed zone	Level:	Ground Level of the Fencing Hall
	Location:	Next to the FOP, at the athletes FOP entrance/exit
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level of the Fencing Hall
	Location:	At the Warm-up court area
TV Positions	Level:	Ground Level of the Fencing Hall
	Location:	On the top section of the Handball general public grandstands (at the Media seating area)
Photo Positions	Level:	Ground Level of the Fencing Hall
	Location:	At the corners of the FOP, on the spectators side (seating bench provided)
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 0, on the right hand side after entering the Fencing Hall
	Location:	On the top section of the Handball general public grandstands (reserved area)

Badminton Media Areas

Areas	Level:	Location
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 0, on the left hand side after entering the Fencing Hall
	Location:	On the top section of the Badminton general public grandstands
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level of the Fencing Hall
	Location:	Next to the FOP, at the athletes FOP entrance/exit
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level of the Fencing Hall
	Location:	In the middle of the Fencing Hall, across the spectators concession area
Photo Positions	Level:	Ground Level of the Fencing Hall
	Location:	Around the FOP

Gymnastics Media Areas

Areas	Level:	Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Ground Level of the Indoor Hall
	Location:	West corner of HFI, at the athletes/VIP/media entrance of the Indoor Hall
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 1 of the Indoor Hall
	Location:	At the VIP and Media grandstands, behind the VIP seating area
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level of the Indoor Hall
	Location:	Next to the FOP, at the athletes FOP exit
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 1 of the Indoor Hall
	Location:	Outside of the Awards area, across the VIP and the Family Lounge
Photo Positions	Level:	Ground Level of the Indoor Hall
	Location:	Around the FOP

7.2.2 Hellinikon Olympic Hockey Venue - Football 5-a-side

Introduction to the Venue

The Olympic Hockey Venue is also part of the Hellinikon Complex and only 200m away from the Olympic Baseball Venue. The venue was built for hockey during the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004. During the Paralympic Games ATHENS 2004, it was used for the 5 and 7 a-side Paralympic football tournaments and this year during the Special Olympics World Games ATHENS 2011, it will be used for the football 5 a-side tournament.

Spectators' area seating capacity: 4.630

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Olympic Hockey Venue
2	Venue Code:	HHO
3	Location:	Athens
4	Sport:	Football 5 a-side / FB5
5	NF Endorsement:	Greek Hockey Federation uses the venue for the National Championships, International Events and as the training venue for the athletes of the Greek National Team
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games / Hockey ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games /7 a-side & 5 a-side Football
7	Owner:	Olympic Properties
8	Competition Venue:	6 Competition Fields
9	Warm Up Venue:	6 Warm Up Fields
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
10	Constructed:	2004
	Capacity:	Central Court (Fields of Play 1 & 2): 4700 Side Court (Fields of Play 3 & 4): 100 Side Court (Fields of Play 5 & 6): 100
	Accessibility:	Central Court stands are fully accessible by wheel chair access - for both athletes and spectators
	Transport Access:	Next to public bus stations and "tram" station, next to major avenues connecting the venue to the City Centre (Poseidonos Av.)
	Operating Hours:	The venue will be open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 hour after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	June 26 - July 2, 2011
	Head Coaches Meeting:	June 25, 2011
	Competition Sessions:	One morning session (09:00 - 13:30)

VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.



Football 5-side Media Areas

Areas		Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue
	Location:	Main Entrance
Media Workroom	Level:	Level 3 of the Venue
	Location:	Close to the Media Tribunes
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 3 of the Venue
	Location:	Adjacent to the Media Workroom
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 2 of the Venue
	Location:	Above staff entrance, next to the TO's Lounge
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 FOP / 1 Mixed Zone per Hockey field - 3 Mixed zones total
	Location:	Between the 2 staging areas
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Same as FOP Mixed Zone
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Opposite of each FOP's Staging area

7.2.3 Hellinikon Olympic Softball Venue - Softball and Cycling

Introduction to the Venue

The Softball Olympic Venue is consisted of a main competition field that includes training areas, as well as other supporting areas for the athletes, the administration of the sport and venue operations. The venue has the capacity of 1.800 seats and was first used during the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004. The easiest way to get there, if you do not use a car, is the tram.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Olympic Softball Stadium (Hellinikon Olympic Complex)
2	Venue Code:	HSB
3	Location:	Hellinikon, Athens
4	Sport:	Softball, Cycling
4	IF Endorsement:	Endorsed by ISF Endorsed by UCI
5	NF Endorsement:	
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	2004 Olympic Softball Competition
7	Owner:	Olympic Properties
8	Competition Venue:	Main Competition Stadium Cycling course - Hellinikon Common Domain
9	Warm Up Venue:	N/A . Warm up areas allocated near competition field Cycling warm up course - East side of Softball Stadium
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
10	Constructed:	2004
	Capacity:	1,200
	Accessibility:	Fully accessible by wheel chair access - for both athletes and spectators
	Transport Access:	Next to tram and public bus stations, next to major avenue connecting the venue to the City Centre (Posidonos Av.), 60 minutes away from the Special Olympics Village
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 ½ hours after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	Softball : Practices / Divisioning: June 26-27; Round Robin Competition June 28-July 1, 2011; Medal Games: July 2, 2011 Cycling: 26/6/2011 DIVISIONING S1=09:00-13:00, 13:00 -14:00 Use CYCLING ROAD RACE, S2=17:00 - 20:00 ; 27/6/ - 3/7/2011 COMPETITION DAYS S1=09:00 - 14:00
	Head Coaches Meeting:	Softball : June 26, 2011 Cycling: June 25, 2011, 09.00-12.00
	Competition Sessions:	Softball: 09.30-14.30 (warm up @ 8.30) Cycling: 09:00 - 14:00

VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.



Softball Media Areas

Areas		Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the Athletes Drop off point
Media Workroom	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue (FOP Level)
	Location:	Left side from the media Entrance, next to the Security room
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 2 of the Venue, above the VIP seating area
	Location:	Above the VIP seating area
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue
	Location:	At the far end of concourse - overlooking cycling's FOP
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the venue, within the FOP and into the exit corridor
	Location:	Behind Home plate - FOP
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the venue (Field of Play Level)
	Location:	Home plate area
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue - either side of dugouts
	Location:	Adjacent to the FOP

Cycling Media Areas

Areas		Location
FOP Mixed zone	Level:	Hellinikon Common Domain Ground Level, outside the Softball venue
	Location:	Next to the FOP (Start and Finish area)
Awards Mixed zone	Level:	Hellinikon Common Domain Ground Level, outside the Softball venue
	Location:	Next to the FOP (Start and Finish area)
Photo Positions	Level:	Hellinikon Common Domain Ground Level, outside the Softball venue
	Location:	Next to the FOP (Start and Finish area) and around the FOP

7.3 Peace and Friendship Stadium (SEF)

Introduction to the Venue

The Peace and Friendship Stadium is located in Piraeus, on the Faliron coastal zone (2 km away from the Piraeus centre, 10 km to Athens and 32 km to the airport). The Stadium is known widely as "SEF", which are the initials of its name in Greek (Stadio Erinis and Filias). SEF has hosted a number of international events in various sports. It was one of the venues of the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004, hosting all the preliminaries and finals of the volleyball tournament. The Venue can be easily accessed by various means of transportation such as subway, taxi, bus etc.). During the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, the Peace and Friendship Stadium will host four (4) sports: table tennis, roller skating, bocce and beach Volleyball.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Peace & Friendship Stadium.
2	Venue Code:	SEF.
3	Location:	Neo Faliro, Piraeus.
4	Sport:	Bocce, Roller Skating, Table Tennis, Beach Volley
4	IF Endorsement:	Bocce: Endorsed by International Special Olympics. The Bocce courts are in accordance with the International Special Olympics – Bocce standards for international competition Roller Skating: Endorsed by International Special Olympics. The Roller Skating FOP is in accordance with the International Special Olympics – Roller Skating (Speed Skating) standards for international competition Table Tennis: Endorsed by ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation). The sports rules are issued by ITTF and adopted to the Special Olympics needs Beach Volley Beach Volley: Endorsed by International Special Olympics. The sport will be included for the 1 st time in the competition schedule of the SOSWG. For this first edition, the court size is in accordance with the International Federation Rules of the Game, while indoor volleyball's rules are being adapted
5	NF Endorsement:	Table Tennis: Endorsed by Hellenic Table Tennis Federation Beach Volley Endorsed by Hellenic Volleyball Federation
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	Bocce: National Bocce Championship 31 May – 02 June, 2010 Table Tennis: European Youth Table Tennis Championships, 1987
7	Owner:	Ministry of Culture / Secretariat General of Sport
8	Competition Venue:	Bocce: Training halls of the Peace & Friendship Stadium Roller Skating: Main Arena Table Tennis: Divisioning: Training halls of the Peace & Friendship Stadium - Competitions: Main Arena Beach Volley: Hellenic Volleyball Federation Beach Volleyball Training Centre
9	Warm Up Venue:	Roller Skating: Main Arena Table Tennis: Divisioning: No area is allocated - Competitions: Training Halls of SEF Beach Volley: no warm up venue
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
	Constructed:	1984
10	Capacity:	Bocce: 800 Spectator seats Roller Skating: 12.500 Spectator seats Table Tennis: 350 spectator seats (Divisioning) , 12.500 Spectator seats (Competition) Beach Volley: Approximately 100 Spectator seats
	Accessibility:	Fully accessible by wheel chair access - for both athletes and spectators
	Transport Access:	Next to tram, suburban rail and public bus stations, next to major avenues connecting the venue to the City Centre (Sygrou Av.), the national highway (Ethniki Odos E75) and the ring road of Athens (Attiki Odos)
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 ½ hours after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	June 26 - July 3, 2011



Head Coaches Meetings:	Bocce: June 25, 2011 - Roller Skating: June 25, 2011 - Table Tennis: June 25, 2011 - Beach Volley June 29, 2011
Competition Sessions:	Bocce: 09:30 – 17:30 - Roller Skating: 10:15 – 16:30 - Table Tennis: 10:00 – 18:00 - Beach Volley: 10:00 – 17:00 Minor changes may occur after the finalization of the competition schedule

VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Common Media Areas

Areas	Location
Media Workroom	Level: Ground Level Location: Near the Main Building's Media Entrance
Staff Break Area	Level: Level 1 Location: North part of Peace and Friendship Stadium (Main Building)

Bocce Media Areas

Areas	Location
Media Entrance	Level: Ground Level Location: East Entrance of SEF
FOP Mixed zone	Level: Ground Level Location: Next to the Competition Pick Up area
Awards Mixed Zone	Level: Ground Level Location: Next to the Awards Pick Up area
Photo Positions	Level: Ground Level Location: Reserved area at spectators seating area

Roller Skating Media Areas

Areas	Location
Media Entrance	Level: Ground Level Location: East Entrance of SEF
Media Tribunes	Level: Level 1 Location: Next to the media entrance
FOP Mixed Zone	Level: Ground Level Location: Next to the FOP
Awards Mixed Zone	Level: Ground Level Location: Next to the FOP
Photo Positions	Level: Ground Level Location: Around the FOP

Table Tennis Media Areas

Areas		Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	East Entrance of SEF
Media Tribunes	Level:	Level 1
	Location:	Next to the media entrance
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Next to the FOP
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Next to the FOP
Photo Position	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Around the FOP

Beach Volleyball Media Areas

Areas		Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Spectators / OLF / VIP Entrance
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Opposite to the Competition Staging area
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Next to the Awards area
Photo Positions	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Reserved area in the FOP



7.4 Independent Venues

7.4.1 The American College of Greece - Judo

Introduction to the Venue

The sport of Judo will be hosted at the facilities of the American College of Greece and more specifically at the indoor Gym of the DEERE College (the American College comprises of two major branches: the PIERCE College and the DEREI College). The American College is situated at the roots of mountain Hymettus, in the Aghia Paraskevi suburb, Northeast to Athens. It was transferred there in 1965. It can be easily accessed from the peripheral Hymettus road and the Messoghion Avenue as well. The DEREI Gym has a capacity of 500 seats.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GREECE-DEREI COLLEGE
2	Venue Code:	ACG
3	Location:	Aghia Paraskevi, Athens
4	Sport:	Judo
4	IF Endorsement:	The FOP to be used being the basketball play grounds of the Gym of the DEREI college above, customarily meets the endorsement of the IJF, provided that the dimensions of both the competition and the safety area set up for each tatami shall comply with its rules, which has been certified
5	NF Endorsement:	N/A
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	No Judo events have taken place in the particular Gym, so far
7	Owner:	The American College of Greece
8	Competition Venue:	The DEREI Gym of the ACG
9	Warm Up Venue:	The lower level of the Gym (level -1)
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
10	Constructed:	1965
	Capacity:	Approximately 500 spectators
	Accessibility:	Three gates by the Gravia Str., offer easy and proper accessibility to everyone (VIPs, wheel chairs, athletes, families, staff and spectators, while a big parking area is available nearby the main gate).
	Transport Access:	For the delegations, 50 minutes away from the Special Olympics Village. For all other clients using means of public transportation, there is metro ("Nomismatokopio" station), and local bus lines. For those coming on their own car, access either through Messoghion Str.(South) - Aghiou Ioannou sq.- Aghiou Ioannou Str., or through "Attiki odos", the peripheral road of Athens (North) and then following Gravia Str.
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 ½ hours after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	June 28 th (Divisioning), June 30, July 1-2/ 2011
	Head Coaches Meeting:	June 26, 2011
	Competition Sessions:	June 28 (Divisioning): 09.30-13.00 hrs June 30: 16.00-19.30 (Warm up: 15.15-16.00) hrs July 1: 16.00-19.30 (Warm up: 15.15-16.00), July 2: 09.30-13.00 (Warm up: 08.45-09.30) hrs

VMC Operation time

Opens from 26 June to July 2; on June 26 & 27, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Judo Media Areas

Areas		Location
Media Entrance	Level:	DEREE Gym
	Location:	Right entrance of the Gym
Media Workroom	Level:	DEREE Gym
	Location:	Second floor of the Gym, past the VIP Lounge
Media Tribunes	Level:	By the wall, opposite to the Gym's entrance
	Location:	DEREE Gym
Staff Break Area	Level:	At the side of the staircase that leads to the library
	Location:	DEREE's Library
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	TBA
	Location:	DEREE Gym
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	TBA
	Location:	DEREE Gym
Photo Positions	Level:	TBA
	Location:	DEREE Gym

7.4.2 Blanos Sports Park, Spata (Bowling)

Introduction to the Venue

Blanos Sports Park is a new recreational centre in the Municipality of Spata, Attica. The venue is extended in three floors. For the needs of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, 20 up-to-date synthetic lanes will be used for the sport of bowling.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Blanos Sports Park, Spata
2	Venue Code:	BBO
3	Location:	Spata, Athens
4	Sport:	Bowling
4	IF Endorsement:	Endorsed by WTBA, the bowling centre is in accordance with WTBA standards for international competition
5	NF Endorsement:	Greek Bowling Federation uses the venue for the National Championships, as well as International Events; it is also used as a training venue by the athletes of the Greek National Team
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	9 th European Deaf Bowling Championship 2010, Greek National Bowling Championship (2010), Greek Preliminary Round of 46 th AMF Bowling World Cup (2010), Regional Bowling Games of South Greece (2010), Bowling Games of Attica (2010)
7	Owner:	Private owner
8	Competition Venue:	The Indoor Complex of Blanos Sports Park



9	Warm Up Venue:	The Indoor Complex of Blanos Sports Park
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
	Constructed:	2009
	Capacity:	20 synthetic bowling lanes, 75 seats for spectators, more than 200 seats in lounges.
10	Accessibility:	Most areas of the venue are accessible by wheel chair access - for both athletes and spectators (spectators seating, toilets etc)
	Transport Access:	TBD
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 ½ hours after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	June 26-July 3, 2011
	Head Coaches Meeting:	June 25, 2011
	Competition Sessions:	26/06/2011: 10.30-13.00 - 27/06/2011: 09.00-14.15 28/06/2011: 09.00-18.45 - 29/06/2011: 09.00 - 16.30 30/06/2011: 09.00 - 18.45 - 01/07/2011: 09.00 - 18.45 2/7/2011 : 09.00 - 15.30 - 3/7/2011: 09.00 - 14.00

VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Bowling Media Areas

Area	Location	
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Venue's entrance
Media Workroom	Level:	Level 0 of the venue (loft)
	Location:	Above the VOC
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 1 of the Venue
	Location:	Adjacent to the elevator
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue, close to the FOP
	Location:	Adjacent to the Athletes entrance
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Close to the Awards area
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Adjacent to the FOP

7.4.3 Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre – Equestrian

Introduction to the Venue

The Olympic Equestrian Centre in Markopoulo was constructed during the period 2002 -2004 and it was used for the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004. It covers an area of 800.000sq.m in which the cross country park is included.

The venue has been characterized as one of the most modern equestrian facilities in Europe. Every year international and national equestrian championships and world cups are hosted in which many famous riders compete. The facilities include, stables for 280 horses, two (2) competition arenas with grass for jumping, one competition arena with sand for dressage, and six (6) arenas with sand for training and the warm up of the horses.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Olympic Equestrian Centre – Markopoulo
2	Venue Code:	EQU
3	Location:	Markopoulo - Messogeia
4	Sport:	Equestrian
4	IF Endorsement:	Endorsed by FEI, the Arenas are in accordance with FEI standards for international competition
5	NF Endorsement:	Greek Equestrian Federation uses the venue for the National Championships and International Events; it is also used as a training venue by the athletes of the Greek National Team
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	Olympic Games ATHENS 2004, World Cups 2003-2010, International Events, National Championships
7	Owner:	Olympic Properties
8	Competition Venue:	The Indoor Arena and the outdoor Dressage Arena
9	Warm Up Venue:	Six outdoor Arenas
10	General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet	
	Constructed:	2004
	Capacity:	Indoor Arena : 900, Outdoor Arena 1500
	Accessibility:	Fully accessible by wheel chair access - for both athletes and spectators
	Transport Access:	45 minutes from the Special Olympics Village (through Attiki avenue)
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 ½ hours after competition has finished; the above refers to the Athletes and Teams; the area of stables will have a 24 hours operation
	Competition Dates:	June 27-July 3, 2011
	Head Coaches Meeting:	June 25, 2011
	Competition Sessions:	08.00-14.00

VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25 & 26, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.



Equestrian Media Areas

Areas	Location	
Media Entrance	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Dressage building
Media Workroom	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Dressage building
Media Tribunes	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Indoor - Outdoor
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 0
	Location:	Dressage building
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Next to the entrance of the Indoor Arena
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Behind the Athletes Tent
Photo Position	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Reserved area at Spectators seating area

7.4.4 Aghios Kosmas Training Centre - Football 7-side

Introduction to the Venue

The Football Training Centre of the National Football Federation in Aghios Kosmas forms part of a large Sports Complex by the sea-side which is open to the public for jogging, walks, biking and team sports. The Training Centres, which were constructed for the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004 in Aghios Kosmas today, are used by the Greek National Teams Athletes of several sports. The Aghios Kosmas football fields will be used for the Special Olympics World Games ATHENS 2011 football 7-side tournaments.

Spectators' area seating capacity: 270

VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Football 7-side Media Areas

Areas	Location	
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Same entrance with staff and spectators
Media Workroom	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue, same level with the FOP
	Location:	Entering the media entrance on the left side of the Awards podium at the far end of the corridor
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 0
	Location:	On the same level, next to the Media Workroom
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the Awards podium
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	In front of the Awards podium

7.4.5 Glyfada Golf Course - Golf

Introduction to the Venue

The Glyfada Golf Course, founded in 1962, was designed by the renowned Scottish golf architect Donald Harradine and has undergone two major improvements, one before the World Golf Championship in 1979 and one in 1991 for the purposes of the XI Mediterranean Games Golf. Because of the architectural structure, the large number of trees and the difficulty of the routes (Fairways), the Glyfada Golf Course is considered one of the best stadiums in the world. The Glyfada Golf Course meets the Olympic standards with 18 holes (Holes), Par 72 (difficulty site characterization), whereas it has all the necessary facilities for organizing and conducting events of international appeal. The Golf Course is located at the coastal area of Glyfada. The municipality of Glyfada has kindly granted the venue for the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Glyfada Golf Course
2	Venue Code:	GGF
3	Location:	Glyfada, Athens
4	Sport:	GOLF
4	IF Endorsement:	The FOP consists of 18 holes in accordance with IGF standards for international competition
5	NF Endorsement:	Greek Golf Federation uses the venue for the National Championships, International Events; it is also used as a training venue by the athletes of the Greek National Team
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	The venue hosted the following Golf Competitions: World Cup Tournament (1979), the Mediterranean Gamers (1992), and the PGA Senior Greek Open (1999-2001).
7	Owner:	Municipality of Glyfada
8	Competition Venue:	Glyfada Golf Course
9	Warm Up Venue:	There will be a training area close to the athletes changing rooms
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
	Constructed:	1966
	Capacity:	500
10	Accessibility:	Fully accessible by wheel chair for both athletes and spectators
	Transport Access:	The Venue is accessible by public transportation (bus - Line A3). In addition, the venue is located in a 5-minute drive distance from two parallel avenues (Posidonos Avenue and Vouliagmenis Avenue)
	Operating Hours:	The venue will open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 2 hour after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	June 27-July 2, 2011
	1 st Head Coaches Meeting:	June 26, 2011
	Competition Sessions:	Morning Session: 09.00-15.00 (practice may start at 8.30)



VMC Operation time

Opens from 26 June to July 3; on June 26, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Golf Media Areas

<i>Area</i>		<i>Location</i>
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Same entrance with staff & spectators
Media Workroom	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue, same level with the FOP
	Location:	Entering the media entrance on the left side of the Awards podium at the far end of the corridor
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 0
	Location:	On the same level, next to Media Workroom
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	Next to the Awards podium
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 of the Venue
	Location:	In front of Awards podium

7.4.6 Schinias Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Centre – Kayaking

Introduction to the Venue

The Schinias Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre is part of the National Park of Schinias Marathon. The venue is located in a distance of 43km from the Athens centre and 3.9 Km from the Temple of Marathon. The Venue constructions began in 2000 at the same area, where the former Marathon airport had operated. The main competition lake is 2.250m in length and joined with a second warm-up lake for training. The total water surface in the venue is 150 acres; additionally it has a capacity of 1.000 seats on permanent grandstands. The Schinias Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre was built especially for the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004 in order to accommodate both the Canoe-Kayak and Rowing events. The venue is internationally recognized for its modern and advanced facilities that conform to the international standards not only for the Canoe-Kayak sport, but also for the Rowing. Since its construction, it has been operated as a course that offers high standard training opportunities, as well as a national and international competition venue for both sports. Especially for the kayaking events, during the Special Olympics Summer World Games ATHENS 2011, only the 1.000m length of the competition course will be used as a warm-up and competition course.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Schinias Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre
2	Venue Code:	SKA
3	Location:	Schinias, Marathonas
4	Sport:	Kayaking
4	IF Endorsement:	The competition venue is confronted with the ICF standards for international competitions.
5	NF Endorsement:	The Hellenic Canoe-Kayak Federation, as well as the Hellenic Rowing Federation both uses the venue for National Championships and International Events and as a main training course for their National Teams.
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games 2006 European Championships Flatwater Juniors & U23 2006 Balkan Water Ski 2007 European Championships Rowing National Teams training, National Competitions, seminars and other events
7	Owner:	Olympic Properties S.A.
8	Competition Course:	The competition course is designed to accommodate events of until 2000m in lanes of 6 (Rowing course) or 9 (Kayak course)
9	Warm Up Course:	There is a warm-up course; however, it is not going to be used during the Special Olympics World Games; due to its, size the competition course will also be used as a warm-up course (only the 500m of the 2000m will be used as a competition course).
General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet		
10	Constructed:	2003
	Capacity:	Seating capacity of 1.000 seats on permanent grandstands
	Accessibility:	The field of play for Kayaking is fully accessible from the main entrance of the Venue.
	Transport Access:	By KTEL interurban buses, which are passing outside the Venue or by car
	Operating Hours:	During the competition days Venue opens 2 hours before the competition starts and closes 1 ½ hours after the competition of the last race of the day
	Competition Dates:	June 28-29 and July 1-2, 2011
	Head Coaches Meeting:	June 26, 2011
	Competition Sessions:	Morning Session: 09.00-12.00 (warm up @ 8:30)



VMC Operation time

Opens from 26 June to July 2; on June 26 & 27, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Kayaking Media Areas

Area		Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Level 0
	Location:	Main Entrance of the Venue
Media Workroom/ Tribunes	Level:	Level 1
	Location:	Media Tribunes as well as the Media Workroom are located on the Media Seating area (grandstands)
Staff Break Area	Level:	Level 0
	Location:	Athletes Compound in the Venue
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0 at the venue, in the FOP
	Location:	At the Finish Line - In front of the Finish Tower
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Level 0
	Location:	Adjacent to the Awards Pontoon
Photo Positions	Level:	Level 0 at the venue, in the FOP
	Location:	At the Finish Line - In front of the Finish Tower
Photo Positions (2)	Level:	On a catamaran (upon request)
	Location:	In the competition course

7.4.7 Sailing Academy, Schinias - Sailing and Open Water Swimming

Introduction to the Venue

Sailing and Open Water Swimming will take place at an ideal athletic and cultural centre at Schinias Bay at Marathon, Attica. The name of the centre is Sailing Academy and has been created in 2007 by two former and established athletes and sailing instructors, Mr. George Giavouroglou and Mr. George Kefallonitis. The Nautical Club of Hellenic Sea is been accommodated at the Sailing Academy, which is a training centre not only for children and adults, but also for advanced athletes. In the past, they have organized sailing schools for beginners and also for champion class athletes in coordination with various sailing clubs, in shore and off shore regattas, training camps and educational seminars. Apart from athletics, the Sailing Academy venue offers an area of 18m² next to the beach, indoor areas of 600m² beach bar of 200m², secure boat parking, changing rooms, a mini football ground, swimming pool, a children's playground, indoor gym, a basketball court, free child care, pool - bar restaurant and an area with chairs and deck chairs for almost 1.000 spectators. All Areas are accessible for people with disabilities. The Sailing Academy is 10 km approx. from Aghios Andreas, which will be the area that it will host Special Athletes for the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011.

Venue Overview

1	Venue:	Sailing Academy
2	Venue Code:	SSA
3	Location:	Marathon, Schinias
4	Sport:	Sailing Open Water Swimming
4	IF Endorsement:	Endorse by ISAF
5	NF Endorsement:	The Nautical Club of Hellenic Sea is been accommodated at the Sailing Academy, which is a training centre for Children and adults, but also for advanced athletes organizing training camps and seminars in Olympic Classes; it is also the official Training Centre for the Special Olympics Sailing Team
6	Major Competitions held previously at Venue:	Special Olympics Test Event 2010, Regattas in Olympics and non-Olympics classes in co-ordination with various sailing clubs, as well as offshore regattas
7	Owner:	Private Venue Owned by George Kefallonitis and George Giavouroglou
8	Competition Venue:	A circle of 1 nautical mile diameter, its centre at a distance of 0.6 NM offshore from the sea front of the Sailing Academy venue
9	Warm Up Venue:	Same as competition area
10	General Description of the Venue - Fact Sheet	
	Constructed:	2007
	Capacity:	1,000 spectators
	Accessibility:	Easy accessibility for Disabled Athletes
	Transport Access:	OASA bus transportation and major local roads nearby
	Operating Hours:	The venue will be open 2 hours prior to competition and will close 1 ½ hours after competition has finished
	Competition Dates:	Sailing: June 26-July 3, 2011 Open Water Swimming: July 1, 2011
	Head Coaches Meeting:	Sailing: June 26, 2011, 18:30-19:30pm Open Water Swimming: 25/6/2011 & Olympic Aquatic Centre 09.00-13.00
Competition Sessions:	Morning Session: 09.30-13.00 Afternoon Session: 13.00-17.00	



VMC Operation time

Opens from 26 June to July 3; on June 26, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Sailing Media Areas

Area		Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Venue's Main Entrance
Media Workroom	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Next to the TEC room
Staff Break Area	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Opposite Media Workroom, next to boat park
FOP Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Next to the Competition Pick Up area
Awards Mixed Zone	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Next to the Awards Pick Up area
Photo Positions	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Media Boat

7.4.8 “APILION” Panionios Training Centre – Football 11-aside

Introduction to the Venue

The “Apilion” Panionios Training Centre was constructed in 2010, in Koropi and it represents a state-of-the-art sport facility with three 11 x 11 football fields, two 5 x 5, three tennis courts and a swimming pool. “Apilion” is the official training centre of the professional team of Panionios FC. For the needs of the Special Olympics World Summer Games, ATHENS 2011, the following facilities will be used:

- 2 football fields for the 11-aside competitions
- A training hall
- Administrative offices and ancillary rooms

The Centre has the capacity to accommodate 200 spectators.

VMC Operation time

Opens from 25 June to July 3; on June 25, the VMC opens from 09:00 to 15:00.

On competition days, the VMC opens one hour before the start of the daily program and closes one hour after the last competition is conducted.

Football 11-aside Media Areas

Area		Location
Media Entrance	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Close to the media parking area
Media Workroom	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Behind the Security room
Staff Break Area	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Opposite side of the Media Workroom
FOP Mixed zone	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Next to the tribunes
Awards Mixed zone	Level:	TBA
	Location:	TBA
Photo Positions	Level:	Ground Level
	Location:	Behind the goals



8. Opening and Closing Ceremonies

The Opening Ceremony will take place on Saturday, 25 June and it will include a cultural production with celebrating athletes and artists, whereas the Closing Ceremony will wrap up the Games on Monday, 4 July, providing an awe-inspiring closing of the ATHENS 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Both Ceremonies will take place in the Panathenaikon Stadium.

Panathenaikon Stadium

Introduction to the Venue

Panathenaikon Stadium (stadium for all the Athenians), well known as Kallimarmaro because of its marbles from Penteli, the same marble that was used for Parthenon in the Athens Acropolis, is the first Stadium used for the first modern Olympic Games, in 1896.

The Stadium is historically mentioned from 330 B.C. In ancient Greece, the area that the Stadium is located even today, as well as the Stadium itself was used for Panatheneia, a worship festival in honor of the goddess Athena. The Panathenaikon Stadium is located in the centre of Athens, in Ardittos cliff and was renovated in 1895, for the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Panathenaikon Stadium has held many cultural and sport activities such as the Opening Ceremony of the 7th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, in 1997; whereas during the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games, the stadium hosted the Archery and Marathon finish. The Stadium has a capacity of 68.000 seats.

On 3 July, the Stadium will also host the Half-Marathon Event.

Useful Media Information

- Credentialed media do not have to purchase a ticket to access the Ceremonies;
- Credentialed media can access the Venue from Gate 1A;
- There will be no Venue Media Centre; media will be able to perform their duties from the Media Tribunes;
- Media Tribunes will be located on the Second level of the Venue; 55 tabled and 365 non-tabled, in total 420 seats, have been reserved for the media. The tabled positions have access to power outlets; whereas WiFi Internet access will be also available (an Access Code will be provided onsite);
- Media Tribune seating will be unassigned and available on a "first come, first served" basis;
- FOP access is permitted only to the Host Broadcaster and a Photo Pool team; in addition to the credential, a bid is required to be worn, when working in the FOP photo positions, which will be distributed by the Photo Manager on-site;
- The rest of the photographic media will be permitted to move freely along the line between the tribune sections; in addition to the credential, a bracelet is required to be worn by the photographic media, which will be also distributed by the Photo Manager on-site;
- **NO CAMERAS**, whatsoever, are allowed into the Venue; Only the HB, ERT S.A. is allowed to film the Ceremonies;

- Media are advised not to drive to the Venue, but in case they do, parking will be available at POLIS PARK (Metro Station Evaggelismos), on their own expenses;
- A Media bus service will be provided for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies (pick-up, drop off points and time schedule TBA);
- The Gates open for the public at 17:30;
- Pre Show will start at 20:00;
- Live broadcasting starts at 20:30;
- First Delegation Parade will take place at 20:45;
- Media Staff will be available at all times to assist with media requests.



9. Medical Services

In case of an emergency situation, please call:

GOC Medical Command Centre: 1888 or 0030 211 2011888

There will be medical staff on duty during all competition and non-competition events. There will be responders in the Field of Play to provide rapid assessment and intervention, and each Venue Medical Centre will be staffed during all competition hours. Ambulance crews will be available during all competition hours and there will be medical coverage during all non-competition events. Key medical staff will be identified by a red vest or jacket.

Safety note

- Please dress appropriately for the weather. It can be very hot at the outdoor venues.
- If you have any safety concerns onsite, please contact one of the Games staff.

Health and Safety Information

In order to have access to necessary health care, tourists from member states of the European Union (EU) wishing to visit Greece must be holders of the European Health Card (EHIC) or any other legal Community document issued by their competent social security agency.

In these cases, the necessary treatment in Greece is provided by:

- IKA (Social Security Institute) Health Units (polyclinics) or doctor's offices in the region;
- Regional clinics (former rural clinics) or the Health Centres of the National Health System; and
- The outpatients' departments of the hospitals on contract

In order to have access to necessary health care, tourists from countries other than the member states of the European Union wishing to visit Greece must consult their social security agency for information before travelling.

Emergency Numbers:

- Ambulance Service: 166
- SOS Doctors: 1016
- Duty Hospitals and Clinics: 1434
- Pharmacies: 1434
- Open Line for alcohol drug Addiction: +30 210 3617089
- Poisoning First Aid: +30 210 7793777
- Police: 100

10. Weather Forecast

During the period of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011 the Hellenic Meteorology Service (HNMS) will monitor weather forecasts of all competition venue areas and provide delegations with current and future information. This data will be communicated electronically, via emails and /or uploads on the official HNMS website (www.hnms.gr). Analytically, HNMS will provide:

- General Meteorological Information for the Special Olympics Competition Venues (three times a day), will include data on current weather conditions (observations published by Automatic Meteorological Stations), astronomical information, general weather forecasts for the Greater Athens Area, Special Olympics weather, temperature and wind précis forecasts, UV index and an outlook for the Greater Athens Area for the next five days;
- Weather Forecasts covering a period of three hours (three times a day) for the areas of all the competition venues (Hellinikon, OAKA, Peace and Friendship Stadium, Markopoulo, Marathonas/Schinias) and the city centre (Panathinaikon Stadium and Goudi). These forecasts will include among other things: temperature, relative humidity, thermal index, barometric pressure, wind speed etc in English and in Greek;
- Warnings will be announced for thunderstorms, strong winds and high values of thermal index, for all the aforementioned competition venues.

HNMS will be in constant communication with the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) and all information will be disseminated appropriately to the delegations.



11. Welcome to Greece

Greece, also known as Hellas and officially the Hellenic Republic is a country in southeastern Europe. Situated on the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula, Greece has land borders with Albania, the Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to the north, and Turkey to the east. The Aegean Sea lies to the east of mainland Greece, the Ionian Sea to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. A developed country, Greece was the first area in Europe where advanced early civilizations emerged. Greece is a parliamentary republic. The country's president is Carolos Papoulias and its Prime Minister Georgios Papandreou.

11.1 General Information

- **Official Name:** The Hellenic Republic
- **Population:** 11.306.183 (2010 estimate)
- **Capital City:** Athens (population close to 5 million, which is nearly half the population of Greece)
- **Area:** 131,957 sq. km (50,949 sq. miles)
- **Language:** Greek
- **Religion:** Greek Orthodox Christianity
- **Currency:** Euro (€)
- **Climate:** Mediterranean
- **Internet Domain:** .gr
- **Dialing Code:** The international calling code of Greece is +30
- **Time Zone:** Time Greece GMT +2
- **Weather:** www.meteo.gr

11.2 The City of Athens

Athens is the historical capital of Europe, with a long history, dating from the first settlement in the Neolithic age. In the 5th Century BC (the "Golden Age of Pericles") - the culmination of Athens' long, fascinating history - the city's values and civilization acquired a universal significance. Over the years, a multitude of conquerors occupied Athens, and erected unique, splendid monuments - a rare historical palimpsest. In 1834, it became the capital of the Modern Greek state and in two centuries since it has become an attractive modern metropolis with unrivalled charm. A large part of the town's historical centre has been converted into a 3-kilometre pedestrian zone (the largest in Europe), leading to the major archaeological sites ("archaeological park"), reconstructing - to a large degree - the ancient landscape.

Downtown

Syntagma and Omonia are the main central squares of the town; they are linked by Stadiou Street and Panepistimiou Avenue, along which some of the town's most beautiful Neoclassical buildings have been erected. Dominating Syntagma Square is the Greek Parliament building and in front of it the Monument of the Unknown Soldier, guarded by the Evzones in traditional costume. From this square starts the beautiful

National Garden (40 acres), south of which stands the impressive Zappeion Mansion (1874-1888). From there you can continue towards the Presidential Mansion (1897) and thence to the Panathenaikon (Kallimarmaro) Stadium, where the first Olympic Games in modern history were held (1896). From there, crossing the Mets neighborhood, the road leads you to the First Cemetery, the oldest one in Athens, basically an outdoor sculpture display with a wealth of wonderful monumental tombstones by some of the most important sculptors of the 19th and 20th centuries.

From Omonia Square starts Patission Street, a busy street with interesting buildings, amongst which are the Neoclassical mansions of the Polytechnic School and the National Archaeological Museum, which ranks among the leading museums in the world and hosts rare art treasures from the Neolithic era up to the Roman period. Close to the museum is the Exarheia area, a charming and very lively neighborhood, traditional a meeting point and home to many students and artists. From Exarheia, crossing the Neapoli neighborhood, you can climb the verdant Lycavittos Hill. From its top you have a view of the entire city, all the way to the sea. On the other side of the hill is the Kolonaki neighborhood, whose boundary is Vassilissis Sophias Avenue, one of the most grandiose streets of Athens with beautiful buildings, many museums (Cycladic Art, Benaki, Byzantine and Christian Museum, War Museum, National Gallery) and green areas. In Kolonaki, which is considered to be the most "aristocratic" area of the centre of Athens, you will find many shops selling expensive brands and high couture, modern restaurants, bars and cafés, while it is worthwhile to take a stroll through the central streets with their art déco, art nouveau and inter-bellum buildings.

Around Suburbs

The southern suburbs, located on the coast of the Saronic Gulf, a recreational and cultural park is being planned, comprising the existing sports facilities. They offer many opportunities to take a walk along the seaside, while you will also find many beautiful organized and free beaches, large shopping centres and nightclubs (especially during the summer). In the Maroussi suburb (north of the centre) are the facilities of the Olympic Athletic Centre of Athens, where the majority of the athletic events were held during the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. Kifissia (north of Maroussi) is also worth a visit, with its beautiful villas and impressive mansions.

Moreover, if you wish to leave the centre behind you, you may visit, amongst others, the neighboring town of Piraeus, Greece's main port (which nowadays forms one big conglomerate with Athens), the Daphni Monastery (11 km. west), one of the most significant Byzantine monuments of the country (12th c.) with unique mosaics, the Kaisariani Monastery (5 km. east), which was founded in the 2nd century, the temple of Poseidon (5th c. B.C.) on Cape Sounion (58 km. south), following a wonderful route along the coast, the area of the battle of Marathon (490 B.C.) with the Tomb of Marathon, the archaeological sites of Eleusina (23 km. west), of Amphiareion (48 km. northeast), of Vravron (38 km. east) and Ramnous (close to Marathon), as well as the wonderful surrounding mountain massifs of Parnitha, Penteli and Hymettos, all suitable for hiking.

In Athens and the wider Attica area, you will find hotel accommodation of high standard, modern means of transportation, a wide choice of opportunities for shopping, dining and nightlife, good service but above all the hospitality and warmth of its inhabitants. In a nutshell, Athens is a city that fascinates every visitor, during all seasons.



Useful Links

Athens Municipality: <http://www.cityofathens.gr>

Official tourist portal of the Athens Municipality: <http://www.breathtakingathens.com>

Modern architecture in Athens- Attica: <http://www.culture2000.tee.gr>

Athens Archaeological Sites Unification Company (E.A.X.A.): <http://www.astynet.gr>

Athens Convention Bureau (ACB): <http://www.athensconventionbureau.gr>

Athens News Agency: <http://www.ana-mpa.gr>

Special Olympics World Summer Games – Athens 2011: <http://www.athens2011.org>

11.3 Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos

The Athens International Airport, Greece's main gate to destinations all around the world, offers a wide range of services, with the aim to make each moment at the airport a pleasant experience for the thousands of passengers and visitors who come to the Athens airport daily.

Access

You can access Athens International Airport (AIA) from the centre of Athens or the Attica ports via public transport that operates on a 24-hour basis, ensuring efficient transportation to key areas of the Attica basin and tourist attractions.

The main access road to Athens International Airport is Attiki Odos.

Bus Services

Four bus routes connect directly the Athens greater area and Piraeus with the airport. All buses disembark passengers at the Departures Level and depart from the Arrivals Level, between Exits 4 and 5.

X93 : Kifissos Coach Station - Airport

X95 : Syntagma - Airport

X96 : Piraeus - Airport

X97 : Dafni Metro Station - Airport

Metro

The airport is accessible via Metro Line 3 "Egaleo - Athens International Airport".

Suburban Rail

Athens International Airport is connected to Athens Central Railway Station (Larissis Station) and the port of Piraeus via the Suburban Rail.

AIA is also connected to Corinth, via the Suburban Rail.

The duration of the trip is 1 hour and 20 minutes. For further information regarding timetables, please visit the Suburban Rail website or call (+30) 210 5297777 or 1110.

Car Rental

Six car rental companies currently operate at the Athens International Airport. Their offices are located at the Arrivals Level of the Main Terminal Building.

Avis

Tel (+30) 210 3530578-9



Budget

Tel (+30) 210 3530553-5



Europcar

Tel.(+30) 210 3530580 & 3533321



Hertz

Tel (+30) 210 3534900



National Car Rental / Alamo

Tel (+30) 210 3533323-4 & 3533354



Sixt

Tel (+30) 210 3530576 & 3530556



11.4 Tourist Protection Line

When travelling to Greece, it is advisable to bear in mind the following:

- As a consumer, you are protected by Greek consumer protection law for all transactions you make while travelling in the country;
- All enterprises, regardless of their nature (tourist or otherwise), are obliged to issue written receipts for the total amount they receive. Possession of a receipt safeguards the consumer in the event of any claim or dispute with the enterprises.

Foreign visitors must ensure that they have valid medical cover before departing.

The following is valid during your stay in accommodation licensed by the GNTO and displaying the Special Function Sign:

- The hotelier is obliged to license vacant rooms to customers and provide all advertised amenities;
- Within 3 days of receiving an enquiry for a room, by any means (telephone, letter, or email), the hotelier is obliged to inform the customer by print whether or not they accept the booking, and include details on the booking (type of room, length of stay, price). A written response protects both the customer and the hotelier;
- The deposit for the booking cannot exceed the 25% of the total accommodation cost, and on the other hand cannot be less than the charge for one night;

- In the event that the customer wishes to cancel a booking, and the cancellation is made 21 days prior to the agreed arrival date, the hotelier is obliged to refund the deposit in full, while for cancellations made within 21 days, the customer must pay the hotelier the 50% of the total cost of the cancelled booking;
- In the event that the hotelier is unable to provide rooms they have confirmed with customers, they are obliged to secure customers' stay in alternative accommodation of at least the same category, in the same town, which offers the same amenities and services as those advertised by their own establishment;
- The hotelier is only responsible for valuable belongings entrusted to them by the customer, and for which they have issued the relevant receipt;
- Keeping pets of any kind in a hotel is forbidden, unless the hotel provides a designated area for pets. In all cases, a prior arrangement on this issue must be made between the hotelier and the tourist-consumer.

The following is valid for transactions with tourist agencies licensed by the GNTO and displaying the Special Function Sign:

- The tourist agency is responsible to the consumer for all the services they have sold, including those provided by third parties (hotels, restaurants, car rentals, etc.), except in cases of personal or third party liability, or force majeure;
- In all cases, the customers of a tourist agency or car rental agency must be informed by print about the terms under which services or products are provided prior to making a purchase;

Specifically, for Organized Trips (P.O. 339/96), which Greek law defines as a fixed combination of at least two of the following elements, i.e. transport, accommodation or other services (participation in meetings or events of a professional, cultural or artistic nature, meals, guided tours etc.), it is obligatory to sign a relevant contract, which includes:

- The terms attached to the services included in the contract (cost and category of accommodation);
- Means of transport, meals included, itinerary, information pertaining to passports and necessary visas, cancellation policy, guided tours, entry to archaeological sites and museums, other recreational services, etc.);
- An insurance policy which will state by print that in case of insolvency or bankruptcy of the tourist agency, the consumer, above and beyond other claims, will be entitled to a refund of the full amount paid, as well as immediate payment of repatriation expenses.

In all cases, the tourist-consumer:

- Should acquire, for their own convenience, detailed information regarding the use of public transport at their destination, especially with regards to the cost of the journey, ticket validity and cancellations, and recommended arrival times in advance of the departure of the service;
- Has to be aware, when using taxis, that drivers are obliged, upon request, to issue official receipts for the total cost of the journey, which include vehicle's registration number and owner's name.

In the event of any omission or violations of the above, you may submit a complaint or claim to the Greek National Tourism Organization, by telephone on 1572, or by email to kouremenou_i@gnto.gr.

For tourist information, please call +30 210 3310392 & +30 210 3310716
Tourist Police: 171

11.5 Useful Telephones

- Fire emergency: 199 <http://www.fireservice.gr>
- Port authority Piraeus: 14944
- International train departures: 1440
- Athens radio taxis: +30 210 921-7942, 643-3400
- Athens area telephone numbers information: 11888
- Athens traffic police: +30 210 523-0111
- ELPA emergency road service: 10400 www.elpa.gr
- Express Service emergency road service: 1154 <http://www.expressservice.gr>
- Postal service information: +30.210 324-3311

Service of Lost or Stolen Credit Cards

- American Express: +30 210 339 7250
- Diners: +30 210 929 0200
- Eurocard: +30 210 950 3673
- Mastercard: +30 00800118870303
- Visa: +30 00800116380304



12. Media Operations Contact Details

Media Operations

Job Title	Venue	Last Name	First Name	Tel. Number (+30)	Email
Media Operations, Head	Media Ops	Vernikos	Konstantinos	6985 111 251	k.vernikos@athens2011.org
Media Operations, Coordinator	Media Ops	Spalaraki	Maria	6985 111 250	m.spalaraki@athens2011.org

Main Media Centre

Job Title	Venue	Last Name	First Name	Tel. Number (+30)	Email
Manager, MMC	OAKA - MMC	Mpouloukos	Dimos	6985 111 702	d.mpouloukos@athens2011.org

Venue Media Centres

Job Title	Venue	Last Name	First Name	Tel. Number (+30)	Email
Manager, VMCs	VMCs	Zikouli	Effie	6985 111 253	e.zikouli@athens2011.org

OAKA Athens Olympic Sport Complex

Job Title	Venue	Last Name	First Name	Tel. Number (+30)	Email
VMC, Coordinator	Olympic Stadium	Mpogiatis	Panagiotis	6985 111 406	p.mpogiatis@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Olympic Aquatic Center	Gkomolis	Nikos	6985 111 320	n.gkomolis@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Olympic Indoor Hall	Plakidas	Eleftherios	6985 111 344	e.plakidas@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Olympic Tennis Centre	Kourkoulos	Giannis	6985 111 380	g.kourkoulos@athens2011.org
VMC Coordinator	Olympic Velodrome	Mantaios	Giorgos	6985 111 701	g.mantaios@athens2011.org

Hellinikon Olympic Complex

Job Title	Venue	Last Name	First Name	Tel. Number (+30)	Email
VMC, Coordinator	Olympic Indoor Hall/Fencing Hall(s)	Spanea	Spyridoula	6985 111 700	s.spanea@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Olympic Hockey Venue	Gerasimidis	Alexis	6985 111 469	a.gerasimidis@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Olympic Softball Venue	Koutra	Maria	6985 111 544	ma.koutra@athens2011.org

Peace and Friendship Stadium – SEF

Job Title	Venue	Last Name	First Name	Tel. Number (+30)	Email
VMC, Coordinator	SEF	Kontis	Georgios	6985 111 566	g.kontis@athens2011.org

Independent Venues

Job Title	Venue	Last Name	First Name	Tel. Number (+30)	Email
VMC, Coordinator	Blanos Sports Park, Spata	Vorilas	Kostas	6985 111 441	k.vorilas@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Glyfada Golf Course	Karzis	Giorgos	6985 111 582	g.karzis@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Panathenaikon Stadium (Half-Marathon Event)	Marmaras	Dimitris	6985 111 981	d.marmaras@athens2011.org
VMC Coordinator	ACG Deree Gym «Apilion» Sports Center, Koropi	Mpsios	Nikos	6985 111 622	n.mpsios@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre	Davelos	Theodoros	6985 111 703	t.davelos@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Schinias Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre	Rigas	Giannis	6985 111 704	g.rigas@athens2011.org
VMC, Coordinator	Sailing Academy Agios Kosmas Training Center	Gerasimidis	Alexis	6985 111 469	a.gerasimidis@athens2011.org

News Services

Job Title	Venue	Last Name	First Name	Tel. Number (+30)	Email
Manager	News Services	Daras	Yannis	6985 111 409	y.daras@athens2011.org
Deputy Manager	News Services	Williams	Brian	6985 111 413	b.williams@athens2011.org
Coordinator	News Services	Lialiatsis	Giannis	6985 111 562	g.lialiatsis@athens2011.org
Coordinator	News Services	Xortatos	Apostolis	6985 111 414	a.chortatos@athens2011.org
Coordinator	News Services	Sargologos	Karolos	6985 111 365	k.sargologos@athens2011.org
Coordinator	News Services	Kasagiannis	Dimitrios	6985 111 415	d.kasagiannis@athens2011.org
Coordinator	News Services	Antoniadis	Giannis	6985 111 416	g.antoniadis@athens2011.org

Photo Services

Job Title	Venue	Last Name	First Name	Tel. Number (+30)	Email
Manager	Photo Services	Charles	Peter	6985 111 403	p.charles@athens2011.org
Coordinator	Photo Services	Sotiriou	Lila	6985 111 404	l.sotiriou@athens2011.org
Coordinator	Photo Services	Zoumpoulouglou	Alexandros	6985 111 406	a.zoumpoulouglou@athens2011.org

Venues

Venue	Tel. Number (+30)
OAKA Olympic Stadium	2112011403
OAKA Olympic Aquatic Centre	2112011404
OAKA Olympic Indoor Hall	2112011406
OAKA Olympic Velodrome	2112011320
OAKA Olympic Tennis Centre	2112011344
Hellinikon Olympic Fencing & Indoor Hall(s)	2112011360
Hellinikon Olympic Softball Venue	2112011380
Peace & Friendship Stadium	2112011469
ACG- Deree Gym	2112011544
Blanos Sports Park - Spata	2112011566
Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre	2112011981
Glyfada Golf Course	2112011441
Schinias Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre	2112011622
Sailing Academy Schinias	2112011582
	2112011681
	2112011662



Special Olympics
WORLD SUMMER GAMES
ATHENS 2011



13. Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 Competition Schedule

13.2 Appendix 2 Venues Drawings

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Organizing Committee Special Olympics

World Summer Games ATHENS 2011

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