

Special Olympics New Zealand

2011 World Summer Games

Newsletter update



Update number 4 - May 2011

It is now only 41 days until the team assembles in Auckland to begin the journey to Athens and this time will fly by so quickly. Many of you have provided alternative addresses for your suitcases to be sent to and these will be freighted using Peter Baker Transport on Monday 9 May. Cases going to the South Island or Wellington will arrive the next day. Cases going to other North Island destinations will take two days for delivery. PBT have very kindly sponsored this shipment so we are very grateful to have them on board.



Clothing & Equipment

This is now confirmed for dispatch from Nelson on 9 May unless you are a member of the basketball team, in which case you will be collecting your suitcase when you visit Nelson on 13 May, or you are from Marlborough or Canterbury, in which case your suitcases are being brought to you by Graeme Bain as previously notified. 100 iron-on name labels will be inside your suitcase for you to label EVERYTHING! Luggage labels will also be provided.

There are a couple of items of clothing which still need to be purchased and these are best done by the athletes themselves to get the right size. Please could the powerlifters buy themselves one pair of knee length black socks for competition and the equestrian athletes buy themselves two white Inexpensive short sleeve shirts

(which can be worn with a tie – school style shirts from Postie Plus or a similar store will be fine. Please send the receipts for these to Special Olympics New Zealand, PO Box 38344, Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt 5045 with a note saying who sent them and details of the bank account for reimbursement and we will get this out to you as soon as possible.

Join Emirates Skywards rewards programme

Thank you to everyone who has sent me their membership number. We have pre-loaded all the numbers that we have received but you can still join the programme and benefit from the rewards programme by going to www.skywards.com to register. We will make sure that your number is used when you check in for your international flight in Auckland.

Family registrations

There are currently 40 family members travelling to Athens to support the team plus two of our board members and their partner/friend making 44 people altogether. If you would like to register you'll need to do this by 10 May by following the steps below.

Step 1: Go to

https://apps.athens2011.org/Athens2011_1_fs

and follow the instructions to register you and other family members for the Games. Each person must be registered individually including loading a digital photo of every member of your group. Elect a family coordinator for your group.

Step 2: Go to info@tcpa.gr to arrange your hotel.

Step 3: Arrange your flights either through your local travel agent or through our House of Travel representative Fiona Burns on 03 546 8780 or Fionab@hot.co.nz

Step 4: Contact Fiona Burns if you wish to stay at the same hotel as the team in Dubai. Fiona is holding rooms but these will have to be released very soon.

Step 5: Purchase tickets for the Opening and/or Closing Ceremonies when they become available.

For more background information for NZ families look on

www.specialolympics.org.nz or for information from Athens go to

www.athens2011.org/en

Contact Suek@specialolympics.org.nz if you have any questions or need help.

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Pocket money

See Update number 3 for details about the recommended option for how to handle your pocket money using the "Loaded for Travel" prepaid Visa debit card that you can obtain through Kiwibank or your nearest PostShop.

We recommend that you load a minimum of \$300.00 NZ dollars as Euros on the card and also load \$220.00 as NZ \$ on the card as well (I have increased this from \$100 - please see note below about Dubai theme park). We would also like you to have \$20.00 NZ in cash when you arrive in Auckland and 25 Euros in cash as well.

Passports and Loaded for Travel cards need to be couriered with a signature required at this end to Sue Kysow at 55B Tasman Street, Nelson 7010 by 13 May to ensure that these items are not left behind at home.

When you get your card you will also be given a second card as a backup in case you lose your first card. Each card must be loaded with a PIN number and it will be critically important that you email Shayne Crabtree Shayne.crabtree@clear.net.nz with the card number and PIN numbers that you have loaded on your cards so that our coaches can help you handle your cash. This is our recommended method of handling pocket money but you are welcome to use whatever method you wish if you already have connections with other bank cards and systems.

Medical matters from Dr Paul Johns

Dr. Paul has asked that anyone (**athlete or coach**) who has **any** change to their medication regimen (new tablets, change of tablet strength, change of the number of times a day they take it) to let him know now - email me paul.johns@xtra.co.nz Can everyone (**athlete or coach**) who takes medication please arrange to bring a complete **extra** month's supply in a medication dispensing system like a blister pack or similar when they come to Auckland. This will be collected from you and I will carry it as hand luggage in case any checked in luggage goes missing. This would also be a good time to get your teeth checked, your toenails clipped and attend to those last minute health checks.

Dubai theme park excursion optional

The arrangements for those who have expressed an interest in going to the Wild Wadis Water Park in Dubai, are that this will be managed on the spot in Dubai once the team arrives there. In this way, it will be possible for Rob Torrance to gauge more accurately who wishes to go and he will then make all of the necessary arrangement. I have received a couple of cheques in the mail which will be returned to their owners this week. In order to ensure that everyone has enough money to go to the park if they want, I would suggest that you load an extra NZ\$120 onto your Loaded for Travel Card to ensure you have enough money when you get to Dubai.

Current itinerary

Sun 12 June-Team management (Rob, Shayne, Paul) assemble in Auckland

Mon 13 June - Rest of team assembles in Auckland

Tue 14 June -Team departs Auckland for Athens in evening

Sat 25 June -Opening Ceremony (usually evening ceremony)

Mon 4 July -Closing Ceremony

Tue 5 July -Team departs Athens for Dubai- Family members are welcome to join the team in Dubai for this stopover

Thu 7 July -Team departs Dubai

Fri 8 July -Team arrives in Auckland early afternoon

Fri 8 July -Team welcomed home and departs for home airports around 5pm

Final basketball camp

13 – 15 May 2011Nelson

**"Let me win.
But if I cannot win,
let me be brave in
the attempt"**

**"Kia toahau.
Ki tekoreahau e
toa, Kia maiaahau
ahakoakahinga"**

Athlete Oath