



Opening Ceremony Kicks Off!

Tonight, the Opening Ceremony kicked off at the Planai in Schladming. The communications team has developed materials including a post-event press release, a script from Special Olympics Chairman Tim Shriver's speech during Opening Ceremony and biographies from the runners in the Torch Relay. All of these materials can be found on the www.austria2017.org website.

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

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>

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.

Beginning tomorrow, 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 live-listening experience.

Today's conference of ministers

Today's conference of ministers was attended by 30 ministers and representatives of widely recognized institutions. Dr. Timothy Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics International, made remarks on continuing to focus the Special Olympics movement on building a more inclusive world for everyone.

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Screenings Begin Tomorrow

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® program, made possible by the Golisano Foundation, offers health services and information to athletes in dire need. In all, more than 1.7 million free health examinations have been conducted in more than 130 countries. In the process, Special



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Olympics has become the largest global public health organization dedicated to serving people with intellectual disabilities

Despite severe need and higher health risks, people with ID are often denied health services. There is often a misconception that the poor health of people with ID is due to their disability. Starting tomorrow, Special Olympics is offering Healthy Athletes screenings for all athletes competing at Games. Screenings will run from 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in Messe Graz.

For further information click here:

<http://www.austria2017.org/en/sei-dabei/healthy-athletes>

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.

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

Tomorrow, March 19th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Rohrmoos Room, Congress Hall, in Schladming, key influencers will gather to celebrate successes, share challenges and make commitments to inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) through sport and health.

Additionally, seven will be honored for their global health work with the first-ever Golisano Global Health Leadership Awards! Interview opportunities will be possible with the Golisano Global Health Leadership Award Honorees, the Golisano Foundation Executive Editor, Ann Costello and Tim Shriver, Special Olympics Chairman. Please don't miss this exciting even

Schladming Splash Unified Plunge Come out and cheer on the plungers!

The Schladming Splash is Special Olympics inaugural Unified Polar Plunge, bringing together Special Olympics Athletes, board members, law enforcement officers, celebrities, honored guests as they jump in to the cold waters of the Sporthotel Royer on Sunday afternoon (see calendar). 11 Final Leg Torch Run teams, Special Olympics Board Members, Special Olympics Leadership and other honored guests have all raised funds to participate in this event. This event is presented by The Coca-Cola Company.

Total amount raised for this event: To date, the Schladming Splash has raised over \$400,000!

Plungers and Attendees:

Michelle Kwan, Dale Moss, Sam Perkins, Natalia Vodianova, Ray Lane, Tim Shriver, Mary Davis



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Weather forecast for Sunday, March 19th

Graz: We expect a mix of clouds and sun, short rain showers are possible. Temperatures will rise from 3 to 13 degrees centigrade

Schladming: Until noon very high rain probability, after 12:00 p.m. less rain is expected, temperatures between 4 and 9 degrees centigrade

Ramsau: Until noon very high snow or rain probability, after 12:00 p.m. less rainfall is expected, temperatures between 2 and 7 degrees centigrade only

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 19th Healthy Athletes Screenings begin at Messe Graz (12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)
Beginn der Untersuchungen der Athleten im Rahmen des „Healthy Athletes Program“, Messe Graz (12:00 – 19:00 Uhr)
- March 19th Let’s Change the Game Forum – Exclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Featuring the Golisano Health Leadership Awards (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) in congress, Schladming, Rohrmoos Room
- March 19th Schladming Splash Unified Polar Plunge (2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) in Schladming at the Sporthotel Royer
- March 19th First Awards of the Games, Alpine Skiing, Giant Slalom, (Schladming, Wetzlarplatz, 3:00 p.m.)
Erste Siegerehrungen, Ski Alpin, Riesentorlauf (Ramsau, 17:00 Uhr)
- March 19th Unified Sports Experience: Cross Country Citizens Race (Ramsau, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.)
- March 20th Healthy Athletes Ribbon Cutting at Messe Graz (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 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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