



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 starting Saturday, March 18, through Friday, March 24, via this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xlx02a6qxg9d4gx/AABMSvftawdfZljr2W319s2Ra?dl=0>

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

OPENING CEREMONY PARADE OF ATHLETES

After the conclusion of Opening Ceremony on March 18, ESPN producers will make available clips of each delegation that took part in the Parade of Athletes. These video clips will be available -- starting at approx. 4 p.m. ET/9 p.m. CET -- via this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/v86c787s1qeor67/AAANEMqMfBTyUYqiF2X8faqma?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

106 delegations are looking forward to the Games

The last few delegations still missing arrived today in Austria so that now 106 teams have come to participate in SOWWG 2017. Except the Austrian team all of them spend another day in their Host Towns before they travel to the various venues on Thursday. The only delegation not arriving was Ghana. Some of its members would not get visa whereupon the whole team decided to cancel the trip to Austria.

Different divisions and inspections will start competitions on Friday.





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For photos of arrivals of delegations click to

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/albums/72157681407478085>

Lists of

- Team Austria
- various delegations
- nations and athletes can be found there:

<http://www.austria2017.org/en/games-2017/the-athletes>

„Flame of Hope“ on the road for seven days now

After the „Flame of Hope“ arrived from Greece in Austria the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) started an March 9th in Bregenz, the capital of Austria's most western province Vorarlberg. It has been carried by the Final Leg Team, who embarked on two different routes, running the „Flame of Hope“ throughout 50 cities, towns and communities across Austria for seven days now. On Thursday it will arrive in Graz, on Friday in Schladming.

To know where it still can be seen click to:

<http://www.austria2017.org/de/mach-mit/torch-run>

Photos of LETR:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/albums/with/72157679067564401>

Pre-Opening-Reception on Saturday, March 18th

Before the Opening Ceremony kicks off on Saturday, March 18th, all journalists have the opportunity at 4:30 p.m to take photos of honoured guests on the red carpet outside the entrance to the Pre-Opening-Reception in the congress Schladming.

**Please note this is an informal photo and media interview opportunity; some honoured guests will be interested in participating in interviews; some will not. Please respect their time and privacy if denied an interview request.

The Pre-Opening Reception is a closed event to the media. Media will not be admitted entry – media will only have access to the red carpet.

All honoured guests have not been confirmed for the event. More details to follow.

Opening Ceremony, Saturday, March 18th, timetable



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Start 7:00 p.m., sequence of programs:

- Skishow
- Dancer Maria and mythical creature Dundu
- Rose May Alaba performs the Coca Cola Unified Song
- Styrian culture program
- Helene Fischer is welcome by SOÖ-President Jürgen Winter and performs her SOWWG-song for the first time
- Tribute to Hermann Kröll
- Entry of the SO-flag
- Musical-Star Anna-Maria Kaufmann sings the European anthem
- Speech SO-Chairman Timothy Shriver
- Renate Götschl swears the Olympic Oath together with an SO athlete
- Ballet of the Vienna Opera House
- Video Law Enforcement Torch Run 2017
- Entry of the torch
- Lighting of the Olympic Flame
- Finale mit Lichtshow, Helene Fischer und Jason Mraz

Important notes:

- Filming is not allowed during the Opening Ceremony
- Only photographers with valid tickets (handed out at accreditation) are allowed to the Media Stand
- All other media representatives are asked to use the Snow Stand (restricted view); entrance with SOWWG 2017-credentials, see Communiqué 2
- clips of each delegation that takes part in the Parade of Athletes will be available starting at approx. 4 p.m. ET/9 p.m. CET via this link:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/v86c787s1qeor67/AAANEMgMfBTyUYqiF2X8faqma?dl=0>
(see first point of this Communiqué)
- International broadcaster ESPN, host broadcaster ORF, SOI, GOC, GEPA photographers wear green bibs and have access to more areas

Helene Fischer is performing her special SOWWG-song

Singer Helene Fischer will perform her new song she especially wrote for the SOWWG 2017 during the Opening Ceremony in Schladming on Saturday. On request of SOWWG-director Marcus Pichler Fischer spontaneously agreed in singing not only during the Opening but also in the Closing Ceremony on March 24th in Graz. Presumably this song will be on Fischer's next album, too.

Weather forecasts predict rain for Saturday

Weather forecasts predict rain for Saturday in Schladming. We just want to inform you about that in time so that you can prepare for an evening with suboptimal weather conditions.



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Except camerabags no big bags and backpacks are allowed in Planai Stadium during the Opening Ceremony. We ask you to stick to this regulation.

Graz: Conference of ministers on the occasion of SOWWG

On the occasion of SOWWG 2017 on Friday, March 17th and Saturday, March 18th a conference about „Inclusion“ will be held in Graz. Ministers from 28 countries, invited by Hans Peter Doskozil, Austrian Minister of Defence and Sports and Alois Stöger, Austrian Minister of Social Affairs will participate.

On Saturday the ministers will attend some of the competitions in Messe Graz. If you want to join the group walk please be at Coca-Cola lounge, ground floor of Stadthalle Graz at 09.30 a.m. No registration necessary, just bring your accreditation along.

We want to inform you that this will be the only chance to talk to the ministers during their stay in Graz.

Participants:

Austria:

HE Mr. Hans Peter Doskozil, Minister of Defence and Sports
Ms. Corina Korner, Ministry of Sports
Ms. Alexandra Schrefler-König, Chief of Cabinet of Minister Doskozil

HE Mr. Alois Stöger, Minister of Social Affairs
Mr. Alexander Miklautz, Ministry of Social Affairs
Ms. Kirstin Grüblinger, Ministry of Social Affairs
Mr. Andreas Berger, Media Relations

Canada:

HE Ms. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sports and Persons with Disabilities

Côte d'Ivoire

Ms. Kinimo Fetai Hortense, Director, Sports Federations & High Level Sports, Ministry of Youth Development, Sports and Leisure

Cyprus:

Mr. Kleanthis Georgiades, Chairman, Cyprus Sports Organization

Czech Republic:

HE Ms. Michaela Marksová, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
Mrs. Jana Havlikova, Director of Minister's Cabinet

Egypt:

HE Mr. Eng. Khaled Abdel Aziz, Minister of Youth & Sports
HE Mr. Dr. Ghada Waly, Minister of Social Solidarity
Ms. Cherine Rahmy, UN Regional representative for the Middle East/ North Africa

European Institutions:



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HE Ms. Jana Žitňanská, Member of Disability Intergroup
Mr. Dirk Meusel, CHAFAA
Ms. Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General for the Directorate General of Democracy

Germany:

HE Ms. Gabriele Lösekrug-Möller, State Secretary for Labour and Social Affairs
Mr. Gerhard Böhm, Head of the Department of Sports, Ministry of the Interior

Gibraltar:

HE Ms. Samantha Sacramento, Minister of Housing and Equality
HE Mr. Stephen Linares, Minister of Culture, Media, Youth and Sport

Greece:

HE Mr. Giorgos Vassiliades, Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports
Mr. Dionyssios Kodellas, President SO Greece
Mr. Andreas Potamianos, SO Greece Honorary President
Mr. Panagiotis Efstathiou, SO Greece Vice President

Hungary:

Péter Sárfalvi, Deputy Secretary of State, Ministry of Human Capacities

Iraq:

HE Mr. Abdulhussein Abdulridha Baqer Abtan, Minister of Youth and Sports
Ahmed Oudah Zamil, Manager, Ministry of Youth
Mr. Raad Hammoodi Salman Al-Dulaimi, President NOC Iraq

Japan:

Mr. Tetsuya Kimura, Director General, Japan Sports Agency
Mr. Daisuke ISHIKAWA, Specialist, Office to Promote Para-Sports, Sports for Health Division

Jordan:

HRH Prince Merid Bin Ra'ad, Royal Family and President of the Higher Council for affairs of Persons with disabilities
Mr. Ali Al Shawahin, SO Jordan National Director

Kazakhstan:

Mrs. Zagipa Balieva, MP of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ombudsman for Children in Kazakhstan
Mrs. Olga Bakhareva, Chairman of the Board of SO Kazakhstan
Mrs. Elmira Suleimanova, Executive Director SO Kazakhstan

Kenya:

Mr. Anne Musalia, Ministry of Education, Quality Assurance Officer

Liechtenstein:

HE Ms. Marlies Amann-Marxer, Minister of Infrastructure, Environment and Sport
Mr. Johann Pingitzer, Ministry of Infrastructure, Environment and Sport

Luxembourg:

HE Mr. Romain Schneider, Minister of Sports

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Macao SAR Government:

HE Dr. Mr. Chon Weng Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture
Mr. Rafael Duarte Branca da Gama, Adviser to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture
Mr. Mr. Pun Chi Meng, President, Special Olympics
Ms. Veng Hang Leong, Adviser to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture

Malta:

HE Ms. Dr. Justyne Caruana, Junior Minister for Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Active Ageing

Morocco:

HE Khalid Berjaoui, Minister of Youth and Sports
Mr. Rachid El Guenouni, Director of the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disability, Ministry of Solidarity, Women's Affairs and Social Development

Namibia:

Dr. Vetumbuavi Siegfried Veii, Chairperson, The African Union Sports Council Region5

Poland:

HE Mr. Witold Bańka, Minister of Sports and Tourism
Mr. Przemysław Zawistowski, Head of the Political Cabinet, Ministry of Sports

Russia:

HE Ms. Marina Tomilova, Vice Minister of Sports
Mr. Yuri Smirnov, Deputy Leader of the Russian Duma and President, Special Olympics Russia

Slovakia:

Mr. Ján Richter, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Slovenia:

HE Ms. Maja Makovec Brenčič, Minister of Education, Science and Sport
Mr. Dr. Boro Štrumbelj, Director General for Sport, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

Spain:

Mr. Ricardo Navacerrada, Supreme Council of Sports

South Africa:

HE Mr. Gert C. Oosthuizen, Deputy Minister of Sport and Recreation
Ms. Ancilla Smith, CEO SO South Africa
Ms Manthipi Molamu, Director Services to People with Disabilities

South Korea:

Hyoungho Lee, Deputy Minister for Sports Policy, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
Chungnam Ju, Deputy Director, Sports for the Disabled Division, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

United Arab Emirates:

HE Najla Al Awar, Minister of Community Development
HE Shamma Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Youth Affairs
HE Aref Al Awani, General Secretary, Abu Dhabi Sports Council

SOWWG – please mind our language guideline

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Do not use the label "kids" when referring to Special Olympics athletes. Adult athletes are an integral part of the movement.

- Do not use the word "the" in front of Special Olympics unless describing a specific Special Olympics event or official.
- Do not use the adjective "unfortunate" when talking about persons with an intellectual disability. Disabling conditions do not have to be life-defining in a negative way.
- Do not sensationalize the accomplishments of persons with disabilities. While these accomplishments should be recognized and applauded; people in the disability rights movement have tried to make the public aware of the negative impact of referring to the achievements of people with physical or intellectual disabilities with excessive hyperbole.
- Use the word "special" with extreme care when talking about persons with intellectual disabilities. The term, if used excessively in references to Special Olympics athletes and activities, can become a cliché.

Special Olympics Town and festival

Aside the competitions visitors will find a variety of entertainment around SOWWG comprehending musik, culinary art, tradition, sports activities, award ceremonies and much more.

Messe Graz

- March 17th and March 19th – 23rd, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- March 18th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- March 24th, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hauptplatz Graz

- March 14th – March 16th, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- March 17th - March 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- March 24th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Festivalstage:

Award ceremonies, Styrian music program, Ö3-radio-disco (March 17th), Public Viewing Opening Ceremony (March 18th), music bands, integration bands

Wetzarplatz Schladming

- March 17th - 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, Public Viewing Opening Ceremony (March 18th), music bands



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Ramsau am Dachstein

- March 19th - 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-AXsVBNxBfN81bFtm20ldf_67 (SOI)

Important hashtags

#HeartbeatForTheWorld
 #Austria2017
 #SpecialOlympics
 #ChangeTheGame
 #PlayUnified

Calendar

- March, 16th Delegation arrivals in Graz, Schladming and Ramsau am Dachstein
 Ankunft der Delegationen in Graz, Schladming und Ramsau am Dachstein
- March, 17th First day of Divisioning



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

Heartbeat for the world



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Erste sportliche Bewerbe (Divisionings = Einteilungen in Leistungsstufen)

- March, 18th Opening Ceremony in Schladming (7:00 p.m.)
Eröffnungsfeier in Schladming (19:00 Uhr)
- March, 18th – 24th Sports competitions, Award Ceremonies and Non-Sports Events
Sportwettkämpfe, Siegerehrungen und Rahmenprogramm
- March 19th First Awards of the Games (Ramsau, 5:00 p.m.)
Erste Siegerehrungen (Ramsau, 17:00 Uhr)
- March, 24th Closing Ceremony in Graz (7:00 p.m.)
Schlussfeier in Graz (19:00 Uhr)
- March, 25th Delegation departures
Abreise der Delegationen



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