

Dear friends of Special Olympics

„Heartbeat for the world“

14th to 25th March 2017



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD WINTER GAMES
AUSTRIA 2017
Graz | Schladming | Ramsau | Styria

Heartbeat for the world

5. Delegation Update – June 2016

Upcoming deadlines, friendly reminders

- **HOD-Seminar: Registration – Head of Delegation Seminar** The Head of Delegation seminar will take place in Graz, October 27 – 31. Please make submit the Registration form (attached to the third Delegation Update) no later than **August 1** and please remember: **No payment will be accepted before you have received an invoice.**

Travel Itinerary

Please find attached the Delegation Travel Itinerary by Air, by Rail and by chartered bus. Please return it to the GOC to delegation.service@austria2017.org

Deadlines: **15 July 2016** - For East Asia, Europe MENA and North America
 5 September 2016 - For Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America

Reminder: Please find attached again the information about which airport your Delegation should plan to arrive at and depart from. The listed airport is the closest to the Host Town assigned to your Delegation. If a Delegation arrives at a different airport than on this list, we can not provide a shuttle and the Delegation must pay for the cost of the shuttle on their own. Please notice: Programs arriving by buses will receive the address of the Host Town Program from the GOC.

Honored Guest Program

Official invitations and registration for the Honored Guest Program will begin in June. Special Olympics Programs will be receiving a memorandum explaining the process for inviting their Program Honored Guests and obtaining registration materials. Honored Guests may also book accommodation in Graz, Schladming or Ramsau through the links provided on the Families Program page on the Austria2017 website (see above).





ESPN named International Broadcast Partner for 2017 Games

ESPN and Special Olympics have announced an expansion of their more than 30-year partnership and a continuation of their alliance to leverage sports to promote social inclusion and acceptance to fans worldwide. As part of a new multi-year agreement with Special Olympics International, ESPN will be the International Broadcast Partner for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

ESPN's coverage will reach fans around the world via its networks and media platforms in North, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. As previously announced, ORF will serve as the Host Broadcast Partner for the 2017 Games, and ESPN will work closely with ORF to ensure that the stories of our athletes are shared on a global scale. More details will be released as we get closer to the 2017 Games.

Share your stories! Our new Story template can help!

Every day, Programs are learning more about athletes training for the 2017 Games. As we know, World Games competition is about creating global awareness about the skills and talents of people with intellectual disabilities -- and the impact they can have on families, volunteers and the community. The goal is for this awareness to extend far beyond an 8-day Games event. We ask that you please share your stories now.

To guide this process, Special Olympics has created a Story Starter template that can help Programs and Regions capture stories of impact. This quick checklist includes how to ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS and PUT YOUR STORY IN CONTEXT. Please download the Story Starter template here:

<http://media.specialolympics.org/resources/brand-awareness-and-communication/marketing/Story-Starter-Form.pdf>

We are asking every Delegation to share at least 1-3 compelling stories -- plus 1-2 photos. These will be used for the Special Olympics website, social media, as well as for pitching to external global print and broadcast media, including ESPN. You can send your story directly to Kate McKenna (kmckenna@specialolympics.org) or use the online Simple Story form: <http://www.specialolympics.org/share>





General Sports Highlights

The volunteer Technical Delegate (TD) represents Special Olympics, Inc., as the key sport advisor for a specific sport and shall be responsible for ensuring that the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) correctly interprets implements and enforces Special Olympics Sports Rules and modifications, the rules of the relevant International Sport Federation and current rule changes. The Technical Delegate shall advise the GOC on the technical requirements of the specific sport to ensure a safe, quality and dignified sports environment.

We are happy to present the international TDs for the 2017 SOWWG:

Alpine Skiing: Jeff Byrne - USA

- Senior Vice President, New York Olympic Regional Development Authority
- Served as Technical Delegate for the past 7 Special Olympics World Winter Games
- Active member, United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA)
- Active member, International Ski Federation (FIS)
- Member, Special Olympics Sport Resource Team – Alpine Skiing
- Former Winter Sports Director, Special Olympics, Inc.

Cross Country Skiing: Steinar Pettersen - NORWAY

- Technical Delegate, 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea
- Technical Delegate, 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho
- Technical Delegate, 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan
- Active member, Norwegian Ski Federation
- Ski instructor and coach
- Recognized as an International Ski Federation (FIS) technical delegate

Figure Skating: Katharina Rauch - AUSTRIA

- Certified figure skating judge – International Skating Union (ISU)
- International judge, 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games – Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea
- Served as judge for many Special Olympics Austria figure skating competitions
- Recited the Officials Oath at the Opening Ceremony of the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games
- Member, Special Olympics Inc. Sport Resource Team – Figure Skating

Floorball: Steen Houman - DENMARK

- Technical Delegate, 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games – Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea
- Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Sport Advisor – Floorball
- 2011- Selected to the Danish House of Sports Development committees
- 2009- EliteSports consultant, TEAM Denmark project Roskilde municipality
- 2002-2009 Development consultant, Danish Floorball Federation
- Coached Floorball at the highest level women, and division 1 men



Floor Hockey: Nancy Logan - USA

- Member, Special Olympics Floor Hockey Global Resource Team
- International Technical Official, 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games - Pyeongchang
- International Technical Official, 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games – Boise
- International Technical Official, 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games – Nagano

Short Track Speedskating: Cindi Hart - USA

- 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Assistant Technical Delegate for Cycling
- 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Assistant Technical Delegate
- Speedskating Coach, SO Team USA, 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Boise, Idaho
- 2006 National Council on Youth Sports (NCYS) Coach of the Year
- 2005 United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Volunteer Coach of the year
- Speedskating National medalist - 2002, 2004, 2005. 2 National Speedskating Records 2005

Snowboarding: Bob Whitehead - USA

- Vice President of Sports, Special Olympics Wisconsin
- Served as snowboarding technical delegate for Special Olympics World Games since the sport introduction in 2001
- Member, Jury of Appeals, 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games - Athens
- Member, Special Olympics Sports Rules Advisory Committee
- Member, Special Olympics Global Sport Resource Team – Snowboarding

Snowshoeing: Silvester Polc - SLOVENIA

- Sport Director Special Olympics Slovenia
- Assistant Technical Delegate, 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games
- Head coach, Special Olympics Slovenia, 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games
- Technical Delegate for snowshoeing competitions on National Winter Games since 2005
- Member, Special Olympics Snowshoeing Resource Team



Deadlines 2016

- 01. June** **Deadline for visa invitation letter from GOC for the HOD Seminar (hod-meeting@austria2017.org)**
- July** **Family Portal will open**
- 15. July** **Travel Itinerary (to: delegation.service@austria2017.org)
For East Asia, Europe MENA and North America**
- 1. August** **Registration HOD Seminar
(hod-meeting@austria2017.org)**
- 5. September** **Travel Itinerary (to: delegation.service@austria2017.org)
For Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America**
- 09. September** **Deadline Payment for HOD-Seminar
(hod-meeting@austria2017.org)**
- 27-31. October** **HOD Seminar in Graz**

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the GOC.

We look forward to welcoming you in Austria. See you in March 2017!

CEO Austria 2017 GmbH
Marc Angelini

CEO Austria 2017 GmbH
Mag. Markus Pichler

www.austria2017.org

