

European Tenpin Bowling Federation

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The ETBF Website: www.etbf.dk



Date: 27 February 2007

Reg: 0709b

To: ETBF member federations with athletes participating in the 2007 Special Olympic Games

Dear Friends,

Subject: 2007 Special Olympics World Games

One of the largest sports events in the world this year will be the 2007 Special Olympics World Games, which will be held on 2 – 10 October 2007 in Shanghai, China. More than 7000 athletes with intellectual disability from 169 countries will participate, and it will be a powerful example of acceptance, opportunity and world friendship.

The Games will include more than 2800 athletes from Europe/Eurasia. That is the largest participation from any region and it is a reflection of the strength of the Special Olympics movement in 57 national programs from Iceland to Uzbekistan.

In the sport of bowling there are 85 athletes from 23 Special Olympics national programs competing in Shanghai. In order to have these athletes be the best prepared of any athletes in the world, the Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia is asking for the support, energy and partnership of the national bowling federations. Your leadership can show how sport is truly for all.

The following ETBF member federations will have bowlers participating in Shanghai:

Albania	Finland	Israel
Austria	Germany	Malta
Belgium	Gibraltar	Poland
Croatia	Greece	Russia
Cyprus	Iceland	San Marino
Denmark	Ireland	Sweden
England	Isle of Man	Turkey

Some basic information about the Special Olympics World Games:

- The first Special Olympics World Summer Games were held 1968 in Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- There are 2,28 million registered athletes in 168 national programs worldwide.
- There are over 400000 athletes in 57 national programs in Europe/Eurasia.
- The Special Olympics World Summer Games are held every 4 years.
- Bowling was introduced as a Special Olympics sport in 1975, and debuted at the World Games level in 1987, when 33 athletes competed.
- The Special Olympics International headquarters are located in Washington DC, USA, and the Europe/Eurasia office in Brussels, Belgium.
- The website is www.specialolympics.org.

On behalf of the ETBF Presidium

Kind regards

Rune Widell
ETBF Secretary General