



Opening Ceremony Kicked Off!

If you are still looking for great Parade of Athletes footage or access to our daily Video News Releases from ESPN, make sure you are checking out the links mentioned below in [Where to Find 2017 World Games Footage](#) and [Where to Find World Games Photos](#). These links are constantly being updated. Additionally, a press release detailing the Opening Ceremony can be found [here](#).

Where to find 2017 World Games Video

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS:

Every day during the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, ESPN will create a 5-minute video news release (VNR) featuring highlights from the day's competitions. Up to two minutes of this footage may be used, free of charge, by broadcasters worldwide.

This footage will be available for download at approximately 7 p.m. ET/12:00 a.m. CET each night through Friday, March 24, via this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xlx02a6qxx9d4gx/AABMSvftawdfZljr2W319s2Ra?dl=0>

NOTE: A shot log will accompany each day's VNRs.

OPENING CEREMONY PARADE OF ATHLETES

ESPN-clips of each delegation that took part in the Parade of Athletes are available via this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/v86c787s1qeor67/AAANEMgMfBTyUYqiF2X8faqma?dl=0>

FOR ALL OTHER VIDEO, CHECK OUT OUR YOUTUBE CHANNELS:

AUSTRIA 2017 World Games:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCINUn5XSkiATCsKj0ejZMUg>

Special Olympics:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIHbm7j-AXsVBNxBFfN81bFtm20ldf_67

GOT VIDEOS ?!

If you have World Games videos or video clips that you would like to share to increase awareness about Special Olympics and our athletes, please use this link to upload footage:

<https://www.hightail.com/u/SpecialOlympics-KMcKenna>

Questions? Contact kmckenna@specialolympics.org



Where to find 2017 World Games photos

Austria GOC photos are posted to Flickr here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/albums>

Austria GOC photos from Host Towns are posted to Flickr here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/hosttownprogramm>

SOI photos are posted to Flickr here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/soi-photo-stream/albums>

Award Ceremonies (see media guide, p. 48)

On Sunday the first award ceremonies of SOWWG 2017 took place in Schladming. Wetzlarplatz was crowded when many Alpine skiers received their medals and ribbons for great performances in Super G. During these award ceremonies the first medals were given to Ninoslava Milovevic (Serbia, Gold), Nika Dolinsek (Slovenia, Silver) and Nikoleta Stan (Romania, Bronze).

SOWWG 2017 provides four venues for award ceremonies:

Ramsau: Tent next to Veranstaltungszentrum

Schladming: Wetzlarplatz – towards Rathaus Schladming (Special Olympics Town)

Graz: Main Square Graz

Graz: Halle B at Messe Graz (Special Olympics Town)

Glacier of the Dachstein, Styria's highest mountain

SOWWG 2017 plans to hold the "Highest Award Ceremony in the World" on the glacier of the Dachstein mountain at almost 3.000 meters above sea level. It shall be celebrated during the week, depending on weather conditions.

Please understand that we can only allow a selected number of media representatives at this venue. However, the organisational committee's media team will provide you with photos and video material free of charge right after the ceremony.

For an overview of all sporting events and award ceremonies please click on:

<http://www.austria2017.org/en/games-2017/the-program/award-ceremonies>

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Screenings Started Today!

Today, the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program kicked off at the World Winter Games 2017. Hundreds of athletes, accompanied by coaches and family members, came to Graz, Austria to receive a free health examination and health education from professionals trained to work with people with intellectual disabilities.



A staple since 1997, Special Olympics Healthy Athletes is the largest public health program for people with intellectual disabilities worldwide. The disciplines that athletes get screened in include: Fit Feet, FUNFitness, Health Promotion, Healthy Hearing, Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes, Special Smiles, and Strong Minds – a discipline piloted for the first time at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017.

“This is the second time I am getting a health screening,” shared 25 year old Moamen Ahmed Osman, an athlete from Egypt. “Most of all, I loved testing my overall strength and the strength of my legs. I even got a new pair of soccer shoes that fit, and I am excited to try them out.”

Each person who volunteers with Healthy Athletes has a unique story; however, many Special Olympics health volunteers do so in part because of their knowledge of the need to focus on inclusive health and provide care to people with intellectual disabilities.

“I have been involved in Fit Feet screenings for many years, and so far, this has been the busiest opening day we have had. We have been able to identify structure problems, bone spurs, and shoe mismatches that prevent athletes from performing safely and comfortably,” shared David Jenkins, the Regional Clinical Advisor for Fit Feet.

Over the next few days, Healthy Athletes volunteers will screen 2600 athletes from 105 countries. All the data gathered during these screenings will be used to inform health advocates and policymakers. Very often, the information gathered during screenings is the only data that exists on people with intellectual disabilities in many countries.

Please don't miss the the official ribbon cutting ceremony for Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® on Monday, March 20th, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Messe Graz, 1st floor.

For more information, or to schedule a tour of the Healthy Athletes venue during the Games, please contact Lilia Carasciuc lcarasciuc@specialolympics.org To learn more about the health program, made possible by the Golisano Foundation, visit

<http://www.specialolympics.org/health.aspx>

and http://media.specialolympics.org/resources/games-and-competition/games-resources/2017-world-winter-games/World-Games-2017-Healthy-Athletes_Brochure_English.pdf

Successful Forum Today! Let's Change the Game: Ending Exclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities Featuring the Golisano Health Leadership Awards

Government officials, global health organizations, international charities, Special Olympics athletes, and philanthropists gathered today to seek solutions to end exclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. The event was moderated by Ben Haack, Special Olympics Australia athlete and member of Special Olympics International Board of Directors, and Dale Moss, Professional Athlete, Model and Philanthropist. **The event also featured the awarding of the first**



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Golisano Global Health Leadership Awards to seven organizations and individuals who initiated pioneering programs of health care for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Presented by Ann Costello, Executive Director of the Golisano Foundation, the awards recognized the innovative initiatives of seven groups and individuals to increase access to essential health care services for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Click below for links of videos to the winners!

Uganda: <https://youtu.be/VvdmFZEiRoo>

Peru: <https://youtu.be/YzFPSvPqv4o>

New York: https://youtu.be/2_th3VSXzpA

Egypt: <https://youtu.be/a4tu8QbF55o>

Belgium: <https://youtu.be/4yZ2hXCshPY>

China: <https://youtu.be/tPcXirSeH1w>

Bangkok/Thailand: https://youtu.be/c4-libDZ_6s

Golisano Overview: <https://youtu.be/CXdlDN2ZVB0>

The final compilation video can also be found here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/2xn4lnfdzdu21x/Golisano_CC.mpeg?dl=0

Two additional Golisano Global Health Leadership Pioneer Awards were also presented to Dr. Steven Perlman, founder of Special Olympics Special Smiles and the late Dr. Paul Berman, founder and global clinical director of the Special Olympics Opening Eyes and Healthy Athletes programs.

The Forum, entitled “Let’s Change the Game,” featured senior officials from the European Union, International Red Cross, Lions Clubs International, Special Olympics athletes, members of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors, and international sports figures and artists. The event concluded with formal partnership agreements with the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Development Disabilities (IASSID), Catholic Relief Services and the Red Cross.

Participant Quotes:

Jason Gieschen, Special Olympics International Global Messenger, United States:

“I participate in 11 sports. My life changed because of Opening Eyes. Last year the doctors told me I had a cyst in my eye and they operated on me and now I can see, they saved that eye! **I lost over 100 pounds and I want to be a health ambassador for others, and have now been trained as health ambassador by the Golisano Foundation.** I can be a game changer as a result of Foundation.”



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Stephanie Handoyo, Special Olympics International Global Messenger, Indonesia:
„When I first joined Special Olympics I had a fear of water and was afraid to jump into the water, and now I am a swimming athlete and won a medal in Athens. **I want my friends in Special Olympics to have equal opportunities in health care!**“

Yeruult Batbayar, Special Olympics Mongolia athlete:
“I participate in a number of sports including table tennis and swimming. I’m a competitive person but need motivation to stay on track. I set goals and worked hard to achieve them. **I am learning to become a leader and recently became an original global messenger for Mongolia.** I hope to be a model for children with intellectual disabilities.”

Dr. Tam Wing-Kun, Past President of Lions Clubs International and newest Special Olympics International Board Member:
“Looking back is one thing, but looking forward is another. **Where there is a need, there is a Lion.** Lions will continue our service, you can count on us.”

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Undersecretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:
“Our partnership with Special Olympics is a source of great pride. **We have developed and instituted new protocols on dealing with people with intellectual disabilities in natural disasters.** Those have already been put into use in natural disasters in Greece, Senegal and Kazakhstan. Our job is to ensure no one is ever left behind.”

Sean Callahan, President and CEO, Catholic Relief Services:
“We both work to bring light to those in need. **Inclusion means everyone, all the time.** We pledge to work together to change the way society treats their most vulnerable children. All children and adults deserve to be treated with dignity.”

Michael Rynkowski, European Union Sports Unit:
“On one hand, we have athletes who are committed to changing the game for inclusion but on the other hand **we have to do more to be more inclusive.**“

Ray Lane, Special Olympics International Board Member:
“We have launched a new campaign to bring 100 million new members into the movement. At the first official Special Olympics Games in 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver said “we are the peacemakers, come into our world.” **That is the message to expand the movement by 100 million people. We have a world that is special; this initiative is about joining our world.** And once you hear a Special Olympics athlete’s story, you are hooked.”

Loretta Claiborne, Special Olympics International Board Member, Chief Inspiration Officer and Special Olympics athlete:
“Yes, the game needs to change and it **needs to go beyond this room today.** I had a serious health issue and knew it but the doctor said nothing was wrong. I persisted and finally found a doctor who examined me and treated me. **Without that treatment and attention to my health needs, I would not be celebrating 51 years as an avid runner.** Everyone needs to have justice in their lives, instead of injustice. Let us change the game for inclusion.”

Schladming Splash Unified Plunge Happened Today!

The inaugural Unified Polar Plunge, the Schladming Splash, brought to you by The Coca-Cola Company, took place today at the Sporthotel Royer. This event brought together 10 Final Leg teams, as well as Special Olympics Board Members and Honored Guests. It was the 17th plunge for Special Olympics International Global Messenger Pam Langille! Special Olympics Chairman



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Dr. Timothy Shriver, Special Olympics Chief Executive Officer Mary Davis, Special Olympics International Board of Directors member Donna De Varona and Olympic Snowboard Halfpipe gold medalist and Special Olympics Global Ambassador Hannah Teter all plunged! After months of fundraising, over \$400K was raised to support our continued fight for inclusion. Pam got the crowd pumped and introduced each team, DJ White Shadow provided great music, and the classic Coca-Cola polar bear was a hit amongst the crowd.

Welcome to „Business meets Special Olympics“

A special lecture series built around the two topics *sports* and *economics* can be visited next week besides the SOWWG-competitions. Widely known personalities will be presenting their personal stories and approaches to those topics. The lectures will be held at 11:00 a.m. both in Graz (Messe Graz) and Schladming (Congress).

With your credential you will have free entrance on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Speakers: Alexander Pointner, Felix Gottwald, Jutta Kleinschmidt, Joey Kelly, Wolfgang Fasching und Michael Krammer.

For further information click to:

<http://www.austria2017.org/en/be-part-of-it/business-meets-special-olympics>

Don't Miss These Special Olympics Unified Talks Presented by Bank of America!

These Unified Talks are a game-changing opportunity for media to see a series of meaningful, thought provoking, and action-oriented conversations with a mission to generate solutions on how we as a global society can come together to create a more inclusive world. This four-part series will feature moderated discussions and presentations with athletes, youth leaders, business leaders, celebrities, and academic experts on one stage.

See below for a full schedule of next week's talks:

Unified Talk #2: Sport: A Foundation for Workplace Inclusion

Monday, March 20th: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at the Sporthotel Royer, Stoder-Grimming Room in Schladming

Sport and employment provide a voice and pathways to a more inclusive society for people with intellectual disabilities (ID). Join an action forward discussion with top corporations and individuals who are changing the game of inclusion and diversity in the workplace. The impactful discussion will highlight how sport better prepares athletes to break down barriers and make meaningful contributions in the workplace and their communities. Featuring Wilfried Kainz (Head of Research on Innovative Practices, ESSL Foundation), Kelly Fredrickson (Senior Vice President, Bank of America), John Kelly (Vice President, Government Affairs & Public Policy, SourceAmerica) and Ian Harper (Athlete Leader, Special Olympics Great Britain). Moderated by Chris Hull (Special Olympics Great Britain Communications Advisor) and Brightfield Shadi (Special Olympics International Global Messenger from Botswana).



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Unified Talk #3: Be Your Best: Maximizing Athlete Health and Performance

Monday, March 20th: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Messe Graz, Festival Stage in Graz

Special Olympics Health programs are supporting athletes to be fit and healthy and perform their best on and off the field through health education, fitness programs and opportunities for health checkups and treatment. In this high-energy conversation, learn tips from Special Olympics' all star community on how to be your best in sport and life. Featuring Jillian Michaels (Celebrity Fitness Expert, Nutritionist & Life Coach), Louis van Amstel (Champion Ballroom Dancer, Choreographer and Fitness Expert), Lize Weerdenburg (Special Olympics International Global Messenger from Netherlands), Dr. Matthew Holder (Special Olympics Global Medical Advisor), and more. Moderated by Kirsten Seckler (Special Olympics Chief of Marketing and Communications) and Jason Gieschen (Special Olympics International Global Messenger from the USA).

Unified Talk #4: The Next Generation of Game Changers

Tuesday, March 21st: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Messe Graz, Festival Stage in Graz

Join Global Youth Leadership Summit participants, Austrian students, and games attendees for fun and thought provoking presentations that exchange ideas on what WE as entrepreneurs and change agents can do to create a more inclusive global society. Speakers for this interactive talk will provide first-hand stories of entrepreneurial success. Straight from the source, these game changers will inspire the audience to in turn take action to change the game. A prominent Austrian celebrity or high level official will be featured in this talk to engage local Austrian students in attendance. Featuring Meredith Foster (YouTube star), Members of the Global Youth Leadership Summit, and moderated by Apolo Ohno (Olympic Speed Skating Champion and Special Olympics Global Ambassador) and Parth Agrawal (Special Olympics Youth Leader from Bharat (India)).

Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Summit: Social Impact for a Unified Generation: Leadership and Project Management

You are invited to attend the Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Summit! Young people will develop leadership skills that empower them as leaders in the Special Olympics Movement and drivers of inclusion throughout the world. The 2017 Youth Leadership Summit will welcome 44 youth participants, most of whom are coming as Unified Pairs of youth with and without intellectual disability.. All 7 Special Olympics regions will be represented and participants are coming from 18 countries and 7 US states. The Summit will include sessions on inclusive leadership skills, helping the youth to identify their own leadership style, and how to work with and influence others. All participants applied with project proposals of how they want to expand or promote Special Olympics programming and make an impact for social inclusion in their home school or community. At the conclusion of the Summit, each project will be given a small grant from Special Olympics to fund implementation of the project, under the guidance of the Mentor and local Special Olympics Program. The Unified Pairs are from Philippines, Bharat, Pakistan, Indonesia, Italy, Great Britain, Peru, Mauritius, Swaziland, Egypt, Oman, Macau, China, Vermont, Colorado, Kansas, New York, Minnesota, Utah and Kentucky. We invite



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you to attend and interview the youth and learn about their projects!

Best time to catch them in

action is on Monday, March 20th at the Messe, Room 1A in Graz at these times:

9:00 -10:00 a.m – Panel representatives from Microsoft, SourceAmerica and Ray Lane will discuss

what leadership means to them

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Special Olympics Chairman Timothy Shriver will discuss the art of storytelling and provide tips for being a better storyteller.

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.– Youth will work on their projects

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.- Cultural Night

Weather forecast for Monday, March 20th

Graz: Some clouds in the morning, then sunny, temperatures will rise from 6 to 18 degrees centigrade

Schladming: No more rain, cloudy, in the late afternoon sunny, temperatures between 6 and 13 degrees centigrade

Ramsau: Weather improvement, no more rainfall, cloudy, in the late afternoon sunny, temperatures between 3 and 9 degrees centigrade

Important addresses

Homepage: www.austria2017.org (Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017)

www.specialolympics.at (Special Olympics Austria)

www.specialolympics.org (Special Olympics International)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/austria2017

www.facebook.com/specialolympics (Special Olympics International)

www.facebook.com/soeuropeeurasia (Special Olympics Europe)

Twitter: www.twitter.com/sowwg2017 & www.twitter.com/2017austria

www.twitter.com/specialolympics (Special Olympics International)

www.twitter.com/SpecOlympicsEU (Special Olympics Europe)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/austria2017

www.instagram.com/specialolympics (Special Olympics International)

www.instagram.com/special_olympics_eu (Special Olympics Europe)



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Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/ & www.flickr.com/photos/hosttownprogramm
www.flickr.com/photos/soi-photo-stream/albums (Special Olympics International)

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/SpecialOlympicsWorldWinterGames2017
www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIHbm7j-AXsVBNxBfN81bFtm20ldf_67 (SOI)

Important hashtags

#HeartbeatForTheWorld
#Austria2017
#SpecialOlympics
#ChangeTheGame
#PlayUnified

Calendar

March, 18th – 24th Sports competitions, Award Ceremonies and Non-Sports Events
Sportwettkämpfe, Siegerehrungen und Rahmenprogramm

March 20th Unified Sports Experience – Floor Hockey – 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m (Messe Graz)

March 20th Unified Sports Experience – Snowshoe Relay – 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(Ramsau)

March 20th Healthy Athletes Ribbon Cutting at Messe Graz (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
Offizieller Auftakt zum Healthy Athletes Program (Messe Graz, 11:00 – 12:00 Uhr)

March 20th Media Reception (congress Schladming 8 p.m.)
Medienempfang (congress Schladming, 20:00 Uhr)

March 20th Healthy Athletes Program Clinical Directors Reception
Old University, Hofgasse 14, Graz 06:30 p.m.)
Empfang Healthy Athletes Program
Alte Universität, Hofgasse 14, Graz (18:30 Uhr)
Google Maps:
<https://www.google.at/maps/place/Hofgasse+14,+8010+Graz/@47.0558497,15.4445619,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x476e3581eb8bdccd:0x3406364a826c361c!8m2!3d47.0722252!4d15.441238>





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- March 21st Media Reception (Stadthalle Graz, 1st floor, Saal 1, 8 p.m.)
 Medienempfang (Stadthalle Graz, 1. Stock, Saal 1, 20:00 Uhr)
- March, 24th Closing Ceremony in Graz (7:00 p.m.)
 Schlussfeier in Graz, Stadion Liebenau (19:00 Uhr)
- March, 25th Delegation departures
 Abreise der Delegationen



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