



## S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

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### In This Edition You Will Find

Welcome from the GOC's President	02
Sports & Venues Sports & Venues of the Month	03
Games Services Update	04
Non - Sports Programs and Events	05
General Information	06
Host country and host city at a glance	07
Milestones & Reminders	08

### Presentation of Apollon



The first issue of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011 Organising Committee's Delegation Updates is the first in a series of newsletters designed to provide important information to the SO Accredited Programs as they prepare for the Athens 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Our Newsletters will be published on a regular basis and will include updates from various Functional areas of the Organizing Committee about the progress of their preparation towards the SOWSG Athens 2011. Each issue will be distributed to the SO Programs in electronic format by email. Those that do not have email access will receive the Delegation Updates by fax. Additionally, it will be uploaded to the Athens 2011 official website. As the Athens 2011 Games draw near, the material covered by our newsletters will help ensure that all delegations get all the necessary information for their successful participation in the XIII Special Olympics World Summer Games. All delegation questions should be sent to Delegation Services department at the following contact details: SOWSG ATHENS 2011 Delegation Services Department, Ktirio Ipasias, Goudi Park P.O.Box 2011, 115 10 Athens, Greece Tel. +30 211 2011 000 email: c.anthi@athens2011.org



**Special Olympics**  
WORLD SUMMER GAMES  
ATHENS 2011

## S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates



### A note from the GOC's President, Mrs. Joanna Despotopoulou

Dear Delegation Members,

We are less than 400 days away from the Opening Ceremony of the XIII Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, and the GOC is well on the way to stage great competition and many other events.

The Games Organising Committee, our staff and volunteers, a dedicated team to the Special Olympics movement, is growing fast. All of them bring to the GOC their deep knowledge in organizing mega sport events and in event management. Their know-how coupled with the experience they acquired from observing the 2007 SOWSG in Shanghai and the 2009 SOWWG in Idaho, as well as with their involvement in the Special Olympics Hellas year round activities, guarantee the smooth planning and organization of the 2011 Games in Athens and promise an unforgettable experience in the birth-place of sports and the Olympic Ideals.

Staging sport events in a period of a worldwide economic crisis is a great challenge; however, we are committed to our goal and we are targeting to offer you all, a warm hospitality in the land of sun, sea, sand, sport, spirit, and splendor.

Your involvement and cooperation is being considered critical for the success of the ATHENS 2011 SOWSG Games. We are ready to work closely with you, to respond to your requests, to fulfill your expectations and offer you efficient and warm service in every aspect.

This newsletter is a communication tool that will allow us to keep in contact during the preparation period for the SOWSG ATHENS 2011.

We look forward to working alongside with all of you to successfully meet the needs of the athletes, coaches, delegates, family members, honoured guests and media representatives who will travel to Athens in 2011.

Sincerely,

Joanna Despotopoulou  
President  
Special Olympics World Summer Games  
ATHENS 2011



## Sports and Venues

### General Information

The GOC Sport and Venues Department is working hard to ensure that athletes and coaches will experience a high quality sporting event in Athens, in June 2011.

The Competition Schedule and Venue Locations by sport can be found on the official Athens 2011 web site [www.athens2011.org](http://www.athens2011.org).

Getting ready for the SOWSG Athens 2011, the GOC will organize Test Events for the majority of the sports. Sixteen (16) Test Events will take place in two periods: The test events of the 1st period have taken place from May 30 until June 3, 2010, during the Special Olympics Hellas National Games, and concern the sports of Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Bocce, Cycling, Football, Gymnastics, Handball, Powerlifting, Table Tennis and Volleyball, while the rest of the test events will be organized individually, from May until October 2010 and concern the sports of Sailing, Judo, Kayaking and Bowling.

## S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

### Venue and Sport of the Month: Tennis

The venue for the Special Olympics Tennis competition is the Olympic Tennis Centre within the Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA). The venue was purpose-built for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and is located in the suburb of Maroussi, north of the Athens City Center. The distance between the venue and the Special Olympics Village is approximately 30km and the estimated travel time by bus is 30-40 minutes. The Olympic Tennis Centre consists of 16 outdoor hard courts split to a Centre Court, a Show Court, ten (10) match courts and four (4) practice courts. The surface of all courts is Deco Turf II, same as the surface used at the US Open.

#### Events Offered:

Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles

#### Registration Instructions:

Athletes may participate in a maximum of two (2) events.

#### Sport Uniform/Equipment:

- Each athlete will be responsible for providing his/her own tennis racket and will be required to wear traditional tennis clothing.
- The athlete must wear appropriate tennis shoes. Black sole shoes will not be allowed on the courts.

#### Points of Emphasis - Rules Conditions:

- Short set scoring will be used for this competition. Sets are the 1st player to win 4 games, while leading by 2 games (4-1, 4-2, etc.). A 7-point tiebreak is played at 4-4. Athletes play 2 out of 3 sets, with a 7--point tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set.
- Athlete Census Information: 33,854 - 2011 Quota 180

## Updates and Important Technical Information per Sport

### Bocce: Surface

The Bocce surface of the Indoor Hall to be used for the Special Olympics Hellas 2010 National Games and the SOWSG Athens 2011 is carpeted with approximately zero pile. It is being laid over the venue's floor, which is a rubber surface (used for different sport events such as Handball etc). The combination of these surfaces will have as a result a game of average paced speed.

### Football: Equipment, Uniform & Shoes

For the Football tournament of the SOWSG Athens 2011, the uniform/equipment requirements are as follows:

- Each player shall wear a number (on the back)
- No part of the uniform may contain advertising
- Delegations shall bring their own kit (shirts, shorts, socks, footwear, shin guards) for the tournament.
- FOOTBALL SHOES FOR 5 - A-SIDE: OUTDOOR SPORTS SHOES WITH ANTI-SLIP (obligatory)

### Kayaking: Water Type

For the first time during the SOWSG Athens 2011, the swimming test for Kayaking will be conducted in the sea and not in a swimming pool, as during the previous Games. The Schinias Sailing Academy, a venue right next to the Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Center, will host both kayaking and sailing swimming tests on the same date. Moreover, athletes will be allowed to wear Personal Flotation Devices during the swimming test.

### Sailing: Boats

The type of the boats to be used for Sailing in the SOWSG Athens 2011 are the following:

Level 1: 420, Level 2: 420, Level 3: Laser Bahia, Level 4: 420, Level 5: Laser 4.7 or smaller & Optimist





## S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

### Games Services

#### Transport:

GOC's Transport Department aims to deliver several transportation systems during the SOWSG Athens 2011, each comprising various levels of services to all Games constituents. Our ultimate objective is to provide a comfortable and efficient service.

Delegations will be transported by a fleet of approximately 350 buses provided by OASA (Organization of the Athens Public Transport). There shall be three main transport malls in operation, in OAKA (Athens Olympic Sports Complex), Village and Hellinikon. These buses will also be used for the delegations' transport to and from the Opening & Closing Ceremonies.

All Star fans will be provided with a fleet of 150-200 private cars (sedan type) with dedicated drivers, in order to meet this group's transportation needs. In certain cases and in accordance to the standards set by the Games Agreement, we will also arrange police escort or motorcade.

MVP's: Games motor pool will be in operation for this group of guests.

HOD's: A designated car and a driver will be provided for each Head of Delegation

Technical Delegates & TO's: Motor pool transportation will be used for this group.

Family members: The public transportation system shall be available free of charge for those carrying a valid credential.

Host Town Program: Transport will provide the necessary number of coaches for transferring the Delegations from the airport (or other point of entry) to their Host Town destination and then to the Special Olympics Village.

**Village:** The Special Olympics Village (SOV) is the home of the Athletes, coaches and Delegates during the SOWSG Competition period. The overall scope of the Special Olympics Village Operations is the provision of fully serviced accommodation to all residents, including medical services, catering, sports information etc.

Our objective is to provide a residential environment that is safe, comfortable, convenient, stress-free and friendly to enable athletes to enjoy their stay and leave with a clear, lasting and positive memory of Athens and Greek hospitality.

**Logistics:** We will deliver effective logistics services including receipt, storage, tracking, transportation and distribution of all equipment and materials required for venue set-up and venue demobilization.





## S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

### Non - Sports Programs and Events Accommodation

The SOWSG Athens 2011 are expected to attract, beyond the approximately 10,000 athletes and coaches, a crowd of over 40,000 people, including spectators, family members, technical crew, journalists and VIP's. The GOC's Accommodation Department is preparing and organizing to service all these constituent groups of people during the games in the most effective and convenient way in order to meet the standards required by SOI. All Star Fans, MVP's will be accommodated in selected hotels, all of which are located in the center of Athens and are very close to most of the Competition Venues. Moreover, the Organizing Committee is currently working on finding suitable accommodation of various star ratings, for the technical delegates, journalists and all the media groups participating in the Games. In the light of the overall hospitality program and due to the fact that the demand for accommodation during the SOWSG Athens 2011 will be very high, SOI in consultation with Special Olympics Hellas, has appointed an official travel agency in order to provide the best accommodation service. As a result, spectators, family members and general public will be given the opportunity to book hotels of their preference from the ATHENS 2011 official web-site. Moreover, variety of additional tourist options such as car rental, excursions, cruises etc. will be offered.

### Host Town Program

Information about the Host Town Program will be available shortly.

### Apollon – The Official Mascot of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011

The Sun is the symbol of optimism, joy and glory.

Its light and warmth are considered a source of life and happiness. Greece, world renowned for its Sun, has since ancient times worshiped the Sun as a God. Its selection as the Mascot of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, aims to convey the message of joy and optimism towards all athletes, and to welcome them in Greece with a big warm hug.

Even though in the Olympic Games, Apollon, as the god of Sun, is present only in the Torch lighting ceremony after being called by the High Priestess, in the Special Olympics of Athens, Apollon will be present and will spread its light to all our athletes, while they will be competing in the sports fields,





## Non - Sports Programs & Events

### Family Services

The aim of the GOC Family Services Department is to provide a safe and inviting environment for the visiting family members, so that they can enjoy not only the sports competition but also the variety of opportunities that this event has to offer. Due to the fact that the expected number of family members is significant, accurate planning is needed. For this reason, the delegations are asked to name a National Family Coordinator who will liaise with the GOC's Family Services Department especially during the preparation process. Particularly Family Coordinators will be responsible for the dissemination of information and updates on a national level; they will mediate between the local family members and GOC in matters regarding registration, travel information, materials distribution and any other subject that may arise concerning their stay in Athens and attending the Games. The contact details of the National Family Coordinator should be sent to Mrs Ismini Valsamaki, Family Services Manager to the following email address: [i.valsamaki@athens2011.org](mailto:i.valsamaki@athens2011.org)

## S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

### Healthy Athletes Program

ATHENS 2011 Offers Free Medical Checkup for all athletes!

Athletes participating in the SOWSG Athens 2011 can receive free medical checkup under a program called Healthy Athletes which is conducted in collaboration with Special Olympics International. The program, developed in 1996 and globally implemented since, is designed to help Special Olympics athletes improve their health and fitness, leading to enhanced sports experience and improved well-being. The 7,500 athletes from 185 countries and regions at the SOWG Athens 2011 will be encouraged to receive health assessments which span across six areas, namely: Fit Feet, FUN fitness, Healthy Hearing, Health Promotion, Opening Eyes, and Special Smiles.

#### Fit Feet

Fit Feet was developed in collaboration with the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine to evaluate and screen foot and ankle deformities of athletes and to provide education in proper footwear and care of the feet and toes.

#### FUNfitness

During a FUNfitness screening, volunteer physical therapists, assistants, and students assess the flexibility and functional strength of Special Olympics athletes' muscles as well as overall balance. The program also provides "take-away" educational materials for Special Olympics athletes and information for families and coaches about the importance of and methods to improve flexibility, functional strength and balance in sports performance and activities of daily living.

#### Healthy Hearing

Healthy Hearing provides a screening for the athletes, and notifies athletes and their coaches if follow-up care is needed. This program also provides corrective (hearing aids) and preventative (custom swim earplugs) services where possible, and studies the prevalence of hearing loss in athletes competing in Special Olympics events.

#### Health Promotion

Health Promotion focuses on educating athletes about healthy lifestyles and the facilitation of healthy choices. It mainly focuses on nutrition and exercise, as well as bone health, smoking cessation and sun safety using interactive educational activities and motivational information to encourage behaviour change.

#### Opening Eyes®

At Opening Eyes events, Special Olympics athletes receive extensive vision and eye health tests; refraction for those requiring further screening; prescription eyeglasses, if needed; prescription protective sports eyewear, if appropriate; and referral for follow-up care.

#### Special Smiles®

At a Special Smiles event, dental professionals provide oral screenings; oral health education and personal prevention products; and individually fitted sports mouth guards, if needed, for those athletes competing in contact or high-risk sports.

## General Information

### Glossary of Terms

**SOWSG:** Special Olympics World Summer Games

**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](mailto: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

**DAL:** Delegation Assistant Liaison, a bi-lingual member of staff who will accompany a delegation from arrival to departure. The DAL will accompany the HOD to meetings (but will not assume the role of HOD) and is the lead member of GOC staff for each delegation

**OAKA:** Athens Olympic Sports Complex

**TOs:** Technical Officials

**MVPs:** Most Valuable Persons

**OASA:** Organization of the Athens Public Transport

**SOV:** Special Olympics Village

**ASF:** All Star Fans



## S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

### The host country and the host city at a glance....

Greece will host the biggest sport event for the year 2011, the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, inviting humanity to join the wonderful winning world of Special Olympics.

Greece is a country of beautiful contradictions. A constant journey in time, from the present to the past and back again. It is the birthplace of the Western civilization where philosophy, democracy and the Olympic Games were born. Greece has always been a crossroad of various cultures and civilizations. While being here one feels the grandeur of history and discovers the evolutionary process of thought, influence and experience.

Greece is located in south-eastern Europe, on the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula; it lies at the meeting point of three continents – Europe, Asia and Africa. The total area of Greece is 131,957 km<sup>2</sup> and consists of three main geographic areas: a peninsular mainland (that extends from the region of Central Greece in the South to the region of Thrace in the North) being the biggest geographic feature of the country, the Peloponnese peninsula that is separated from the mainland by the canal of the Corinth Isthmus, and around 6,000 islands and islets, scattered in the Aegean and Ionian Sea, most of them grouped in clusters, that constitute the unique Greek archipelago. Crete, Rhodes, Corfu, the Dodecanese and the Cyclades are some of the famous and popular islands and island clusters in Greece.

The climate of Greece is predominately Mediterranean: mild and rainy winters, relatively warm and dry summers and generally extended periods of sunshine throughout most of the year. More information about the climate of Greece can be found in the Hellenic National Meteorological Service ([www.hnms.gr](http://www.hnms.gr)).

The capital of Greece is Athens; Athens is a modern European city with more than 4 million inhabitants. Among European cities, Athens is the oldest and the one with the longest history. This history is still evident in the buildings and monuments of today's Greek capital. Athens is situated in the prefecture of Attica and extends to the peninsula that reaches up to Central Greece. It is surrounded by mountains northwards and eastwards, and the Saronic gulf southwards and westwards. The sun is shining over Athens all year round. The climate is one of the best in Europe, with mild winters and very hot summers, ideal for tourism. Dominating the Athenian landscape, the Acropolis is unsurpassed in its beauty, architectural splendor and historic importance. The Parthenon is situated on the highest part of the Acropolis. It was built between 447 and 437 BC and reflects the values and objectives of the Athenian State at the time. It was here that modern democracy began its early foothold.



#### Useful sites:

- Greek National Tourist Organization: <http://www.gnto.gr>
- The official site of Athens: <http://www.cityofathens.gr>
- The Hellenic National Meteorological Service: <http://www.hnms.gr>
- Athens City Guide: <http://www.greece-athens.com>



## S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

### Milestones & Reminders

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. Participation form to be returned to Delegation Services Department
20 June 2010	Final date to appoint a National Family Coordinator - National Family Coordinator contacts to be sent to Family Services Department
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.
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

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