



## 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games Fact Sheet

Special Olympics, the global leader in intellectual disability, will hold the world's largest sporting event in 2007. The 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games will unite the world through sports, celebrating the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities and forming a new global vision of acceptance.

**When:** 2-11 October 2007

**Participants:** More than 7,000 athletes from 169 countries  
 40,000 volunteers  
 3,500 event officials  
 Thousands of families, friends, spectators and journalists from every continent

**Where:** The People's Republic of China, in the city of Shanghai

**Vision:** Embrace the diversity of all individuals' abilities worldwide and celebrate all differences. Through these World Games, Special Olympics athletes transcend the boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age, culture and religion. It is the common pursuit of achievement, the shared moment of victory, which brings even the most diverse people together. This spirit of unity on the playing fields, in families and communities throughout the world makes for a better way of life for all. Special Olympics celebrates the fundamental commonality of all people. Together, we can learn to accept each other, and this will allow us all to contribute to society and to the world we all share.

**Sports & Venues:** Special Olympics athletes of all ability levels will compete in 24 different Olympic-type sports at the following venues:

Aquatics	Shanghai Pudong Natatorium
Athletics	Shanghai Stadium
Badminton	Baoshan Gymnasium
Basketball	Luwan Gymnasium, Gyms at Shanghai Stadium
Bocce	Jiading Stadium
Bowling	Gaodian Bowling Center
Cricket	Fengxian District Sports Complex
Cycling	Fengxian District
Dragon Boat Racing	Shanghai Water Sports Center
Equestrian	Shanghai Equestrian Field
Football (Soccer)	Songjiang District
Golf	Tianma Country Club
Gymnastics	Shanghai International Gymnastics Center
Handball	Fudan University & Yangpu District Stadium
Judo	Sports Center of Nanhui District
Kayaking	Shanghai Water Sports Center



Powerlifting	Zhabei Gymnasium
Roller Skating	Jinshan District Roller Skating Center, Roller Skating Gymnasium
Sailing	Shanghai Water Sports Center
Softball	Kangbei Softball Centre
Table Tennis	Minghang Gymnasium
Tennis	Qi Zhong Tennis Center
Volleyball	Shanghai Sports Palace (3 courts), Jinyuan Senior High School - 1 court, East China Normal University (4 courts)
MATP (Motor Activity Training Program)	Jingan Gymnasium

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

The first-ever **Global Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg** will begin with the ignition of the “Flame of Hope” and the lighting of the torch in Athens, Greece. The torch will travel around the globe to more than 10 cities to celebrate the 2007 World Games and showcase Chinese culture. Law enforcement officers from around the world will serve as Guardians of the Flame as they journey to Shanghai, China, to safely deliver the “Flame of Hope” to the 2007 World Games Opening Ceremonies.

**Host Town Program** – Delegations from around the world will be hosted throughout China prior to their arrival in Shanghai for the Games. For four days before Opening Ceremonies, the Host Town experience gives Special Olympics athletes a chance to learn more about Chinese culture and acclimate to a new environment, and also helps citizens of China learn more about people with intellectual disabilities.

**Research Symposium** - Review of groundbreaking studies by the China National Institute for Educational Research and the University of Massachusetts Boston. Studies will reveal key findings in the area of intellectual disabilities, as well as highlights on subjects ranging from health and fitness to attitude change to the impact of the Special Olympics movement.

**Opening Ceremonies** - An exciting and entertaining show to open the World Games. Produced by award-winning producer/director Don Mischer, this spectacular event will take place in the 80,000-seat Shanghai Stadium and will include star-studded entertainment, the Parade of Athletes and the culmination of the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and lighting of the Special Olympics cauldron.

**Global Youth Summit** - An assembly bringing youth with and without intellectual disabilities together for inspiring and educational discussions. The inaugural summit took place in 2001 at the World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska (USA), and was aired on Nickelodeon television (Nick News). The second Global Youth Summit, held in Dublin, Ireland, as part of the 2003 World Summer Games, attracted Nelson Mandela and stars Colin Farrell and Maria Shriver. The show aired on MTV in the United Kingdom. The 2005 Global Youth Summit at the World Games in Nagano, Japan, included more than 300 Japanese youth and attracted former U.S. President Bill Clinton; the show aired on Japanese national television.

**Family Forum** - An activity tailored for family members of Special Olympics athletes to enable them to learn more about the opportunities available with Special Olympics, and to provide a network of friends and supporters.

**Closing Ceremonies** - An event to celebrate the accomplishments of the athletes and officially close the Games.



**Healthy Athletes® Screenings** – Volunteer medical professionals will provide competing athletes a variety of free health assessments, including vision, dental, audiology and physical therapy. Past Healthy Athletes screenings have changed the lives of many athletes, discovering serious untreated health issues.

**Information:** For general information, volunteer opportunities, sponsoring, fundraising or any other information, contact:

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