

Newsletter 2

April 2014





AGENDA

- 4 Introduction
- 6 Progress
- 12 Sport
- 16 Village
- 18 NOC Services
- 22 Games Academy
- 24 Key Dates

Sport qualification information has now been sent to the 49 National Olympic Committees of Europe and we are now able to share with you an updated version of the Competition Schedule. With the inclusion of Athletics in the official sport programme, the overall number of athletes has been increased from 5,400 to more than 6,000.

Under the close supervision of Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, member of the Executive Committee of the National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and the Chair of the Baku 2015 European Games Organizing Committee, work across the government ministries involved in the Games has continued unabated with priorities focused on venue completion and transport arrangements for the European Family.

We recently hosted the visits of Simon Clegg, European Games Executive Director and Doctor Klaus Steinbach, the EOC Chief Medical Officer, and walked them through our plans for the medical and anti-doping services for the Baku Games.

Our first NOC Open Day in Baku was held on 13 and 14 March which was an excellent opportunity for BEGOC to present our plans and open the doors to our venues to a number of operational staff and Chefs de Mission from the European NOCs.

The third EOC Baku 2015 Coordination Commission meeting took place in Baku on 3 and 4 April and you will find a summary of key outcomes later in this newsletter. Finally we attended SportAccord Convention in Belek from 8 to 10 April.

Looking ahead, we will attend the EOC Seminar in May and host the European NOCs in Baku for the Chefs de Mission Seminar on 10-12 June.

We hope that the information and operational updates presented in this newsletter will assist you with your preparations for the Baku 2015 European Games. In the meantime, the BEGOC NOC Relations team remains at your disposal for any further information or questions you may have.

Looking ahead, we will attend the EOC Seminar in May and host the European NOCs in Baku for the Chefs de Mission Seminar on 10-12 June.

Sincerely,

Azad Rahimov

Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Chief Executive Officer of Baku 2015 European Games Operation Committee



I am delighted to introduce the second edition of our quarterly Baku 2015 European Games newsletter. On 28 January 2014, we marked our 500 days countdown to the inaugural European Games, and we are well placed to deliver an athlete-centred and sport-focused Games next summer.

Since the publication of the last newsletter, a number of significant milestones have been reached. At the 42nd European Olympic Committees General Assembly in Rome, we launched our logo which is a reflection of the pride of our nation in its sporting heritage, our commitment to hospitality and welcoming our guests, and our position as an emerging centre for sport, business and tourism in Europe and beyond.

In December 2013, International Sports Broadcasting (ISB) was selected as the host broadcaster for the Baku 2015 European Games. During the 17 competition days, ISB will produce an anticipated 1,200 hours of high-quality broadcast coverage in high definition, including live coverage of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, all event semifinals and finals, and a daily highlights package. ISB will also manage the sale of broadcast rights and operate the International Broadcast Centre. In support of the 2015 European Games legacy, ISB will work with aspiring broadcast professionals from Azerbaijan to provide hands-on training and experience in sports broadcasting in the lead up to, and during, the European Games.



1st NOC Open Day, 12-13 March, 2014.

VENUES

The construction of the permanent venues for the Baku 2015 European Games is continuing at a rapid pace.

- The National Gymnastics Arena is complete and will be ready in time for Baku to host the European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships from 13 to 15 June, 2014.
- The new Baku Aquatics Centre which will host the swimming, diving and synchronized swimming events during the European Games is advancing swiftly.
- The main Stadium that will host the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as the Athletics events, is now at full height and a first part of the roof has been installed. The areas surrounding the stadium are now being worked on, including a beautification of the adjoining lake and the installation of a pedestrian walkway connecting the Stadium to the Athletes Village.



EUROPEAN GAMES FAMILY HOTEL

The Fairmont hotel has been confirmed as the European Games Family Headquarters in 2015. This 5-star hotel is located in the iconic Flame Towers close to the Old City of Baku and is part of the luxury FRHI brand featuring hotels throughout the world.

The NOC Open Days, the Chefs de Mission Seminar and the EOC General Assembly will all be held in the Fairmont hotel.



TEST EVENTS

BEGOC will soon start the first test events as part of the overall operational readiness programme for the Games.

The readiness programme will combine traditional test events with a series of “competition tests” - a closed door test focusing on critical aspects of sport competition including the field of play, sport equipment, results, timing and scoring technology (where possible) as well as key people within the sport competition team.

The wider programme extends to a range of exercises and a series of comprehensive end to end venue rehearsals to validate other aspects of Games operations, such as transport and security.

The first two test events in Baku will be the 2nd European Youth Olympic Trials (30 May to 1 June at Tofiq Bahramov Stadium) and the 30th European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship (13-15 June at the National Gymnastics Arena) with additional test events in the third quarter of 2014 and first quarter of 2015. A key element of testing for these two test events will be the full commissioning of a third of the Athletes Village to house the Athletics and Rhythmic Gymnastics athletes.



OPERATIONAL PLANNING

Following on from the Client and Functional Area planning conducted in December 2013 and January 2014, BEGOC has now started its Venue Operational Planning (VOP) process. Phase one of VOP is a six-week programme that uses three ‘model venues’ to establish core operating principles to be implemented across all Baku 2015 venues at Games time. The Venue Management Team are currently running a series of focused briefings, workshops and resolution groups in order to create the first draft of the venue operating manuals. The outputs and awareness gained from VOP will help BEGOC fine-tune organisational policies, operational procedures, strategy and budgets. A second round of VOP will be delivered in the fourth quarter of 2014 and aims to develop a more detailed analysis of operations across all venues.

BAKU 2015 JOBS WEBSITE

The job section of the Baku 2015 website is now live for local and international recruitment. Candidates can register their interest in future vacancies and apply for current vacancies on-line.

You can review the website at:
<http://baku2015.com/en/join-us.aspx>

ACCREDITATION

The accreditation process for Baku 2015 will be based on a traditional multi-sport model, with some innovations to reduce the administrative burden on NOCs and to enhance the sustainability for future Games.

User guides will be circulated to NOCs in November of 2014, which will contain further information on the application requirements and process.

Applications will be accepted on-line from December 2014, with the final long list date of 12 March 2015. The accreditation data will be validated during the Delegation Registration Process, with the Pre-Valid Cards being sent to the NOCs on the completion of this process, in May 2015.

THIRD EOC COORDINATION COMMISSION

The third EOC Coordination Commission concluded in Baku with EOC President Patrick Hickey and Coordination Commission Chairman Spyros Capralos praising the innovation driving Baku 2015's hosting concept.

"As Chairman of the EOC Coordination Commission I can confirm that we have been impressed with the state of BEGOC's preparations on our third visit to Baku. There is just over a year to go before the Opening Ceremony of Baku 2015 so every day is important. But after this inspection, I have complete confidence that BEGOC will continue to be innovative and make good progress and will deliver the perfect stage for the inaugural European Games," Spyros Capralos said.

The Coordination Commission was appraised of the progress made in several key BEGOC functions such as sport, venue locations and construction, transport, finance, communications, accommodation and technology. During the two-day event, it was confirmed that the total number of athletes set to compete in the Baku 2015 European Games has increased to over 6,000 with news that athletics has been included among the 19 sports finalised for the inaugural multi-sport event.

"The Government and the people of Azerbaijan are proud that the first European Games will be held in our country. The Baku 2015 European Games will set the standard for the future of European Games," said the First Lady who is also Chair of the Baku 2015 First European Games Organising Committee.

"Construction work including the National Gymnastics Arena, Baku Shooting Centre, the Baku main Stadium and other construction and renovation work around our existing sports infrastructure continue at pace and we are confident they will be delivered on time and on budget. We have attached particular importance to the creation of the Athletes Village which will be one of the best facilities to accommodate and host athletes in sports history," she said.

The two-day visit by the EOC's 16-member Coordination Commission coincided with the announcement by the EOC that visually-

impaired judo would be included as a medal discipline at Baku 2015 European Games. EOC President Patrick Hickey warmly welcomed the announcement that means Baku 2015 European Games will break new ground as the first continental Games to fully integrate a para-sport discipline into its Sports Programme.

Visually-impaired judokas will be able to compete in a +100 kilogramme category for men and a -48 kilogramme category for women. Eight athletes will compete in each category with the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) deciding who is eligible. The competition format will be a knock-out elimination round, followed by two repechages and a final.

Janez Kocijancic, EOC Vice-President said, "We would like to pass on our congratulations to BEGOC, on all their progress with regards to the preparations for the European Games. As host of the inaugural European Games we have encouraged BEGOC to use this once in a life time opportunity to promote the wonderful Azerbaijani culture to Europe and the world."

BEGOC held five progress update sessions for the EOC Coordination Commission on the following aspects of Games preparations: sport, medical and anti-doping; venues, readiness, communications and commercial; broadcast, technology, NOC services; villages, accommodation, arrivals and departures, accreditation, ceremonies; transport, security, press operations, HR and workforce. The EOC Coordination Commission also visited the National Gymnastics Arena and the Central Traffic Control Centre.





After further discussions with the European Federations, the EOC and our Broadcast partners, BEGOC is pleased to present the second version of the Sport Competition Schedule for the Games. Please find below a clear picture of which changes have been made.

As with all Sport Competition Schedules this will be subject to slight modifications in the months to come. BEGOC has nearly finalised the daily and session schedules in conjunction with all parties concerned and these will be presented in due course.

Please find below all the changes from Competition Schedule Version 1 to Version 2.

Please note: Version 2 does not include visually-impaired Judo weight categories which will be included in Version 3.

Aquatics

- There is a reduction in the number of Diving competition days from 5 to 4 due to the confirmation of no B-category events.
- Diving and Swimming are moved by one day to balance the overall schedule.

Archery

- One competition day for ranking has been included.

Athletics

- The European Athletics Team Championships 3rd League is now incorporated into the Baku 2015 European Games. It will be a two-day event with one set of medals awarded to the first three teams during the middle weekend of the Games.

Boxing

- Two new weight categories for Women (54kg and 64kg) have been included.

Cycling

- The movement of scheduled days for BMX, Mountain Bike and Road events has been aligned with the UCI calendar for 2015.

Gymnastics

- Changes to the Competition Daily Schedule were made to facilitate field of play transitions for the multiple disciplines.
- There is an increase in medal events for Artistic (2), Rhythmic (6) and Acrobatic (6) based on confirmed event format but with no impact on overall athlete numbers.
- There is a decrease in medal events (1) for Trampoline with the removal of Mixed Synchronized.

Shooting

- The schedule has been moved by three days to balance the overall schedule and align with the Mountain Bike event (due to shared venue facilities).

Triathlon

- The competition has been moved to the first weekend to reflect the Cycling Road Race changes.

SPORT COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Version: 2.0

| Sport | Venue | Medal | 12-Jun | 13-Jun | 14-Jun | 15-Jun | 16-Jun | 17-Jun | 18-Jun | 19-Jun | 20-Jun | 21-Jun | 22-Jun | 23-Jun | 24-Jun | 25-Jun | 26-Jun | 27-Jun | 28-Jun |
|----------------------------|-------|------------|--------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | | | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| Village Cluster | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ceremonies | STA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Athletics | STA | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Gymnastics - Artistic | NGA | 14 | | | | 2 | | 2 | | 10 | | GALA | | | | | | | |
| - Rhythmic | NGA | 8 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| - Trampoline | NGA | 4 | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| - Acrobatic | NGA | 8 | | | | | | | 2 | | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| - Aerobic | NGA | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Flag Square Cluster | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aquatics - Diving | BAC | 8 | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| - Swimming | BAC | 42 | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 11 | |
| - Synchronised | BAC | 4 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - Water Polo | WAP | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Basketball 3x3 | BBA | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Beach Soccer | BEA | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Volleyball - Beach | BEA | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| - Indoor | CH1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Fencing | CH2 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| Taekwondo | CH2 | 8 | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Karate | CH3 | 12 | | 6 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boxing | CH3 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| City Cluster | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Archery | TBS | 5 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Badminton | BSH | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| Table Tennis | BSH | 4 | | | | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Judo | HAA | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Wrestling | HAA | 18 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Other Cluster | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canoe Sprint | MIG | 15 | | | | 5 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cycling - BMX | BMX | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| - Mountain Bike | VEL | 2 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - Road | ROA | 4 | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Shooting | SHO | 19 | | | | | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Triathlon | RAM | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Medals | | 239 | | 11 | 9 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 14 | 20 | 29 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 21 | 20 | 26 | 9 |

Competition Medal Days

ATHLETES VILLAGE

Build is progressing well in the Athletes Village in Baku and the 13 residential blocks are now due for completion by the end of the third quarter of 2014.

Of the 13 residential blocks, three will be completed this month in readiness for the two test events (European Youth Olympic Trials and European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships) in May and June of 2014. These three blocks will accommodate up to 1,500 athletes and officials, and will also house a dining hall with a 700-people capacity, recreation areas, a welcome centre and small medical services centre. This is the first time an Athletes Village will be used for a test event one year prior to its opening thereby enabling us to fully test the services provided in the Village well in advance of the European Games. NOC Chefs de Mission will have the opportunity to see the Athletes Village in full operations mode during the Chefs de Mission Seminar.

The operational dates of the Athletes Village are now confirmed.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 3 June 2015 | Pre-Opening of the Athletes Village |
| 8 June 2015 | Official Opening of the Athletes Village |
| 12-28 June 2015 | Baku 2015 European Games |
| 30 June 2015 | Official Closing of the Athletes Village |



Athletes Village



Athletes Village



Athletes Village



NOC Services Centre

The Baku 2015 NOC Services team is part of the Sport department, led by James Macleod, Director of Athletes Services and Operations. The NOC Services team takes the lead on all service levels provided to athletes and team officials. Acting as the key point of contact between BEGOC and NOCs, they will provide the necessary information and assistance in the run-up to the Games. They will also liaise with BEGOC functions to ensure that policies, procedures and services levels for NOCs and their athletes.

COMMUNICATION

The NOC Services team would like to thank all the European NOCs who have nominated their Chefs de Mission and sent their Baku 2015 contact form as this will allow BEGOC to send important information to NOCs.

In addition to quarterly newsletters, the NOC Services team will provide regular updates regarding key information on the new NOC Extranet which will be launched by June 2014.

BEGOC is aiming to publish an innovative Chefs de Mission Dossier before the Chefs de Mission Seminar which will give the NOCs the first level of detail on Games time services.

Please feel free to contact the NOC Services team at nocservices@baku2015.com



MEET THE TEAM

In December 2013, Sophie Lorant was appointed to the position of Head of NOC Services. Sophie is building a motivated and experienced team who will assist you right through to Games time. Looking forward, the NOC Services will be in full recruitment mode, seeking to fill all the NOC Regional Specialists positions and other roles in the year to come.

The NOC Services team currently has six international and local staff members:



Stavros Tassopoulos

Senior NOC Services Manager

Has a wealth of Olympic, Continental and Regional Games experience. Stavros holds an MBA and speaks English, Spanish and Greek



Najaf Sadigov

NOC Regional Specialist

Has participated in the Organizing Committees of several international educational, scientific and cultural events. Before joining BEGOC he worked at the Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He holds a MA in Diplomacy and International Affairs and speaks English, Turkish, Russian and Azerbaijani



Raul Gulmammadov

Sport Visits Manager

With a wealth of experience having worked in different sectors from civil society to sport management he has worked for the National Olympic Committee of Azerbaijan and the Baku 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games Bid Committee. He holds an MA degree in International Politics from the University of Manchester and a BA in International Relations from the Academy of Public Administration. He speaks English, Turkish, Russian and Azerbaijani



Bahruz Asgarov

Sport Visits Specialist

Worked in various sectors such as civil service, business development and particularly international sporting events, such as the Baku Junior/Cadet Fencing World Championship and AIBA World Boxing Championships. He holds BA degree in American studies from the Azerbaijan University of Languages and speaks English, Turkish, Russian, Spanish and Azerbaijani



Shahla Sultanova

Content Writer

Is an experienced journalist with proven experience in Mass Media at international media agencies in the Caucasus region and in academic teaching in journalism/communication/leadership

NOC OPEN DAYS

The first NOC Open day was held on 13-14 March, 2014. 22 delegates of 14 European NOCs attended meetings hosted by BEGOC, and made site visits to the competitions venues and the Athletes Village. BEGOC officials provided updates on NOC operational concerns, including progress on venues and NOC Services. Delegates were very keen to see the showpiece venues for the Games - the 68,000-seat national Stadium, the National Gymnastics Arena and the Crystal Hall.

The second NOC Open day will be held on 25-26 September 2014 and the third one will be organized on 5-6 February 2015.



NOC CHEFS DE MISSION SEMINAR

The Chefs de Mission Seminar is the only official meeting between the European NOCs and BEGOC one year before the inaugural European Games. Following consultation with the EOC, BEGOC is pleased to inform NOCs that BEGOC will cover the flight and accommodation costs for all nominated Chefs de Mission to take part in the event.

The Chefs de Mission Seminar will take place from 10 to 12 June 2014 in Baku. It will:

- Introduce BEGOC and the City of Baku to the European NOCs
- Give updates on BEGOC progress with a special focus on the NOCs' operational concerns
- Open the doors to competition venues and the Athletes Village

The Seminar will consist of plenary sessions and venue tours supplemented by one to one meetings with the NOC Services team.

- Plenary Sessions - Official presentations from BEGOC Functions and Q&A
- Venue Tours - Comprehensive day of venue tours of competition venues and the Athletes Village
- One to One meetings - individual meetings with each of the European NOCs to obtain detailed information and discuss organisational matters (e.g. estimated team size, flag and anthem confirmation, Village allotment etc.)



Baku 2015 launched the Baku 2015 European Games Academy -a comprehensive learning program to develop skills and knowledge required to deliver the Games and create a capability legacy in Azerbaijan to deliver future sport events.

The Academy includes a 1 year Graduate Excellence Programme which is designed specifically to realise the full potential of university graduates. During the summer 2014, participants will undertake a three week intensive learning programme on core skills and knowledge, before being assigned to work in specialist level roles within the operations committee for the final months of Games planning and delivery.

This innovative programme is an excellent opportunity for 199 talented young people (150 Azerbaijan and 49 from elsewhere in Europe) to make a real impact in delivering the inaugural European Games and launch their careers.

NOCs are invited to participate by nominating one candidate to be interviewed by BEGOC (May-June 2014) and for the promotion of the Games Academy as part of the global communication on the European Games.

Further information on the selection of candidates and the terms and conditions can be found in the material that was sent to all NOCs.



KEY DATES

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| 2014 | April | Launch of the Games Academy including communication to NOCs on application/selection criteria and full details on compensation |
| | 22-24 May | EOC Seminar |
| | June | Launch of the Baku 2015 NOC Extranet Website |
| | | Collection of NOC Estimated Team Size 1 |
| | 1 June | Chefs de Mission i-dossier publication |
| | 10-12 June | Chefs de Mission Seminar |
| | 16-28 August | Youth Olympic Games |
| | July | BEGOC NOC Newsletter 3 |
| | 25-26 September | 2nd NOC Open Day |
| | November | Collection of NOC Estimated Team Size 2 |
| | | Distribution of Accreditation and Sport Entries User Guides |
| | | BEGOC NOC Newsletter 4 |
| | 7-8 November | ANOC General Assembly |
| 21-22 November | EOC General Assembly | |
| December | Launch of the Online Accreditation System | |

| | | |
|------------|--|---|
| 2015 | 24-31 January | European Youth Olympic Winter Festival |
| | February | BEGOC NOC Newsletter 5 |
| | 5-6 February | 3rd NOC Open Day |
| | 12 March | NOCs to submit accreditation Long List |
| | 30 March | Collection of Estimated Team Size 3 |
| | 1 April | Launch of the Online Sport Entries System |
| | 26 April | End of qualification period |
| | May | Collection of Final NOC Team Size |
| | | Accreditation and Sport Entries data review via conference call |
| | | Pre-Valid Cards dispatched to NOCs |
| | | EOC Seminar |
| | 1 May | Online Sport Entries System closes |
| | 3 June | Pre-Opening of the Athletes Village |
| | 8 June | Official Opening of the Athletes Village |
| 12-28 June | Baku 2015 European Games | |
| 30 June | Official Closing of the Athletes Village | |





1ST BAKU 2015 EUROPEAN GAMES

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