

# THE WORLD IS HERE!

JUL 25 – AUG 2 2015

LA2015.org



Special Olympics  
**WORLD  
GAMES**  
LOS ANGELES 2015

## LA2015 Media COMMUNIQUE

Issue 20 • 30 July 2015

News, notes and resources for news media covering the  
Special Olympics World Games • Los Angeles 2015

- Spectators urged to guard against the heat •
- Scene and Heard: Kenyans enjoying California cuisine – except one item •
- Healthy Athletes screen more than 3,900 athletes in four days •
- Personality Parade: Thursday's celeb appearance schedule! •

### WORLD GAMES MEDIA ADVISORIES

- **Special Olympics World Games 2015 Media Credentials Available** •

LA2015 Media Operations Office & Workroom  
Los Angeles Convention Center • Room 408  
Pick-up available on 30-31 July & 1-2 August

- **Heathy Athletes Tour Times** •

1100-1130 = 1200-1230 = 1400-1430 = 1600-1630

Convenient parking (with pass) in Lot 2 on Figueroa Street and McCarthy Way;  
Use Entrance 3, then walk down McCarthy Way directly to the  
Healthy Athletes tents in McCarthy Quad.

**Special Olympics World Games 2015  
Media Operations Office & Workroom Telephones:**

- **Administration: (213) 743-6245** • **Credentials: (213) 743-6240** •

### Access advisory for news media at the competitions

News media are reminded that photo positions at all venues are in specified areas for your convenience, for everyone's safety and in locations which will not compromise the integrity of the competitions.

Please do NOT access the field other than in the areas shown in the Special Olympics World Games [Guide for News Media](#).

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## **Advisory on heat at outdoor venues**

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Special Olympics World Games spectators should note that most spectator seating in outdoor venues is not shaded and it is important to take precautions to handle the heat, especially as temperatures are expected to be high today.

Anyone spending extended periods of times at outdoor sports venues should take the following steps:

- Drink more fluids. Avoid drinks with alcohol or lots of sugar. Also avoid very cold drinks. If you're being particularly active, try to drink 2 to 4 glasses of cool water every hour. Don't wait until you're thirsty!
- Spend some time in the shade to cool off – frequently. Better still, find a building with air conditioning and spend some time there.
- Protect yourself from the sun. Wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses – and don't forget the sun screen! SPF 15 or higher.
- Know the signs of heat-related illness:
  - ▶ Cramps
  - ▶ Nausea, Headache
  - ▶ Excessive thirst
  - ▶ Dizziness, fainting
  - ▶ Drenching sweats, often with cold, clammy skin

If you, or someone near you, is showing any of these signs, seek medical attention immediately.

## **Competition Information:**

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A new tool on the LA2015.org Web site provides detailed sports schedule information about specific World Games delegations and athletes on a daily basis.

It is called the “Daily Delegation Schedule” and is updated just after 0700 Pacific Daylight Time each day. It is a large PDF file of 10-12 MB, so please be careful in downloading a file of this size. The complete competition schedule for every athlete in each delegation is included in chronological order. The delegations are presented in alphabetical order.

You can find it at : <http://www.la2015.org/daily-competition-schedule>

This Web site address will not change, so you can get the updated schedule by visiting this link daily. Schedules for any day other than the current date are incomplete and will change based on Divisioning results.

## **Competition Report:**

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- *Aquatics: Bangladesh swimmers enjoying Los Angeles*

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The atmosphere at aquatics continued to be festival-like on Wednesday, July 29 as 41 medal events were contested in front of nearly 1,500 spectators at the Uytengsu Aquatics Center. One of the smaller athlete delegations at aquatics is from Bangladesh. Fifteen-year-old **Mosammat Khatun** captured second place in the 50-meter backstroke with a time of 43.11. The Pabna, Bangladesh native also competed in the 50-meter freestyle. Khatun has a hearing impairment which does not make swimming an easy sport for her to learn. She has been swimming for four years and, with help from her coaches, she trains every day for two hours daily to prepare herself for competition.

This inspiring athlete not only enjoys swimming, but she also is a competitive dancer. Last night, she had the opportunity to dance in front of a huge audience with some of her fellow dancers. She also enjoys cricket in her spare time and says, "The backstroke is my favorite event to swim. The freestyle is much harder for me." She has one sister and one brother and this is her first time in the United States.

Most of the Bangladesh swimmers are from small villages and they are finding the air-conditioned buildings a novelty. They are not used to refrigerated drinks and are enjoying drinking cold sodas. When they are not at the competition venue they are having a blast in the festival area. They are enjoying the booths where they can spin the wheel for prizes, make crafts, get toys or play games. When they return to Bangladesh they will be invited to a special reception with the Prime Minister of the country.

- *Athletics: Warm weather postpones 3,000 m races*

Owing to warm conditions at Loker Stadium at USC on Wednesday afternoon, the 3,000 m races have been postponed to Thursday morning at 0800.

Initially scheduled for 1450 today, the movement of the event to tomorrow morning will require a combination of divisions. A total of six divisions had been seeded, which will now be combined into three races, with divisions 1 (3 athletes) and 2 (5) racing together; divisions 3 (4) and 5 (5) racing together and divisions 5 (8) and 6 (5 athletes) racing together. These races will start at 0800, 0815 and 0830.

Afterwards, the meet will continue with the 800 m races at the regularly-scheduled time of 9 a.m.

The remaining long-distance race on the track, the 5,000 m, is scheduled for Friday at 9 a.m. The Half Marathon will be held Saturday at 0800 on an ocean-adjacent course in Long Beach.

Gates will open at 0800 for spectators, in time to watch the first of the 3,000 m races.

On the track, a band of about two dozen fans, athletes, coaches and officials from Kenya had the stands rocking when **Everlyne Mokeira Ogechi** ran her 400-meter race. Waving their national flag and stomping their feet in unison, the Kenyans cheered, chanted, danced, and sang as Ogechi finished first in one minute, 6.51 seconds.

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“We were singing in Swahili and Luhya,” explained **Jacqueline Tabbya** of Nairobi, part of the Kenyan delegation. “We were just giving praise to the runner. In our community, we appreciate the fast child. So we praised her as our first daughter to win a gold medal here.”

Tabbya, who has been supporting Special Olympics for two decades, called the World Games “a wonderful program. It's a noble effort.”

Aside from the members of the Kenyan delegation, none of the fans on hand for Wednesday's track and field competition realized they were sitting close to a former world champion and Olympic silver medalist.

That was **Douglas Wakiihuri**, who won the marathon at the 1987 World Championships in Rome and took second at the Seoul Olympics the following year.

“I'm here representing her excellency, **Margaret Kenyatta**, the first lady of Kenya,” explained Wakiihuri. “I'm her personal coach. She runs to raise money for maternal health care. She was invited to the Special Olympics World Games, but couldn't attend. I'm here on her behalf.” Wakiihuri, still trim and fit at 52, won the London Marathon in 1989. He also finished first in the New York City Marathon and the Commonwealth Games marathon in New Zealand in 1990, and won the 1991 World Cup marathon at Athens.

- *Basketball: Lakers Day on Thursday*

The Los Angeles Lakers organization will participate in the “Fans in the Stands” program from 1100-1530 on Thursday. Approximately 100 Lakers staff members will be in attendance, expected to include Metta World Peace, Jeanie Buss, and Kurt & Linda Rambis.

- *Beach Volleyball: Finland, Cuba and a legend*

Special Olympics Finland 2 defeated Special Olympics Finland 1 in the men's division. The victory marked an undefeated Games for Finland 2 as they didn't drop a single set.

“It was always our goal for Finland 1 and Finland 2 to be the top two teams” said **Heidi Horelli**, a Special Olympics Finland 1 unified partner. “I love playing with these athletes so much that it doesn't matter that we lost today. The venue is absolutely beautiful. The weather is perfect. So pleased with the crowds that have been here every day cheering.”

In the women's division, Special Olympics Cuba defeated Special Olympics Costa Rica in a spirited gold medal match. Cuba was down 11 - 5 in the third set but mounted a comeback to win gold. After the win, Cuba's team hugged and cried tears of joy.

**Rafer Johnson**, Special Olympics Southern California's founder and Olympic gold medalist was one of the awards presenters. “I'm so pleased to be here. It's great to see the spectators watching the athletes. The competitions are unbelievable. Eunice Kennedy Shriver wanted Special Olympics to be a social event but more so a competitive event. The athletes have the opportunity to win a medal and be part of something bigger.”

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- *Bocce: International language of swag*

People see it all over the place. In the halls. In the aisles. On the courts. At the awards presentations. It's Special Olympics swag – the pins, the bracelets, the tags, the clip-on stuffed animals being exchanged, and sometimes bargained for, among Special Olympics athletes.

Swag at the Bocce venue ranged from the yellow and green rubber bracelets and tags from Jamaica, pins of the country flags from the USA, Canada, and Israel, the gold shamrocks from Ireland, and the highly-sought-after clip-on stuffed koala bears and kangaroos from Australia. In a particularly unusual moment at the Bocce venue today was the encounter between the athletes from Cyprus and Australia.

Meeting each other in passing in the aisles between matches, Cypriot athletes noticed Australian athletes wearing clip-on koala bears and kangaroos. Despite not speaking the same language, the international language of swag brought the delegations together in a lively exchange of koala bears. Hugs, high fives, picture taking, smiles and the Special Olympics spirit of camaraderie bridged the two delegations as they moved on to their respective competitions.

- *Football 5s: Kenyans enjoying California cuisine . . . with one exception!*

The 5-a-side football competition at UCLA's intramural field on Wednesday featured highly competitive matches at all levels. The Iranian side played a double-header, excelling against Chile and then playing a tough Kenyan side to a draw that featured an enthusiastic crowd to end the day. On the women's side, Cote d'Ivoire looked strong and capped off their day with some great native celebratory song and dance that delighted the crowd.

The Kenyan side has enjoyed their time in the United States. The team stated that they have made many friends and that the food is excellent. They are especially fond about breakfast. However, their coach said, "They are not familiar with some of the food and ask, 'what is this,' but in the end, they always at least try it, with the exception being salad."

- *Football 11s: Mexico shares a teammate's pain together*

Spanish-speaking World Games volunteer **Gabriella Castro** noticed black ribbons pinned to the jerseys of the Mexican team's coaches. She asked a delegation representative what the ribbons represented and learned that Special Olympics Athlete **Orlando Martinez**, 23, was informed the evening prior that a close family member was killed suddenly in a tragic automobile accident back home in Mexico.

Because Unified Team Mexico is so close, it was as if all players became one with Martinez, enduring his pain in solidarity, leaving the entire team in mourning. The emotion on the field was palpable as the team was further devastated by a loss of 6-0 to Unified Team Serbia.

Head Coach **Juan Carlos Guizar** took his time consoling individual players after the match, some of whom were struggling to cope with unfamiliar levels of overwhelming emotion as a



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reaction to their teammate's tragic loss. "I have always said that the players' behavior on and off the field is a reflection of the team's manager," said Coach Guizar as interpreted by Castro.

"Although these athletes live far apart from each other in Mexico, we keep in touch not just about football, but about the athletes' personal lives as well. We are a family. When tragedy happens to one of us, it happens to us all. That is why I am dedicated to the well-being of these athletes, not just on the field but in their personal lives as well. That's my job."

Added grief-stricken Martinez: "Coach is very strict – he asks a lot of us as players. He checks in on us regularly, on our training and conditioning, how we are doing. But he is also a friend to us. When we have a problem, even if it has nothing to do with football, we can come to him. We know he'll talk to us. That is a very rare kind of coach and it is because of him that even though we live so far apart from each other, we are a family."

On Wednesday evening Special Olympics Team Nippon – the Japanese world for "Japan" – attended a special Welcome Reception at the Official Residence of the Hon. **Harry H. Horinouchi**, Consul General of Japan, Los Angeles. The Delegation, consisting of 120 Special Olympics Athletes, who were also honored by Mayor **Frederick Sykes** of Team Nippon's Host Town West Covina, and Special Olympics Nippon's Chairperson, **Yoshiko Mitsui**.

When asked about what the World Games means for Special Olympics Nippon, Horinouchi reflected: "In Japan everybody knows about the Olympics, of course, and the Paralympics, but not so many people know about the Special Olympics movement. My hope is that with such a large delegation participating in the World Games Los Angeles 2015, and with so much coverage of this huge global event, that Japanese people will become more aware and the movement will spread throughout Japan."

- *Golf: "If he wants to play golf, let him"*

**Chapta Saha**, mother of Bharat (India) golfer **Ankush Saha**, nervously paced the viewing area as Aukush and his caddy decided on the proper strategy for his 30-foot putt to the final hole. When asked if Aukush was excited about the Games, Mom said "he was excited, but remained pretty calm, much more calm than his mother!"

Chapta, a special education teacher in India gave birth to this young man and was told the baby was in deep trouble. It was touch and go for 48 hours, but he made it. Ankush grew up loving sports and played team sports until he was a teenager. The difference in developmental age just became too great for him to continue with team sports, so he declared he would like to play golf. His dad had often took Aukush with him when he played golf, but it was felt that golf was too technical for his physical skills. Mom Chapta said, "if he wants to play golf, let him".

They did and after only two years of serious practice, he shot an 87 on his first day of competitive golf in the World Games. About that putt he was lining up while Mom paced? It ended up short, but the next putt was put in the hole easily. You could visibly see the relief on Mom's face as Aukush raised his hands in joy and pride as he finished this second day of World Games golf.

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- *Handball: Russia on a gold-medal march?*

Russia's duo of **Alexander Avdonin** and **Alexander Petrov** combined for 26 goals as they put on a fast-breaking clinic against Germany today. Their wave of goals propelled Russia to their second straight win and guaranteed them a place in the gold medal match on Saturday.

**Harib Aljasm**i scored a cool seven goals to lead the United Arab Emirates over Egypt. The Netherlands found no answer to India's balanced scoring attack and fell to the Bharat team. Uruguay withstood the physical play of Cote D'Ivoire to get their second win of the tournament. And finally, the spectators witnessed superb goalkeeping of Costa Rica's Victor Villalobos and Juan Torres in their victory against Greece. Scores:

Men's Division 3: United Arab Emirates def. Egypt, 10-5

Men's Division 3: India def. Netherlands, 15-10

Men's Division 1: Russia def. Germany, 34-14

Women's Division: Uruguay def. Cote D'Ivoire, 16-6

Men's Division 2: Costa Rica def. Greece, 14-7

- *Powerlifting: Charisma, education and an ageless Icelander*

Mexico's **Jose Velazquez** wore his emotions on his sleeve during the Powerlifting competition on Wednesday. His charisma was contagious and he soon had a following of fans among the spectators. If his lift was good, he would jump up and down and hug his coach. If it was not good his head would hang as he left the stage.

Jose, 34, has been lifting for six years and was inspired to take up the sport by his mother. "She has been training me for years," he said.

At the end of competition Jose was all smiles and did the hand-swiping gesture of WWE star **John Cena** to wow the crowd and celebrate his medals – one silver (bench press) and three bronze.

At 59, **Gudmundur Asbjornsson** from Iceland is the oldest powerlifter competing in the Special Olympics World Games and shows no signs of slowing down. He has always been active playing soccer and swimming. Gudmundur took up powerlifting only three years ago. "I grew up and live on a farm, and attribute my strength to my homeland," he said through his coach and interpreter. This is his first World Games and he thinks it is amazing. "I am so thankful to be here and hope to be able to keep doing this well into my sixties," he said.

Being the mother of a daughter with cerebral palsy, **Lila Roberts** is familiar with the misconceptions people have about children with disabilities. So when her director at the Bellview Recreation Center suggested bringing a group of 50 of their kids to the Special Olympics World Games she was excited, and so were the kids. "They were excited because it is something new for them," she said.

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To prepare for coming to the Games, she decided to educate them about the athletes before coming by setting up activities where the children could learn about the different challenges the athletes face. "It is so important and good for the kids to see these athletes so that they can be aware that they aren't that different at all. In fact they are up there doing things many of us cannot do. I know for a fact I wouldn't be able to. It's inspiring. It's a beautiful thing."

- *Roller Skating: Look good, feel good, skate good*

Positive encouragement is one of the pillars of Special Olympics. The cheers of the crowd, parents, volunteers, and coaches fuel the athletes' competitive engines. So, it is easy for the vocal support of the people to blend into a cacophony of cheers. However, on occasion, there is one person who cheers on athletes so enthusiastically that he/she visibly stands out from everyone else. That person for Special Olympics roller skating is Hungarian head coach **Erzsebet Miklosne Malek**:

"I'm so proud of all of them. We coaches are in somewhat of a tough position because we can't yell and scream as much as we normally do [in Hungary]. In Hungary, it's much more intense. We [SO Hungary] actually train with professional Hungarian skaters."

Evidently, Malek's intensity on the sidelines is reflected in her team's training regimen, as explained by gold medalist **Robert Hocza**:

"When we train with pros, we work very hard on technique. A good start is important. So are tight turns. When I crossed the finish line, all I thought about was my skating, nothing else."

At the end of our interaction, Hocza added that he hadn't seen jerseys better than those of the Hungarians. The old saying rings true, "Look good, feel good," and the Hungarians were feelin' like gold today.

- *Sailing: Lighting up another venue*

A crowd formed as soon as he walked into the Sailing compound, and requests for photos were immediate and numerous, he patiently obliged each and every athlete and team.

Superstars come in many forms; actors, singers, super models but in this case it happens to be Special Olympics Torch Runner, **Brett Laza**, 23, from Phelan, Ca. According to *Kim Laza*, Brett's mother, "Brett was really a little shy at first and this experience has truly changed him." Brett was mobbed by coaches, athletes, and staff alike, crowding to each get their photo with Brett and the actual torch he carried throughout all his travels. "It was really the luck of the draw and I will be sad when it is all over," explained Brett.

Brett was selected as one of 10 torch runners internationally and one of seven from the United States and the sole representative of Special Olympics Southern California. He was selected to fly to Athens to carry the torch the last half-mile to the U. S. Embassy. Brett was also asked to be a part of California law enforcement's Final Leg organization to carry the torch with the team in Chino, Ca.



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The line grew and the photos continued with Brett as accommodating and giving as he was 90 minutes before; the duties of his role as a Special Olympics Torch Runner just beginning as he and his mother prepared to make their way to bring the light of a Torch Runner to yet another sports venue.

- *Tennis: U.S. team embraces lone Malawi player*

There was excitement at the Los Angeles Tennis Center as the medal rounds of competition got underway in men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles. Fans and athletes had a special surprise when Los Angeles Clippers coach **Doc Rivers** showed up in the afternoon to watch the matches.

*All together now:* Team USA has "adopted" 19-year-old **Mphatso Chipwanyanya**, the lone Malawi player and is including her in the team's warm-up sessions each morning.

- *Volleyball: A young star is born!*

Three-year-old **Christian Legaspi** ran Special Olympics rings around the competition at the Young Athletes event at Pauley Pavilion Wednesday.

Born 29 weeks and four days premature, Legaspi carries only 10 pounds on his 22-inch tall body. But when it comes to heart and energy, he is literally worth his weight in gold. Fans and family members cheered throughout his performance in soccer, baseball, basketball and agility events, which were held for Southern California children with intellectual disabilities, ages two through seven.

Carrying a bag of Cheez-Its – his favorite snack food – wherever he went, the diminutive Christian was a scoring machine in soccer. He also displayed remarkable hand-eye coordination in whacking plastic baseballs off a tee and sinking basketballs through the hoop. While he did not finish among the leaders in the full-court spring, he did run head-to-head with children three times his size. When family or volunteers raised their hands for high fives from the sidelines, Legaspi would give them a Cheez-It instead.

"Christian and his twin sister **Janice** were Micro-Preemies (born at least 26 weeks premature)," said his mother **Connie**, an administrative secretary for the Los Angeles Unified School District. "They're two of only 100 in the world."

However, Christian is clearly one of a kind.

"He has so much energy," his mother said. "He's always jumping around and he loves to kick the soccer ball. Janice is just the opposite. She's real mellow and easy going."

Like most young boys, Christian loves to emulate his older brother **Michael**, who is six.

"He wants to be just like his older brother," Mrs. Legaspi said. "They play sports together and are always on their I-Pad, too."



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## **Bulletins:**

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- *Healthy Athletes screens more than 4,000 Special Olympics Athletes over four days*

The Healthy Athletes program, which provides seven screenings to Special Olympics Athletes, has been one of the most popular attractions at the World Games. Through four full days of the program, some 4,104 athletes from 139 delegations have moved through the tents at McCarthy Quad at USC:

26 July: 977  
27 July: 1,247  
28 July: 1,040  
29 July: 840

Through the four days, some 4,100 pairs of shoes have been distributed, along with 400 hearing aids and 300 pairs of glasses prescribed, sized and edged on the spot.

- *Host Town isn't over for Team Italy!*

**Devin Sloan**, head of Host Town West Los Angeles that hosted Italy, has rented the House of Blues on Sunset for another fun evening for the Italian delegation and their families at 1900 on Saturday, 1 August. He has also rented the buses to transport the delegation.

Media interested in covering the event are welcome; please contact **Joann Klonowski**, Vice President/Host Town Program for LA2015 at (213) 369-1510 or at [joann.klonowski@LA2015.org](mailto:joann.klonowski@LA2015.org).

- *Schedule revision: Media Operations Office & Workroom closes 2 August*

Please note that the 2015 Special Olympics World Games Media Operations Office & Workroom will close on Sunday, 2 August at 2300. The previously-scheduled half-day opening for 3 August has been canceled.

- *Special Olympics, Inc. World Games press kit now live!*

The comprehensive Special Olympics, Inc. press kit is now available and includes fact sheets on Special Olympics, Healthy Athletes, Unified Sports, the World Games, the Special Olympics, Inc. annual report, milestones, a roster of the SOI International Global Messengers and much more.

To access the entire package, click on the link below and then click on the button for World Games Press Kit:

[http://www.specialolympics.org/Press/Press\\_Room.aspx](http://www.specialolympics.org/Press/Press_Room.aspx)

- *LA2015 Factbook 3.0 now posted*

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The third (and final) edition of the LA2015 Factbook with 144 pages of facts and figures on the Special Olympics World Games, history, organization and statistics, is now available for free download from the LA2015 Web site: [www.LA2015.org/Factbook](http://www.LA2015.org/Factbook).

The Factbook compliments the LA2015 [Guide for News Media](#), which profiles the coverage logistics and support available to credentialed media at the 2015 World Games in Los Angeles.

- *Daily Video News Release (VNR) acquisition details*

A daily VNR will be produced by ESPN and made available daily throughout the World Games, approximately an hour after each day's ESPN programming. It can be found at this link:

[www.dropbox.com/sh/euh87nkbootzqdd/AADXc-tNnuZUbKJp7R5jo0TPa?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/euh87nkbootzqdd/AADXc-tNnuZUbKJp7R5jo0TPa?dl=0)

For inquiries or requests for interviews with ESPN executives or on-air personalities, please contact:

- ▶ Paul Melvin, Sr. Director | ESPN Communications  
Tel.: (860) 877-8369 or [Paul.Melvin@espn.com](mailto:Paul.Melvin@espn.com)
- ▶ Teri Couch, ESPN Communications  
Tel.: (860) 357-1417 or [Teri.Couch@espn.com](mailto:Teri.Couch@espn.com)

- *Special Olympics Athlete image usage questions? Here's your contact!*

In addition to media interview requests for Special Olympics, Inc. senior executives, for inquiries regarding third-party permissions for photography and/or videography of Special Olympics Athletes, please contact [media@specialolympics.org](mailto:media@specialolympics.org).

## **Coverage Logistics and Schedule:**

From the LA2015 Media Operations team, getting ready to support your efforts in Los Angeles:

- The LA2015 Guide for News Media – Games Edition has been posted online and is available for immediate [download](#).

This PDF edition of 131 pages (approximately 10 MB in size) includes details on the coverage logistics for the World Games and has detailed diagrams showing media access and parking, reserved seating locations, photo/video positions, interview areas and complete schedule information for each of the 25 sports and 23 venues. Contact information for the Media Operations managers who will assist you at each site is also provided.

- World Games media credentials and photographer's bibs can be picked up from 25 July-2 August at the LA2015 Media Operations Office and Workroom in Room 408 of the Los Angeles Convention Center. Hours will be 0700-2300 from 25 July-2 August.

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## Please note that in order to obtain your World Games credential:

- (1) Credentials must be picked up in person and a government-issued identification document – with photograph – must be presented.

Organizations with large numbers of credentials can have a single person pick up the entire lot at one time by following this procedure:

- (a) The publisher, editor or news director **must contact** Co-Senior Director/Media Operations Pat DiLeva ([pat.dileva@LA2015.org](mailto:pat.dileva@LA2015.org)) at least one day in advance to schedule this transaction. Please provide the name of the person who will be coming and what time to expect them.
  - (b) The individual picking up the credentials must have (i) a government-issued photo identification with them as proof of identity **and** (ii) a physical letter on organization letterhead that authorizes that specific person – by name – to pick up the organization’s credentials.
- (2) Photographers and videographers will be able to obtain their World Games photo position-access bibs at the same time, but must agree to abide by the “Regulations for Photography and Videography” included in chapter 6 of the Guide for News Media – Games Edition.

Organizations which received bulk credentials for their staff will not be provided with a bib for each person, but an allocation which must be shared.

The 2015 World Games will welcome a record number of more than 1,600 news media to Los Angeles in July, and the credential application process is now closed.

The LA2015 hotel room block has been exhausted. Media desiring accommodations for the Games must make their own arrangements.

## **World Games Notebook:**

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The World Games is here! To better enjoy the experience:

- To hold the World Games in the palm of your hand, get the App:  
The quickest source of news about LA2015 and the best way to stay updated on schedules, results and information during the World Games is to download the free LA2015 mobile app. Available in both the iTunes Store and on Google Play, the app is easy to customize to bring the feature you enjoy most to the forefront.

It’s also easy to follow the World Games on the leading social-media apps as well:

- = Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/LA2015](http://www.Facebook.com/LA2015)
- = Instagram: [@LA2015](https://www.instagram.com/LA2015)
- = Twitter: [@LA2015](https://twitter.com/LA2015)



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Active hashtags include #ReachUp and #ReachUpLA.

## **World Games Resources:**

For additional information on the World Games in specific, or the Special Olympics in general, please visit:

- For LA2015 information: [www.LA2015.org](http://www.LA2015.org)
- For the LA2015 *Factbook*: [www.LA2015.org/Factbook](http://www.LA2015.org/Factbook)
- For royalty-free images & video: [www.flickr.com/la2015worldgames](http://www.flickr.com/la2015worldgames)
- For the LA2015 Guide for News Media:  
<http://www.la2015.org/media/blog/la2015-world-games-guide-for-news-media-games-edition-now-available>
- For Special Olympics, Inc.: [www.SpecialOlympics.org](http://www.SpecialOlympics.org)
- For the daily Video News Release from ESPN:  
[www.dropbox.com/sh/euh87nkbootzqdd/AADXc-tNnuZUbKJp7R5jo0TPa?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/euh87nkbootzqdd/AADXc-tNnuZUbKJp7R5jo0TPa?dl=0)

News media desiring further information are requested to contact:

- LA2015 Communications:
  - = Steve Vanderpool, Senior Vice President of Communications & Media Operations  
[steve.vanderpool@LA2015.org](mailto:steve.vanderpool@LA2015.org)
  - = Danielle Yango, Senior Director [danielle.yango@LA2015.org](mailto:danielle.yango@LA2015.org)
  - = Yamily Escalante, Publicist (Spanish-language) [yamily.escalante@LA2015.org](mailto:yamily.escalante@LA2015.org)
- LA2015 Media Operations:
  - = Pat Harris DiLeva, Co-Senior Director [pat.dileva@LA2015.org](mailto:pat.dileva@LA2015.org)
  - = Rich Perelman, Co-Senior Director [rich.perelman@LA2015.org](mailto:rich.perelman@LA2015.org)
- Special Olympics, Inc. Communications:
  - = Christy White, Director of Global Media and Public Relations  
[cwhite@SpecialOlympics.org](mailto:cwhite@SpecialOlympics.org)

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# LA2015 Media COMMUNIQUE

Please consult the  
Special Olympics Disability Language Guideines  
on the following page for useful information on covering  
Special Olympics Athletes and events.





## **Special Olympics Disability Language Guidelines**

Words matter. Words can open doors to cultivate the understanding and respect that enable people with disabilities to lead fuller, more independent lives. Words can also create barriers or stereotypes that are not only demeaning to people with disabilities, but also rob them of their individuality. The following language guidelines have been developed by experts for use by anyone writing or speaking about people with intellectual disabilities to ensure that all people are portrayed with individuality and dignity.

### **Appropriate Terminology**

- Refer to participants in Special Olympics as “Special Olympics athletes” rather than “Special Olympians” or “Special Olympic athletes.”
- Refer to individuals, persons or people with intellectual disabilities, rather than “intellectually disabled people” or “the intellectually disabled.”
- A person has intellectual disabilities, rather than is “suffering from,” is “afflicted with” or is “a victim of” mental retardation/intellectual disabilities.
- Distinguish between adults and children with intellectual disabilities. Use adults or children, or older or younger athletes.
- A person “uses” a wheelchair, rather than is “confined” or “restricted to” a wheelchair.
- “Down syndrome” has replaced “Down’s Syndrome” and “mongoloid.”
- Refer to participants in Special Olympics as athletes. In no case should the word athletes appear in quotation marks.
- When writing, refer to persons with a disability in the same style as persons without a disability: full name on first reference and last name on subsequent references. Do not refer to an individual with intellectual disabilities as “Bill” rather than the journalistically correct “Bill Smith” or “Smith.”
- A person has a physical disability rather than crippled.
- Use the words “Special Olympics” when referring to the worldwide Special Olympics movement.

### **Terminology to Avoid**

- 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.