

# Dear friends of Special Olympics



„Heartbeat for the world“

**14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
WORLD WINTER GAMES  
AUSTRIA 2017

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## 4. Delegation Update – May 2016

### Contact Information - Head of Delegation

For the GOC to be able to start direct communication with the Delegations we asked all Delegations to complete the contact information form for the Head of Delegation (HOD) which was attached in the last version of Delegation Update. We have received few responses (please find attached the list with the missing HOD forms), so this is a friendly reminder that the GOC needs this information. Please let us know the name and contact information of your HOD.

### HOD Seminar, October 27-31, 2016

We strongly encourage your Delegation to send representatives to the HOD seminar. The deadline for the registration is August 1, 2016. As soon as you are registered we will send you an invoice for the payment of the fee. **No payment will be accepted before you have received an invoice.** After you're registered, if you need a visa (please find the form attached) to travel to Austria for the HOD seminar please contact us until **June 1, 2016** and we will issue a personal letter of invitation.

### Family Program

We are happy to announce that the family registration will open in July 2016. There will be an online portal for the registration that includes information about hotels and booking, tickets for the ceremonies, and other practical information. We encourage the families that plan to visit Austria to register to use the portal for registration and booking.

### General Sports Highlights

1. The competition rules adopted by the International Sports Federation and Special Olympics, Inc. as of 2014 will govern competition at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games. The International Sports Federation competition rules shall be employed except when in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply. Special Olympics rules can currently be found at <http://resources.specialolympics.org>





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2. There shall be no advertising on the competition uniform. Please refer to General Rules Section 4.08

The only commercial markings which may be displayed on Athletes' uniforms during Games competitions are the normal commercial markings of the manufacturer. On larger clothing items, such as shirts, jackets, pants, jerseys, and sweatshirts, one continued logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible if that name or logo display does not exceed an area of six square inches or 38.7 square centimeters (such as a display measuring 2" x 3" or 5.08 cm x 7.62cm);

(2) On small clothing items such as caps, socks, hats, gloves and belts, one logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible if that name or display does not exceed an area of three square inches or 19.35 square centimeters; and (3)\* On athletic shoes, no logos or commercial names are permissible except for names or logos which are included by the manufacturer on athletic shoes which are sold to the general public".

3. Athletes must be entered in events that are appropriate for their level of training.

4. Athletes are allowed to participate in 2 individual events.

5. All athletes are expected to arrive in Austria with the proper sport equipment and uniform.

6. If it has been determined by competition management jury that an athlete or team has not competed with maximum effort in preliminary and/or Divisioning rounds with the clear intent to gain an unfair advantage in the Divisioning process, sanctions will be imposed on the athlete/team/coach. Sanctions may include adjusted division placement, final placement or disqualification. Sport specific details related to implementation of the Maximum Effort Rule will be published in the coaches' handbook.

7. Unified Sports Competitive Team Age and Ability Requirement for the 2017 World Games: The Unified Sports team competition at the 2017 World Games will feature teams composed according to the Unified Sports Competitive model. Further information can be found in the Special Olympics Rulebook, Article 1, Section M: <http://media.specialolympics.org/resources/sports-essentials/general/2014-Article-I.pdf>

Similar Ability Requirement:

1. Athletes and partners should be of similar ability. Similar ability should be based on sport performance assessments.

2. Please note that the Unified Sports Competitive model is not exclusive to high ability partners and athletes. While the Unified Sports Competitive model emphasizes the importance of having team members of similar ability it does not prescribe that they must be of high ability only. Teams can be composed of lower ability participants as long as the team members are all of similar ability. Athletes and partners should be of similar age and ability.



Similar ability should be based on sport performance assessments while the following guideline shall be used for similar age team composition for the 2017 World Games:



#### Similar Age Requirement

For the purpose of providing additional clarification as to what constitutes “similar” age, delegations should apply the following guidelines to their team composition. If any member of the team is under the age of 22 the variance between the youngest and oldest member of the team should be no more than 5 years (e.g. if the youngest team member is 21 the oldest could be 26). When all members of the team are 22 and over there cannot be more than a 20 year difference between the youngest and oldest member of the team (e.g. If the youngest team member is 22 the oldest can be 44).

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#### Roster Size:

All Unified Teams shall be required to have a proportionate number of athlete and partner substitutes to the number of athletes and partners on the field of play.

### Use of the 2017 SOWWG Logo:

We are happy to announce that the second version of the use of the 2017 SOWWG Logo is online.

[www.austria2017.org/en/games-2017/das-logo/logo-visual](http://www.austria2017.org/en/games-2017/das-logo/logo-visual)

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](http://www.austria2017.org)

