



S.O. Athens 2011 Delegation Updates

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HOD Seminar (14-18 October, 2010)



The Organizing Committee of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011 successfully conducted the Head of Delegation (HOD) Seminar in Athens, from the 14th to the 18th October, 2010. The City of Athens, the Greek National Tourism Organization with the GOC offered the Seminar's attendees a unique opportunity to visit the Host City of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011, to experience true Greek hospitality and receive technical information on organizational matters. More than 130 delegates participated at the HOD Seminar representing 75 SO Programs and the SOI. The Seminar's program included presentations from various GOC Functional Areas, venue tours where competitions will be held and to the Special Olympics Village.

Please find below the links, where you can download the Seminar's presentations of the GOC representatives:

http://www.athens2011.org/HOD_Presentations/SESSION_I_part_1.zip
http://www.athens2011.org/HOD_Presentations/SESSION_I_part_2.zip
http://www.athens2011.org/HOD_Presentations/SESSION_II_part_1.zip
http://www.athens2011.org/HOD_Presentations/SESSION_II_part_2.zip
http://www.athens2011.org/HOD_Presentations/SESSION_III_part_1.zip
http://www.athens2011.org/HOD_Presentations/SESSION_III_part_2.zip

Furthermore, the HOD Manual, 1st Edition, is posted on the ATHENS 2011 website, and can be found by clicking on the following link:
http://www.athens2011.org/en/delegation_updates.asp

We hope you find the material useful for your delegation's preparation for the SOWSG ATHENS 2011. Please make sure the relevant material is disseminated to your colleagues and staff involved in the preparation of your teams for the Games.

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

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Sports & Venues of the Month: Football

Football is one of the twenty-three sports (23) of the Special Olympics World Summer Games (SOWSG). In total, 1,477 athletes or 130 teams will compete in the three disciplines of SO Football: 5-a-side (49 teams), 7-a-side (61 teams) and 11-a-side (20 teams). The competition schedule for football will take place over eight (8) days, from June 26 to July 3, 2011. During the first 2 days of the program divisioning will take place, while the remaining six (6) days will be used for the seeding and final rounds of the competition. Each team will play a minimum of three (3) games during divisioning and four (4) during seeding and final rounds. The duration of each game is 30 minutes in 5-a-side, 40 minutes in 7-a-side and 50 minutes in 11-a-side.

Seven (7) total Football events:

1. 5-a-side: Male and Female
2. 7-a-side: Male, Female and Unified
3. 11-a-side: Male and Unified

Registration Instructions:

In 5-a-side, teams may register 10 athletes maximum, in 7-a-side 12 athletes maximum and in 11-a-side 16 athletes maximum. Each team can participate in only one event. During registration teams are requested to fill-in the Form F - Football Team Rating Form. Information about how to fill-in the form and additional information on Football Divisioning was given during the HOD Seminar that took place in Athens from 15 to 18 October 2010, a DVD concerning Football Divisioning was also distributed that was prepared by the SOI Football Technical Delegate.

Sport Uniform/Equipment:

The basic compulsory equipment of a player shall consist of 2 sets of a jersey/shirt, shorts, socks, shin protectors and appropriate footwear for the sport. Each player shall wear a number. The colour of the number shall be contrasting to the rest of the uniform and shall be legible. The number should be on the back of the jersey and on the front section of the right leg of the shorts. Due to the surface of the 5-a-side fields (artificial turf), outdoor competition shoes with anti-slip (no studs) will be used for SOWSG ATHENS 2011.

Field of play:

- 11 a-side will be played on 2 natural grass pitches of 64m x 100m
- 7 a-side will be played on 6 natural grass pitches of 40m x 60m
- 5 a-side will be played on 6 artificial turf pitches of 30m x 45m

Competition Venues:

11-a-side will take place at the Agios Kosmas Athletic Center. The Agios Kosmas football fields form part of a large Sports Complex by the sea-side. It is a major sport & recreation park, open to the public for jogging, walks, biking and team sport games, it also offers facilities for a number of sports utilized by Greek National Teams for their training. 7-a-side will take place on the soccer fields of the Olympic Baseball Stadium and 5-a-side on the fields of the Olympics Hockey Stadium. The Baseball and the Hockey Stadium are parts of the Hellinikon Olympic Complex, where a number of sport competitions took place during the ATHENS 2004 Olympic & Paralympic Games and will also be used for the SOWSG ATHENS 2011.





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Unity Sports Events (USE)

ATHENS 2011, in collaboration with SOI, has agreed upon the incorporation of a new program to the Special Olympics World Games. This program consists of a series of individual non-official competition activities and is named Unity Sports Events (USE). Stemming from the Unified Sports® program, USE 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 into most of the official competitions as exhibition activities and intend to help foster a relationship of respect, acceptance and camaraderie among all participants. SOI will distribute to all delegations the process in order to nominate their athletes for participation in the USE at the Games. Athletes will be selected by May 1st. Unity Sport Events are open to the public.

Achieving Personal Best (APB)

Achieving Personal Best (APB) activities have been added to the daily schedule of activities as a way to provide Special Olympics athletes new opportunities to develop their athletic abilities and acquire new skills. APB will also initiate Coach-ins conducted by renowned coaches for Special Olympics and introduce newly designed recognition programs for athletes and coaches. Achieving Personal Best activities are not open to the public.

As it can be seen in the competition schedule, several sports have added USE & APB activities in order to fulfill the aims of the program.

Venue Operations

A main responsibility of the Sports and Venues Department is to make sure that all venues are operational and fully prepared to welcome the Delegations during the SOWSG ATHENS 2011.

The competition venues for the SOWSG ATHENS 2011 are already confirmed and the operational planning phase is coming to an end, ten months prior to the delegations arrival. It is vital to mention that 16 of the 23 Special Olympic sports are allocated in three (3) main sport complexes: the OAKA Complex (Athletics, Swimming, Powerlifting, Tennis, Volleyball & Basketball), the Hellinikon Olympic Complex (Gymnastics, Badminton, Handball, Football 5-a-side/ 7-a-side/ 11-a-side, Softball & Cycling) and the Peace and Friendship Stadium (Roller Skating, Bocce, Table Tennis & Beach Volleyball). This unique set up will give the opportunity to athletes competing in the above complexes to enjoy being both an athlete in their own sport as well as

Updates and Important Technical Sport Information

Competition Schedule

The Competition Schedule (version 5) for the SOWSG ATHENS 2011 has been released and can be found on the SOWSG ATHENS 2011 official website. Four additional versions will be published until Games Time.

The Competition Schedule will eventually be presented in four (4) different user-friendly formats, which will assist everyone involved in the Games in order to acquire information that might be needed quicker and easier. These formats are:

- 1) DAILY COMP. SCHED. PER SPORT COMPLEX
- 2) DAILY COMP. SCHED. PER SPORT
- 3) SESSION COMP. SCHED. PER SPORT COMPLEX
- 4) EVENT COMP. SCHED. PER SPORT (Information that is Available up to this point and time)

a spectator in competitions of other sports! All other sports (Golf, Sailing, Open Water Swimming, Equestrian, Bowling, Judo & Kayaking) are located in different areas around Athens.

All competition venues will serve the delegations and their needs in the best possible way. This will be done with the provision of changing rooms; dedicated seating for athletes/delegations and athlete lounges as well as in other ways according to needs. Additionally, well trained personnel and volunteers will be available to offer assistance whenever requested.

Kayaking – Boats & Paddles

During the SOWSG ATHENS 2011, for Kayaking the boats that will be used will be the following:

Single Touring Boats: Cruiser 320 Prijon

Double Touring Boats: Cruiser II Prijon

Boat Specifications:

	CRUISER 320	CRUISER II
material	HTP	HTP
length	323 cm	470 cm
width	70 cm	69 cm
weight	21 kg	34 kg
volume	370 l	510 l
max. capacity	135 kg	240 kg
cockpit	7	7

For paddles, the “Bora 230cm” touring paddles will be provided to the athletes by the Organizing Committee. According to the rules, athletes may bring their personal paddle but it must meet ICF specifications.

Sailing

The official notice of race (NoR) for Sailing was published and can be found on the Athens 2011 web site under Sport/Competition Notices.



General Information

Games Registration

All Games Registration related information can be found at the following link:
http://www.athens2011.org/en/registration_details.asp

Registration for Additional Staff (AS Staff)

Each Delegation may include, at the Delegation's own expense, a limited number of Additional Staff according to their quota. Registration fee will be **€100.00 per day, per person**, from June 24th to July 5th, 2011. Therefore, the total amount of the fees for the whole period of the Games will be €1.100,00, per AS Staff. This fee will include official credentials, housing, meals, and access to the Delegation transport network. Every effort will be made to provide housing for Additional Staff with their Delegations. The above fees must be paid by **May 15th, 2011**. Further information on method of payment will be provided at a later stage. No fees apply for the participation of the AS Staff to the ATHENS 2011 Host Town Program.

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Visa Issue

All members of Delegations that require a visa to enter Greece will have the privilege of obtaining their visa, for the period of the Games, free of charge, providing that their visa application is approved by Schengen.

Upon your registration you need to provide GOC with certain information in order to start the visa issuing process, if this applies to your case.

The information that is mandatory for the process is:

- Full name (as it is written on the passport)
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Nationality
- Sex
- Passport number
- I.D. No (In case you do not have passport, and you need an invitation letter in order to apply for a passport)
- Date of expiration of the passport
- Entitlement (delegate, coach, etc)
- Embassy or Consulate where you will apply for the Greek visa

Some tips:

- **Check the current validity of your passport (travel documents)**
All travelers will need a passport valid for at least 90 days following the departure date from Greece.
- **Make sure your passport has blank Visa pages**
Most destinations, including Greece, require that you have adequate un-used pages in your passport, allowing for any necessary stamps upon arrival and departure.
- **Confirm if transit visa is required for any connections**
Please consult with your airline to confirm travel documents. It may be the case that countries you pass through en route to your destination may require a separate transit visa.

Visa issuing Process:

As soon as GOC receives the above information via the Games registration process for all Delegation members, it will issue an invitation letter and send it via email and/or fax to the Head of Delegation.

A copy of the invitation letter will be sent by the GOC to the Embassy or Consulate where you will be applying together with a letter from the President of the SOWSG ATHENS 2011 Organizing Committee that will certify your participation in the Games and the particulars of your residence while in Greece.

After having received the invitation letter for his/her Delegation, the HOD needs to contact the closest Embassy or Consulate in his/her country in order to apply for the visa issuance of his/her Delegation.

It is the responsibility of the HOD to get into contact with the appropriate authority for the visa issuance of his Delegation.

Please bear in mind that the visa issuing process may take longer than you think. Therefore please contact the respective Greek authority of your country as early as possible in order to get information about the processing, and the deadlines that need to be followed.



Games Services: Accommodation/Housing at the Games

During Games time, Delegations will be accommodated in several locations, of similar standards and consistent level of service. All selected accommodations will be in areas that are safe, with convenient access to venues, offering adequate and clean quarters for all Athletes, Coaches, and Delegates. To avoid extensive commuting, delegations will be placed as close as possible to their competition venue. Delegations who participate in Sports that are carried out in both Northern (e.g. Athens Olympic Sport Complex, Schinias Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Centre, Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre, The American College of Greece-DEREE Gym, Spata Blancos Sports Park) and Southern competition venues (Hellinikon Complex, SEF, Glyfada Golf) will be split in accommodation areas located in the North and the South. A third split may occur, if a delegation also competes in Football, given that a separate Football district will be created as well. Every effort will be made to limit the separation of the delegations to a maximum of three locations.

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Specifically, three separate areas will be used to accommodate delegations:

1. Accommodation Area I: North/Eastern Accommodation Venues.

1a) Aghios Andreas complex: One of the locations where Delegations will be housed is the Aghios Andreas complex, located at the east end of Athens at the seaside town of Aghios Andreas, located 40 klm away from OAKA complex. Within Aghios Andreas there are seven different camps that consist of a complex of villas and low-rise buildings surrounded by pine-tree forests of approximately one million square meters.

1b) Golden Coast Resort: The Hotel is situated on the popular Marathon Beach. The village of Marathon is 7km away and Athens is less than an hour's drive. Units are comprised of studios for 2, 3 or 4 people.

In the above North/Eastern Accommodation Venues will be placed athletes and teams from delegations that participate in the following sports:

- Aquatics AQ
- Athletics AT
- Basketball BK
- Bowling BO
- Equestrian EQ
- Judo JU
- Powerlifting PL
- Sailing SA
- Tennis TN
- Volleyball VB
- Open Water OW
- Kayaking KA

2. Accommodation Area II: South/Western Accommodation Venues.

Accommodations will also be placed in various hotels located in the south/western area of Athens, in close proximity to the Southern Competition venues. In the South/Western Accommodation Venues will be placed delegations that participate in the following sports:

- Badminton BD
- Beach volley BV
- Bocce BC
- Cycling CY
- Football FB
- Golf GF
- Gymnastics GY
- Handball HB
- Roller skating RS
- Softball SB
- Table Tennis TT

3. Accommodation Area III: Football Accommodation Venues.

Teams that participate in Football will reside in hotels in a separate Football District, located again in the South/Western part of the city, for close proximity to the Hellinikon Olympic complex

Each HOD and Assistant HOD will be allocated in single rooms. If a Delegation is housed in two different locations, then the Delegation will be asked separately for its preferred HOD location. A GOC appointed DAL will also be housed in close proximity to the Delegation.

Over the coming months, Accommodation staff will develop several allocation plans. The final allocation will occur once GOC has determined the exact team size, at which point it will be communicated to all Delegations.



Glossary of Terms

APB: Achieving Personal Best
GOC: Games Organizing Committee
HOD: Head of Delegation
HTP: Host Town Program
OAKA: Athens Olympic Sports Complex
SEF: Peace and Friendship Stadium
SOWSG: Special Olympics World Summer Games
USE: Unity Sports Events

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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 Start Operations
14 -18 October 2010	HOD Seminar
15 October 2010	GMS Exchange / Paper Registration begins
1 February 2011	NEW Registration Deadline
1 May 2011	Last day to Activate Alternates (Substitutes / Reserves)
15 May 2011	Deadline for Additional Staff (AS Staff) registration payment
9 June 2011	The lighting of the "Hope of Flame" in Pnyx, Athens
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

According to the GOC President's closing session remarks at the HOD Seminar, you should provide your regional offices with the confirmation of your delegation size by December 10, 2010. You are kindly requested to copy the GOC Delegation Services Department when you make this communication. Please keep in mind that the delegation size should not exceed your allocated quota.