



## Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011

Special Olympics, the global leader for people with intellectual disabilities, will hold the world's largest sporting event in 2011, uniting the world through sports in a celebration of the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities and forming a new global vision of acceptance.

**When:** 25 June - 4 July, 2011

**Participants:** 7000 athletes from nearly 180 countries  
 2,500 coaches  
 25,000 volunteers  
 3,000 technical officials and referees  
 And tens of thousands of family, friends, media and spectators

**Where:** Athens, Greece

**Vision:** The Special Olympics World Summer Games will be the a milestone event of a long-lasting movement, founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, to create a world that is not dominated by those who are excluded but by those who are included. In the land of "fair play", where the true values of competition were born, the talents and skills of the athletes of Special Olympics will remind us what the World Games are really about, where all participants are winners in their struggle for respect, inclusion and unity.

**Sports:** Special Olympics athletes from every corner of the globe will compete in 22 Olympic-type sports in the birthplace of the modern Olympic Games at the following venues:

Aquatics	Swimming - Olympic Aquatics Center Open Water Swimming (*demo sport) - Schinias Sailing Academy
Athletics (Track and Field)	Olympic Stadium
Badminton	Fencing Hall 1
Basketball	Olympic Indoor Hall
Beach Volleyball	SEFP/Olympic Beach Volleyball Training Center (*exhibition event)
Bocce	Sports Training Halls 1
Bowling	Spata Blanos Sports Park
Cycling	Olympic Hockey Center
Equestrian	Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Center
Football (Soccer)	11 aside – Agios Kosmas Training Center 7 aside – Olympic Baseball Center 5 aside - Olympic Hockey Center
Golf	Glyfada Golf Course
Gymnastics	Olympic Indoor Hall (*both artistic and rhythmic)
Handball	Fencing Hall 2
Judo	ACG-Deree Gym
Kayaking	Schinias Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Center
Motor Activity Training Program (MATP)	Fencing Hall 2 (*demo activity)
Powerlifting	Olympic Velodrome
Roller Skating	Main Hall
Sailing	Schinias Sailing Academy
Softball	Olympic Softball Center
Table Tennis	Sports Training Halls 2
Tennis	Olympic Tennis Center
Volleyball	Olympic Stadium Sports Hall



## Special Events:

The **Global Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg** will begin with the lighting the “Flame of Hope” at the Sacred Site of Phyx. Law Enforcement officers from around the world will serve as *Guardians of the Flame* and carry the torch throughout the region, bringing the message of hope for a better world, before returning to Athens to mark the official opening of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011.

**Host Town** – Delegations from around the world will be hosted throughout Greece prior to their arrival to Athens for the Games. The Host Town experiences give the Special Olympics athletes a chance to learn more about the Greek Culture, get acclimated to a new environment, and helps citizens of Greece to learn more about people with intellectual disabilities.

**Global Research and Policy Forum** - Two-day summit featuring a distinguished delegation of leading researchers, students, and policy makers in the fields of intellectual disability, education and health from around the world as they examine critical issues facing people with intellectual disabilities in today’s society and unveil important new research and initiatives that will transform communities.

**Global Youth Summit** - An assembly bringing youth with and without intellectual disabilities together for inspiring and educational discussion, including a Global Youth Rally engaging thousands of young people from Greece and around the world in a celebration of unity.

**Opening Ceremony** - An exciting and entertaining show with pageantry to open the World Games, held at the historic Kallimarmaron Panthinaikon Olympic Stadium on 25 June. The Opening Ceremony is being produced by a creative team led by Andrew Walsh, creative director Fokas Evangelinos, featuring composer Stefanos Korkolis, production designer Ilias Ledakis, costume designer Elli Papageorgakopoulou and copywriter Theodore Grigoriadis. Furthermore, production consultant for the Ceremony is Simon Graveling, whose experience creating many of the world's most memorable events includes the 2004 Olympic Games here in Athens.

**Closing Ceremony** - An event to celebrate the accomplishments of the athletes and official close the World Games on 4 July.

**Healthy Athletes Screenings** – Volunteer medical professionals will provide competing athletes a variety of free health assessments including vision, dental, audiology and physical therapy. Past Healthy Athletes screenings have changed the lives of many athletes, disclosing neglect and untreated health issues.

**Unity Sports Events** – A series of individual non-official competition activities. Stemming from the Special Olympics Unified Sports® program, these events will offer an opportunity for internationally renowned sports and entertainment personalities and fans to be paired up with Special Olympics athletes in a series of competitive events. These events will be incorporated in most of the official competitions as exhibition activities and help foster a relationship of respect, acceptance and camaraderie among all participants.

**Special Olympics Festival** - During Special Olympics World Games time period, a series of cultural events will be held in the main Athenian squares, transcending the message of Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011 through the uniqueness that the Greek history and culture offer.

*For more information you are kindly invited to visit the official website:*

[www.athens2011.org](http://www.athens2011.org)