Dear SO programs,

Games time is fast approaching! We are now only 5 months away from the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011! At this point we are all very busy with the preparations in order to ensure the best services and experiences for the athletes and delegations during the Games.

Delegations are kindly reminded that the Registration Deadline is February 1st 2011. Please make sure that you have filled-in and delivered all required registration material by this deadline to your SO Regional Office. There is a checklist of what is required for the delegation registration for the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011 in the Registration booklet (page 53). You should not proceed with submitting Registration forms until you have completed everything on this checklist.

Furthermore, please send the name and email address of your HOD and A-HOD to the GOC Delegation Services Department in order to include them in the distribution list of our future communication material.

Delegations Services staff is happy to help you with any question or information you may need. Please do not hesitate to contact us:

SOWSG ATHENS 2011 Delegation Services Department,
Ktirio Ippasias, Goudi Park P.O. Box 2011, 115 10 Athens, Greece.
Tel: +30 211 2011 000, +30 211 2011 033 (direct line) Fax: +30 211 2011 1111
e-mail: c.anthi@athens2011.org, f.foskolou@athens2011.org, x.gemeni@athens2011.org

Updated as of January 2011. Information and dates are subject to change.
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Sports & Venues of the Month: Aquatics & Open Water Swimming

Aquatics

Aquatics is one of the twenty-three sports (23) of the Special Olympics World Summer Games. As an event, Aquatics was introduced at the first Special Olympics International Games held in Chicago, Illinois, USA in 1968. In terms of the ATHENS 2011 World Summer Games, Aquatics will take place at the Olympic Aquatic Center, which is located at the Olympic Athletic Center of Athens (OAKA) in Maroussi. In total, 676 athletes from 120 delegations will compete in Athens throughout eight competition days (June 26 – July 3, 2011). The daily event schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 25, 2011</td>
<td>09.30–12.30</td>
<td>Head Coaches Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26, 2011</td>
<td>10.30–13.00</td>
<td>Divisioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.00–18.30</td>
<td>Finals/Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27-July 2, 2011</td>
<td>09.30–13.00</td>
<td>Divisioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.00–18.30</td>
<td>Finals/Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 3, 2011</td>
<td>09.30-15.30</td>
<td>Finals/Awards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Events Offered:
The official distances for all Special Olympics events are conducted in a 25-meter pool. Twenty-six (26) swimming events will be offered in the Games ranging from 25-meter to 1500-meter events in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Event(s) Selection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1 2 Events + 1 Relay</td>
<td>25m freestyle, 25m backstroke, 4x25m freestyle relay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 2 2 Events + 1 Relay</td>
<td>25m butterfly, 25m backstroke, 25m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, 50m breaststroke,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 100m freestyle, 4x2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25m freestyle relay, 4x50m freestyle relay, 4x50m medley relay, 4x100m freestyle relay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 3 2 Events + 1 Relay</td>
<td>100m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly, 100m breaststroke, 100m individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>medley, 200m individual medley, 200m breaststroke, 200m freestyle, 200 backstroke,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>400m freestyle, 4x 25m freestyle relay, 4x50m freestyle relay, 4x50m medley relay,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4x100m freestyle relay, 4x100m medley relay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 4 2 Events + 1 Relay</td>
<td>400m freestyle, 800m freestyle, 1500m freestyle, 4x50m freestyle relay, 4x50m medley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>relay, 4x100m freestyle relay, 4x 100m freestyle, 4x100m medley relay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 5 Open Water Swimming</td>
<td>800m freestyle, 1500m Open Water Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Registration Instructions:
- Athletes are restricted to participation within one category as outlined above.
- 4x25m relay: This relay may be a composite of athletes from Categories 1, 2, and 3.
- 4x50m relays, 4x100m relays: The relays may be a composite of athletes from Categories 2, 3 and 4.
- All athletes registered for aquatics may enter a maximum of two (2) individual events and one (1) relay. If athletes are entered in Category 3 or Category 4, they may select a third individual event if it is 200 meters or longer.
- Delegations are encouraged to distribute their entire quota across the categories. This will ensure equitable representation among the various events.

1500m Open Water Swim - To be eligible athletes must meet the following standards:
- Swim 1500m in 60 minutes or less in a sanctioned race event by a national/international sport federation or accredited Special Olympics Program between January 1st 2009 and January 31st 2011.
- Open water swimmers will be required to participate in the 800 meter indoor event for divisioning purposes.

Sport Uniform/Equipment:
- Athletes are required to wear swimsuits which are within the guidelines prescribed by the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA). Referees have the authority to exclude any competitor whose swimsuit does not comply with FINA guidelines.
- Suits should not be transparent, even when wet.
- Female athletes should wear a one-piece tank suit.
- All relay teams must be in the same team attire, and the suits must be the same color with the same team logo.
- Swim caps are required and teams competing in relay events must wear swim caps of the same color and team logo.
- All athletes and coaches must wear pool shoes or flip flops on the pool deck area.
- Towels and locks for lockers will not be provided.
- Athletes are required to bring their own team uniform swimsuit, goggles, swim caps, pool shoes, robe and towel for competition.

Field of Play:
The Aquatics field of play consists of three (3) pools. The competition pool is an indoor 50m, eight (8) lanes swimming pool. The short course format (25m) will be used with the installation of a Bulk Head at the 25m line. In addition, an indoor pool (25X12.5X1.80m) and an outdoor pool (50X10X0.70-0.90m) will be used as warm up pools.

Competition Regulations:
The Official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics aquatics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA) and national governing body (NGB) rules for aquatics. FINA or NGB rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Special Olympics Sports Rules.

Open Water Swimming
The sport of Open Water Swimming will be included in the Special Olympics World Summer Games as a demonstration sport, and it will take place at the Schinias Sailing Center. The distance for the event is set at 1.5Km within a rectangular Course close to the shoreline.
It is expected that 42 swimmers from 19 delegations will compete in a one-day competition on July 1st 2011. A Pool Open Water demonstration will also be organized at the Olympic Aquatic Center on June 29, 2011 in order to promote the sport to the general aquatics population within Special Olympics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 29, 2011</td>
<td>14.00-14.30</td>
<td>Pool Open Water Demonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2011</td>
<td>10.30-12.30</td>
<td>Training Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2011</td>
<td>10.00-13.00</td>
<td>Race/Awards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Updates and Important Technical Sport Information: Sport Presentation

Sport Presentation is what the spectators and athletes see, hear and feel when they are in the competition venue. It is a part of the Sport and it is the showcasing of the sport for spectators within the venue. Sport presentation’s mission for Special Olympics World Summer Games (SOWSG) ATHENS 2011 is to INFORM – INVOLVE – ENTERTAIN. The objective is to combine the sport specific requirements and regulations, with entertainment activities. The spectators will:

- Be informed and involved about Special Olympics Movement
- Be informed and educated about the Special Olympics Sports (rules, schedule etc.)
- Be informed about results (starting lists, results etc.)
- Be entertained throughout all of the above (very good announcers)

Sport Presentation Concept
Sport Presentation concept is divided into three stages:

1. BEFORE COMPETITION
2. DURING COMPETITION
3. AFTER COMPETITION

Since, Sport Presentation generally differs during competition for each sport; the Presentation team will implement the same philosophy and ideas, with regards to stages before and after Competition. During Competition presentation will be according to each sport’s protocol.

Before and After Competition stages:

- Develop an overall Special Olympic “feeling” that will exist in all venues, with cultural “touches” of Greece.
- Educate the public about the sport

During competition stage:

- There will be sport specific information for the public regarding competition program, starting lists, ranking positions and anything else that concerns the competition taking place.
- Award ceremony
General Information

Registration Process for Program Staff
The SOWSG ATHENS 2011 Games Organizing Committee invites all SO Programs participating at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games to register their Program’s Staff (including volunteers, supporters etc.) who wish to participate at the Games. Program Staff are individuals who wish to attend the Games, but are not included in the SO Program Delegation.

Individuals registered as Program Staff are entitled to receive from the Games Organizing Committee the following entitlements:

- Games Credential which gives the right to the owner to have access to all venues (in public areas only) with transport privilege T5 (free access to public transport within the Athens area).
- Invitation Letter to facilitate the visa issue procedure, if required.
- Access to purchase Opening and Closing Ceremony Tickets.
- Access to the Games Official Travel Agency for convenient booking of accommodations and provision of travel information.

The Delegation Services department will communicate via email the Programs’ Staff Registration Instructions to all participating SO National Directors in due time.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Registration for Program Staff - Start Date: 15 February 2011
Registration for Program Staff - Deadline: 15 March 2011

PLEASE NOTE:
Registration Applications for Program Staff must be signed by the SO Program’s National Director and should be submitted to the GOC via the SO program.

Registration Process for Honored Guests

*MVP fans* wishing to register can now access the online guest registration forms at the following portal:

http://www.athens2011.org/mvp/

*MVP fans* can book their hotel accommodation and travel excursions by clicking on the link provided through the MVP fan portal. By clicking on this link, MVP fans are redirected to the World Games travel agency, where they can find a list of various hotels throughout the Athens region. They can book their hotel reservation at their own expense and choose from a variety of travel packages and excursions available. The rates of the hotels that are listed in this website are special rates for the World Games Honored Guests.

*All-Star fans* will be contacted personally by a Guest Program Coordinator to complete their registration information and secure their accommodation at the main guest hotel. Additionally, they can find information regarding exclusively crafted tourism opportunities, at their own expense, by clicking on the link provided below for the ASF portal. By contacting the designated World Games travel agent, they will be able to book their ideal travel excursions in Greece according to their needs and desires.

http://www.athens2011.org/ast/

By visiting the above portals, Honored Guests can also access information regarding their visa issuing process, such as countries requiring or not requiring a visa to visit Greece and a matrix of embassies and consulates which issue visas, by clicking on the appropriate links. For any further enquiries Honored Guests may have concerning their hosting programs, they are welcome to click on their respective FAQ link.

Please note that the registration deadline for both hosting programs, *All-Star fans* and *MVP fans*, is April 1st 2011.
S.O. Athens 2011
Delegation Updates

Registration Process for Media

Members of the media wishing to apply for media credentials must complete the online form at the following portal: https://apps.athens2011.org/athens2011_media/DesktopDefault.aspx by clicking on the Media Operations Registration button.

Registration Deadline: 15 March 2011 for applicants who do NOT require a visa.
15 February 2011 for applicants who require a visa.

Please note that Media representatives interested in covering the Games are responsible for their own travel and hotel bookings. However, a special link will be created on the SOWSG ATHENS 2011 official site providing hotel options with special prices. Please check the website for updates.

Further information about Media Operations can be found at The Frequently Asked Questions section of the above-mentioned portal and at the HOD Manual (chapter 12).

Transportation of Equipment

The GOC Logistics Department will be responsible for the support of the Delegations on customs clearance and on forwarding of incoming and outgoing equipment to and from Athens. The Logistics Provider/Forwarder of the Organizing Committee can undertake the formalities and procedures for the transport and customs clearance of imported and exported items and other related activities (i.e. packaging, handling etc.) at the Delegations’ costs.

WHERE:
Every Delegation can arrange with the Logistics Provider/Forwarder to receive their equipment in the Special Olympics Village and the Central Warehouses. It is highly recommended to receive the sport equipment through the central warehouse of the Logistics Provider / Forwarder in order to primarily check the quantity and quality and arrange for the delivery in the Competition Venue in the timeframe after the Host Town and before the beginning of the Competition Schedule.

WHEN:
**Competition Venues:** 1 – 2 days before the beginning of the competition schedule.
**Special Olympics Village:** by June 10th 2011.
**Logistics Provider/Forwarder’s Central Warehouse:** at the Delegations’ convenience.

The Delegations can choose to use the GOC’s Logistics Provider/Forwarder but it is not mandatory, as they can choose to be served by another provider. The contact details of the GOC’s Logistics provider will be available by March, 2011.

It is important that the GOC’s Delegation Services department and the Logistics department will be informed in advance of the procedure that will be chosen.
An Artistic Initiative to embrace the SOWSG ATHENS 2011: FINGER PRINTS 2011 – SPECIAL OLYMPICS

As presented during the Head of Delegation Seminar in Athens, the Association of Social Responsibility for Children and Youth (S.K.E.P) is aiming at organizing the exhibition “Finger Prints 2011”, which is dedicated to the only games in the world where all participating athletes are Winners.

“Finger Prints 2011” will present exclusively artwork of children and youth with intellectual disabilities (from institutions and special schools) in collaboration with children from junior and high schools. The topic “Embracing the Special Olympics” provides a wide range of creativity for all groups of children. They can draw pictures of trophies, games, fellow athletes etc., which have a direct or indirect relation to the spirit of Special Olympics.

The exhibition will take place at the new section of the Vorres Museum in Athens, Greece (www.vorresmuseum.gr). The opening will be held on May 6th 2011, and the exhibition will last 8 days.

SO programs are invited to participate in the exhibition. All pieces of art that you choose to send, should be in Athens, Greece by April 4th 2011.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

• All canvases used must be of the same dimensions: 50X60cm (19,7X23,6in).
• Canvases must be sent to the following address:
  Vorres Museum: 1 Parodos Diadouchou
  Constantinou St., Peania, 19002
  Attention of Nektarios Vorres
  T.: 0030 210 6642520
  e-mail: info@vorresmuseum.gr
  www.vorresmuseum.gr
• For any further information regarding the exhibition please contact:
  Mrs. Ileana Vasdeki
  Communications Director - SKEP
  email: skep.association@yahoo.com
  tel. 0030 6936742646

S.K.E.P is a nonprofit organization founded in 2008. It is established in order to give voice to sensitive groups of young people and raise awareness to those not familiar and not facing similar problems.

S.K.E.P. contact details: 19 B Levidou Str., 14562, Kifissia – Athens, Greece Tel.: 0030 211 8009876,
  e-mail: skep.association@yahoo.com,  web site: www.skep.gr
# S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

## Glossary of Terms

- **GOC**: Games Organizing Committee
- **HOD**: Head of Delegation
- **HTP**: Host Town Program
- **OAKA**: Athens Olympic Sports Complex
- **SOWSG**: Special Olympics World Summer Games

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## Milestones & Reminders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject / Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>Formal Invitation to SOWSG ATHENS 2011 by the President of the Organizing Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>Delegation Services Department Start Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-18 October 2010</td>
<td>HOD Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 October 2010</td>
<td>GMS Exchange / Paper Registration begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 February 2011</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW Delegation Registration Deadline</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 February 2011</td>
<td>Registration Deadline for “Media” who require a visa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 March 2011</td>
<td>Registration Deadline for “Media” who DO NOT require a visa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 March 2011</td>
<td>Registration Deadline for “Program Staff”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2011</td>
<td>Registration Deadline for “MVP fans” and “All Star fans”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 May 2011</td>
<td>Last day to Activate Alternates (Substitutes / Reserves)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 May 2011</td>
<td>Deadline for Additional Staff (AS Staff) registration payment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 June 2011</td>
<td>The lighting of the “Hope of Flame” in Pnyx, Athens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 -24 June 2011</td>
<td>Host Town Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 June 2011</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 June-3 July 2011</td>
<td>Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 July 2011</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>