



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/xlx02a6qxd4gq/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>

Don't MISS the Young Athletes Demonstration!!

On Tuesday, March 21st the Young Athletes Demonstration will take place from 08:30 am to 09:00 am at the Convention Center Graz (part of Messe Graz) in the Floorball Venue.

Ten children with intellectual disabilities from a local kindergarten will participate in floorball activities to showcase the skills learned in Young Athletes and how they translate to future sports participation. The event will highlight the Special Olympics movement's youngest participants and showcase their talents and abilities on a global stage.

[Special Olympics Young Athletes](#) is a sport and play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities (ID), ages 2 to 7 years old that introduces basic sport skills and supports motor, social and cognitive development.

Key Advice from Leaders at Today's Special Olympics Youth Summit Leadership Panel

The Special Olympics Youth Leadership Summit panel discussion on Leadership took place in Graz today, bringing together 44 participants aged 18-25 from 18 countries and seven US states. Most of the participants were in Unified Pairs – which means people with and without intellectual disability.

The panel included;

- Shane Kanady, Director of Government Affairs Special Projects with SourceAmerica
- Branko Stojakovic, Special Olympics Peru, Special Olympics Latin America
- Susanne Soulelidis, CMO Microsoft Austria
- Ray Lane, Managing Partner, GreatPoint Ventures and Special Olympics International Board Member

It was a very engaging event with robust engagement from participants seeking leadership advice from the panel. The discussion centered around a number of areas of leadership; qualities of a good leader, the biggest challenges facing leaders today, advice for women who seek to be leaders, inclusive leadership, how to take hard decisions and how to reach out to and lead those at grass roots level.

Susanne Soumelidis encouraged the participants to be authentic and find their way to lead naturally. She underlined the importance of understanding what it is that makes you happy because when things get tough you must be sure of why you are doing it. **"Many young women today have their to-do list of things they want to achieve as a leader. But you need to grab the opportunities and don't try to plan it all. You must be flexible."**

Ray Lane spoke to the importance of loyalty, trust and influence for leaders but also transparency, **"you must lead from the heart and be true to yourself. Taking decisions as a leader can be very challenging. You may have hundreds of people affected by**



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your decision. My advice is to distill it down to three clear items. This makes taking decisions as a leader much easier. Critically, you must also learn to communicate your decisions clearly."

Shane Kanady addressed one of the biggest challenges for today's leaders **"We live in a distracted world saturated with technology. We don't take enough time to focus on team members and our strategic thinking.** It can be easy to get caught up in the moment. To be a good leader you need to focus on the bigger picture too."

When asked about inclusion, Branko Stojakovic spoke about his own experiences, **"I have started a leadership program for young people with disabilities with the aim of securing work for them. In many cases, people with disabilities, especially women, are given lower grade work because of perceptions of their ability."**

He concluded the discussion with some key advice for participants, **"Disability should not be seen as a barrier, oftentimes adults are treated like children which is wrong. I've had to accept discrimination as part of my everyday life. With the support of my family and friends I've learned to overcome this and move forward. You can too."**

Award Ceremonies

There have been some changes in the schedule of the Award Ceremonies.

For the updated version please click to:

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

Attention! Please consider that the planned Award Ceremony on Dachstein mountain had to be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Olympic Champions Jayne Torville/Christopher Dean answer journalists' questions at 6:00 p.m. in Ice Stadium

1984 Olympic Champions Jayne Torville/Christopher Dean and Michelle Kwan will participate at 8:00 p.m. tomorrow in a showcase at the Ice Stadium in Graz. ****Before they skate, they will answer journalists' questions in the Ice Stadium on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.**

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Screenings Special Olympics is Saving Lives!

There was a ribbon cutting ceremony today at the Healthy Athletes screenings. It was a celebration of the 20th anniversary of our Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program, which is the largest public health program for people with intellectual disabilities worldwide. Dr. Timothy Shriver, Special Olympics Chairman and Ann Costello, Executive Director of the Golisano Foundation and other distinguished guests attended the ribbon cutting.



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While at the Healthy Athletes screenings today, Bengt Ake Melin, a Special Olympics athlete from Sweden, participated in a blood pressure screening at Health Promotion and his reading was 220/120, which is an extremely dangerously high level. This athlete was taking blood pressure medication prior to arriving at Games, but he couldn't fill his prescription while at Games and didn't communicate this need until he went through the screening. He was immediately taken to the Red Cross where he was given an oral spray to help lower his blood pressure. Special Olympics and the Red Cross are working together to obtain a prescription for him during Games.

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.

Don't Miss The LAST Special Olympics Unified Talk Presented by Bank of America!

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)).

Unified Sports Experiences Take Center Stage at Special Olympics World Winter Games

On March 21st, 22nd and 23rd, Special Olympics athletes and honored guests will be paired in multiple sports at the Games, highlighting one of Special Olympics fastest growing programs, [Special Olympics Unified Sports](#).

Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. [Special Olympics Unified Sports](#) joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. Today, more than 1.2 million people worldwide participate in Unified Sports.



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In Unified Sports, teams are made up of people of similar age and ability. That makes practices more fun and games more challenging and exciting for all. Having sport in common is just one more way that preconceptions and false ideas are swept away.

You don't want to miss these exciting Unified Sports Experiences! Below is a list of the events and some of the participants – let us know if you can come out and cover and if you want to conduct any interviews. Please contact media@specialolympics.org

3/21 – Snowboarding **Location: Rohrmoos** **Time: 15:00-16:00**

- Special Olympics Global Ambassador and Olympian Hannah Teter
- Paul Blair (DJ White Shadow)
- Dr. Timothy Shriver, Special Olympics Chairman

3/21 – Floorball **Location: Messe Graz** **Time: 16:00-18:00**

- Mary Davis, Special Olympics Chief Executive Officer
- John Liljelund (Secretary General of the International Floorball Federation)
- Marcel Wadja (Secretary General of the Ivorian International Floorball Federation)

3/22 – Short Track Speed Skating **Location: Messe Graz** **Time: 11:00-12:00**

- Special Olympics Global Ambassador and Olympian Apolo Ohno

3/22 – Stick Shooting **Location: Messe Graz** **Time: 14:00-15:00**

- Drew Baldwin (Founder of Tubefilter and the Streamy Awards)
- Donna de Varona, Special Olympics International Board Member and Olympian
- Teala Dunn (Youtuber)

3/23 – Alpine Skiing **Location: Rohrmoos** **Time: 11:00-12:00**

- Drew Baldwin (Founder of Tubefilter and the Streamy Awards)
- Dr. Timothy Shriver, Special Olympics Chairman
- Meredith Foster (Youtuber)
- Victoria Arlen (ESPN)

Monday's Unified Sports Experiences

Two Unified Sports Experiences, one in Graz, one in Ramsau, were held today.

In Stadthalle Graz six teams played on the three Floor Hockey fields. These teams were formed by players of various nations and celebrities such as Special Olympics Chairman Dr. Timothy Shriver, his wife Linda Potter, NBA legend Sam Perkins, Graz politician Kurt Hohensinner and many SOWWG-officials.

At Stadium Ramsau athletes and celebrities formed nearly 40 Snowshoeing-relays of two each. The performances were cheered on by a huge crowd. Among the participants: Special Olympics Chief Executive Officer Mary Davis, Kevin Martinez, Vice President of Corporate Outreach, ESPN, and Olympian and Special Olympics Global Ambassador Hannah Teter.



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Demonstration Sport Dancing attracts a huge crowd

Dancing will be a demonstration sport in the SOWWG 2017. All athletes participating will take part in two competitions, the Pre-Dance Contest and the World Dance Contest.

The participants can choose between three categories: Solo, Pair (fantastic for unified) and Crew (four to twelve persons, more than half of the dancers must be athletes with intellectual disability).

Location Change: Due to the strong interest from the public around the Pre-Dance Contest on Tuesday, March 21st, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., the event has been transferred **from Hall A to the larger Hall B of Messe Graz**. There will be no evaluation of the performances on this evening. The World Dance Contest scheduled for the following day was sold out within a few hours.

All journalists are asked to visit the Pre-Dance Contest as there is very limited space at the Orpheum where the World Dance Contest takes place on Wednesday, March 22nd. For the Pre-Dance Contest there will be no limitations on space; each journalist holding a media credential is invited to come and see the performances.

More Information about demonstration sport dancing, can be found at:

<http://austria2017.org/en/games-2017/die-spiele/sportarten/dancing-demonstration-contest>

Media reception in Graz on Tuesday

On Tuesday, March 21st at 8:00 p.m. there will be a reception in Messe Graz, Stadthalle, first floor, Room 1 to thank the media. **Please note this reception is full now and registration is closed.** We will surprise you with some interesting guests and are looking forward to an enjoyable evening with all journalists who registered for the reception.

Public transport services

For all journalists staying in Schladming or Ramsau there will be a Shuttle-bus to the Closing Ceremony in Graz on Friday, March 24th:

Shuttlebus: Closing Ceremony, Friday, March 24th

Tickets: EUR 25,- for a return ticket

Ticketing: 48 hours in advance at www.oeticket.com



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Closing Ceremony
24.3.2017 Stadion Graz (Merkur Arena)
<i>Drive to Graz:</i> 1:30 p.m.: Departure from Ramsau VAZ 2:00 p.m.: Departure from congress Schladming approx. 5:00 p.m.: Arrival Messe Graz
<i>The return trip to Schladming and to Ramsau starts shortly after the end of the closing ceremony.</i>
<i>Departure: From the stop at Messe Graz where you have arrived. Arrival in Schladming at about midnight, Ramsau VAZ approx. 12:30 am.</i>

For information about all public transport services between the venues and in Graz click to:

<http://www.austria2017.org/en/games-2017/die-spiele>

Weather forecast for Tuesday, March 21st

- Graz:** bright or cloudy until early afternoon, then overcast, no rainfall, temperatures rise from 6 to 17 degrees centigrade
- Schladming:** from morning till early afternoon cloudy, then rain possible, temperatures between 5 and 13 degrees centigrade
- Ramsau:** from morning till early afternoon cloudy, then overcast, rain possible, temperatures between 3 and 8 degrees centigrade

Special Olympics Town and Festival

In addition to the competitions, visitors will find a variety of entertainment around the Games including music, culinary arts, Styrian traditions, sports activities, award ceremonies and much more

Messe Graz

March 21st – 23rd, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

March 24th, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hauptplatz Graz

March 21st - March 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

March 24th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



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Festival stage: Award ceremonies, Styrian music program, music bands

Wetzlarplatz Schladming

March 20th - March 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

March 24th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Award ceremonies, Styrian music program, music bands

Ramsau am Dachstein

March 20th - March 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Local music bands

Stadium Ramsau

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)

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-AXsVBNxBfN81bFtm20Idf_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 21st	Young Athletes Demonstration (Messe Graz – Floorball Venue, 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.)
March 21st	Unified Sports Experience – Snowboarding Dual Slalom (Rohrmoos – 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
March 21st	Unified Sports Experience – Floorball (Messe Graz – Floorball Venue – 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
March 21st	Unified Talk: The Next Generation of Game Changers (Messe Graz – Festival Stage 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
March 21st	World Dance Contest – Divisioning (Messe Graz – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
March 21st	Media Reception (Stadthalle Graz, 1st floor, Saal 1, 8:00 p.m.) Medienempfang (Stadthalle Graz, 1. Stock, Saal 1, 20:00 Uhr)
March 21st	Healthy Athletes Screenings (Messe Graz; 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)
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

