



Documentation

Team Switzerland Kazan 2022

May 2021

Special Olympics
Switzerland





Introduction

Special Olympics is the world's largest sports movement for people with intellectual disabilities¹. It was founded in 1968 in the USA by Eunice Kennedy-Shriver and in 1988, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially recognized the organization. Today, Special Olympics is present in 193 countries with over 5.4 million athletes participating in more than 110'000 competitions in 30 different sports every year. They are supported by 1.1 million volunteers.

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

The vision of Special Olympics Switzerland is an inclusive world, driven by the power of sport, where people with intellectual disabilities live active, healthy and fulfilling lives.

In 1995, Special Olympics Switzerland (SOSWI) was founded. The foundation has its head office in the House of Sports in Bern/Ittingen, and branch offices in Zurich, Yverdon and Lugano.

In Switzerland, the foundation Special Olympics promotes sports for people with disabilities and changes society by...

- supporting sports associations and sports clubs in setting up adapted physical activities and sports programs for people with disabilities;
- enabling organizers of popular sports events to make their events accessible to people with disabilities;
- organizing competitions in 20 sports in the philosophy of Special Olympics, giving all people the opportunity to participate and succeed;
- enabling athletes to participate in international competitions, allowing them to have unique experiences and live moments of success;
- offering formation that empowers coaches to develop adapted sports trainings for people with disabilities.

¹ The programs offered by Special Olympics Switzerland are designed for people with intellectual and/or learning disabilities, developmental disabilities and behavioral problems.



World Winter Games Kazan, Russia 2022

Once every 4 years, Special Olympics International organizes the World Winter Games. The next World Games will be held in Kazan, Russia from January 22-28, 2022. Due to the Corona pandemic, the World Games, originally scheduled for January 2021, have been postponed by one year. With over 2,000 athletes, 700 coaches from 108 nations and around 3,000 volunteers, the World Winter Games are the second largest winter sports event in the world after the Olympic Games. The 7 sports on offer are skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, figure skating, short track and floorball.

Switzerland will travel to Kazan with a delegation of 65 people in 5 sports.

Impact Corona pandemic

In the current situation, people with mental disabilities cannot participate in sports or can only do so to a very limited extent. This means that they can neither develop their health nor their mental capacity, nor can they maintain social contacts. Furthermore, most Special Olympics athletes do not have the possibility to use technical aids and thus opportunities for personal exchange via the Internet and social media are restricted. The consequences are isolation, lack of exercise and hence increased health risks. The public hardly takes any notice of this.

The Corona pandemic not only led to the rescheduling of the World Winter Games, but also influenced the ongoing preparations of the delegation. Important events had to be cancelled, the start of communication had to be postponed and the budget had to be redrafted. Due to the existing restrictions, a long-term, mental and physical preparation of the athletes and coaches is also only possible to a limited extent this winter.

A first milestone in the preparation would have been the delegation meeting on January 16, 2021. On this day, Team Switzerland Kazan 2022 would have met for the first time to get to know each other, for a photo shooting and film session, and for a dress fitting. Due to legal regulations, the event could not be held. This means the whole Team Switzerland Kazan 2022 will meet only six weeks before the departure to Kazan.

The situation also has an impact on the budget of the delegation. Higher costs are expected for travel and equipment.



Sport at Special Olympics

The official Special Olympics sports are organized and rated according to the international rules of the respective world sports associations. However, it is clear that an intellectual disability has an impact on athletic performance. For this reason, a preliminary competition is always held at Special Olympics events. This selection process - called Divisioning - creates the conditions for fair and interesting competitions. In principle, all athletes have a chance to win.

*Special Olympics does not focus on measurable, athletic performance.
Nevertheless, everyone in their performance group gives their best.*

Only those who train regularly make progress. This also applies to athletes with disabilities. Just like all athletes, Special Olympics athletes develop the will to perform, joy and enthusiasm for their sport. They are trained and accompanied by competent coaches who are enthusiastic about sports. Trainings take place, if possible, in normal sports clubs.



The Swiss Floorball team after the medal ceremony at the World Winter Games Austria 2017.



Special Olympics in Switzerland

In 2019, Special Olympics Switzerland organized 70 competitions in 18 sports, with 2,286 participants. From January 23 to 26, 2020, the National Winter Games took place in Villars. 600 athletes, accompanied by 200 coaches participated in competitions in 5 winter sports.



Olympic bronze medalist and world champion in ski cross, Fanny Smith with Special Olympics athletes.

Another focus of SOSWI is the Unified program - the development of adapted physical activity programs for children and young people with a disability within existing sports clubs. This is done in cooperation with institutions, curative education schools and the relatives. In the meantime, 98 clubs already offer adapted training for currently 870 children, adolescents and adults with disabilities. Special Olympics also works with 16 organizers of popular sports events (e.g. UBS Kids Cup, GP Bern) to make them accessible to people with disabilities. In 2019, adapted categories were offered in 34 events, and a total of 995 athletes with disabilities benefited from this offer. For more info, please visit our homepage: www.specialolympics.ch.



Being a part of it!

What does the participation at the World Winter Games mean to the athletes?

- To do sports with like-minded people
- To demonstrate a passion for performance and the ability to deliver
- To work for a goal and reach it thanks to motivation and determination
- To gain new competence and self-esteem
- To meet and exchange with people from other countries
- To live a unique experience in terms of culture, food, people and languages
- To experience inclusion, respect, appreciation and applause
- To take home unforgettable memories



Swiss cross-country skier Rinaldo Burgener at the World Winter Games Austria 2017.



World Winter Games Kazan 2022

Due to the Corona pandemic, the date of the event was postponed by one year.

From the 22nd - 28th of January 2022 the World Winter Games will take place in Kazan.

Kazan belongs to the Tatarstan region and is one of Russia's largest economic, scientific and cultural hubs. The city is located 800 km east of Moscow. Tatarstan is characterized by cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, with over 100 ethnic groups, mainly Tatars and Russians, living in the region.

Kazan has been called the sports capital of Russia, hosting numerous international tournaments and organizing several major sporting events over the past decade, including the 2013 Summer Universiade, the 2015 FINA World Cup, the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup, and the 2018 FIFA World Cup matches. Kazan has been repeatedly recognized by the global sports community for its high-quality execution of these events. Amateur sports are also booming in the city and the healthy lifestyle is gaining more and more popularity. Skiing, skating and field hockey are traditional favorite winter sports.

For 12 days, the region will become the international sporting center for athletes with intellectual disabilities from all over the world, who will participate in the world's largest sporting event to be held in 2022.

2'000 athletes, 108 nations, 7 sports, 3'000 volunteers

The athletes of the 2022 World Winter Games will attract around 4,000 family members and friends, 1,200 fans and network partners, 800 congress participants and 1,000 media professionals from all over the world. Together, they will make a significant contribution to the appreciation, acceptance and equality of people with an intellectual disability.

Program and dates

Travel to Kazan	18 January 2022
Host City Experience	19 January 2022
Training & Divisioning	January 20-21, 2022
Opening Ceremony	22 January 2022
Competitions	23 - 27 January 2022
Closing Ceremony	28 January 2022
Travel back to Zurich	29 January 2022





Roadmap to Kazan

Due to the Corona pandemic, some events had to be cancelled from the preparation program (partly without replacement).

July 2020	SOSWI publishes the quota for the Team Switzerland Kazan 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Information to all coaches who participated in the Villars 2020 NWG.– Publication of the application form for coaches, male and female athletes Start of the application process
15.10.2020	End of the application phase
02. – 06.11.2020	Announcement of the selected coaches
21.11.2020	First coaches meeting, online
18.12.2020	Announcement of the selected athletes to SOSWI
01.09.2021	Registration deadline for all delegation members
02. – 05.12.2021	Delegation camp, Lenzerheide (Roland Arena) (Sports, delivery equipment, formation coaches)
03.12.2021	Reception of Team Switzerland Kazan 2022 by the city of Chur, City Hall Chur
17.01.2022	Official farewell ceremony, Dorint-Airport Hotel, Glattbrugg (ZH)
18.01.2022	Flight to Kazan from Zurich Airport
19. – 21.01.2022	Host City Experience, Practice, Divisioning
22. – 28.01.2022	World Winter Games
29.01.2022	Return flight to Zurich
09.04.2022	Closing event of the delegation, Lowa, Matten bei Interlaken



Team Switzerland

TEAM SWITZERLAND

Special Olympics International sets a quota (sports, number of athletes, coaches and staff) for each country. SOSWI has no influence on this quota. Once athletes and coaches have been selected, they will form the **Team Switzerland** to the World Winter Games Kazan 2022.

CREW FOR COMMUNICATION AND GUESTS

Together with the Team Switzerland, a **crew for communication and guests** will travel to the World Games. The tasks of this crew are to provide the Swiss media with pictures, films and reports; to ensure the flow of information from the Team Switzerland to Swiss guests who have arrived (families, friends, guests); to look after the participants of the official trip and special guests; and to act as an interface between the family members and the Family Program of the Games.

For the World Winter Games Kazan 2022 the crew for communication and support will include 7 people: Project management, 2 people for media relations, 2 photographers, 2 people support.

TEAM SWITZERLAND KAZAN 2022

Sport	Athletes	Coaches / Staff
 Ski Alpin	14	4
 Snowboard	2	2
 Cross-Country skiing	12	4
 Snowshoeing	4	2
 Floorball	8	2
 Staff Delegation	---	4
 Communication and guest support	---	7
Total athletes & coaches, staff	40	25
Total	65	



TEAM SWITZERLAND 2022

Ski Alpin:



Jörg Köhler (HC), Schwarzenbach, SG; Gaël Gerber (CO), Grand-Lancy, GE; Patrick Locatelli (CO), La Chaux-de-Fonds, NE; Georg Saxer (CO), Cazis, GR; Miguel Alves Pinheiro (AT), Genève, GE; Jasmin Brühwiler (AT), Niederwil, SG; Alexandre Dimanow (AT), Genève, GE; Marco Ebnetter (AT), Degersheim, SG; Remo Hossmann (AT), Bonaduz, GR; Angela Köhler (AT), St.Gallen, SG; Loïc Levasseur (AT), Mont-Noble, VS; Aurore Locatelli (AT), La Chaux-de-Fonds, NE; Linard Michael (AT), Chur, GR; Florian Schmid (AT), Genève, GE; Blaise Tacchini (AT), Savièse, VS; Markus Weber (AT), Felsberg, GR; Vincent Zuberbuhler (AT), Sierre, VS; Stefan Zwicker (AT), Gossau, SG

Snowboard:



Armand Freysinger (HC), Granges, VS; Edouard Trilles (AS), Nernier, FRA; Brice Baumann (AT), Genève, GE; Marcel Schilling (AT), Bottighofen, TG

Cross-Country skiing:



Karl Schmidt (HC), Bremgarten, AG; Reto Lauber (CO), Frutigen, BE; Max-Antoine Stirnemann (CO), Le Mont-sur-Lausanne, VD; Franziska Wenger (AS), Ernen, VS; Aurélien Bermudez (AT), Nyon, VD; Rinaldo Burgener (AT), Saas-Grund, VS; Anton Cusin (AT), Nyon, VD; Géraldine Horber (AT), Rolle, VD; Stephanie Hutter (AT), Eggerberg, VS; Daniel Knöpfel (AT), Thun, BE; Kristin May (AT), Konolfingen, BE; Michael Messerli (AT), Wasen, BE; Muriel Reinke (AT), Birgisch, VS; Claudia Schmidt (AT), Bremgarten, AG; Marc Schneider (AT), Seftigen, BE; Silvia Truffer (AT), Baltschieder, VS



Snowshoeing:



Isabelle Weber (HC), Davos Frauenkirch, GR; Frank Studer (CO), Dompierre, FR; Alexandre Gillabert (AT), Corcelles-près-Payerne, VD; Andrea Hartmann (AT), Davos Platz, GR; Jasmin Moser (AT), Thusis, GR; Jacqueline Nicolet (AT), Fribourg, FR

Floorball:



Alessia Della Bruna (HC), Lumino, TI; Jimmy Storni (CO), Camorino, TI; Ivan Andrijanic (AT), Locarno, TI; Elia Armati (AT), Solduno, TI; Davide Ciampini (AT), Bellinzona, TI; Cédric Jelmini (AT), Bellinzona, TI; Giovanni Menini (AT), Bellinzona, TI; Davide Nicora (AT), Ascona, TI; Martin Perez (AT), S. Antonino, TI; Ramon Perez (AT), S. Antonino, TI

Staff Delegation:



Aldo Doninelli (HOD), Gudo, TI; Christoph Schmid (A-HOD), Chur, GR; Jonathan Grept (AS), Sion, VS; Yvan Cuennet (AS), Tornny-le-Grand, FR

HC: Head Coach, CO: Coach, AT: Athlete, HOD: Head of Delegation, A-HOD: Assistant Head of Delegation, AS: Assistant



Communication

The World Winter Games 2022 in Kazan provide an excellent opportunity for Special Olympics to highlight the importance of acceptance and equality for people with intellectual disabilities. The athletes are given the opportunity to show their talents to a broad public. Thus, raising awareness and public relations are equally important to us. We are focusing our public relations activities on the following events:

DELEGATION CAMP

From **December 2 - 5, 2021**, the four-day delegation camp will take place in the Roland Arena in Lenzerheide. The participants get to know each other better, train in their sports and get prepared for special situations. The handover of the delegation clothing will also take place at the camp.

RECEPTION

On Friday, **December 3, 2021**, the Swiss delegation will be officially received by the authorities of the canton of Graubünden and the city of Chur.

FAREWELL

On the evening of **January 17, 2022**, the official farewell ceremony of Team Switzerland Kazan 2022 will take place at the **Dorint Airport-Hotel Glattbrugg**. Family, friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.



Simon Ammann together with ski alpine athlete, Angela Köhler, at the World Winter Games Austria 2017.



Ambassadors

Double-double Olympic champion Simon Ammann has been involved with Special Olympics Switzerland since 2013; former national soccer player Tranquillo Barnetta has been involved since August 2017. Other ambassadors are triathlete Jan van Berkel, national floorball player Flurina Marti and moderator Christa Rigozzi.

For Special Olympics athletes, the encounter with top athletes who assist them with tips and tricks is enormously motivating. With their commitment, they also send a clear signal for the social equality of all people, whether disabled or not. They emphasize that all athletes deserve to be noticed and to be part of society. There is still a lot to be done, especially in Swiss sports. Special Olympics shows ways how this goal can be achieved.

«The engagement with Special Olympics is a perfect fit for me. Nowhere else can you find more dedication, passion and joy when it comes to sports.»

Simon Ammann

They are all expected to be present at the delegation camp in Lenzerheide and - if their commitments allow - also at the World Winter Games in Kazan.



Tranquillo Barnetta (l.) und Simon Ammann applaudieren mit dem Special-Olympics-Team für die beiden Sportler Nina Molinari und Antonio Barukcic.

Tranquillo Barnetta and Simon Ammann with Team Switzerland Abu Dhabi 2019 on 08.09.2018 in Lucerne (picture SI).



Raising Funds

Special Olympics Switzerland is responsible for financing the preparation of the delegation, the equipment for the trip to Kazan and the support of the delegation. The costs on site are covered by the organizer. The total costs amount to 545,000 Swiss francs, which is about 8,300 Swiss francs per member of Team Switzerland Kazan 2022.

Swiss Sport (Swiss Olympic)

Swiss Olympic, the governing body of Swiss sport, does not contribute to the specific costs of a Swiss delegation to Special Olympics World Games, unlike Olympic and Paralympic missions.

Contributions from the public sector

Special Olympics requests financial support from the cantons and municipalities of residence of the various delegation members.

Foundations

Project-based contributions from foundations in the areas of sports, inclusion and disabilities are an important part of the funds.

Sponsoring

A delegation-related sponsorship concept offers national and regional companies the opportunity to enter a commercial partnership. Sponsors are not only important for the financing but also for the communication of this unique event.

Sports Associations

Swiss Ski and Swiss Unihockey, the governing bodies whose sports are represented at the World Games, are asked to support Special Olympics athletes in their sports.

Charity-campaigns

Thanks to charity campaigns, financial resources can be generated, and the intentions of Special Olympics can be communicated.

Fans and Donors

Special Olympics has a well-developed fan and donor marketing, which is being expanded through the activities of delegation members.

Delegation members

Should the economic consequences of the Corona pandemic mean that the budgeted financial resources cannot be obtained, the participants will have to contribute to the flight costs.



Budget

Total revenues (sports organizations, institutional funds, private donors)	CHF 455'000.-
preparation (logistics, communication, administration)	CHF 94'000.-
equipment (delegation clothing, sports clothing)	CHF 120'000.-
awareness, advocacy (events, partner relations, media relations)	CHF 127'000.-
participation (travel expenses, insurances, fundraising)	CHF 204'000.-
Total expenses	CHF 545'000.-

The assumption of the revenues is based on the experiences of the past delegations. Due to higher costs caused by Corona and an expected difficult fundraising, Special Olympics Switzerland has granted a deficit guarantee of max. CHF 90'000.

Total costs per member of the Team Switzerland Kazan 2022: CHF 8'300



Thanks for your support!

Participating in Special Olympics World Games is a unique experience and a highlight in every respect for all athletes, coaches and support staff.

Thank you for supporting us in making this dream come true for the athletes.



CONTACT

Bruno Barth

National Director, barth@specialolympics.ch, Mobile: +41 79 705 75 75

Irene Nanculaf

Head of Marketing, nanculaf@specialolympics.ch, Mobile: +41 79 401 71 48

Special Olympics Switzerland
Haus des Sports
Talgut-Zentrum 17
3063 Ittigen