



Please Fill Out Our Satisfaction Survey

We hope you have been having a GREAT Games and are meeting our athletes and hearing their stories. We know that we can always improve upon each Games experience and we want to hear from you – what you have liked, what you wish we would have done. Please click on the link below and fill out this important survey. Thank you!

https://specialolympics.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2azY95P9QvjD7wh

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/xlx02a6qyg9d4gx/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-AXsVBNxBfN81bFtm20ldf_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>

Healthy Athletes Screenings

As of Wednesday, March 22nd, nearly half of all athletes attending Games have participated in Special Olympics Healthy Athletes screenings. Many athletes currently in Schladming are expected to participate in Friday's Healthy Athletes screenings.

George Pierce, Founder and CEO of Pierce Footwear, is participating as a partner of Fit Feet at Healthy Athletes. He has designed a pair of sneakers that have a lace-free patent-latching technique that are more accessible for people with limited hand dexterity. He is donating 2,000 pairs of shoes to athletes who complete in three Healthy Athletes stations during their time at Games. The athletes have been very excited about the opportunity to receive free shoes. Participation has been very high. **Over 1,000 shoes have been distributed in just three days.**



Unified Sports Experiences

Two Unified Sports Experiences were held today in Graz. The speed skating competition took place in the Ice Hall today. Many athletes participated, supported by Special Olympics officials and two Olympians: Austria's Emese Hunyady, winner of the gold medal 1992 in 1500 Meters speed Skating and Special Olympics Global Ambassador and 8-time Olympic medalist Apolo Ohno.



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Olympian and Special Olympics Global Ambassador Apolo Ohno, Special Olympics International Board Member and NBA legend Dikembe Mutombo, Olympian and Special Olympics International Board Member Donna de Varona, Drew Baldwin, Founder of Tubefilter and the Streamy Awards and Youtuber Teala Dunn all joined over a dozen Special Olympic Athletes in a Unified Stick Shooting demonstration at the Special Olympics World Winter Games today in Graz, Austria. Stick Shooting, first played in Austria, is similar to Curling as participants push their “sticks” across the wood surface in an attempt to get as close as possible to a circular puck some 26 meters away. The game is played both indoors and outdoors with 4 players and one substitute.

Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. Today, more than 1.2 million take part in Unified Sports competitions around the world.

Remaining Unified Sports Experience:

3/23 – Alpine Skiing

Location: Schwaigerlift, Rohrmoos

Time: 14:00 – 15:00

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

Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern visited Special Olympics World Winter Games

Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern visited the SOWWG 2017 today, Wednesday. He was accompanied to the Ice Stadium by Special Olympics Chairman Dr. Timothy Shriver, Governor Hermann Schützenhöfer, Vice Governor Michael Schickhofer and Mayor of Graz Siegfried Nagl and watched the Speed Skating competitions.

For Photos click to:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/albums/72157681711587355>

Closing Ceremony, Friday, March 24th, 7 p.m., Graz Stadium (see media guide, p. 66)

Every media representative is invited to attend the Closing Ceremony. **You will be allowed entrance into the Closing Ceremony with your credentials.** You can access the media area in the stadium via the Liebenauer Hauptstraße (at the entrance to the parking garage). There are 200 reserved seats for media representatives in sector 6. All remaining journalists may move



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around freely in the stadium's playing field. It's first come first serve, and **doors open at 6:00 p.m.**

Please understand that carrying backpacks or bags in the stadium is not permitted – **ONLY PHOTOGRAPHERS are allowed to carry backpacks!**

A capacity crowd of 15.000 spectators is expected!

TV live coverage: ORF Sport+: 6.45 until 8.30 p.m.

There will be no way to get to the Stadium by car as the road Conrad-von-Hötzendorf-Straße will be closed near the Merkur Arena. Please take tram 4 and get out at stop „Stadion Liebenau“

**As a reminder, your media credentials enable you to use public buses and trams in Graz free of charge during the SOWWG 2017.



No official interviews with Arnold Schwarzenegger

We expect Arnold Schwarzenegger to attend SOWWG's Closing Ceremony on Friday. However, Mr. Schwarzenegger is not participating in any official interviews or press conference during the World Games.



Public transport services

There is no more possibility for journalists staying in Schladming or Ramsau to book a ticket for the Shuttle-bus to the Closing Ceremony in Graz on Friday, March 24th.

In case you have not found a possibility to go to Graz and back yet there still is the chance to contact

+43/660/90 97 028 (Mr. Johann Meisslitzer)

+43/660/90 97 042 (Mr. Jürgen Winkler)

by Thursday, March 23rd, 10:00 a.m.

Depending on the number of applications a bus to Graz could be organized. Yet there is no guarantee for the installation of this additional service!

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

<http://www.austria2017.org/de/games-2017/das-programm/anreise-transport>

Follow the Motor Activity Training Program (MATP) on Thursday, March 23rd in Stadthalle Graz

Please visit Messe Graz (Hall A, Ground Floor) to view the Motor Activity Training Program on March 23rd to see athletes participating in MATP. The Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program is designed for athletes who are not yet able to participate in official Special Olympics sport competitions because of their skill and/or functional abilities. The Motor Activity Training Program is designed to prepare athletes -- including those with severe or profound intellectual disability and significant physical disabilities -- for sport-specific activities appropriate for their ability levels.

Program:

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.: Training

10:00 a.m.: Parade

11:00 a.m.: Challenge with stations: Warm up, Mobility, Dexterity, Striking, Kicking

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 note that the planned Award Ceremony on Dachstein mountain had to be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Please note that on Thursday the finals in Floor Hockey and Floorball will be played in Messe Graz! Check [here](#) for the latest schedules!

Young Athletes Festival

Tomorrow, Thursday, children ages 2-7 will have another opportunity to participate in winter-themed sport activities and experience [Young Athletes](#) at Stadthalle Graz South Foyer (before entrance to Hall A). Seven local schools will bring inclusive classrooms to participate in activities from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

World Dance Contest Attracts a Huge Crowd!

On Wednesday, March 22nd, athletes from seven nations participated in Special Olympics' World Dance Contest to a sold-out crowd. After the inaugural Dance Challenge in 2015 at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, we are happy to report that the Dance Contest has returned to the Games! Athletes are judged by: musicality, choreography, athleticism and presentation. In the couples and crew categories, the judges give additional points for overall impression of the athlete(s) or crew(s). There were 12 solos, 19 couples and 9 crews dancing tonight. The night was hosted by Pierre Gider and Birgit Morelli with judges including Louis van Amstel, Marco Angelini, Apolo Ohno, Teala Dunn and Jamie Sale. Special Olympics International Global Messenger Nitzeida Galvez Orozco from Panama participated in a solo act. Youth leader Nicole Balta from Peru helped get the crowd excited for the evening and translated Galvez Orozco's speech from Spanish into English. **The results will be announced at the award ceremony tomorrow, March 23rd in the Messe Hall Be ground floor, at 3:00 p.m.**

Radio Special Olympics on UKW-FM and as live-stream

The Special Olympics World Winter Games Austria 2017 is offering a special service: Radio Special Olympics which is broadcasting from all four venues (Stadthalle Graz, Eisstadion Graz, Schladming, Ramsau) and so inclusion is on air.

25 young student volunteers who have been part of the Special Olympics World Winter Games Austria 2017 will be broadcasting all competitions for this Games radio station. All broadcasts will be taped for future listening. Radio Special Olympics was established to support people with visual impairments.





The volunteers will interview athletes, coaches, fans in the stands and more so tune in to listen here: <http://www.austria2017.org/en/home>

Radio Special Olympics will be available at each venue. There will also be another channel which covers all four venues alternatively and is served by native speakers. This broadcast is fully repeated after twelve hours to give fans of the Winter Games on the other hemisphere a livelisting experience.

Weather forecast for Thursday, March 23rd

Graz: bright or cloudy all day, temperatures from 6 to 19 degrees centigrade

Schladming: cloudy, sunny periods possible, temperatures between 6 and 14 degrees centigrade

Ramsau: cloudy, sunny periods possible, 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)

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/ & www.flickr.com/photos/hosttownprogramm

www.flickr.com/photos/soi-photo-stream/albums (Special Olympics International)





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

Heartbeat for the world



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YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/SpecialOlympicsWorldWinterGames2017
www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIHbm7j-AXsVBNxBfN81bFtm20Idf_67 (SOI)

Important hashtags

#HeartbeatForTheWorld

#Austria2017

#SpecialOlympics

#ChangeTheGame

#PlayUnified



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