



S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

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HOD Seminar (14-18 October 2010)

The SOWSG ATHENS 2011 will host the Head of Delegation (HOD) Seminar in Athens, from the 14th to the 18th October, 2010. The Seminar is a key platform for the GOC to provide Special Olympics Programs with the most up-to-date information for their participation in the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011. The Seminar will be a combination of presentations by the GOC along with visits to the Games' Competition Venues and Accommodation Venues. It is a unique opportunity for the delegates to receive all the necessary information for the successful preparation of their delegation towards the Games and get familiarized with Athens, the host city of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011. The registration procedure for the HOD Seminar has already started and the deadline is due on July, 31st 2010.

Please be reminded that the registration fees for the attendance in the HOD Seminar is 880€ (for single room occupancy) and 1030€ (for double room occupancy, i.e. 515€ per person sharing a double room).

Regardless of delegates' origin, it is advisable to contact the closest Greek Embassy or Consulate for confirmation of appropriate travel documents. The list of the countries requiring a visa to enter Greece is available on the website of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/en-US/Services/Visas/Visas+for+Foreigners+travelling+to+Greece/>.

The list of Greek consulates abroad is also available on the following link: (<http://www.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/en-US/The+Ministry/Authorities+Abroad/>). Kindly note that by presenting the Invitation Letter from the GOC, visa issue will be free of charge for those delegates require a visa to enter Greece.

For further information please contact the GOC Delegation Services Department at the following contact details:

SOWSG ATHENS 2011 Delegation Services Department,
Ktiro Ipasias, 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
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Sports & Venues of the Month: Bocce

The sport of Bocce was included in the program of the Special Olympics Hellas National Games, for the first time in their 23 years history in the competition that took place from 31st May to 2nd June, 2010 in the Peace and Friendship Stadium (SEF). A total of fifty nine (59) Athletes from eleven (11) National and (4) International delegations took part in this event, which was hosted with great success.

Below are the specifications of the sport of Bocce for the SOWSG ATHENS 2011:

Events Offered:

Singles, Doubles, Team (4), Unified Doubles, Unified Team (4)

Registration Instructions:

Athletes can participate in a maximum of three (3) events

Sport Uniform / Equipment:

- White is the traditional color, with a collared shirt in the sport of Bocce. Other colors are acceptable.
- Doubles and Team members should wear the same uniform. This should be a team shirt and shorts/light cotton pants/skirts.
- Court shoes are required. Tennis shoes or smooth-soled athletic shoes are recommended. Running shoes or spiked-sole shoes are not permitted.
- Athletes will be given a red or green sports bib to wear over their sports attire, whilst competing, to facilitate identification by officials and spectators.
- The Bocce Balls' color will be red and green and the pallina will be white. The Bocce sets will be regulation sets and will be provided by the competition management.
- Visual aid equipment (small bells and orange cones) will be available at the Bocce courts to those athletes requiring the use of these and who have been identified by their Head Coach at the initial Head Coaches meeting.

Field of Play:

- The Bocce field of play will consist of 16 courts made of carpeted surface

Points of Emphasis – Rules Conditions:

- Competition format: Double Elimination
- Games duration: For all games in Singles and Doubles, these will be first to 12, or 40 minutes, whichever comes first. And for Teams, these games will be first to 16, or 40 minutes, whichever comes first.
- The 2010 Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Bocce shall govern the SOWSG Athens 2011 Bocce Games. Please refer to the Special Olympics website for further information: Sports Info, Rules and Coaching Guides (<http://resources.specialolympics.org>)
- Please note, Head Coaches/Coaches cannot compete as unified partners

Competition Venue:

The Bocce competition will take place in the Peace and Friendship Stadium (SEF), which is located in Neo Faliro, a suburb southern of the Athens city centre, close to the port of Pireaus.

During the SOWSG Athens 2011, The Peace and Friendship Stadium (SEF) besides Bocce will also host the sports of Table Tennis, Roller Skating and Beach Volleyball (exhibition sport).





Test Events

During the months of May, June, July 2010, 15 Test Events were organized. A total of 1139 athletes from 22 countries worldwide and from every corner of Greece participated in the prologue of the biggest competition ever to be held in Greece in the field of intellectual disability. The Events apart from being a unique moment for thousands of athletes, their families, coaches and volunteers, were also a "rehearsal" of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011.

The purpose of the Test Events was to allow the GOC, in collaboration with SOI, to test and assess the readiness and capability of the competition venues, the technical equipment and the operational procedures that will be in place during the SOWSG Athens 2011. They proved to be a valuable experience for the GOC, as they mainly provided useful feedback in three levels:

Games Functional Areas: The majority of the GOC Functional Areas and their critical areas of operations were tested, such as sport operations, transport operations, technology, delegation services, etc. The GOC detected some points within the services provided that could be ameliorated, and as a result, a few modifications were proposed in order to improve the quality of service and effectiveness of the operations.

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Venues: Most of the events were hosted in the Athens Olympic venues, which were tested and proved to be successfully operational for the SOWSG ATHENS 2011.

Clients Management & Experience: The Test Events was a unique opportunity to meet and get to know the Special Olympics clients and it was a very enjoyable experience for the staff and volunteers of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011. As a result, the majority of the workforce reconfirmed their commitment to the Special Olympics Games

Test Events

SPORT	VENUE	DATE	NUMBER OF ATHLETES	
Sailing	Sailing Acadely, schinias	13-15 May 2010	16	
Handball	DAIS Sport Center	31 May, 1 June 2010	32	
Aquatics, Swimming	Olympic Aquatic Center, OAKA (Indoor Pool)	31 May, 1-2 June 2010	151	
Athletics	Olympic Stadium, OAKA		232	
Badmninton	2nd Ilion indoor Hall "G. Kakouris"		46	
Bocce	Peace and Friendship Stadium (SEF), Sport Training Halls 1		59	
Cycling	Helliniko Olympic Hockey Venue		88	
Football 5 a-side	Helliniko Olympic Hockey Venue		162	
Gymnastics, Rhythmic	Hellinikon Olympic Indoor Hall		35	
Powerlifting	Ag. Kosmas Weightlifting Training Hall		41	
Table Tennis	Peace and Friendship Stadium (SEF), Sport Training Halls 2		53	
Volleyball	Nea Makri Sports Hall		1-2 June 2010	47
Basketball	Olympic Indoor Hall, OAKA		16-18 June 2010	143
Judo	Peace and Friendship Stadium (SEF), Sports Training Halls 2	10-11 July 2010	19	
Kayaking	Schinias Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Center	10 July 2010	15	





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Opening Ceremony of the XXIII National Games of S.O. Hellas

Thousands of people joined the Wonderful Winning World at the Opening Ceremony of the XXIII National Games of S.O. Hellas that also were Test Events for the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011.

The event took place at the Olympic Aquatic Center in the OAKA premises. It started with the parade of the 2010 Special Olympics athletes coming from Greece and 21 foreign countries, accompanied by their coaches. During the ceremony, the Prime Minister's representative, Mr. George Nikitiadis, Deputy Minister for Culture and Tourism, declared the beginning of the XXIII National Games of S.O. Hellas.



Mrs. Joanna Despotopoulou, President of the GOC SOWSG ATHENS 2011 and S.O. Hellas, in her speech pointed out that *“The National Special Olympics Games represent the most anticipated moment of the year for the thousands of Greek Special Olympics athletes, their families and their coaches. In addition, we all are given the chance to honor everyone’s effort in achieving its best. The athletes, through these Games, are aiming in inspiring all of us with their achievements, their passion, their skills and their determination”*. Furthermore the president referred to the Games *“as Games of hope and life that touch everyone’s heart. These Games are Games of people with different abilities, Games of youngsters who fight for their right to a respectful life”*.

The Opening Ceremony was enhanced by the popular Greek actors, Mr. George Kapoutzidis and Mrs. Thalia Prokopiou, who were the hosts of the evening. Being great fans of the Special Olympics movement, they both succeeded in giving a unique touch of passion and inspiration to this event. The artistic program included an entertaining show by the dancers of “Fokas Evangelinos” dancing school, who performed voluntarily with great enthusiasm, and the Greek singer Mrs. Eleonora Zouganeli, who fascinated the audience with her new songs. The ceremony reached its end with a musical piece included in the newly released promotional video of the World Summer Games, performed by Mr. Stefanos Korkolis, composer of the Special Olympics Anthem.



Non - Sports Programs and Events Host Town Program

The Host Town Program (HTP) for the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games will take place four days prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Summer Games, between June 20th and June 24th, 2011.

Almost 10.000 people (athletes and official delegation members) will be hosted throughout Greece, in different waterfront cities. The Host Towns will offer to official delegations accommodation, meals, transportation, access to training facilities (wherever is possible) and entertainment activities that showcase Greece, its culture, customs and traditions.

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The Host Town experience will give the chance to Special Olympics athletes, coaches and delegates to learn more about the Greek culture, to get acclimated to the new environment, and on the other hand will inspire citizens of Greece to learn more about the Special Olympics movement.

Until today, more than 35 cities all over Greece have confirmed their participation in the HTP and are getting ready to welcome the Special Olympics Delegations in June 2011. The Games Organizing Committee will soon announce the allocation of the Host Towns to the participating SO Programs. Below are some of the cities already affiliated with the Athens 2011 Host Town Program:

Alexandroupolis	http://www.alexpolis.gr
Arachova	http://arachova.com
Chalkida	http://www.evia.gr/en/node/1250
Chalkidiki	http://www.halkidiki.gov.gr
Crete Island – Chania	http://www.chania.gr
Crete Island – Heraklion	http://www.heraklion.gr
Crete Island – Aghios Nikolaos	http://www.aghiosnikolaos.eu
Crete Island – Rethymnon	http://www.rethymno.gr/en/city
Corfu	http://www.corfu.gr
Cyprus – Paphos	http://www.pafos.org.cy
Delphi	http://www.delphi.gr
Evia	http://www.evia.gr
Ioannina	http://www.about-ioannina.gr
Kavala	http://www.kavala.gov.gr
Kefalonia	http://www.kefalonia-online.gr
Patras	http://www.e-patras.gr
Rhodes	http://www.rhodes.gr
Skiathos	http://www.skiathos.gr
Paros	http://www.paros.gr

Recently, the organizing committee celebrated the “one year to go” for the Host Town Program in Skiathos island. On this occasion, the memorandum of Skiathos’ affiliation with the Special Olympics World Summer Games HTP was signed by the GOC President Mrs. Joanna Despotopoulou and the Mayor of Skiathos Mr. Nikolaos Plomaritis during a ceremony attended by hundreds of citizens and visitors. The Ceremony was also attended by the Representative of the Prime Minister and the Government, General Secretary of Youth, Mr. Giannis Livanos, H.E. the Ambassador of Great Britain, Dr. David Landsman, the Honorary President of Special Olympics Hellas Mr. A. Potamianos, Prefecture and Municipality’ counselors, Special Olympics’ athletes, pupils and students of Skiathos, as well as representatives of the Church, the Army, the Harbor Authorities and the Police.

The presence of Special Olympics’ supporters, famous actors Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn, at the Ceremony was a big surprise for everybody. The two stars, who have appeared in various successful films in cinema history, have said that next year they will attend the Games, along with other colleagues, ready to applaud and encourage the 7500 athletes from 185 countries participating in the Games. They also invited all Greeks to say out loud “I ‘m In!”

All the Host Town Local Organizing Committees’ members as well as the local communities, look forward to offering the best hospitality services ever to the Special Olympics athletes.





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Non - Sports Programs & Events

Family Services - National Family Coordinators

The GOC Family Services Department is grateful to all those Delegations who have already nominated a National Family Coordinator. If you have not already arranged for the above, you are requested to do so as soon as possible.

It is essential for the success of communications between Family Services department and families around the world that each delegation nominates a National Family Coordinator. For further information please contact Mrs. Ismini Valsamaki, Family Services Manager within the GOC SOWSG ATHENS 2011, at the following email address: I.Valsamaki@athens2011.org

Honored Guests Program

HONORED GUESTS PROGRAM NOMINATIONS ARE OVERDUE!!!!

- The MVP Fans program nominations were due by June 30th. If you would like guests from your program considered for invitation to the World Games, you must submit your nominations as soon as possible! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Katerina Santikou at ksantikou@specialolympics.org.
- The mailing of the MVP will be sent out the first week of September, 2010. If you have guests you would like considered for the All-Star Fans Program, please contact Mrs. Kim Widdess at kwiddess@specialolympics.org.

All-Star Fans and MVP Fans Program Information

During the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, we will be operating two hosting programs for honored guests in Athens – the All-Star Fans and the MVP Fans programs.

The All-Star Fans program will bring together a small, very selective group of individuals from both Special Olympics International (SOI) and the Games Organizing Committee, providing opportunities for real participation and athlete engagement. Nominations have already been made for this program, and the invitation process is underway. The MVP Fans program will engage and recognize by region and country the program leaders, dignitaries and supporters whose efforts and commitments are so critical to the expansion and sustainability of our work. This program will provide the tools and resources to the Programs, Regional Offices and SOI Staff to be able to host their guests in Athens. With basic services provided by the Games Organizing Committee, each MVP Fans program participant will be directly tied to the Program, Regional Office or SOI Office to deliver an experience that further engages them in the movement.



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Merchandising / Licensing

Limited edition 'one year to go' pin announced! (June 25th)

Capturing the excitement of the Games pin trading, the second in a series of a limited edition countdown-pins have gone on sale to celebrate the “one year to go” until the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011. The pins present the emblem of the Games and the historic Kallimarmaro Panathinaikon Stadium, where the Opening Ceremony of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011 will take place on the 25th of June, 2011.



Only 500 numbered pairs of pins were released, creating a highly-collectable item. The previously released countdown-pin “500 Days to go” is already sold out and very popular among the pin collectors. At present, more than 30 different Special Olympics ATHENS 2011 pins have been released into the Greek market and were all highly in demand and traded during the 2010 Test Events, under the motto “One to keep one to trade”.

ATHENS 2011 Official Licensed Products are more than just souvenirs; they are decorated with the ATHENS 2011 emblem, which is a radiant sun, the source of life that underlines the excellence and power of the athlete who participates in the Games.

Official Licensed Merchandise is produced and distributed by authorized licensees who have been appointed through tenders. All products are of modern design and high quality. They are targeted at Greek consumers, international visitors, and supporters of the Special Olympics Games and are available through selected Greek stores (<http://www.athens2011.org/en/licensing.asp>).





Special Olympics
WORLD SUMMER GAMES
ATHENS 2011

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General Information

Glossary of Terms

GOC: Games Organising Committee, based in Athens
Address: P.O. Box 2011, GR-115 10 Ktirio Ippasias – Goudi Park, Athens
Tel.: +30 211 2011 000 **Fax:** +30 211 2011 111
E-mail: info@athens2011.org
URL: <http://www.athens2011.org>

HOD: Head of Delegation, a member of a Delegation appointed by the relevant Special Olympics Program to manage and supervise the Delegation

HTP: Host Town Program

OAKA: Athens Olympic Sports Complex

SEF: Peace and Friendship Stadium

SOI: Special Olympics International

SOWSG: Special Olympics World Summer Games



Milestones & Reminders

S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

Date	Subject / Action
March 2010	Formal Invitation to SOWSG ATHENS 2011 by the President of the Organizing Committee
March 2010	Delegation Services Department starts operations
April 2010	Registration Forms for the HOD SEMINAR sent to participating SO Programs
April 2010	Participation Form for the Host Town Program sent to participating SO Programs
30 May 2010	Final date to return completed Participation Form for the Host Town Program to the GOC - Deadline extended until 20 June 2010.
20 June 2010	Final date to appoint a National Family Coordinator - If you have not appointed your National Family Coordinator so far, please contact the Family Services Department (ref. page 6)
30 June 2010	Final date for the MVP nominations If you want to submit your MVP nominations, please contact SOI (ref. page 6)
31 July 2010	Final date to return completed Registration Forms for the HOD SEMINAR to the GOC - Participation forms to be returned to Delegation Services Department
October 2010	HOD Manual (1st Edition) will be uploaded to the GOC's official website
14-18 October 2010	HOD Seminar
14 October 2010	Registration Process Begins - GMS Exchange / Paper Registration
1 March 2011	Completed Registration packets returned to Regional Sports Director/Manager
1 May 2011	Last date to activate alternate athletes and coaches.
31 March 2011	Check if your delegation needs a visa to enter Greece
20-24 June 2011	Host Town Program
25 June 2011	Opening Ceremony of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011
26 June - 3 July 2011	Competition
4 July 2011	Closing Ceremony of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011